

MINUTES
SELECT BOARD MEETING
TOWN OF COVENTRY
MONDAY NOVEMBER 5TH, 2018 at 4:30 p.m.

Board Members Present:

Mike Marcotte / Chairman; Brad Maxwell; Scott Briere

Town Officials Present:

Amanda Carlson / Town Administrator

Deb Tanguay / Town Clerk

Adam Messier / Treasurer

Kate Fletcher / Lister

Jeanne Desrochers / Cemetery Commission

David Barlow / Assistant Clerk

Martha Sylvester / Recreation Committee Chairwoman

Guests:

John Henry Hubert / Catamount Asset Management

Press:

Joseph Gresser / The Barton Chronicle

Attendees listed were present for the 4:30 p.m. portion of the meeting held in the Board room. At 6:00 p.m. the Board reconvened in the gymnasium where approximately 40 people were in attendance.

- 1. Chairman Mike Marcotte called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.**
- 2. Approve the minutes of the November 5th, 2018 Meeting.**
 - Brad Maxwell made the motion to approve the minutes of the November 5th, 2018 meeting as written. Seconded by Scott Briere.
 - The Board unanimously approved and signed the minutes of the November 5th, 2018 meeting as written.
- 3. Allow for Public Comment**
 - No public comment noted.

4. Quarterly Update with Investment Advisor – John Henry Hubert, Catamount Asset Management

- Investment Advisor John Henry Hubert, Catamount Asset Management, reviewed the materials included in the packet supplied to the Board.
- John provided a summary of the portfolio, the target allocations and the fee schedule highlighting the anticipating savings in fees compared to the Town's previous investment holdings.
- With the Investment Policy identifying a long-term goal of generating enough interest to cover the municipal tax in the future, the current market decline was not a concern.
- Only one third of the Town's funds have been invested with the rest being held in CD's as per the schedule approved by the Board. As the remaining funds are invested over the next six months, the Board will see the statistical data on reports increase.
- Brad Maxwell made the motion to accept the report provided by Investment Advisor John Henry Hubert of Catamount Asset Management. Seconded by Scott Briere and unanimously approved for Chairman Mike Marcotte to sign the acknowledgement on behalf of the Board.

5. Contract for Reappraisal Services from New England Municipal Consultants

- At the Board's request at the November 5th, 2018 meeting, Town Administrator Amanda Carlson, stated that the draft contract for reappraisal provided by New England Municipal Consultants was reviewed by the Town Attorney, Brian Monaghan.
- Amanda stated that Brian made some minor adjustments to the contract wording which was reviewed and agreed upon by NEMC.
- Brad Maxwell made the motion to approve the contract by New England Municipal Consultants for reappraisal services. Seconded by Scott Briere and unanimously approved by the Board.
- Chairman Mike Marcotte signed the contract on behalf of the Board.

6. Review Proposals Received for Select Board Bookkeeper

- The Board reviewed the resumes of the two applicants for the posted position of Select Board Bookkeeper; Deb Tanguay and Karen Jenne.
- Martha Sylvester questioned the need for a bookkeeper. Mike Marcotte explained that the Town Administrator has taken on many of the financial tasks in addition to her regular duties resulting in her working additional hours every week. As the Town understands the financial obligations more, it was evident that additional hours were needed and the Board was exercising their authority to hire a bookkeeper. The new employee of the Board would work with the Elected Treasurer to ensure transparency and checks and balances were in place.
- Martha Sylvester expressed her concern for maintaining the separation of duties as the two applicants held other financial positions in the community with Deb Tanguay as the School Treasurer and Karen Jenne as the Coventry Fire District Bookkeeper.
- Mike stated that the position was open to the public to apply and that the other positions held by the applicants were separate entities. The bookkeeper position is appointed by the Select

Board and as an employee they will be under the supervision and authority of the Board. The Elected Treasurer will maintain the statutory duties and fiduciary responsibility of the Town financials, keeping the authority over the accounts and banking. The two positions will work together to maintain the checks and balances and ensure the Town does not fall back into a one-person system.

- The Board stated that they had interviewed both candidates in the past and therefore did not feel another interview was necessary.
- The Board unanimously agreed to consider the applications and make the decision at the next meeting.
- Item tabled.

7. Treasurers Report of Financials for Preceding Month

- The Board reviewed the Treasurers report of financials for October 2018.
- The Board did not note any specific items and accepted the report as presented.
- Town Administrator Amanda Carlson stated that the Auditor, Nathan Hawley, has scheduled to be in the office on December 11 and December 13, 2018 to complete the 2018 fiscal year end audit.
- Brad Maxwell asked the Treasurer Adam Messier if he will be available to be on site that day. Adam stated that he can be however, asked Amanda to check with the Auditor to see if and when he might be needed.

8. Other Business

- The Board reviewed the pre-buy offer from NorthStar Fireworks for Coventry Day in July 2019.
- The Board unanimously agreed to address the offer in January before the deadline to receive the discount.
- Recreation Committee Chairwoman Martha Sylvester stated that the Committee is planning a tree lighting and cookie swap event in December for the holidays.
- Town Administrator Amanda Carlson reviewed some repairs and items needed for the Community Center. Quotes have been requested and will be presented to the Board at the next meeting for approval.

