

TOWN OF ASHLAND
WASTE TO ENERGY COMMITTEE (WTE)
COMMITTEE FORMATION AND MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 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, Harry Gallien, Mike Myshrall and Bonnie Bethune. Will Hess was excused. Also in attendance were Bob Letourneau, Selectboard Chair, and 2 residents.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- a) **MOTION:** Charlie Bozzell made the motion to accept minutes with minor amendments from 12/13/23 WTE Committee meeting.
SECOND: Harry Gallien
VOTE: Motion passed 6-0

III. OLD BUSINESS:

- a) Tour of Wheelabrator Waste-To-Energy Facility in Penacook, NH – Bonnie Bethune will keep WTE Committee up-to-date as get closer to February 2024 when public facility tours resume.
- b) Updates from Waldron: Jeremy Smith and Grant Page from Waldron met virtually and the following was discussed.
- Gate rates for NH Waste facilities were presented i.e. non-contract costs per ton for municipalities or businesses to bring municipal solid waste (MSW) to landfill/incinerator for disposal
 - Ashland Power Station needs 168,000 tons/year at full capacity or 17% of 1 million tons of available waste in NH
 - NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) is working on a final tonnage study (pending)
 - Consider not have all tonnage needed to run facility under contract – leave some gate capacity

Craig Moore mentioned that contracted rates with large waste companies such as Casella might have to be more competitive rate than could offer municipalities. Waldron will not reach out to companies like Casella until WTE Committee gives go-ahead. Bonnie Bethune mentioned the savings in haul fees with the facility closer than other disposal sites from where waste is generated.

Discussion ensued about wording of warrant article and Craig Moore to talk with Town Manager Fred Welch about wording presented by Waldron.

Jeremy Smith asked if there was any follow-up information needed after 12/18/23 Selectboard Meeting/Public Presentation.

Bob Letourneau responded:

- 1) Costs of facility (Waldron working on cost estimation for next public information session)
- 2) Where \$ will come from (Municipal Bond which will not need to be paid until plant operational)
- 3) Warrant article to be written by 1/05/24 and presented to Town Council and completed by 1/09/24

Public concerns from 12/18/23 meeting:

Q. Is there enough MSW?

A. Tonnages gathered by Waldron indicate there are.

Q. Should town be concerned about overlay/watershed?

A. Per Waldron/Surveyors, the topology favors proposed location of plant

Q. What are the costs of the facility and how will the \$ be raised to build it?

A. TBD as more information becomes available

Landfill Mining: Charlie Bozzello asked if mining the Town landfill for MSW (eliminating the liability of a closed landfill) would be cost effective. Jeremy Smith said was not familiar with this practice; Harry Gallien said that Casella has a division for mining landfills; Craig Moore said would need permitting and construction equipment to do so; Bonnie Bethune mentioned Moultonborough NH mined their landfill.

Out-of-State MSW: Mike Myshrall asked if Town would accept out-of-state MSW; this is an option but not required.

Traffic Concept: Waldron working on this to present

c. Voluntary pursuit as an NH-SEC (Site Evaluation Committee) filing status – Craig Moore to talk to Fred Welch regarding this

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

- a) Submittal of warrant article
 - Samples articles were presented by Waldron; Alan Cilley presented wording for article.

- Warrant article to be written by 1/05/24 and presented to Town Council and completed by 1/09/24
- Alan Cilley and Craig Moore will review articles with Fred Welch

b) Public Hearing and content:

Facility....

- will be paid for by MSW disposal fees from users
- estimated to pay for itself in 4-5 years
- paid for by construction loan/bond and will not begin payback until facility operational
- built with latest technology
- provide a tax base for Town's infrastructure needs

Craig Moore attended meeting of the Pemi-Baker Solid District (Ashland is a member) and the District offered letter of support to build facility that would benefit 19 district towns.

Upcoming Meetings:

Next WTE Committee meeting - Thursday, 12/28/23 at Utility Conference Room
6 Collins Street at 5pm.

V. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: Alan Cilley made motion to adjourn meeting.

SECOND: Harry Gallien seconded.

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