

Transfer Station Improvement Committee Meeting (TSIC)
June 20, 2022

Present: Willie Farnum, Ian Haskell, Kelly Goodson, Richard Doucette, Sue Stowbridge (remote), Maud Anderson, Ellen Farnum (secretary)

Call to Order 6:04

Discussion: TSIC appointment paperwork

Approval of minutes from 5/16/22

Motion to approve: Kelly G., Second: Ian H. **Vote:** Unanimous

Update on June 14th meeting about ARPA funded well and septic:

Willie F. attended a meeting on where to locate the septic system at the transfer station. (This will be funded by American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) money.)

~Also present at the meeting: Keats Myer, (Town Administrator) Glenn Johnson (Tamworth Transfer Station Supervisor), Tim Mcleu (Tamworth Maintenance Department), Dave Cribbie (G. W. Brooks & Son-Septic installer at Transfer Station and Tamworth Rec Field).

Members at the meeting unanimously agreed to place the septic tank, leach field and building to house the bathroom (all funded through ARPA money) **on hold**. The group feels that this project cannot move forward without consulting the design for overall transfer station improvements (funded by the USDA Grant).

~Under the requirements for using ARPA funds, the plan for the septic system must be under contract by December 31st.

~There is a question on whether ARPA funds be used in conjunction with the USDA Grant money. Richard D. believes that the funds can be commingled: however, accounting must be kept separate and ARPA money must be used specifically for the septic and water system.

Update on USDA Grant:

At this time, the money for the USDA grant is still not obligated. Andrea C. Ansevin-Allen (Community Programs Specialist Rural Development, U.S. Department of Agriculture), from USDA reports that USDA is currently waiting to see if a cost-reducing waiver on using US steel can be obtained.

Once the money is obligated, the Selectboard (with help from TSIC) can move forward and look for an engineer to design the project. The first step is a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for an engineer. Tina from USDA will be the best person to help write the qualifications. (She is currently on vacation. *Willie will follow up with her.*)

LRPC may also have info about qualified engineers.

~ Willie spoke with Donna Lane to see if she would be willing to help administer the USDA grant. Donna Lane said a Grant Administrator is not necessary: the engineer hired by the town should be able to do this.

Discussion

~Should TSIC ask engineers to develop a plan for a base bid (constructing a facility that could be added to later,) as well as a more comprehensive alternate plans? (Pros and cons considered: no decision)

~How will Tamworth dispose of trash while building at the transfer station is occurring?

~Could Tamworth ask other towns to accept waste while building is occurring?

~Transfer station hours could be changed so that building could happen on four consecutive days, followed by three days of waste collection.

~Can the containers be temporarily moved?

Update on Meeting with Congressman Pappas:

Kelly G, Richard D and Willie F were all able to attend the meeting with Congressman Pappas at the Transfer Station. TSIC will continue to maintain contact through Staff Member Victoria Laracy, Office of Congressman Chris Pappas NH-01 to see if other state or federal money comes into play, or if there is legislation that will help Tamworth manage waste more effectively and/or save Tamworth money.

Other Grant Opportunities:

Richard D. received information from **Northern Borders Regional Commission (NBRC)**. (Northern Borders is a Federal-State partnership for economic and community development helping the most distressed counties in Maine, NH, NY and Vermont.)

We did not qualify for a grant from this organization previously, but the requirements are updated annually. The commission considers the town's poverty level, loss of population, and unemployment numbers when awarding grants.

~To apply for a grant, TSIC will need to send a letter of interest in April 2023.

~NBRC will make decisions on qualifying communities in May/June of 2023. If Tamworth qualifies, we can then apply for the money. Richard noted that there is an opportunity to ask for a waiver: For example, if Tamworth did not qualify because of large number of retired citizens, we can submit a waiver request. *Richard D. will continue to research this grant.*

Maud reported **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** will be disbursing \$375 million in grant funding from the infrastructure bill for recycling infrastructure and education. Plans are still tentative: but according to most recent information, this is the schedule.

~EPA will be having "listening sessions" this summer to get public input to help it shape the grant program

~grant application process will open in the fall, with funds awarded in spring 2023.

~More info found in this article from Waste Dive:

https://www.wastedive.com/news/epa-feedback-recycling-375-million-infrastructure-bill/625275/?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Issue:%202022-06-15%20Waste%20Dive:%20Recycling%20%5Bissue:42430%5D&utm_term=Waste%20Dive:%20Recycling

TRP report on Swap Shop and Composting Research:

Maud reported on Tamworth Recycling Project (TRP) plans to research Swap-Shops. The group is collecting info on transfer station operation times and methods, and plan to visit Swap-Shops in the area and ask questions. Maud noted that swap shops in existence do seem to have a force of strong, dedicated volunteers.

TRP will also continue to gather information on municipal composting. **Note:** Swap-Shop and composting are not part of the plan TSIC is proposing for the Tamworth Transfer Station. However, in response to public interest, TSIC has asked the TRP committee to find more information and assume the responsibility of helping the public understand issues surrounding the feasibility of operating a Swap-Shop and offering municipal composting.

To Do:

Willie:

Contact Tina about help with the REQ and continue to monitor progress on the USDA Grant.

Richard D.

will continue to research Northern Borders Grant.

Next meeting: July 18th 6:00 pm

Adjourn 6:40 pm.

Minutes efarum

