

**SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
TOWN OF PEMBROKE, NH  
July 18, 2023 at 6:30 PM**

**Approved**

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Present: Wendy Weisiger, Sally Hyland, Gerry Fleury, Sandy Goulet

Staff: David Jodoin, Town Administrator. Bob Fanny and VJ Ranfos, Pembroke Public Works.

**I. Call to Order:**

Chairman Wendy Weisiger called the meeting to order at 6:32pm.

**II. Approval of Minutes – November 1, 2022:**

Gerry Fleury made a motion to approve the minutes of November 1, 2022. Dany Goulet seconded the motion. Sandy Goulet abstained. Motion passed 3-0.

**III. New Business:**

Possible Funding for Electric Replacement Packer

Bob Fanny explained there is an opportunity to replace the trash packer at the Transfer Station with a full electric vehicle. The \$730,000 price includes the truck, two chargers, and the necessary infrastructure. There is a grant from the State that would cover 95% of the costs. The full amount would be due at delivery and then the Town is reimbursed by the State. David Jodoin asked what happens if the approval from the State does not go through before the truck is ordered. Bob answered they will receive the approval before the purchase is made. All of the paperwork for the grant has to be in by October 13th. David asked if there is a date set for awarding the grants yet. Bob answered that the State will vote on it at the end of October. Bob has spoken to the person in charge of the grant and they explained the odds of approval are almost guaranteed because the Town meets 100% of the criteria. Wendy Weisiger asked when they would need to order the truck. Bob answered they would receive the ok on the grant and the truck would be ordered at that point. It will take 8-12 months for delivery. Gerry Fleury expressed concerns they will order the truck and then when it comes time to pay, the grant money will not be there. Sally Hyland asked if the Governor and Council meeting happens after or before Town Meeting. Gerry answered they meet every few weeks. Bob explained they intend to get it on the agenda before the end of the year.

Gerry Fleury asked if the truck takes any special skills to drive or operate the vehicle. Bob answered it does not. Wendy Weisiger asked if the Town Mechanic can work on it. Bob answered he can and there is also a bumper to bumper 7-year

warranty. It is unlike a diesel truck that requires a lot of big machinery to be worked on. It is made of a lot of small parts. The batteries are guaranteed for 10 years to not lose more than 5% power. The trucks have been tested in Florida, Alaska, and New York for the last 5 years for operational deficiencies in different climates. The battery is also self-contained in its own heated and cooled box that is impenetrable and prevents fire.

Wendy Weisiger asked what they would do with the truck that is being replaced. Bob answered they would disable it by running glass through the engine. Then it can be scrapped or sold for pieces.

David Jodoin asked if DPW is set up for charging. Bob answered that infrastructure is part of the cost. There is a current lack of power at the shop.

Gerry Fleury clarified the intention of this truck is for it to stay at the transfer station but if another truck was down and it needed to be sent out on the road, it could be. Bob answered yes. It is a rear loading split body and can pick up a route if it was needed. If it picked every day, it would need to be charged once a week for 11-hours and that would cost around \$31. That is a large savings compared to diesel fuel. The power from this will also open other opportunities for grants for items like solar power.

Gerry Fleury asked David how comfortable he is with the financial process of this. David Jodoin expressed concerns for cash flow that when other grant applications come in, Pembroke will end up a lower priority because the total available grant is only \$50million. Bob explained each project is scored on a 100-point system and Pembroke's truck scores at 100. Gerry stated the money is due at delivery and it will have to be encumbered. VJ Ranfos explained that it would likely have to be a warrant article to raise the upfront money. David shared it could be offset with fund balance knowing the revenue will come in the following year or they can put \$730,000 into the capital reserve fund but that will have a larger impact on taxes. David suggested the fund balance route. Bob asked if it was possible to do a lease to own to save the upfront costs but they would not do it. Gerry asked if this would remove a truck replacement in CIP. VJ answered that the use of the trash trucks are around 5 years, and they will still need to replace the route vehicles. This will essentially be a compacter at the transfer station. It will eliminate the need for the current recycling dumpster that costs \$12,000/year in rental fees. In 3 or 4 years the new trash truck will pay for itself.

Sally Hyland asked if the people at DES are working on figuring out the emissions savings. Bob answered he will try and get that information. The Committee would also like to know the plan for disposal of the truck at the end of its life.

Gerry Fleury made a motion to recommend to the Selectboard to proceed with the application for the grant money with the understanding the Committee will monitor

the progress with the ultimate intent being to replace the Peterbilt at the Transfer Station. Sandy Goulet seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

#### Review of Recycling Costs and Any Forward Cost Projections

Sally Hyland shared that she reviewed the numbers that are posted on the DPW website for trash and recycling costs since the new contract went into effect last September. To date, the Town has saved well over \$500,000 with the recycling program. Even though the new contract has higher costs, the Town is still over \$500,000 in savings. The extra costs for recycling in the new contract over the last 9 months have been \$21,000. The current contract is for 5 years and during negotiations, the Town did not receive a cap on fees. At the high point, recycling was costing the Town \$155/ton which has since come down to \$122.62/ton. The new rates will be set in September. Gerry Fleury discussed the savings from workman's comp and the additional labor by having the automated split body trash truck and those savings likely pay for the additional costs for recycling. Wendy Weisinger stated the Town has invested a lot in the recycling program and this has been a year of extra costs but that isn't a reason to end the program. It is very difficult to get people back to recycling. Casella built the contract with recycling and their landfills are filling up. Wendy is concerned with how they may view the Town of Pembroke if we all of a sudden change course and they have to find the space for our extra trash.

Gerry Fleury made a motion to recommend to the Selectboard to continue with the recycling program. Sally Hyland seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

#### Committee Recommendation to Selection for 2024 Budget Season

The Recycle budget was upped to \$125,000 for the 2024 budget.

#### **IV. Other Business:**

The Committee will wait to schedule another meeting until they hear about the trash truck or there are more developments in the recycling costs.

#### **V. Adjourn:**

Sandy Goulet made a motion to adjourn at 7:53 PM. Gerry Fleury seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

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Wendy Weisiger, Chairman

For more detailed information, the meetings are now taped and can be seen on [www.townhallstreams.com](http://www.townhallstreams.com) click on Pembroke NH and look for the day of the meeting under the month.