

**Draft Transfer Station Improvement Committee (TSIC)**  
**April 15, 2024, 6:00 pm, Cook Memorial Library**

**Call to order:** 6:12 pm

**Present:** Maud Anderson, Willie Farnum, Steve Shaeffer, Richard Doucett, Kelly Goodson, Sue Stowbridge (remote). Ellen Farnum (secretary)

**Accept minutes from March 22, 2024**

Moved: Richard D.                      Second: Kelly G                      **Vote:** minutes unanimously approved

**Update on negotiations with North Country Recycling Center (NCR)**

Richard reported that the Tamworth Selectboard has met with town council on the potential for purchasing the NRC property.

Purchasing the property would require the town to sell (or hand over) the existing transfer station property deed as part of the negotiated price. This cannot be done without a town meeting because the value of the current transfer station increases the total project cost to more than the amount approved at Town Meeting.

~The negotiating team has approached NCR to see if they would hold the property until after the March 2024 Town Meeting, in the hopes the voters would approve the property transfer for the NCR facility. NCR is not willing to do this.

~Selectboard members asked town council about holding a **Special Town Meeting**.

- A Special Town Meeting can be held if 50% of the voters attend. This is too high a bar for the town to meet, and the selectboard do not support this option.
- The town has a second option for holding a Special Town Meeting. This would require the town to petition the Superior Court. Town Counsel explained that under RSA 31:5, the Special Town Meeting will only be granted in an emergency situation. Richard feels that the selectboard may not support this option, as they believe it would be difficult to justify an emergency need.
- A Special Town Meeting would probably cost about \$5,000 mostly in legal fees.

**Discussion:**

TSIC read through parts of RSA 31.5 and discussed whether a Special Town Meeting could be justified as an emergency. Talking points included:

- Recent granting of a Special Town Meeting in Sandwich to purchase a fire truck,
- No running water or wash facilities at current transfer station
- Considerable financial burden the town will face if it tries to develop/improve the existing transfer station.
- A compelling argument can be made for requesting this Special Town Meeting, as the opportunity for purchasing the NCR property will most likely be lost if the town cannot enter into a sales agreement this spring (2024). After almost 4 years of study, TSIC members believe this is the only viable option to meet the future challenges of handling municipal solid waste and safety in an affordable manner. The facility includes bathrooms, large workspaces, storage spaces and additional land that could be used for potential revenue.

After discussion, Richard contacted Town Administrator Keats Meyers, and requested reviewing the Special Meeting at the April 18<sup>th</sup> selectboard meeting. All TSIC members are encouraged to attend.

**Further information:**

Willie met with Todd Hager about the MSW baler being offered for sale by NCR. He believes the baler is in good condition and can be restored for about \$9,000.00.

(Considerably less than the purchase price for a new baler.)

Todd also gave Willie the name of someone who could help do the work of installing cement for two new compactors if it proves possible to purchase the property. Blocks for constructing retaining walls could possibly be available.

**Next Steps:**

- Further discussion with Selectboard to request a Special Town Meeting
- Update Planning Board and Conservation Commission
- Contact USDA to see if grant funding can be used to purchase needed equipment.
- Public information and update

**Request From the Selectboard:**

Richard asked if TSIC members would be willing to contact nearby towns and gather pricing information on sticker fees and materials. Maud, Ellen and Kelly felt that this request could be best handled by the Tamworth Recycling Project (TRP). Ellen and Maud will work on this and look for other volunteers from TRP members.

**New Job opportunity:**

Richard reported that Alan Libby has accepted a supervisory position at the Freedom Transfer Station. He encouraged us all to congratulate Alan!

The open position will be advertised as soon as possible.

**Meeting Adjourned: 7:15**

Minutes: E Farnum