

Town of Waldoboro Maine

Transfer Station Committee Meeting Minutes

Municipal Building – 1600 Atlantic Hwy.

Thursday, July 13, 2017 – 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

1. Sign in and call to order: Bob Butler called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM on Thursday, June 8, 2017.
2. Determine the presence of a quorum (at least 5 of the 7 committee members or their duly appointed alternates must be present): The following Waldoboro Transfer Station Committee members were present and constituted a quorum:

Bob Butler, Waldoboro Select Board

Liz Dinsmore, Friendship Select Board

Wayne Luce, Hauler representative

Martha Marchut, Cushing Select Board

John Meyn, Friendship resident

Randy Robbins, Cushing resident

Also present: John Daigle, Waldoboro Public Works Director; Alton Grover, Cushing Selectman, Monika Magee, Cushing Resident

3. Information Sharing and Public Comments: Committee Members, Haulers, and Director of Public Works and all others for items not on the agenda: No haulers were present. Randy Robbins shared photographs he had taken of the Transfer Station.
4. Discussion of the Minutes of the June 8, 2017 Transfer Station Committee Meetings: John Meyn made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 8, 2017 meeting; Liz Dinsmore seconded the motion. The motion carried 6 to 0.
5. Discussion with Cushing Select Board: Before the discussion with Alton Grover commenced, Butler announced that the Waldoboro Select Board had, at its June 11th meeting, approved a motion that the Select Board were open to considering of a new way of managing the Transfer Station. The motion carried 4 to 1. The single dissenter

voted against the motion because there was not enough information available concerning the possible structure of the new arrangement, other than a general statement that a new board consisting of the Waldoboro Town Manager and the chairpersons of the Cushing, Friendship, and Waldoboro Select Boards may be proposed.

6. Discussion of motion tabled during the July meeting to deposit into the General Fund of the Transfer Station as Source of Revenue any and all amounts each town receives from PERC or the MRC.

Meyn moved to take the motion off the table. Robbins seconded the motion. The motion carried, and the tabled motion became a matter for further discussion.

In anticipation of the discussion around the motion, Daigle distributed the FY 2018 Transfer Station operating budget to show that Waldoboro includes the performance credits Waldoboro receives from PERC as a revenue item (Line 1587). Daigle confirmed that the amount includes only Waldoboro's credits; he could not add Friendship's or Cushing's credits to the operating budget because they were not turning those credits over to Waldoboro, and Daigle did not know their amounts.

Daigle distributed information showing that Waldoboro pays the Lincoln County assessment for Waldoboro Transfer Station's *pro rata* share of any Lincoln County Recycling losses. Waldoboro in turn bills Cushing and Friendship for each *pro rata* share of Lincoln County's assessment against Waldoboro.

Daigle said the transfer station's capital reserve program shows a \$5,000 increase because of the purchase of a new trailer and the loader. Also shown is an amount to support the landfill closure.

Daigle emphasized that the Transfer Station has saved a lot of taxpayer dollars since the new ordinance came into effect and the scales were installed. He said that had we not changed things, we'd be back up over 3600 tons of solid waste a year going to PERC. Since the years we started with the new solid waste ordinance and the scales, annual tonnages shipped to PERC have dropped significantly and so have tip fees. For example, in 2012/13 the transfer station trucked 176 loads of solid waste to PERC. In 2016/17 there were 117 trips. Corresponding tonnage was 2,306.87 in FY2017, down from 3,297 tons in FY2012/13.

Daigle reminded us that the three towns agreed to repay \$40,000 per year to the landfill reserve to return moneys borrowed to purchase the scales. He also reminded us that

the three towns had agreed to hire a part-time employee at \$16,244/year plus payroll expenses.

He went on: Back in FY2013 the operating budget was \$537,436, in FY2014 it was \$565,497, in FY 2015 \$578,362, in FY 2016 \$610,340, and in FY2017 \$539,437.

Monika Magee asked about money earned from the sale of the recyclables. Where do we see that in the budget? Daigle explained that Lincoln County Recycling (LCR) uses revenues from sales of recyclables to offset its annual \$270,000 operating budget. Unless LCR is operating in the black, there are no excess funds, and that's been the case every year, with the exception of one, that LCR has been in operation. Daigle suggested that Waldoboro's Town Manager would look into the absence of LCR budget information, saying he's sure she won't give up on it. Magee emphasized the need to know and understand the basis of any assessments against Waldoboro to determine their fairness.

