

Board of Selectmen's Meeting/Workshop Minutes

October 6, 2020; 4:00 P.M.

Board Members Present: Liston E. Eastman, Chairman; Glenn R. Zaidman, Vice Chairman; Carmen E. Lone; Paul A. Tworog, G. Frederick Packard (arrived at 4:30p.m.)

Administration Present: Town Manager Robert Peabody; Deputy Town Manager Georgiann Fleck

Recycling Committee Members Present: Sally Chappell; Maureen McDevitt; Therese Johnson; Donna Joss.

1. Call to Order

Chairman Eastman called the meeting to order at 4:00P.M.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Board recited the "Pledge of Allegiance."

3. Workshop with the Recycling Committee

Recycling Committee Member Chappell said the Recycling Committee is here to discuss and establish guidelines regarding licenses for Commercial Haulers. The Town of Bridgton Solid Waste Flow Control Ordinance includes a definition for a commercial hauler which includes the capability of charging a fee. Currently Commercial Haulers don't pay a fee but only pay the amount required for a residential sticker and the Committee feels that this is unfair and unequitable. We need to establish a record controlling the origin at the Transfer Station because we don't know if the refuse is coming completely from the Bridgton area. If we license haulers it enables the Town of Bridgton to legally enforce the guidelines set forth in the Ordinance. It is also a safety matter to ensure that all haulers are in possession of a valid driver's license, registration and some form of liability insurance. In your packet there are sample applications for licenses from Gray and Gardner including the fees that they charge commercial haulers.

Chairman Eastman said I would have been interested in what surrounding towns are doing for their commercial haulers rather than towns that are further away. Did you ask the adjacent towns such as Harrison, Naples, etc.? Recycling Committee Member Chappell said no. I was at the Harrison Transfer Station and I did not see any stickers but we could look into that.

Selectman Lone said I agree we need to look at this differently than we have in the past. Is there some way to encourage commercial haulers to recycle? When I am at the Transfer Station I see big trucks dumping waste but I don't see them stopping at the recycle bin.

Town Manager Peabody said if you go into a fee or license structure you could make an incentive to recycle. Some towns weigh the trucks and if there is recycling they take a certain percentage off the weight. Some towns have a pay as you throw structure and there is a reduction on the

fees that the hauler pays. There has to be an incentive, everything goes in the truck and it is difficult to sort from there. I don't know what would work best in Bridgton but maybe Forrest Kollander, Transfer Station Foreman, might have some ideas. Foreman Kollander said in the past we have had the haulers weigh in, take the recycling off, and weigh out. The commercial haulers, which are three (3) at this time, do a really a great job in recycling.

Vice Chairman Zaidman said the previous Transfer Station Manager told me that he did not feel that there was much of an issue with haulers bringing in trash from other towns. Every once in a while there might be a bag or two from another town but he did not feel that they were abusing our system. Foreman Kollander said I feel the same way and we do spot check to make sure this does not become an issue and so far it hasn't.

Selectman Tworog said how much trash comes in from commercial haulers vs. residential? Foreman Kollander said a year ago I could have given you a better estimate, but currently we have been so busy because of COVID and more people are home or have come to Maine earlier than normal so our weights are very high this year. Foreman Kollander said commercial haulers bring in a very small percentage of waste. I see commercial haulers maybe three times a day, mainly on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, and there are only three (3) haulers and the trucks are one tons not compactors. On average they are depositing trash ten (10) times a week.

Vice Chairman Zaidman said how much weight do you think they bring in? Foreman Kollander said it is hard to tell.

Town Manager Peabody said several years ago we were tracking commercial haulers so I have some data from when we were doing that. Chairman Eastman said how much of an issue would it be to begin weighing the commercial haulers again? Vice Chairman Zaidman said I think what the Committee is asking us for are fees for commercial haulers. I don't know why we keep going back to weight because if a pick-up truck hauls trash from a business they will not be weighed and if it is raining, most trucks are not covered, the trash will become saturated and weigh more than on a dry day. Chairman Eastman said I think it would be good data to have. Vice Chairman Zaidman said I don't disagree but you should do it for at least a year because more trash comes in during the summer than in the winter. Foreman Kollander said in 2018 when we did the study to establish data we also weighed some of the larger commercial entities like some of the summer camps.

Selectman Tworog said have we ever established a fee? Foreman Kollander said no, they are charged the same as everyone else.

Recycling Committee Member Johnson said I think it is important to know what weight the commercial haulers are bringing in because it sets it up so the citizens are subsidizing a private business.

