

Hopkinton/Webster Landfill Committee  
Slusser Center  
Minutes

September 3, 2009

**DRAFT**

There was a meeting of the Hopkinton/Webster Landfill Committee on Thursday September 3, 2009 at the Slusser Center in Hopkinton. The meeting began at 7:15 P.M. with Barbara Corliss, Sally Embley, Stretch Kennedy, Karen Erwin, and Steve Clough present. Tom Mullins and Frank Davis also attended the meeting.

The draft minutes from the August meeting were reviewed. Sally suggested amending the minutes to reflect three typo corrections. The committee concurred. Barbara made a motion to approve the minutes as amended, Sally seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

The Proposed 2010 Transfer Station budget was reviewed. The 2010 proposed budget is lower than the 2009 budget despite an anticipated increase in the tipping fee, from \$45.90/ton in 2009 to \$55.00/ton in 2010, due to the success of several managerial efforts. The policy of maximizing part-time employees and training in house, the C&D recycling program, and efficiency measures have helped control costs. There has also been a reduction of trash which has helped reduce tipping fee and shipping costs. Several issues involving individual line items were explained.

The Solid Waste Budget was reviewed. The line to fund the Landfill Maintenance annual contract, remediation issues with NHDES, and potable water to neighboring residences was funded \$7,700 below authorizations in 2009. This line was raised to the 2009 authorization level in the proposed 2010 Solid Waste Budget. This budget proposal will have to be updated by the Hopkinton Board as the related costs for 2010 become evident in the upcoming months. These costs are not available now.

The status of private well contamination issues was discussed. The response by the Town of Hopkinton to NHDES was discussed at the committee's August meeting. NHDES has not commented on that response at this point. Steve explained that whatever accommodation the Board came to with NHDES could affect the proposed 2010 budget. There could be more or less testing required and some of the engineering costs will be based on requirements for next year.

The Cooperative's recent change from a GAT (Guaranteed Annual Tonnage) standard to a GMT (Guaranteed Minimum Tonnage) standard was explained. Up until now towns were allowed to set their own GAT on an annual basis. Since all GAT had to be paid for, whether that amount of tons was delivered or not, the towns mostly set their GATs at low levels. This underestimation was dealt with as a liability in the

Cooperative's overall contract arrangement with Wheelabrator and the costs therefore absorbed by the Cooperative as a whole.

The GMT will now be set annually for each community at the level that they actually delivered in the previous year. The GMT for each community will have to be paid whether the tonnage is delivered or not so that the liability for undelivered tonnage will now be absorbed by each community on an individual basis. If a community feels that it can satisfactorily demonstrate that it will have less tonnage in an upcoming year for good reason the Joint Board can be petitioned to approve a lower GMT for that community.

The Cooperative's Single Stream Recycling Facility proposal was discussed. A resolution was passed at the last Joint Board meeting which will allow the facility to be built with funds from the cooperative, using both financial reserves and loans taken out by the cooperative, with ultimate risk and liability being accepted by the Cooperative. Towns that participate in the single stream program, from the existing cooperative and from outside of the cooperative, will not have to repay this capital funding under almost all scenarios.

If the single stream initiative fails the trash cooperative members forgive all debts and repay all loans. The participants in the single stream initiative will be held harmless. If the participants in the single stream initiative choose not to repay the trash cooperative for the facility funding, all debts to the trash cooperative will be automatically given after 15 years. This means that Hopkinton and Webster will be responsible for a commensurable share of the Facility financing even though they don't participate.

The committee members inquired if anything could be done to prevent Hopkinton and Webster from incurring this financial obligation through its affiliation with the cooperative. Tom and Steve explained that there wasn't anything practical that could be done. Most of the cooperative representatives are in favor of constructing the single stream facility regardless of the financial implications. The funds expended by the trash cooperative on the single stream facility can easily be replaced by higher annual cooperative tipping fees on trash disposal.

The committee decided to move the scheduled discussion about maintenance issues, CIP planning, and revolving fund projects to the October agenda. There was also a consensus that new sources of revenue generation should be discussed as soon as possible.

Barbara made a motion to adjourn, Stretch seconded the motion, and the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:50 P.M.

