

Draft Minutes
Casco Naples Transfer Station Council
October 10, 2019

Members: Alice Darlington, Jerome Poulin, Richard Cross, John Kimball and Grant Plummer.

Staff: Courtney O'Donnell, John Hawley, John Kimball, Diane Hanscom, Becky Ribas, and Steve Rancourt.

Secretary: Diane Hanscom

Alice asked if we have a quorum, John H said the 2016 Casco Naples Bulky Waste and Transfer Joint Agreement states under the law we have a quorum, we have our seven-member board.

Alice opened the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Motion: Grant Plummer nominated Alice Darlington to be council chairperson.

Vote: Jerome seconded, all in favor.

Alice asked if everyone read the April 11, 2019 meeting.

Motion: Alice motioned to accept April 11, 2019 minutes.

Vote: Richard seconded, all in favor, except Grant abstained as he was not on the council at that time.

Alice asked if the town managers checked with the town lawyers to see if the Transfer Station and Bulky Waste were a legal entity. John H said we had the Agreement reviewed by attorneys, according to the attorneys it is a legal organization, it's an interlocal agreement between the communities, and does legally exist, under the law it is a legal entity.

Alice asked if the three-year contract with Pine Tree to haul our obw, demo and trash was looked over by the lawyers, John K said yes it has been and both town managers signed it.

John K told the council fences at the Transfer Station and Bulky Waste have been repaired and some replaced. John also said the new recycling bin was delivered.

The tire company used to leave a trailer at the bulky waste for us to store the tires residents bring in then haul it away, they are not going to leave one anymore, they've had issues with the tire trailers sitting for so long the brakes lock up, etc. They will be picking the tires up with a compactor every two weeks and charge us \$2.00 per tire instead of by the trailer load which was approximately \$2.00 per tire, John isn't sure if it will cost the same or more.

John K said we are still having issues with residents at the Transfer Station not wanting to put the Transfer Station stickers on their vehicles or don't have them at all. We have many prior Council meeting minutes where the council voted, residents need to put the sticker on the left bottom of their windshield or drivers left window or don't enter the facility. The employees at the transfer station have to stop doing what they're doing and approach the vehicle and ask the driver if they have a sticker, many times it ends up being an issue. The resident will not put the sticker on the window and are insulted every time the resident is asked if they have one. There are many vehicle owners who start to swear or just ignore the attendant and dump their trash anyway. There is a ridiculous amount of verbal abuse going on because of it, this is getting out of hand, it is work place harassment. Courtney asked if placards could be a solution, you hang them from your mirror with the town and the vehicle plate number on it. She said there has to be a solution to satisfy the workers and residents. John K said Becky works at the transfer station alone, she would still have to stop what she's doing and check plate numbers to be sure the vehicle owner didn't borrow the placard from a resident. John K said if the rental car has a sticker on plexiglass in the window at least you can see it from a distance. Becky said the people who rent their places out give the sticker on plexiglass to their renters and they don't match the plates. She said she gets many out of town vehicles from Raymond and Otisfield. Courtney asked how often do you look to see if the sticker matches the plate number, Diane said she and Steve look every time they come across the scale and Becky does when she has the time.

Diane said she called surrounding towns to see what their sticker rules are, everyone she called said if they don't have a sticker, they don't use the facility. John H asked what are the employees proposing, John K said enforcement, telling people they can't dump if they don't have a sticker that matches their vehicle plate number or a day pass. Grant said if we are going with the rule no sticker no dump, we need big signs. Becky and John K said there's already a big sign that has been there for years.

Grant said he knows many property owners who rent out their house weekly or daily, there are hundreds of them in the two communities. We have to get our minds around how this is going work; it's going to be a system change in the future. Part of the expense when these home owners rent is handling the trash from the rental, those expenses should land on the home renters. It must be unreal with Saturday and Sunday being turnover day, every other car with no sticker. Richard agreed it be up to the property owner to get rid of the trash not the renter. Grant thinks there should be extra staff to get the Transfer Station into shape, when he goes to the Bulky Waste he is greeted by staff and they check to see everything matches. Courtney thinks it will all come down to education, that means put everything in writing and posting everywhere you can. Create a document with the rules that are very explicit out there continuously, that will help a lot. John K has handed the rules to some people and they threw it on the ground, Becky said she has had people throw it at her. John H wants a list of people who won't put their stickers on, he will send them a letter in a format that will educate them and warn them. For instance, in order to use the Casco Naples Transfer Station, you need to be compliant and here's why. He said with a letter we have a record of who received the warning and documentation of the violation. John H said repeat customers do this all the time and you haven't conditioned the behavior; we need to have a warning process. John H asked if the employees can take down the plate numbers and give them to him so he can do something about the abuse, John and Becky said yes. Diane asked the council if the rules are the rules, no sticker no dump and they all said yes.

Courtney needs a comprehensive document that lists all the rules and procedures for people who don't follow them approved by the council, that is something Courtney can work with. John H said John K, Courtney and Diane can get together to hash out what rules need to be, create a document and bring it to the council to be approved, that document will need to address the progressive discipline plan, how were going to deal with it and will go from there. Courtney said if we put the list of rules at the town offices when the residents register their vehicle, they are more apt to read it, John H said we can put a copy with the town reports also.

Diane wanted the council to know Becky keeps the recycling bins clean as to not get contaminated load charges from ECO Maine where our bins get delivered, the council thanked Becky for doing a great job.

