Hopkinton / Webster Solid Waste Disposal Committee

Meeting Minutes, April 2, 2015
Slusser Center, Hopkinton

Attendance: Mike Greenwood (W), Ellen Cilley (W), Sally Embley (W), Harold Janeway (W), Arthur Cunningham (H), Frank Davis (H), Rich Houston (H), Steve Clough (Ex-Officio)

Rich brought the meeting to order at 6:30. The march minutes were reviewed and moved to be accepted by Arthur, seconded by Frank, and accepted unanimously. Ellen nominated Mike to be chairman with Sally seconding. Mike was elected unanimously (7-0) as 2015 Committee Chair.

Steve updated us that he foresees no major changes this year. He says it looks good for the swap shop as both town selectboards are in favor of it.

Mike asked about the work to be done on the truck scales. Steve responded that Northeast Scales, Advanced Scales, and Fairbanks Scales are possible bidders. Steve would like the new scales to have higher clearance (6") and bumpers.

Arthur asked when will we start talks on the new trash contract. Steve said there is no rush but we do need to finalize it before the fall. It is still a buyers market and we have to decide if we want a short or long contract. Casella and Waste are the big competitors in our area. Combined T & D is the way the new contracts are done with the bidder doing the hauling.

Arthur asked about the process for bidding. Steve said it is however the Selectmen want to do it. Should our committee get involved? Steve will ask the selectmen. Sally asked about the trash backup last summer. Steve said we don't control the drivers and we were short one trailer. Our now fixed third trailer

will be a spare when the other two are full. Our trailers weigh about 18 tons when full and we rely on weigh slips from the incinerator. We ship about 2-3 trailers per week.

Ellen asked about the economics of the recycling center. Steve responded baling and processing is our biggest costs there. They are profitable for us and cost much less than they would as single stream. Single stream actually costs about $30/ton to dispose of and trash about $45/ton. Selling baled recyclables creates revenues. Steve mentioned Dockham's last day with the recycling truck is April 1.

Arthur made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ellen, and the meeting was over at 7:24.