

**SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 12, 2022**

Present: Chairman Muniz, K Galambos, R Aitro, J Cosgrove, H Plunkett

1. Chairman Muniz called the meeting to order at 6:06 .
2. R Aitro moved to approve the Meeting Minutes of 9/14/22, H Plunkett seconded the motion which was passed unanimously with one abstention (K Galambos).
3. RFP for Curbside Collection and Recycling Material Processing Contracts - Contracting Status
  - a. On September 30, H Plunkett and Chairman Muniz met with two vendors, Country Transfer and All American Waste, to learn about what services are available in our market.
    - i. Country Transfer uses manual pickup for trash, then delivers waste to their transfer station. They do not have a specific recycling business of their own. They can deliver dual-stream recyclables to marketers who could make payments back to the Town. An advantage would be direct curbside collection of trash with no use of our Transfer Station. We would save costs on load delivery from the Transfer Station to the processor because they have enough trucks to collect trash and deliver it back to Wallingford repeatedly. This would be the same with recycling but it is unclear what recycling vendor they use. Facility is in Wallingford. A disadvantage would be that having Country Transfer handle Branford's MSW would negatively affect Branford's participation in the trash-to-energy contract in place with Covanta and the Bristol Coop which has a good price for solid waste.
    - ii. AAW (current recycling provider) only collects curbside by automated methods. Their facility is single stream only. They strongly recommended moving away from manual collection toward automated for both MSW and recycling. They do offer a shared-risk model: Branford would pay a processing fee that would be modified every period according to the outcome of their resale of retrieved commodities. Currently we have several prices for recycling (dual, single, contaminated). In a shared risk model, we would have a single price for processing and another price for disposition of the segregated recyclables. Bottom line could mean that when the market is poor, we would pay for processing AND disposition. Would it be better to go to a single process cost OR to be subject to variable cost? They would deliver trash to a transfer station, but it is unclear about where recycling would be taken. AAW recommended Branford should not remove the 20 Town dumpsters from the Town waste curbside collection contract.

- iii. On Oct 3, Chairman Muniz met with First Selectman Cosgrove and consultants Barton & LaGuidice (B&L), to discuss the recycling business market and the finalizing of the RFP. In the discussion, it was noted that Branford is one of very few towns that doesn't do automated pick-up and single stream recycling. We have traditionally had 3 streams: cardboard, trash, & paper. B&L said it is cheaper to conform to the norm. B&L said the universe of potential bidders for automated pick-up is greater than for manual. Another question is whether the Town or the vendor should own the containers. R Aitro pointed out that people cannot easily pick up very large containers from the Transfer Station. H Plunkett said the City of New Haven owns the containers. B&L said the rate we have with Bristol is very good.
    - b. First Selectman Cosgrove's comments:
      - i. The Covanta agreement goes to 2034, with a favorable tip fee and a 3 ½% cap tied to the CPI index,
      - ii. Any option to bypass the Transfer Station and take trash to another facility, would be unlikely to match the current price with Covanta, so it would be hard to spend less
      - iii. Bristol is a 14-community policy board that banded together and bonded the waste-to-energy plant in Bristol. Covanta is the operator.
      - iv. Regarding Shared Risk, the Town used to tie recycling to the market, but then the market fell apart, so now we have the fixed cost (tip fee). We still have shared risk for cardboard,
      - v. Regarding removing Town dumpsters from the curbside contract. We are Interested in B&L's advice
      - vi. Regarding single-stream recycling, in the past the Town benefited from not being single-stream, but now the industry has changed so switching to single-stream may make sense although residential customers may not understand why the Town is making the change
    - c. Next steps:
      - i. Final preparation of the RFP by Chairman Muniz and B&L over the next 30 days; then, approval by the SWMC; goal is to send out the RFP in November.
      - ii. Chairman Muniz will ask B&L about the concept of pay-as-you-throw: i.e. the resident pays for trash bags to offset collection costs.
4. Program Operations
- a. Compliance Manager Employment Position Status
    - i. Ms McCarthy-Bercury has resigned and the position is posted.
    - ii. All three Transfer Station attendant positions are filled, and Jason Corolla was named permanent Lead Attendant. He will be the primary point of contact for daily operations at Transfer Station.
    - iii. Sharon Heslin is retiring at the end of the year and the Administrative Assistant position will be posted.
  - b. Town Green trash pickup status
    - i. First Selectman Cosgrove stated that Parks and/or Public Works have not yet started the Town Green trash pick-ups.
5. Safety Improvements, Transfer Station
- a. Town has encumbered funds for Transfer Station projects, and the Town will be moving forward on significant upgrades

- i. G Zelinsky & J Corolla will look at safety improvements such as traffic circulation
    - ii. They have already started cleaning up in the back
  - b. First Selectman Cosgrove announced the recent passing of Town employee Pat Montano
- 6. R Aitro moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 PM, K Galambos seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously.
- 7. The next meeting of the SWMC will be November 9, 2022, at 6:00 via Zoom.