

MINUTES OF MEETING

A meeting of the **Ad Hoc Transfer Station Review Committee** was held in Meeting Room A of the CJH Municipal Center, 1 School St. Bethel, CT on November 5, 2015

Present: A.J. Bernard, Kitty Grant, B.J. Liberty, Keven Sheehan, transfer station manager Mike Flanagan, ex-officio Selectman Paul Szatkowski

Guests: Bethel Comptroller Robert Kozlowski; HRRRA Representative Jen Ianucci; First Selectman Matt Knickerbocker

Absent: Nicholas Ellis

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.
Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Minutes of the October 8, 2015 meeting were approved with a motion of K.Grant, second by K. Sheehan, all in favor. BJ Liberty requested to add two items to the spreadsheet she had provided to the Committee. The cost of garbage transfer is \$250 a trip and is done every Wednesday. The brush and leaf disposal is done twice a year and costs approximately \$15,000.

Old Business:

Jen Ianucci gave an overview of what the HRRRA (Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority) does. She stated that HRRRA derives its income from educational programs and recycling rebates. Each municipality has a contractual obligation to contribute a certain tonnage. However, these amounts are pooled so that a town that has excess can make up for another town's deficit as long as the bottom line is reached.

She mentioned that one of the biggest problems was with hazardous waste disposal since most municipalities only have collections days once a year at most. She is going to be presenting a suggestion that would make it easier for homeowners to dispose of these items sooner when there is an immediate need, such as when a home is being sold.

Ms. Ianucci applauded the task that the committee was undertaking. In order for the members to have the most information possible, she presented spreadsheets that showed how the 11 HRRRA member towns compare with usage, items accepted at the transfer stations, and fees. She made some suggestions which include looking at the fee structure or taking more control over the disposal process through structured hauling agreements. Most importantly, there was very little information about the transfer station available to the public, a problem that is universal throughout the municipalities. Ms. Ianucci recommended adding a section to the town's website and also on Bethel's Facebook page.

This was a very informative session and the committee asked if she might come back at a later date. K. Grant will see about getting her into the elementary schools to discuss recycling requirements. Ms. Ianucci would be happy to do both.

First Selectman Matt Knickerbocker offered his suggestions of 1) eliminating the annual permit fee and raising the per pound rate; 2) requiring residents to buy "Town of Bethel leaf bags" if they wanted leaves pick up at their homes. This would not cost the residents any more since they would have to buy the paper bags anyway

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but it could bring in some revenue to the town to offset the cost of disposal. The Committee agreed to look at these two possibilities.

AJ Bernard asked that the Board of Selectman to do an A2 survey on the transfer station property in order for the committee to be better prepared to recommend possible usage. The BOS had previously tabled the request since the land was going to be surveyed for the solar farm. It has since been discovered that the firm will only be doing a survey on the area slated for the solar farm so the balance of the acreage still needs to be done.

Comptroller Robert Kozlowski presented graphs and figures of the Transfer Station's financial history from 1995 through 2015. The \$500,000 fine that the Committee was questioning did not appear in that time frame and apparently dated from the 1980's. The Transfer Station has however been amassing a debt to the General Fund starting in 1995. Possible reasons for this included a change in which department incurred the labor costs but without further research, this could not be stated definitively at this time. Mr. Kozlowski suggested that setting aside an amount every year to repay the general fund might be necessary.

AJ Bernard requested that the Comptroller provide the committee with a detailed accounting of all transfer station expenses for the last two years. Mr. Kozlowski said that it probably could be done but that it will take some time.

New Business: None

Next meeting will be on December 2 at 6:30 pm

K. Grant made a motion to adjourn, seconded by BJ Liberty, all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda Curtis
Recording Secretary