

## Solid Waste Advisory Committee Meeting

4/2/24

4:30 PM

### Members:

Chair: Councilor Brent Todd	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Councilor Jeff Foote	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Councilor Judith Kurtz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Councilor Jim Schlosser	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Councilor Paula McLaughlin	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councilor Kris Schultz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Eric Steinhauser	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reagan Bissonnette	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Carol Foss	<input type="checkbox"/>

The meeting was called to order at 4:30pm with Chairman Todd suggesting that because this meeting was the first with the new committee composition, introductions seemed appropriate. All members shared their names and affiliations.

Following that a motion was made by Reagan Bissonnette to approve the previous meeting minutes which was seconded by Councilor McNamara. The motion passed unanimously with Eric Steinhauser abstaining as he was not present.

General Services' Administration Division Manager, Adam Clark, then noted for the group that GSD Staff are always available to meet with members of the public or Committee members who would like.

The Committee then discussed having a regular set schedule for meetings, that being every two months on the first Tuesday of the month at 430pm in order to help members plan ahead.

Chairman Todd then asked GSD Staff to share the presentation they had for the evening (attached). Background information was provided to remind members where the City is at in its timetable with its solid waste contracts. The present contract ends June 30, 2024 and two new contracts start July 1, 2024, one with Win-Waste for disposal (the incinerator in Penacook) and one with Casella. The curbside collections program includes a transition to automated collection in the term of the contract with a phased transition. A pilot phase will be undertaken no later than July 1 2026 and the whole City will transition to toter based collection by July 1<sup>st</sup> 2028. The pilot program phase will allow the Committee,

Staff and Casella time to address any problems or obstacles that may occur. In addition to having the pilot routes representative of various housing types and landscapes, the pilot will inform how Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) will work in an automated collection program.

As a reminder to the group, the next set of slides had largely been previously presented and included the three ways in which solid waste operations may be funded. Those are;

- PAYT Bag Revenues/General Fund Transfer – two levers
- Solid Waste Toter Charges/General Fund Transfer – two levers
- General Fund Transfer – one lever

Each option for financing the operations has associated pros and cons. Compliance with PAYT will be key in how the program is managed going forward.

PAYT bags or toter charges maintain an additional revenue stream to supplement General Fund transfers while solely relying on the General Fund wraps in the commercial tax base. Abandoning PAYT bags in either way will necessarily increase tonnage and City costs.

Moving from PAYT bags to toter based charges would be difficult as you lose the equity built into a PAYT system but continue using user fees something that may be unpopular, particularly that toter sizes will largely be standardized with 64-gallon trash and 96-gallon recycling toters with some other sizes available based on criteria to be established.

In an effort to address these issues, the Committee was then invited to watch a webinar on emerging technology that is becoming available that the GSD has identified as the means by which the PAYT program may be maintained in an automated collection environment. The Committee watched the video here; <https://vimeo.com/914943398?share=copy> .

The webinar included presentations from Mark Dancy from WasteZero and Sam Dietrich from Prairie Robotics who are offering a service built around artificial intelligence (AI) that uses cameras to ensure compliance of both PAYT bags and contaminant free recycling streams.

The presentation included discussion of how the compliance is determined, how residents are made aware of non-compliance, the City would need to establish an enforcement protocol, and efforts to continue educating residents. The system is a third party from the City or Casella which is data driven.

Following the presentation, the Committee discussed the concepts heard therein and agreed with Staff that the idea should continue to be investigated. Reagan Bissonnette noted that it makes a lot of financial and environmental sense for the City to do what it can to preserve it's PAYT program. Eric Steinhauser asked if the City would be using for both PAYT compliance and recycling which at this point GSD thinks yes, both, most likely.

Given the interest in the concept, next steps were then discussed, the first of which will be GSD reaching out to the parties to express interest and seek to have a in-person presentation of the program, first to the Committee and then to City Council. Provided that there is interest, the costs would be included in a future budget. Councilor Kurtz reminded everyone of the importance of communication through the transition and rollout.

Next on the agenda were updates on the Concord Transfer Station “Saturday Entrance”. During a recent NHDES inspection the Department indicated that they would like to see alternatives for queuing on Saturdays which can make cars stop on the side of Old Turnpike road. The GSD went through various options, ultimately settling on installing a second gate. The “Saturday Entrance” further south on Old Turnpike Road than the present gate which will allow cars to queue on the snow dump. This is expected to be used just on Saturdays in the summer.

GSD Staff noted the previously discussed referral on DTSWD assessment remains at Community Development under study. Staff reviewed the previous efforts to investigate the situation for the new Committee members.

GSD Staff shared that a textile recycling proposal from Apparel Impact is imminent. The organization reached out following the previous meeting and indicated a desire to put something together to work with the City.

GSD Staff member Angelina Zulkic then briefed the Committee on GSD outreach efforts related to diversion opportunities for residents, information on the new contracts, the impending switch to automated collection and more. Please review the FAQs on site. Feedback is always welcome.

A final slide was presented noting that the following items will be coming in future meetings along with information on the emerging technology discussed tonight as well as Community Development information as it relates to the DTSWD assessments.