Marchut pointed out that we have no way of knowing how much each town is recycling. Daigle said he provides the information about the haulers. Marchut said haulers don't seem to play as big a role in Waldoboro as they do in Cushing. She still does not know how it breaks down individually. She said it's not her concern; it's the concern of someone else on her board. Butler suggested that we're all in the same boat and should try to work together. Meyn pointed out that our current recycling rates are less than half the State's target. We need to ask ourselves what we can do to make improvements. Daigle said the transfer station moved 739 tons of recycling and 1,073 tons of trash in FY2017. We all thought LCR would have to put in a lot of extra work to track the tonnages by town.

Daigle said Cushing has one hauler, Friendship has one, Waldoboro has 4 and there's one each from Warren and Thomaston. All have permits to take trash to the Waldoboro transfer station. Daigle said he's charging people who don't recycle. Marchut asked if haulers recycle at roughly the same rate as individuals. Daigle responded that individuals who come to the transfer station are really into the compost program. By comparison, only one hauler is into composting. Wayne Luce said just because a hauler lives somewhere else, it doesn't mean he won't have trash from all three of the towns. Luce goes wherever his services are required in the three towns. Butler said it's fair to say the people who use haulers will have more opportunity to play the system. Luce said he increased the recycling area in his truck because his customers are recycling

more. Daigle again emphasized that the transfer station charge people, including haulers, who do not meet the recycling goals.

Daigle said Cushing and Friendship credits from PERC would decrease the budget. He does not know how much PERC has given to Cushing and Friendship as performance credits over the years. He added that he does not understand why Friendship and Cushing have been putting money aside for the landfill closure when it's in the Transfer Station budget. Marchut explained there was a time when Cushing had to come up with money for a closure. Maybe that's what precipitated Cushing's putting money aside. Daigle recalled the towns did have to come up with some extra money, but that was taken care of years ago, when Lee Smith was town manager. Daigle said the money from now on should come to the Waldoboro Transfer Station General Fund. Marchut asked if Waldoboro is charging Cushing more because the towns have not been putting the performance credits into the transfer station account. Daigle said no. It was noted that Cushing was getting a hell of a deal. Butler suggested, rhetorically, that maybe Waldoboro should take back the PERC performance credits Waldoboro had deposited into the Transfer Station General Fund. Butler said Daigle wants to move on; he does not want to discuss the fairness of what's been done in the past. Butler pointed out that Cushing and Friendship handled the PERC money differently. Friendship spent it; Cushing put it in to a special account.

Butler came back to the untabled motion. Dinsmore confirmed that Friendship is "sort of" in agreement. Marchut said she could not vote for something that the majority of her select board is against. Danny and Heidi were opposed. She did not know where Laurie stood. Magee suggested bringing Daigle's information back to the Cushing Select Board. Alton agreed that Daigle should return to Cushing to discuss the matter again and to provide additional information.

There followed a discussion between Daigle and Grover about iron, mattresses (\$125/ton to get rid of them). Daigle said the same company that takes the metal offsets the cost of disposing of the mattresses. Daigle said mattresses now get landfilled. He said in three states (CT, RI, CA) manufacturers have to pay for the disposal of mattresses. He added that with the exceptions of shingles, sheetrock, mattress, and pressure-treated wood, almost everything else brought to the transfer station was recycled.

Daigle said the General Fund has \$281,000. He likes to have a minimum of \$200M to be able to replace the compactor if it goes. Has not had to have the compactor rebuilt. He

also likes to have something available in case DEP fines the transfer station. Daigle said DEP has slapped our hands but never fined us

Daigle said we'd have to truck our own stuff off when the landfill closes. He expects the money to be available, especially if we keep dropping tonnages of what we send to PERC and, after that, to Fiberight.

Daigle again said that a lot of people are really getting involved with the composting. The composting program is currently run through Lincoln County Recycling. After one brings 18 buckets of compostable materials to the transfer station, the transfer station gives them one 30-pound bag of compost. Eventually, Daigle wants to start composting at our Transfer Station. He said the LCR compost is very pure; it's not cut with anything. For some plants it's too strong.

John Meyn moved that we table the motion yet again to give Cushing more time to discuss it. Robbins seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Adjournment: The next meeting of the transfer station committee is set for Thursday, August 10th. Wayne Luce said he would not be able to attend the meeting. Meyn moved to adjourn. Dinsmore seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Bob Butler, Waldoboro Select Board

Randy Robbins, Cushing resident

Liz Dinsmore, Friendship Select Board

Wayne Luce, Hauler Representative

Martha Marchut, Cushing Select Board

John Meyn, Friendship resident