

Solid Waste Advisory Committee

December 15, 2021

Draft Minutes

Prepared by Adam Clark, December 17, 2021

Members:

Chair: Councilor Keith Nyhan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Councilor Karen McNamara	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Councilor Gail Matson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Councilor Amanda Grady-Sexton	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councilor Robert Werner	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councilor Zandra Rice Hawkins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Arthur Aznev	<input type="checkbox"/>
Matt Cashman	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eric Steinhauser	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Michael Nork	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 with Chairman Nyhan noting that a quorum was present. First on the agenda was approval of the 11/19/2020 meeting minutes. A motion was made by Councilor Matson to approve the minutes and seconded by Eric Steinhauser. The minutes were accepted unanimously.

Adam Clark then gave an overview of the agenda. The meeting would start with a presentation by representatives from Casella Waste Management and would be followed by a non-public meeting with legal council to discuss contract options. At that point, Mr. Clark asked the reps from Casella to introduce themselves.

Brian Groshen, Kevin Roy and Peter Burnham work for Casella. The presentation started with a discussion on the contract status. The City is under contract with Casella through June 2024. Kevin Roy began an overview of Casella's current landfill status. The North Country Environmental Services landfill is scheduled to be closed in 2026 which has prompted the company to search for alternative parcels to site a landfill which led them to identify a site in Dalton, NH. The permitting process is lengthy. They

recently pulled the permit application but plan to resubmit next year and align permit applications across various agencies. They anticipate a 5-year process.

Discussion centered around continued need for disposal capacity in the state in light of cuts to disposal capacity in Massachusetts which has ripple effects through regional disposal sites, aggravating capacity, transportation logistics, and pricing.

Recycling markets were discussed, with a note that the proposed landfill would include a commitment to build a MRF (Materials Recovery Facility) in the state. The facility would co-locate in a partnership with Goodwill.

Kevin Roy then detailed Casella's long-term plans for renewable natural gas (RNG) when the NCES landfill is closed.

Councilor Rice-Hawkins asked a clarifying question on the closure date, indicating the handout read 2021. Mr. Roy indicated that is incorrect and indeed 2026 due to the last expansion.

Mr. Groshen detailed impacts on solid waste operations such as CDL driver/labor shortages/wait times at disposal sites being hours long/down time at incinerators causing ripple effects through disposal destinations.

Chairman Nyhan asked for confirmation of where Concord's trash goes to which Mr. Groshen responded to Allenstown or Belmont facilities and then to Bethlehem. Mr. Groshen described having to kick 3rd party haulers out of his facility and not taking roll-off work due to capacity limits.

There are a number of bills at the Statehouse looking at solid waste matters. People are engaged.

Councilor McNamara asked about recycling markets. Concord is getting a GREAT DEAL currently. Pricing is now formulaic where it wasn't when the contract was signed. National Sword policy in China had made recycling very expensive for a number of years. Pricing has recently improved but still a cost due to processing and transportation.

Mr. Steinhauser shared with the group that the State is coming up with a new solid waste plan which would be of interest to the committee. It is one of Mr. Nork's roles at the State to work on.

Councilor Rice Hawkins asked the representatives from Casella what would be the company's plan if Dalton didn't go their way. Casella does not have other options at this time.

Chairman Nyhan wrapped up the discussion noting that info can be funneled through Mr. Clark who will serve as a conduit for the group. Pleased recycling has recovered somewhat from National Sword. The Chairman indicated that at this point the group would move into non-public session. Mr. Clark indicated the next phase would need projection capability.

Mr. Jon Swan representing Save Forest Lake, a group opposing the landfill asked if there would be a public comment period which there isn't in the setting but he can forward on to Mr. Clark who can share the info with the committee.

The committee then moved locations to the Conference Room.

The committee then voted unanimously to go into non-public session.

The committee then voted to come out of non-public session unanimously.

The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilor Matson, seconded by Mr. Steinhauser and unanimously approved.