

Town of Waldoboro, Maine
Minutes
Waldoboro Transfer Station Committee
Municipal Building - 1600 Atlantic Highway
Thursday, November 10, 2016 – 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

1. **Sign in and Call to Order** – Bob Butler called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

2. **Quorum:** At least 5 of the 7 Committee members or their duly appointed Alternates

Bob Butler, Ted Wooster, Wayne Luce, Randy Robbins, Daven Robinson, and John Meyn made up the quorum.

John Daigle, Waldoboro Public Works Director, and Katie Winchenbach, Waldoboro Select Board, were also present.

3. **Information Sharing and Public Comments:** Committee members, Haulers, Director of Public Works and all others for Items not on the Agenda

There were no public comments.

4. **Discuss the Minutes of the October 13, 2016 Transfer Station Committee Meeting**

Randy Robbins moved for acceptance of the October 13, 2016 minutes; Ted Wooster seconded the motion. All present voted in favor of the motion, except Wayne Luce, who was not present at the October meeting.

5. **Election Day Results. Where to do go from here?**

The PAYT initiative failed by a large margin at the polls in Waldoboro on November 8, 2016. The final vote, according to Lincoln County News, was 1,868 against with 904 in favor.

Bob Butler, who had invited Katie Winchenbach to attend the meeting, asked for her views concerning the lop-sided vote against PAYT. Katie said she had spoken to a lot of people. She felt the town must focus on making it easier for people to recycle, adding that single-stream is the way they want to go. She suggested putting in another compactor at the transfer station, one dedicated to recyclables. She suggested getting rid of the green bins, into which people currently throw their sorted recyclables. Katie said that taxes are going up all

the time; people do not want to pay more to get rid of their garbage.

Daven asked if people have specific concerns about recycling. Katie said they do. She said the people want to recycle; we just have to make it easier for them. Katie explained that she has nine separate bags all in a row into which she separates her garbage and recyclables. Katie said recycling should be easier. It should be as easy as taking one bag of recyclables and tossing into a single bin or compactor. She said that people do not like to sort their recyclables.

Ted Wooster suggested the PAYT initiative might have failed because it did not carefully explain how much taxpayers save by separating their recyclables.

John Daigle pointed to the town's annual report. It clearly states every single year how much Waldoboro saves by recycling. John Daigle went on to point out that single stream recycling is costly. He cited the example of a single compactor dedicated to single stream recycling, which could cost as much as \$255,000 to build and install. Add the cost of a trailer for transporting the compacted single stream materials and include the \$40 per ton it costs to transport single stream recycling (Lincoln County Recycling does not take single stream) and the town would be paying far more than it does now. He said that Wiscasset has been doing single stream for more than a year, now, and we've all been witness to Wiscasset's budgeting issues. John said Waldoboro could purchase a smaller compactor and pay a \$35/ton tipping fee to Fiberight when it's commissioned in 2018, but all of that would add, not take away from, the transfer station budget.

One commercial hauler says he can't use our transfer station because it cannot handle his materials. JD is happy the selectmen brought it up.

Randy Robbins pointed out that if the voters had adopted PAYT, the savings could have paid for implementing single stream recycling.

Katie suggested the need to work up a comparison between PAYT and single stream to educate the people. Butler pointed out that had been done. The cost of single stream is contained in the Transfer Station Committee's PAYT Report, which is on the Town of Waldoboro website.

Butler added that single stream could make recycling easier for those who recycle—at a cost. However, single stream will do nothing to encourage those who do not recycle to do so. PAYT is a proven way of motivating non-recyclers to recycle. He reminded Katie that the recycling rate for the transfer Station is only about 20%.

Wayne Luce suggested that all three towns should have been allowed to vote on the measure.

John Meyn said the Friendship's Select Board has been singularly uninterested in furthering its relationship with Waldoboro's Transfer Station arrangement. Waldoboro needs to go out of its way to renew the relationship with Friendship. Waldoboro has yet to respond to letters Friendship and Cushing wrote to the Waldoboro Select Board more than a year ago about their concerns with the composition of the Transfer Station Committee.

Butler suggested that the up-coming budget season would offer an opportunity to build bridges among the communities.

Wayne Luce suggested that haulers could give an incentive to their customers to recycle by pricing their services differently. Wayne Luce said he would rather give customer X a break on his monthly fee if it meant he could collect more recyclables and avoid being fined for not meeting the 18% recycling minimum.

The committee agreed by consensus that Wayne should invite the haulers to the December Transfer Station Committee to get their points of view.

6. **Discussion with Director of Public Works Department about Current and New Initiatives.**

John Daigle reported that one hauler still owes quite a bit of money to the Transfer Station. He wants a change in Attachment B of the ordinance to permit the charging of interest on late payments.

John Daigle reported that DEP, as an incentive to speed up the closure of the Phase 2 landfill, has offered to pay 75% of the closure cost. With the phase 2 landfill closed, Waldoboro will no longer have the option of landfilling and will have to transport all solid waste offsite. The engineers are working up a cost on the closure.

Randy asked how much we are required to set aside for the transfer station's share of the landfill closure cost.

Daigle reminded Randy that the Transfer Station had borrowed money from landfill closure fund to pay for the scales. That borrowing is now being repaid. He said there should be enough in the fund to cover the closure cost, especially if DEP picks up a 75% share. One unanticipated closure cost will be the constructions of the staging areas needed to accommodate trailers for hauling CDD, metal and other solid waste and the costs of the trailers themselves.

John Daigle also addressed complaints from Cushing and Friendship about billing. Both towns are claiming that they are realizing none of the savings from the lower FY2017 transfer station budget. John said they must not be

aware that each bill includes pro rata repayments to the landfill closure fund for amounts borrowed to pay for the scales. The expectation was to pay back the loan, in part, from the Transfer Station fund balance, and if fact, in FY2016 all repayments were taken from fund balance. This did not happen for FY2017.

John said he was reviewing the per ton cost of the Lincoln County Recycling program with the Lincoln County Administrator. Last year Abden Simmons had obtained information from Lincoln County confirming the per-ton recycling cost was \$28.00. John does not believe this number is accurate. "Something is not jiving," he said. He is reviewing Lincoln County Recycling information with the Lincoln County Administrator.

7. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted.

Bob Butler
(On behalf of Martha Marchut)