

Town of Waldoboro Maine

Transfer Station Committee Meeting Minutes

Municipal Building – 1600 Atlantic Hwy.

Thursday, October 13, 2016 – 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

1. Sign in and call to order: Bob Butler called the meeting to order at 6:11 PM on Thursday, October 13, 2016.
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

Ted Wooster, Waldoboro resident

John Meyn, Friendship resident

Randy Robbins, Cushing resident

Davin Robinson, Friendship resident

Martha Marchut, Cushing Select Board

Also present:

John Daigle, Waldoboro Public Works Director

3. Information Sharing and Public Comments: Committee Members, Haulers, and Director of Public Works and all others for items not on the agenda: There were no questions from the haulers and there were no items added to the agenda.

4. Discussion of the Minutes of the September 8, 2016 Transfer Station Committee Meeting: John Meyn made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2016 meeting. Ted Wooster seconded the motion. The minutes were approved with a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed.

5. Discussion of Pay as You Throw (PAYT) Initiative on Waldoboro November Ballot, Review of Frequently Asked Questions, Review of changes needed to Attachments A and B of the Ordinance: Bob Butler reviewed the presentation he'll be using in Waldoboro. The following points were noted. Bob Butler noted that some people think PAYT is a tax. It is not; it is a pay for use charge, just like electricity or gas. Bob noted that the 2019 estimated budgeted amount of \$709,921 reflects the fact that we will not get any PERC rebate. Bob Butler noted that he'd like to put a graphic representation of the budget with and without PAYT in the local newspaper. It was noted that in the past 6 years, we have spend 1.8 million dollars to transport and tip. With PAYT, tax dollars are only for running the Transfer Station. Transport and tipping will be paid by PAYT. Per John Daigle, we average 1,300 bags of trash per trailer load. Bob Butler noted that trash is not like schools, emergency services and so on; you need the latter more than the former. John Meyn noted that people who go to the Transfer Station generally buy into recycling. John Daigle noted that generating more trash is not in the public interest, whereas providing schools and emergency services is. Martha Marchut noted the concern that PAYT hits the poor harder than the well-to-do. In response to a question from Randy Robbins, John Daigle stated that the Transfer Station would be able to deal

with four times the amount of recycling we are now handling. In response to a concern expressed about people dumping trash, John Daigle noted that the town has been able to identify the source of a couple of trash dumps and that they are not from the three towns served by the Transfer Station. Davin Robinson noted that a few businesses would have their cost increase substantially because they currently are being subsidized. Bob Butler noted that 140 towns in Maine use PAYT. John Daigle reported that currently we are saving two truckloads per month because of our recycling. It is estimated that PAYT bags will cost \$1.25 for a 15 gallon bag, \$2.00 for a 33 gallon bag and \$3.00 for a 45 gallon bag. John Meyn and Randy Robbins noted that there's a potential problem for the haulers if recycling increases significantly and that we need to be attentive to this. John Daigle indicated that if PAYT goes well, there's a possibility that we'd go to single stream. We also might be able to put recycling bins in Cushing and Friendship. Bob Butler noted that some haulers really have encouraged recycling and their recycling rates have gone up as a result. In response to a question from Bob Butler about considering senior discounts, John Daigle stated his view that it would be more appropriate to give needs-based discounts in addition to giving free bags to the very poor, assuming that they are recycling. Bob Butler stated that if trash comes to the Transfer Station in a nonconforming bag, the individual would be able to purchase a PAYT bag at the Transfer Station and tie in onto the nonconforming bag. Bob also noted that Waldoboro charges a \$200 fine to Waldoboro residents who litter. According to John Daigle, we will be able to see through the bags and therefore will

be able to observe what is being put into the trash. Bob Butler noted that there should be a special way to handle breaking up an estate. Bob also noted that not everyone who pays taxes uses the Transfer Station, including mobile home parks and some businesses. PAYT makes this more equitable; they won't be paying double. John Daigle reiterated that with PAYT, residents would be paying only for the trash they generate; this is more equitable. In response to a concern expressed by Davin Robinson that bag prices will go up, John Daigle stressed that we should not start with too low a price on the bags to avoid this situation. Bob Butler and John Meyn discussed whether or not to have an informational meeting on PAYT in Friendship prior to the Waldoboro vote in November. At this point, no informational meeting is to be scheduled in Friendship. If PAYT passes, an informational meeting can be scheduled. On another note, John Meyn stated that he will commit to attending every other MRC meeting and encouraged other Transfer Station Committee members to attend as many of the alternate meetings as possible.

6. Discussion with Director of Public Works Department about Current and New Initiatives: John Daigle responded to ongoing comments from a former Cushing Selectman who also was a member of the Transfer Station Committee at one time regarding that individual's allegations of illegal activities on the part of the Transfer Station. John Daigle has provided documentation to disprove these allegations. In one instance, it was stated that John Daigle has misrepresented things by saying that he charges 6 cents a pound when he actually charges \$120 per ton. John pointed out that 6 cents per pound actually equals \$120 per ton.

In response to reports that some people are saying that we should go to single stream, John pointed out that we can't simply switch to single stream since switching to single stream would double the Transfer Station budget. Regarding the savings resulting from the installation of the scales, towns will not see a reduction in billing until after July 1 which is the beginning of Waldoboro's fiscal year. In addition, some funds are being used to reimburse the Transfer Station for the funds borrowed from the landfill closure fund. Finally, there was a discussion of concerns about PAYT in the three towns and how to address them. Bob encouraged the Transfer Station Committee members to write supporting letters to the local newspapers.

7. The next meeting will be Thursday, November 10, 2016 at 6:00 PM. A motion to adjourn was made by Ted Wooster and seconded by John Meyn. The motion was approved with a vote of 6 – 0. The meeting adjourned at 7:57PM.

Bob Butler, Waldoboro Select Board

Ted Wooster, Waldoboro resident

John Meyn, Friendship resident

Randy Robbins, Cushing resident

Davin Robinson, Friendship resident



Martha Marchut, Cushing Select Board

