

**TOWN OF ASHLAND**  
**WASTE TO ENERGY COMMITTEE (WTE)**  
**COMMITTEE FORMATION AND MINUTES**  
**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28, 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.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- a) **MOTION:** Charlie Bozzell made the motion to accept minutes from 12/20/23 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) Review any updates from Waldron – Jeremy Smith attended in person and Grant Page attended virtually
- WTE Committee asked Waldron for costs of facility; Waldron already has pricing for largest pieces of equipment; pricing subject to bids
  - Waldron has had project for less than a month; but did a great deal of work prior to being hired by the Town
  - Town will get 34 years of construction experience through Waldron
  - Grant Page explained that Waldron can provide “engineers opinion of probable cost” with methodology of how costs were determined
  - Grant Page provided examples:
    - 1) Last waste-to-energy facility built in the US was West Palm Beach, FLA in 2015 – 96 megawatts; \$672 M; 3,000 ton per day
    - 2) Waste-to-energy facility in Lake County FLA; 15 megawatts; \$79 M; 1998

- Babcock Wilcox will be on site for 1 year once facility is operational; Bluewater will offer to run facility for the Town (if Town opts to not run the facility itself); total equipment costs estimated at \$90M (includes \$50M boiler)
- Waldron to do a proforma for next WTE meeting on 1/03/24 with costs; how town will pay for it; pay off time for bond, etc.
- Cost saving options discussed:
  - a) Downsize from 2 boilers/2 trains (500 tons/day) to 1 boiler/1 train (250 tons/day)
  - b) Downsize from 2 boilers/2 trains to 1 boiler/1 train with ability to expand
  - c) Step back from SNCR (newer/above NH standards technology) to SCR (less expensive/older technology)

Other thoughts:

- d) Consider phasing in building/construction of facility – if so, Town would have to pay for 1<sup>st</sup> year
- e) Put decision off until 2024

**Costs & Revenues:** Charlie Bozzello stressed to Waldron the need for costs and revenue generated from tipping fees (costs charged towns/businesses to drop off municipal solid waste (MSW) and excess electricity generated. Also, estimated timeframe when bond would be paid off.

**Large Boiler:** Mike Myshrall asked if possible to have a larger single boiler; Jeremy Smith said that would drive up costs.

**Staffing:** Discussion was held re: staffing needing to operate facility. Town employees have a union but do not have to be in a union to work for town – up to employee.

**Default Plan:** Charlie Bozzello asked if the plant were to default, what happens? Is there insurance for this? Answers pending.

**Savings to Town with proposed facility:**

- a) Current costs of Ashland's MSW (tipping and hauling fees is \$100,000/year).

b) Current costs of Ashland's electrical needs are \$3M/year

**Electricity Production:**

a) 12 mg/hour produced at full capacity

b) Town buys power at \$.04/kilowatt

3) voluntarily pursue as an NH-SEC (Site Evaluation Committee) filing status:  
ongoing discussion

4) Submittal of warrant article: in process

- Warrant Article - Budget Committee can recommend or not recommend to put on Warrant; final decision is the Selectboard's; must be 3/5's vote for project to pass at town vote
- WTE Committee sees Ashland Electric and entity on own that will distribute electricity; Ashland Power Station recommended to be its own entity

5) Public Hearings and content – 22 residents attended 12/18/23 Selectboard Meeting and WTE informational session; 70 people have watched on PemiBaker TV; next public hearing planned

**IV. NEW BUSINESS:**

a) Scheduling public presentation meetings

b) Schedule Public Hearing before deadline

*Upcoming Meetings:*

**Next WTE Committee meeting** - Wednesday, 1/03/24 at Utility Conference Room  
6 Collins Street at 5:30 pm.

**Public Hearing** – Monday at Selectboard Meeting, 1/11/24 at Ashland School Cafeteria  
5:30 pm

**V. ADJOURNMENT:**

MOTION: Craig Moore made motion to adjourn meeting.

SECOND: Charlie Bozzello seconded.

VOTE: Motion Passed 6-0; meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.

WTE Committee Meeting Minutes 1/04/24