Vice Chairman Zaidman said do you think that any business hauling trash to the transfer station should pay the commercial hauling fee? Recycling Committee Member Johnson said yes, some

sort of fee, maybe on a sliding scale. I think that some of the businesses should assess their trash disposal and charge accordingly. Vice Chairman Zaidman said if a business buys a sticker that is what we have traditionally done, I personally believe there should be a minimum haulers fee. Last year when we talked to the Committee we discussed pay-per-bag and the Committee was going to come up with a plan of education. I was originally against pay-per-bag but this would take care of all the issues we are currently discussing. Years ago when we went to the sticker system it was to identify Bridgton residents. I believe it has gotten blown out of context because we don't make that much money on stickers if you factor in the employees and the cost of the stickers. Recycling Committee Member Johnson said the Committee did discuss pay-per-bag but we were reluctant to pursue it any further given the current situation with COVID. Money is going to be tight for most people so we did not want to impose any fees right now on families. We felt that imposing a fee on commercial haulers is a good place to start.

Recycling Committee Member Chappell said a lot of the businesses use commercial services like Waste Management and dumpsters which go directly to ecomaine.

Chairman Eastman said for fees are you recommending that we charge the commercial hauler \$5.00 for each client they have? Recycling Committee Member Chappell said yes, that is what we are recommending. Vice Chairman Zaidman said there should be a fee so we can be sure that they have a valid driver's license and proper insurance. I don't think it should be a huge fee because the tax payer hiring the commercial hauler could buy that sticker. That would be like saying to a pizza place that we want to charge more because they are selling a lot of pizza.

Recycling Committee Member Joss said we would like to charge a fee and it is correct the taxpayer could purchase a sticker, however, instead the commercial hauler is hauling their trash so we charge the hauler the \$5.00 per customer or we charge a flat rate of \$25.00 or \$100.00. We are trying to make it as simple as possible because we don't want to burden the office with additional paperwork and we don't want the Transfer Station attendees to be the officials of the implementation of a fee. We just want it to be fair for the citizens that are taking their own trash vs. citizens that choose to hire a commercial hauler.

Chairman Eastman said I would recommend that we charge \$100.00. Selectman Lone said I agree, we don't need anything complex and we don't need to create any more paperwork for anyone. I agree with \$50.00 to \$100.00. Vice Chairman Zaidman when we talked about commercial haulers there are smaller businesses that have less customers, I don't want to put them out of business. Foreman Kollander said yes there are a few that have a pick-up trucks that might haul for only 6 people. Vice Chairman Zaidman said maybe we need to determine a small hauler, medium hauler and large hauler according to how many customers they have and charge fees based on that. Town Manager Peabody said what do commercial haulers usually charge per customer? Foreman Kollander said average \$20.00-\$25.00/month for residential. Chairman Eastman said I would recommend \$100.00 for a license fee for all commercial haulers whether they be a small, medium, or large hauler. Foreman Kollander said would that be a monthly or annual fee? Chairman Eastman said annual. Vice Chairman Zaidman said what are

you going to consider a commercial hauler? Chairman Eastman said the definition is in the Ordinance.

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Zaidman to set a Commercial Hauler fee at \$100.00 per year; second from Chairman Eastman.

Discussion: Selectman Tworog said should we add that we want to include proof of liability? Town Manager Peabody said we have the guidelines in the Ordinance and we will create a form to make sure we have the information required by the Ordinance.

Vice Chairman Zaidman said will it be calendar or fiscal year? Town Manager Peabody said whenever they come in. Chairman Eastman said I would prefer fiscal year. Town Manager Peabody for instance if the fiscal year is July 1 and I start my business in December do I pay the full amount or a pro-rated amount? Chairman Eastman said you pay the full amount. The other Board members concurred. Vice Chairman Zaidman said I would like to recommend that the Commercial Hauler sticker be a different color and available at the Town Office only NOT the Transfer Station so we can make sure that the proper paperwork is submitted before the sticker is issued.

Chairman Eastman called for a vote to the motion; 5 Approve / 0 Oppose

Recycling Committee Member Chappell said does this include campground owners? Chairman Eastman said only commercial haulers according to the definition in the Ordinance. Recycling Committee Member Chappell said Campgrounds generate a significant amount of trash. Recycling Committee Member McDevitt said why shouldn't a campground have to pay the commercial hauler fee because they are a commercial entity? Vice Chairman Zaidman said no according to the definition they are not a commercial hauler. Chairman Eastman said the definition is clear for commercial haulers not commercial businesses.

4. Adjourn

Chairman Eastman adjourned the workshop portion of the meeting at 4:44P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Georgiann M. Fleck
Deputy Town Manager