

Draft

Operating Committee Meeting, Minutes
9:00 a.m. September 13, 2011
Bow Municipal Building, Bow, NH 03304

1. Establish that a quorum is present

Sheldon Morgan, Secretary stated that a quorum was indeed present in that all seven (7) members of the OC were in attendance.

2. Approval of minutes of OC meeting of April 28, 2011.

Chairman, Bill Herman asked for an approval of the minutes as previously mailed. A Motion was made by Jeanne Beaudin to accept the minutes as received. Second to the Motion by George Turcotte, vote taken, all votes in favor, none opposed.

3. Legislative Update

SB 131 Pollution Control Equipment Tax Exemption – Jim Presher stated that two (2) Bills had been deemed inexpedient to legislate. Jim explained that if SB 131 passed the bill would make the equipment of the Waste Management Incinerator taxable. This would be a pass through cost to the Co-op causing an increase in disposal fees.

4. Property tax issues with City of Concord

a.) Lack of progress and b.) Appraisals

Craig Musselman explained that we have been working on two appeals with the City, those being for 2009 and 2010. Craig noted that the Co-op and the City have independent appraisers and have requested information from WCC which has not been forth coming causing delays in the process of setting values for the facility.

Jim P. said this has become a very frustrating issue to say the least as it affects the tipping fees for all of the Co-op.

5. Single Stream Project

Jim P. said that he and Liz Bedard have continued working on recruiting members for the recycling project and have recently signed on the Town of Epping with a letter of intent; they will be placing the item on their warrant for Town Meeting next March.

Jim said that a rumor had been circulating about Pinard opening a facility which would be in conflict with us but that we have not heard anything other than they are seeking

land at this time.

Jim said that he had met with the City of Concord's Solid Waste Committee on August 16th and that they made a recommendation to the City Council to accept the tonnage numbers of 23,871 tons instead of the previously required 25,000 tons and to recommend that Concord's Representative be given approval to vote in favor of building the facility.

The Council did not meet until last evening, Sept. 12, 2011 and voted to proceed and gave the Representative the go ahead to vote in favor of the proposed project.

Jim P. also noted that later today he and Liz Bedard will be meeting a representative from the Rockingham County Facilities to discuss the possibility of their facility becoming a member.

Chip C. asked if we were considering the same pot of money for both ideas. Craig said no.

David Hartman then said he would like to confirm what he thought he had heard said about what the Concord City Council had done. Chip C. said that they were presented a report and a recommendation from their Solid Waste Committee to vote in support of the Single Stream Project and to authorize the Concord Rep. to vote in favor of the project at a tonnage of 23, 871. David asked Chip do you have the authority to vote yes on this project. Chip said correct.

Chairman Bill Herman then noted that at this time it would be appropriate for the OC to bring forth a motion to present our recommendation to the Joint Board at the meeting to be held on Thursday, Sept. 15, 2011.

A motion was made by George Turcotte to recommend to the Joint Board on Thursday, Sept. 15, 2011 that we move forward with the Single Stream Recycling Project. A second to the motion was made by Mark Stetson. Vote taken, all votes in favor, none opposed.

Craig M. then reviewed the economics of the current and past recycling markets, noting that paper has seen some increases and container prices have moderated. Craig said that the expectations are reasonable at this time. Craig added that he and Jim had met yesterday with people from Casella who has been holding their agreement with us to operate the facility but that there has been changes in the equipment and also the costs of having the equipment manufactured, delivered etc. Craig said as with all things we will have some good times and some bad.

A spreadsheet of Tipping Fee Projections was handed out which showed the projected costs using some of our reserves to build the facility and some to keep a flat or near flat tipping fee. Jim P. added that we need to be working on negotiations with WCC to try

and come to an agreement for future years. We feel that WCC still wants the tons we deliver as well as the Ash Landfill for disposal of the ash generated by the plant. Jim said contract talks with WCC need to start by 2012 as the present contract ends in 2014, perhaps we can make changes before that time.

David Hartman said how are we going to afford the prices when our trash is down 35%.

Craig said that is true, we have dropped about 5% per year and may be looking at 7% this year. Craig also noted some of the Co-op tons have gone north because they are getting cheaper rates and the private haulers are able to do that.

Craig said that we perhaps will be looking at bonding a portion of the cost to build and have discussed bonding \$9 million and using \$6 million of the reserves.

6. Allentown withdrawal

Jim P. referenced the letters of communication he has had with the town and noted that he has asked for a meeting with the selectmen but for some reason the town administrator does not seem to want to set that up.

Jim added that they need to know that they are in violation of both the Co-op Agreement and the contract the Co-op has with WCC, they are putting all the cities and towns in a position of having increased costs due to being responsible for their tons previously committed.

Jim said he would like to ask that the OC recommend to the Joint Board to have the Chairman appoint a committee to negotiate with the town as was previously done with Hopkinton/Webster.

Jim was asked by the town for information on how to proceed to withdraw and he did tell them they would be responsible to pay the Co-op for certain costs and that it would not be a deal such as the previous Hopkinton/Webster one due to the changes in the market. They also would have to put it on a warrant article for their March Town Meeting.

Paul M. asked if there is anyway to estimate what the cost would be for them to withdraw. Jim said it will be high because of the new contract with WCC and the effect it will have on all the communities. Bill Herman reminded all that the Co-op sets the terms of the contract not individual towns. Bill H. also said that since Allentown is an SB 2 Town there deadline to get this on a warrant article for the March town meeting will be December.


Dave Hartman asked if Casella is still the planned operator for our recycling facility and if so he would not want to deal with them since they are the company that owns the transfer station that is located in Allentown and where they are now delivering trash.

Jim P. said he has spoken with the Regional Manager from Casella and also has spoken with the recycling side of Casella and they were not aware of the issue prior to Jim speaking with them.

There being no future business a motion was made by Mark Stetson and a second by George Turcotte to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted


Sheldon Morgan, Secretary

Operating Committee Members in attendance:

Mark Stetson, Andover
Jeanne Beaudin, Belmont
Chip Chesley, Concord
George Turcotte, Franklin

Sheldon Morgan, Gilford
Paul Moynihan, Laconia
Joe Jesseman, Tilton

Others in attendance: William Herman, Co-op Chair, Alt. Weare, Patrick Bowne, Alt. Dunbarton, Ted Vallieres, Dunbarton, David Hartman Rep. Warner, William H. Wilson, Co-op Counsel, Craig Musselman, CMA Engineers Co-op, Liz Bedard, Recycling Consultant, Co-op, Jim Preshler & Jean Ann Cooper, Co-op

Respectfully Submitted:

Sheldon Morgan, Secretary