



CITY OF DOVER

SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE – MINUTES

Revised

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting
Meeting Location: 271 Mast Road, Dover, NH
Meeting Date: **Thursday, February 8, 2024**
Meeting Time: **6:00 pm**

Members Present: Chairman Dave Dinzeo, Vice-Chair Kate Surman, Gary Gilmore, Doug Kemp, Lynn Peterson, Council Liaison Debra Hackett

Alternate Members Present: Deborah Clough

Alternate Members Excused: Tim Casey

Alternate Members Unexcused Absent: Chris Sleys

Staff Present: Mike Moore, Solid Waste Coordinator; Nancy Usbelger, Recording Secretary

Waste Management Representative: Peter A. Lachapelle

The absence of an audio recording for this meeting is due to equipment malfunction.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

2. Citizens Forum (5 min. max.)

None

3. Approval of Minutes from January 11, 2024

Motion: Peterson made a motion to approve the minutes, Clough seconded.

Vote: U/a

4. Monthly Update

Moore stated he doesn't have a lot to report. He did share that there is a trend of residents buying less 30-gallon bags and more 15-gallon bags over the last three years.

Dinzeo asked why?

Moore stated that the price of the bags is the highest in the state.

Hackett asked if there was a decrease in bag sales prior.

Moore stated yes there was with the initiation of recycling. He also shared that residents are doing well with composting but would have to be doing more to make a difference in bag sales.

Gilmore questioned if maybe the age of residents might be a part of it?



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5. New Business

A. Education Effort Report – Deb Clough

Clough stated that Dinzeo and herself made a list of different topics to write tips about. The first topic was “how much the city recycles” which went out last Friday in the Dover download. The second one will go out this Friday in the Dover download. She stated they will soon be going out on facebook as well as Dover download. She did state that there is a lot of conflicting information out there, so she is hopeful that this will help make things as clear as possible for residents.

Lachapelle shared that maybe residents could use the website www.recyclesmartma.org. The site has great info about what can and can’t be recycled.

Dinzeo stated we are trying to keep it simple short and sweet to make it easier to educate.

Hackett asked about shredded paper and if it could be left curbside.

Lachapelle stated no it shouldn’t be left curbside, because shredded paper sticks to other products and contaminates it.

B. City Clerk vice City Manager

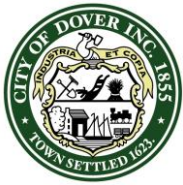
Dinzeo stated the City Manager asked for the SWAC to submit the attendance for previous meetings.

C. Debrief from City Council Workshop and Next Steps

Contract Extension

Lachapelle stated that they are on board as far as doing an extension. He did state that one year will not be enough time. He feels the cost for buying a truck that was presented was way higher than it would be for WM to purchase. He would recommend from his experience maybe two (2) – three (3) years for a decision to be made. He shared that he will be presenting a proposal to the City. He also shared the totters as well as the side loader trucks are definitely a better option.

Moore stated he doesn’t want to be rushed and would like to investigate to make an educated decision. He also feels strongly about a minimum of two (2) – three (3) years before a decision should be made. One year is just not enough time in his opinion as well.



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Lachapelle noted that Waste Management is seeing truck costs at about \$450,000 vice the consultant report of \$350,000 and lead times about 2 years vice 18 months. The automated technology will increase costs and make lead times longer. He also noted that the consultant's report was very good and very thorough and the consultant was very knowledgeable.

Dinzeo noted that he sees the report as a starting point for the follow-on review. He also stated that he assumes we are going to stick with bag and tag during the extension.

Motion: Kemp made the motion that The Solid Waste Advisory Committee recommends the City Council authorize the City Manager to Negotiate a contract extension with the current hauler for a period of 2 years through June 30th 2027, Surman seconded.

Vote: U/a

Dinzeo stated that this would allow 3+ years for a thorough review and analysis of the consultant's report and an opportunity for the city to plan and execute the resulting recommendations.

Peterson asked questions about other towns and if they have trash and recyclable picked up every other week instead of every week?

Lachapelle stated yes there are other towns that do get picked up every other week.

Proposed Price Increase

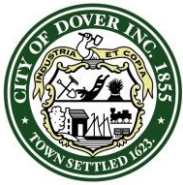
Moore shared a recent proposal by the Community Service Director and the Finance Director to increase bag and tag prices to mitigate projected \$550,000 shortfall in the enterprise fund by the end of the current contract.

Moore stated there is a trend of residents buying less 30-gallon bags and more 15-gallon bags over the last three years. He also stated that we already have the highest costs for trash bags in the state.

The committee as a whole agreed that there is fear that an increase would bleed the fund dry, drive even more customers away, and getting them to opt back into the city provided service would be difficult.

Gilmore shared that residents using private haulers and the current price being a contributor of driving residents' away from the city provided service.

The Solid Waste Committee decided not to make any recommendations at this time and tabled the issue for further discussion at our March 14th meeting.



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Feasibility Study Review Team

Gilmore made a recommendation and shared what the advantages might be to create an Ad Hoc Committee. He shared this would widen the demographic and representation of more stake holders while still including some SWAC members, a counselor, a city official and other expert. He also stated that the time commitment for the review will require more than the monthly 1-2-hour meetings.

Moore stated he could bring numerous people to the table the one shortfall would be that there would be a learning curve for new team members.

The Solid Waste Advisory Committee decided not to make any recommendations at this time and tabled the issue for further discussion at our March 14th meeting.

D. April SWAC Meeting Change – Mike Moore

Moore stated he is unavailable for the April meeting between April 4th through April 12th.

SWAC members agreed to hold the April meeting on April 18th.

6. Old Business

Clough brought up the subject about carry in and carry out at the Community Trail and shared that there are receptacles right in front of the signs. She also mentioned that she was researching possible dog waste receptacles for places like the Community Trail.

7. Set Future Meeting Date

March 14, 2024

8. Adjournment

Motion: Clough made the motion to adjourn at 7:40 p.m., Kemp seconded.

Vote: U/a