

TOWN OF ASHLAND
WASTE TO ENERGY COMMITTEE (WTE)
COMMITTEE FORMATION AND MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2023 5:00 PM
UTILITY CONFERENCE ROOM 6 COLLINS STREET

I. CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Alan Cilley called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm. In attendance were Alan Cilley, Selectman Charlie Bozzello, Craig Moore, Bonnie Bethune, Harry Gallien, William Hess and Mike Myshrall.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

a) **MOTION:** Craig Moore made a motion to accept minutes from the 11/15/23 WTE Committee meeting as written.

SECOND: Harry Gallien

VOTE: Motion passed 7-0

III. OLD BUSINESS:

a) Tour of Wheelabrator Facility in Penacook – still no tour scheduled due to fire on 11/11/23. Bonnie Bethune to reschedule for December or early January – reached out to Haylee Silver at Wheelabrator on 12/5/23.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

Jeremy Smith and Grant Page of Waldron met with the committee virtually in the first post-signing presentation. On 11/20/23, Ashland Selectboard approved \$50,000 to hire Waldron under contract. Grant Page will be in charge of budget/scheduling.

a) Update on Vendor coordination

b) Big picture design issues discussion

1. SCR vs. SNCR (selective non-catalytic reduction) - (core value concept = \$ vs. permitting surety)

SCR (selective catalytic reduction):

- newer technology
- meets more stringent standards
- smaller facility footprint
- easier to maintain/operate
- NHDES more likely to accept
- More amount of material storage
- Higher operational costs
- Not tried in NH yet

SNCR (selective non-catalytic reduction):

- former industrial standard in NH
- dry scrubber system
- uses more chemicals
- higher maintenance/operation costs
- Wheelabrator WTE in Penacook NH has this technology

DISCUSSION: Charlie Bozzello noted that facility will not be deemed a renewable energy per NHSEC (NH Site Evaluation Committee was established by the legislature for the review, approval, monitoring and enforcement of compliance in the planning, siting, construction and operation of energy facilities). Question of impact on grant \$ availability if not deemed renewable energy.

Currently looking at pre-recycled, post-recycled and clean C&D as potential fuel sources.

Charlie Bozzello requested approval from Chairman Alan Cilley to ask Waldron send a summary letter of findings thus far to Town Manager Fred Welch. Jeremy Smith agreed to do so.

Will Hess asked what political ramifications would there be if do not work with NHSEC; Jeremy Smith responded that the NHSEC was a voluntary committee.

2. Chutes/Grate # and trains (core value concept = \$ vs. plant operational reliability)

Jeremy Smith asked if WTE Committee would reduce facility from 2 chutes/2 trains/2 grates (2 boilers) TO 1 chute/1 train/1 grate (1 boiler) – not 4 chutes as was previously discussed. The WTE Committee agreed on the value of redundancy with 2 – always one up and running; 250 tons/day on each for total of 500 tons/day; a more expensive but more reliable system. Main components of facility are boiler/turbine/generator. Alan Cilley agreed with WTE Committee to go with 2 and Selectboard would need to approve. Will Hess interested in the cost of 1 vs 2 for comparative in case asked by Board/Public.

3. Single source responsibility for emissions (core value concept = \$ vs. emissions)

Waldron discussed importance of having one source responsible from chute to stack i.e BMW would provide emissions guarantee (one vendor). Charlie Bozzello stated a single source relationship is preferable so only one company to hold accountable. BMW is the boiler manufacturer and stack is wholly owned subsidiary of BMW. This would provide same long-term coordinator.

Other: Grant Page of Waldron spoke about need for water supply and Craig Moore and Harry Gallien said facility would have access to the largest aquifer in NH (1,000,000 gallons per day from existing wells). Test results available to review.

Greywater from treatment plant was discussed as possibility but question of whether would need further treatment to be used as coolant water. Will Hess wondered if would make the facility a renewable energy more probable if used greywater.

Committee discussed availability of USA made parts and it was noted that boiler made in Illinois, ductwork in Detroit and controls in St. Louis.

Will Hess said town could use a “clerk of the works” to oversee entire project as oversight. Charlie Bozzello noted there would need to be a Dept. established for collective power generated in Ashland.

How do we pay? Possibility of a construction load that would not be paid back until facility up and running.

How high will the stack be? Similar to Bridgewater Power Plant – a 15 MW biopower plant. Ashland facility would be a similar footprint to this plant.

Can the current Verizon cell tower be placed on stack for better height/coverage?
Yes

How many trucks per day would be in and out of plant? Est. 50

c) Site Walk scheduled for Thursday 11/30/23 9am – meet at 6 Collins St.

d) Upcoming Meetings:

Next WTE Committee meeting - Wednesday, 12/6/23 at Utility Conference Room
6 Collins Street at 5pm.

Public information session - First Public Hearing - Monday, 12/18/23 5:30 PM at 6
Collins St.

- Format of presentation (chalk and talk vs. open forum)

V. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: William Hess made motion to adjourn meeting.

SECOND: Harry Gallien seconded.

VOTE: Motion Passed 7-0; meeting adjourned at 6:16 pm.