John K. said we have so many commercial haulers using the Transfer Station, they are being paid to pick up residents trash and they are disposing it for free at the Transfer Station, John K thinks in the off season we will be able to get away with only one full garbage trailer haul a week if commercial customers weren't using the Transfer Station. Courtney wants to know why we aren't telling them no, the agreement states tax payers and residents only to use the Transfer Station. Diane explained the commercial haulers open the gate at the hopper, back up and dump into the hopper. John K thinks it would be an OSHA finable offense if they were seen doing this, it is dangerous for them and the worker in the transfer station office pushing the button to push the garbage down into the hopper. John H asked how you would know if what is being dumped in the hopper was appropriate for the hopper, John K said you wouldn't know. Diane said the Gray and New Gloucester transfer stations don't let any commercial haulers in their facilities, they need to go to MidMaine Waste and pay a fee to dump there. Rental properties should have dumpsters or someone to haul their trash to Eco Maine.

Grant asked what if we implemented a tipping fee for commercial users, the agreement reads we could implement a tipping fee for commercial haulers to use the transfer station, they could weigh in on the scales at the bulky waste, go dump and come back and weigh out. We would then bill the haulers; they would be charged by the ton. The agreement states; the transfer station council shall have the exclusive authority to set the tipping fee as well as the manner for charging and collecting the same. You have to have some sort of justification for why your charging the tipping fee, if you did it for all commercial and define what commercial means you'd be good. Justifying your costs, you'd be better off, with back up. Tipping fees need to be based on operating, maintenance expenses, administration expenses, waste processing costs, waste removal costs, shut down or closure costs, operating reserves and other costs. You may want a public hearing about transfer station separation of commercial from residential, it's going to affect all commercial from residential, its going to affect all of the commercial businesses, we aren't picking and choosing what commercial businesses, its going to be across the board.

John K has asked for estimates for concrete pads at the Bulky Waste, the original pads are breaking up badly. Some estimates are coming in around \$11,000.00 each. The other estimates John has received are for the cement retaining wall down by the glass and shingles, that is leaning pretty bad and broken free from the rest of the retaining wall. The cost of fixing that is around \$27,000.00. Grant explained the newer technology is Geo blocks, concrete blocks that are set with geo cloth like a web that goes out into the grade, the walls are no longer greatly affected by frost because they can move and stay. We can look at those for an option when we talk about replacing the retaining wall. If frost does get a hold of them you can reset them.

John K received an estimate from R.N. Willey & Sons to remove six inches of the bad gravel sand mix at the transfer station, cut and shape so water will run off and replace with six inches of good gravel over entire disturbed travel area and compact, that estimate was around \$13,000.00. John K said he had estimates for paving the transfer station but doesn't think it would be good because of the loader and bins being dragged across the paved lot, they would ruin it. John K said cement the yard, it would be more expensive but it's the only thing feasible that will have longevity to it. The concrete estimate is around \$96,000.00, Courtney asked John K for quotes from other companies, John K said he will he just wanted to start getting prices on all repairs needed to the facilities. Alice said that is ridiculous and she wouldn't do it, it's just too expensive and won't last forever. Grant and John K talked about paving the access road also. Grant asked about a drive through at the transfer station instead of backing up, you'd drive right through. Alice said we've gone over that in length before, we had George Sawyer Engineering draw up a design which was very costly, the cost of the drive through was outrageously expensive. Grant said if we were talking about paving we should make a long-term good investment if we are going to spend \$60,000.00 to \$100,000.00, we could plan for years ahead. Courtney agreed with Grant, we will have to have a meeting about the transfer station yard surface in the future. The transfer station was set up 30 years or more ago, we can look to see what we can do for the future because our towns are growing and the transfer station is only going to get more traffic. We also need to take the finances into account we aren't really in a place to recommend one way or another right now.

Courtney suggest we all read the updated 2016 Bulky Waste and Transfer Station agreement, it talks specifically about the council being responsible for setting funds aside for things like this, she's not sure that's been happening. Diane and Alice said we used to do that and don't know why it stopped. The council had always asked for cash flows and what amounts were in the checking accounts, they didn't always get the information they asked for.

Alice asked how much money was in the Capital account, Courtney said all the money was in one account as far as she knows. Courtney also said money allocated to go back to the towns when they did shouldn't be, it should be set aside for capital improvements. Courtney wants a budget with a breakdown showing what was actually spent last year and what was pulled in for revenue, was there actually surplus or did we under budget, what's going on. We all need to get comfortable with where the numbers are and what they actually represent, what we've been looking for the rest of the year and as part of next physical year as well.

John K is going to purchase body cameras for the staff at the Bulky Waste and Transfer Station, this will help with the complaints against the staff at the facilities.

Courtney said our next council meeting we need to go over the facility agreement, there are inconsistencies about who's liable for what. Some of the agreement is contradictory, we need to clean it up. John H explained the budget for the facility are not put together showing the last three years data, this needs to be seen when putting a budget together and that has not happened, we need to see what the trends are, Courtney and John H will help the council with that.

Courtney said both Naples and Casco town managers, Diane, John K will meet to go over the rules and commercial haulers, they will bring these rules back to the council to go over and vote on at the next meeting. The next council meeting is scheduled for November 21, 2019. Grant would like to adopt commercial regulations at our next council meeting for tipping fees at the Transfer Station. Courtney said priority about the tipping fees for commercial users at the Transfer Station and the rules are what we need to do.

Motion: Jerome made a motion to adjourn at 9:05 p.m.

Vote: Richard seconded, all in favor.