- Casella – Introductions
- Automated Collection Program Planning
- Textile Diversion Program
- Food Waste Diversion Promotions
- Blue Bag Program Updates

Eric Steinhauser noted that he had met with GSD Staff in preliminary efforts to reinvigorate the City’s blue bag litter collection program with an eye toward creating an event once or twice a year which would target a specific date for clean ups and hopefully drive participation of various groups.

Reagan Bissonnette shared various opportunities for learning that her organization, the Northeast Resource Recovery Association has on the horizon. The first is a series of workshops on food waste composting and the second is the organization’s annual recycling conference. Both events are taking place in Concord.

- <https://www.nrrarecycles.org/event/food-waste-diversion-composting-workshops>
- <https://www.nrrarecycles.org/annual-recycling-conference>

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilor Shultz and seconded by Councilor Kurtz. The meeting was adjourned at 6:20pm.

# SWAC Meeting

04/2/2024

## SWAC

- ▶ Approve minutes
- ▶ Introductions
- ▶ GSD is always available to meet
- ▶ Proposed Meeting Schedule
  - ▶ Bi-monthly?
  - ▶ First Tuesday?
  - ▶ 4:30?

## Background/Current State

- ▶ Present contract ends June 30, 2024
- ▶ Separate disposal and collection contracts
- ▶ Disposal will be at Wheelabrator/Win-Waste
- ▶ Collection remains with Casella
  - ▶ Contract includes a switch to automated collection
  - ▶ A pilot will be undertaken on 1 out of the 4 collection routes per day beginning by July 1, 2026
  - ▶ City-wide automated collection is to commence by July 1, 2028
- ▶ The trial period allows time to figure out obstacles, not the least of which is how PAYT works in an automated collection program

## Financing Solid Waste Operations

- ▶ Came up in Budget hearings
- ▶ Worth discussing now as this will come up in the pilot, particularly if compliance using PAYT bags is something less than 100%
- ▶ It is/will be something that Councilors continue to hear about from residents
- ▶ Benefits us all to have a good understanding so we can have quality community conversations
- ▶ There are three ways in which we can finance solid waste;
  - ▶ PAYT Bag Revenues/General Fund Transfer – two levers
  - ▶ Solid Waste Toter Charges/General Fund Transfer – two levers
  - ▶ General Fund Transfer – one lever

## Financing Solid Waste Operations - PAYT Bag Revenues/General Fund Transfer

- ▶ Pros
  - ▶ Effectively reduces MSW volumes and increases recycling
  - ▶ Presently the model/familiarity
  - ▶ Maintains an effective user fee
  - ▶ Maintains a secondary revenue source to the General Fund transfer
- ▶ Cons
  - ▶ Vulnerable if PAYT bag compliance is not 100% in pilot transition (or City-wide transition) to automated collection
  - ▶ PAYT with automated collection is not a system that is known to be widely in place

## Financing Solid Waste Operations - Solid Waste Toter Charges/General Fund Transfer

- ▶ Pros
  - ▶ Maintains a secondary revenue source to the General Fund transfer
  - ▶ Eliminates residents from needing to purchase special bags/eliminates PAYT bag complaints
  - ▶ Eliminates \$200k in bag manufacturing, shipping, and program administration costs
- ▶ Cons
  - ▶ Loss of the an effective user fee that promotes the "metering" of solid waste
  - ▶ "Another" bill
  - ▶ Significant resources involved in establishing a new City "utility" – billing software, people, etc.
  - ▶ Increased disposal volume/costs
  - ▶ More direct questions of fairness for low volume users/raises equity issues
  - ▶ Difficult to enforce in the event of non-payment

## Financing Solid Waste Operations - General Fund Transfer

- ▶ Pros
  - ▶ Easiest at the resident level to manage
  - ▶ Wraps commercial property owners into the cost burden
  - ▶ Eliminates \$200k in bag manufacturing, shipping, and program administration costs
  - ▶ Easiest administration
- ▶ Cons
  - ▶ Increased property taxes
  - ▶ Loss of the an effective user fee that promotes recycling and the "metering" of solid waste
  - ▶ increased disposal volume/costs

## Maintaining PAYT with Automated Collection

- ▶ Emerging Technology designed to preserve PAYT programs as the industry shifts from manual collection to automated collection
- ▶ We believe this to likely be the only way in which we can preserve a PAYT model
- ▶ <https://vimeo.com/914943398?share=copy>
- ▶ After - Thoughts?

## Next Steps on PAYT Compliance Program

- ▶ Internal discussions on emerging technology
- ▶ SWAC presentation on emerging technology
- ▶ SWAC discussion and recommendation on emerging technology
- ▶ SWAC discussion and recommendation on enforcement policy
- ▶ If SWAC endorsed, Council presentation on emerging technology and enforcement policy
- ▶ Inclusion in a future year budget proposal
- ▶ Developing a game plan around data observed in the pilot phase

## Other Items

- ▶ Transfer Station "Saturday Entrance"
- ▶ DTSWD – Referred to Community Development
- ▶ Textile Collection Proposal Immanent
- ▶ Outreach Update

# What's Next?

- ▶ Casella – Introductions
- ▶ Automated Collection Program Planning
- ▶ Textile Diversion Program
- ▶ Food Waste Diversion Promotions
- ▶ Blue Bag Program Updates