

TOWN OF ASHLAND
WASTE TO ENERGY COMMITTEE (WTE)
COMMITTEE FORMATION AND MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2023 5:00 PM
UTILITY CONFERENCE ROOM 6 COLLINS STREET

I. CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Alan Cilley called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. In attendance were Alan Cilley, Selectman Charlie Bozzello, Craig Moore, Harry Gallien, Mike Myshrall, Bonnie Bethune and Will Hess. Six residents were also in attendance.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- a) **MOTION:** Craig Moore made the motion to accept minutes from 12/20/23 WTE Committee meeting with minor amendments.
SECOND: Mike Myshrall
VOTE: Motion passed 7-0

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) Review any updates from Waldron – Jeremy Smith and Grant Page attended virtually.

Economic model: After introducing himself to residents, Jeremy presented the economic model. He presented a draft version that could be adjusted as numbers come in. Revenue first from tonnage of waste and then from electricity to be sold.

Renewable resource determination: Federal Government deems waste-to-energy as a renewable resource, allowing Town to apply for federal grants.

Chemical needs: aqueous ammonia, lime slurry and fuel to run plant (gas)

Bond interest rate: Charlie Bozzello asked how the interest rate on the bond was established for model. Jeremy responded current model was at 2.5% as a starting point. Jeremy will give Town a list of bond attorney's to work with to attain bond after endorsement by the Town. The project is in search of angel investor(s) with an interest in renewable energy. "Production tax credit" mentioned briefly. Charlie noted if interest rate goes up from 2.5% to 3% that would equate to \$6M over \$20 years.

Value of electricity: Charlie Bozzello asked if have a better sense of value of electricity. Jeremy said \$54/KW. Harry Gallien said that was a very good number.

Staffing of facility: Waldron will use Bluewater which will be on site up to Day one of year 2. Typically, Bluewater's staffing from Maine/Mass. Maritime or Coast Guard. Est. 66 people on staff.

Net Value to Town: Jeremy says facility will (1) process Ashland's 648 tons/year or municipal solid waste (MSW) for "free"; saving town not only tipping fees/ton but hauling fees (2) produce 19 million watt hours in lieu of taxes on facility

Net Gain 1st year: by end of year 1 of operational facility, there is projected to be a gain of \$1M which can be used to defray costs – not pay bond – with town counsel's approval.

Town's To Do List:

- 1) Hire a bond attorney
- 2) Give any changes in numbers to Waldron (interest rate change, net capacity payment change or change in KW rate) so can update model.

Grant Page of Waldron continued presentation:

- New proposed entrance way/road way/facility layout
- Continual efforts to get pricing from equipment vendors
- Continual efforts to work on costs i.e. concept of steel, similar boiler costs from another project; concrete, etc. to help refine final costs

Jeremy Smith of Waldron presented:

- MSW breakdown
- Construction and Demolition Debris (C&D) breakdown (est. 30% clean)

Grant \$: Waldron could help with grant exploration and submittal but not in their wheelhouse to do – mentioned Sanborn, Head & Associates; mention of ITC (ITC Holdings Corp. is the largest independent electricity transmission company in US – ex. 6% of project cost of \$135 M.

Resident Questions:

1) What are the environmental/pollution implications for Town?

Jeremy Smith responded:

The WTE Committee has opted for SNCR (Selective Non-catalytic Reduction) technology that is not required by State of NH but investment will reduce overall emissions.

Also, performance tests have never come close to limits with the Babcock- Wilcox equipment.

Methane produced by landfills i.e. “unrestricted fugitive methane” which is not flared off or captured is far more damaging to environment than restricted/scrubbed emissions from a waste to energy facility.

- c) Voluntarily pursue as an NH-SEC filing status (tabled due to time)
- d) Submittal of Warrant Article update
- e) Public Hearing and content update - date established and Waldron will present #'s based on what we know now. If numbers change, warrant article can be edited at deliberative session.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

- a) Scheduling public presentation meetings
- b) Public Hearing Content

Upcoming Meetings:

Next WTE Committee meeting – Friday 1/05/24 at Utility Conference Room
6 Collins Street at 5:00 pm.

Public Hearing – Monday at Selectboard Meeting, 1/08/24 at Ashland School Cafeteria
5:30 pm

V. ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Alan Cilley proposed to adjourn due to next group needing meeting space.

MOTION: Charlie Bozzello made motion to adjourn meeting.

SECOND: Mike Myshrall seconded.

VOTE: Motion Passed 7-0; meeting adjourned at 6:18 pm.

WTE Committee Meeting Minutes 1/04/24