

TOWN OF ASHLAND
WASTE TO ENERGY COMMITTEE (WTE)
COMMITTEE FORMATION AND MINUTES
FRIDAY, JANUARY 5, 2024 5:00 PM
UTILITY CONFERENCE ROOM 6 COLLINS STREET

I. CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Alan Cilley called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm. In attendance were Alan Cilley, Selectman Charlie Bozzello, Craig Moore, Mike Myshrall, Bonnie Bethune and Will Hess; Harry Gallien joined virtually. No residents were in attendance.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- a) **MOTION:** Charlie Bozzello made the motion to accept minutes from 1/03/24 WTE Committee meeting as written.
SECOND: Will Hess
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) Waldron Presentation: Jeremy Smith joined by phone and Grant Page joined virtually. Jeremy updated pro forma and reviewed with Committee.
- Longevity of plant was discussed at 30-40 years depending on maintenance
 - At current prices, a boiler re-do would be \$4.3 M
 - 4 years to build; with 20-year bond time frame once built
 - Bond attorney will advise town as to 20 or 30 year bond

Q. Charlie Bozzello asked how realistic \$135 million cost was?

A. Grant Page says this is a cost opinion at this phase based on equipment costs; cost continues to be “defined”. Cost opinion includes a large boiler; large installation effort; 40 – 50% of project is equipment.

Charlie Bozzello talked with finance people regarding bonds; with a AAA bond rating interest rates at 3.5%; if not AAA, 4 – 5%. Waldron and WTE Committee looked at 4.5 % on model; by year 20 is an est. \$200M in capital reserve. Trend in election year is that interest rates go down. Committee recommended to Waldron – 3% on bond with limit of 4.5 to 5%. Town still above break-even at 4.5%.

Waldron showed Committee powerpoint presentation for 1/08/24 public hearing and Committee made some suggestions.

Mike Myshrall asked if any engineering oversight done during project; Will Hess mentioned “clerk of the works” term. Jeremy Smith said that was built in to the \$135M cost.

If there are any adjustments needed to the \$135M, the Committee has until deliberative session to adjust and explain reasons at deliberative session.

Jeremy Smith told Committee:

- Carbon footprint less than a landfill which produces methane (even if covered/closed)
- Federal Government considers waste-to-energy a renewable resource – which helps with grant \$ availability

Grant Page shared research:

Ex. Ecomaine in Portland ME – built in 1988; 500 tons/day; capital expenses \$93M.

Upcoming Meetings:

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

Next WTE Committee meeting – Wednesday 1/17/24 at Utility Conference Room
6 Collins Street at 5:00 pm.

V. ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Alan Cilley proposed to adjourn.

MOTION: Charlie Bozzello made motion to adjourn meeting.

SECOND: Alan Cilley seconded.

VOTE: Motion Passed 7-0; meeting adjourned at 6:43 pm.

WTE Committee Meeting Minutes 1/16/24