

**--APPROVED--**

**OHSTT Solid Waste Board  
Thursday, August 10, 2017**

**Present:** Bruce Colson (OH), Dave Matthews (OH), Ronnie Porter (T), Jan Gaudio (ST), Pete Lammert (T)

**Absent:** Skip Connell (ST)

**Guests:** Judson Dodge, Beverly St. Clair, Scott Johnson

**7:05 PM** Bruce Colson called the meeting to order.

Pete Lammert motioned to accept the minutes from July 27, 2017 as amended. Ronnie Porter seconded.

Jan Gaudio had questions about the vote on the moratorium. The Board discussed the motion for the moratorium. There was also discussion on the per ton and per bag fee as written in the interlocal agreement and whether it was intended to be inclusive.

Dave Matthews recommended that the minutes be amended to reflect that Bruce Colson voted in favor of the moratorium.

The discussion ran off topic and Dave recommended to return to the minutes.

There was also a question if the wording of the motion was accurate. Pete Lammert could not remember the exact wording.

The Board voted on the motion to accept the minutes as amended from July 27, 2017. Pete Lammert made the motion, Ronnie Porter seconded. Bruce Colson voted in favor. Jan Gaudio and Dave Matthews abstained. Motion carried.

The Personnel Committee reported they had not met but have received the completed evaluations for the operators at the facility. The Board acknowledged they had received the approved amended Personnel Policy.

The Renovation and Maintenance Committee informed the Board they had not met and there was nothing to report.

There was a discussion on the new steps at the facility. Pete Lammert was concerned that the steps prevented the container door from being closed. It was explained the steps were on locking wheels and could be rolled and the Facility Manager will be building more to replace the other steps.

Jan Gaudio suggested he revise the letter to a resident regarding the new steps. The Board agreed that Jan revise the letter and send it to the resident.

At the request of the Maine State Prison, the Board reviewed their tonnage and refigured the assessment by the ton. At \$182 per ton, the prison paid \$19,606 more for the first half of 2017 (January 1 to June 30) when compared to the assessments. The Board discussed options for the difference where the prison has already paid for the first three quarters of 2017. It was

suggested the prison hold off on paying the last quarter of 2017 and “true up” at the end of the year. The Board agreed.

Jan Gaudio motioned to send a letter to the Maine State Prison to acknowledge the variance and have them hold off paying the fourth quarter and “true up” at the end of the year. Pete Lammert seconded. All in favor.

Dave Matthews will draft a letter to the prison.

There was a long discussion on the Interlocal Agreement regarding the per ton/per bag fees, scales and percentages of commercial vs. residential dumping. Bruce Colson requested everyone to stop talking all at once. Scott Johnson explained he had spoken with the Town of Thomaston to see how much of the tax dollars were going to the facility from each taxpayer. Dave briefly explained the budget process of a town.

The Board also discussed a letter sent from the Town of Thomaston to the Board members regarding a long term contract and charging commercial haulers excessive amounts. Dave Matthews was unclear what Thomaston meant by “excessive amounts” and requested to go on recorded as being dismayed that the Town of Thomaston would write a letter like this without hearing the other side.

The discussion went back to percentages of residential vs. commercial and tonnage and how the Board came up with these numbers to use as a guide line. The percentages were given by Ronnie Porter when asked what his percentages were by his company. Dave referred to the data as unreliable because not all trash was being weighed.

Bruce Colson informed the Board that the recycling cost the most which is used primarily by the residents. Dave informed the Board his goal was to see that the people generating the MSW trash pay their fair share.

Bruce Colson informed the Board that not all communities in the area charge per ton and per bag because it was vetoed by the taxpayers. Bruce informed the Board that the Owls Head Selectmen were in favor of tipping fees. Dave stated that this is a volunteer position to work with the Board and to see that the budget is appropriate and as low as possible and is dismayed that the Town of Thomaston would not favor it also.

Pete Lammert informed the Board that Thomaston is not against the renovation project but are concerned with what will happen if the prison were to leave and has no contract.

Scott Johnson asked Dave Matthews if he was going to take Bruce’s place on the Board when his term was up as Selectman. Dave informed everyone that he has no control over whether Bruce remains on the Board.

The Board returned to the discussion on the tonnages and percentages.

Dave informed the Board that in his opinion they had failed as a Board to get accurate tonnage data and that 2 years is too long to try and obtain this information.

Also discussed was the fee returns from PERC. Judd informed the Board that it should have gone back to the facility.

Pete Lammert reported that a person is needed at the facility 5 days a week to keep good records with separate cans and everyone to follow procedures.

Dave informed the Board that he is dismayed that the vote for the moratorium was taken with 2 Board members absent and that he may pursue challenging the vote.

Dave Matthews motioned to table the Interlocal Agreement changes. Pete Lammert seconded. All in favor.

The warrant was reviewed and signed.

Jan Gaudio asked about the Put Option for the MRC and if the facility is considered a "Regional Operation" or if it needs to go through the 3 towns. It was recommended to get a legal interpretation. The Secretary was directed to look in the past minutes to see if it has been discussed with Paul Gibbons.

Pete Lammert informed the Board that he has noticed the staff at the facility have not been wearing their safety gear. Bruce will contact Skip to remind the staff to wear it at all times while on duty.

Pete Lammert motioned to accept the signed warrant. Dave Matthews seconded. All in favor.

Pete Lammert motioned to adjourn. Dave Matthews seconded. All in favor.

**9:09 PM** Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather-Rae Steeves  
Recording Secretary