9. Sign Orders

General Fund Account:

AP #1917	11-19-18 - Educational Tax Payable	\$ 1,451,368.49
AP #1918	11-19-18 – Accounts Payable	\$ 27,809.75
AP #1919	11-19-18 – Tax Credits Payable	\$ 9,338.92
AP #1920	11-19-18 – Accounts Payable	\$ 3,280.62
AP #S10-18	State Withholding Tax October 2018	\$ 624.66
AP #F10-18	Federal Withholding Tax October 2018	\$ 5,681.81
PR #1920	Payroll for Week Ending 11-10-18	\$ 2,890.04
PR #1921	Payroll for Week Ending 11-17-18	\$ 4,448.48
Signed by the Board for the Treasurer to draw checks totaling		\$ 1,505,442.77

Road and Bridge Restricted Fund Savings Account:

11-20-2018	Ruggles Engineering – Culvert Replacement Site Surveys Pine Hill & Glen Road	\$ 1,375.00
Signed by the Board for the Treasurer to draw checks totaling		\$ 1,375.00

Brad Maxwell made the motion to recess the meeting at 5:42 p.m. and reconvene in the gymnasium at 6:00 p.m. Seconded by Scott Briere.

Approximately 40 people in attendance at 6:00 p.m. for agenda item #10.

10. Casella / Waste USA and Representatives from the State of Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation.

Discussion on the Status of Landfill Expansion Permit Applications; and to Address Recent Statements Made in Local Media Regarding Landfill Operations and Environmental Impact Concerns

Representing Casella Waste Management:

- **John Casella, Chairman and CEO of Casella Waste Management**
- **Joe Gay, Chief Engineer**
- **Jeremy Labbe, Coventry Landfill Operations Manager**
- **Craig Heindel, Waite-Heindel Environmental Management**

Representing State of Vermont Agency of Natural Resources & Department of Environmental Conservation:

- **Emily Boedecker, DEC Commissioner**
 - **Chuck Schwer, Waste Management Director**
 - **Jeff Bourdeau, Waste Management Permit Writer**
 - **Jessica Bulova, Watershed Management Manager**
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- Chairman Mike Marcotte called the meeting back to order at 6:04 p.m. thanking everyone for coming with a reminder that this was a regular meeting of the Select Board and would proceed as such.
 - Mike Marcotte explained that the Board had invited Casella and representatives from the Agency of Natural Resources to address statements and accusations made in the community.
 - Mike stated that the Board has supported the landfill but wanted to make sure it was understood that they continue to hold Casella accountable and they are not ignoring their responsibilities to ensure the safety of the residents.
 - Mike stated that the Board works on evidence and facts therefore asked Casella to review all of the specific statements made by local groups and address their accuracy.
 - After introductions the Board gave the floor to Casella's Chief Engineer Joe Gay.
 - Joe Gay stated that at the request of the Select Board, Casella had compiled a list of comments made about the facility and prepared a response to each.

Summary of some of the points presented by Chief Engineer Joe Gay on behalf of Casella:

Statement: High PFAS levels indicate the landfill is leaking (*Pronto email to Newport City Council Sept 2018*)

Response: The lined cells at the landfill are not leaking and testing results show that leaking is currently not possible. However, monitoring of the unlined former Nadeau landfill portion show minor impact on shallow groundwater however impacts are not migrating to the property line or offsite.

Statement: PFAS detected in two landfill monitoring wells. (*Pronto email to Newport City Council Sept 2018*)

Response: PFAS levels are considered elevated in reference to the drinking water standard; however landfill monitoring wells are not drinking water sources. Neither well referenced is near the property boundary; Wells located near or adjacent to property boundaries show no landfill impacts.

Statement: Elevated PFAS in landfill leachate in Coventry are higher than anywhere else. (*DUMP website*)

Response: Inaccurate statement. Concentrations of PFAS not elevated in Coventry and there are two other locations even in Vermont testing higher.

Statement: Significant PFAS concentration differences between Waste Water treatment facilities in Montpelier and Newport and require further analysis. (*DUMP Website*)

Response: NEWSVT agreed and supports further evaluation and analysis.

Statement: Generating millions of gallons of additional toxic leachate will result in PFAS into Vermont rivers and lakes. (*DUMP Website*)

Response: Leachate does not exceed characteristics of the Vermont Hazardous Waste Regulations; therefore, leachate is not determined to be toxic and currently meets health standards for waste water treatment facility disposal.

Statement: Ecologically and Environmentally wrong site for a dump. (*Coe email to Solid Waste Program July 2018*)

Response: The modern lined landfill is not a dump. The landfill is situated in ideal conditions with clay soils and elevated ridge for natural protection to the groundwater.

Statement: Question on ANR having oversight of landfill liner installation. (*Coe email to Solid Waste Program July 2018*)

Response: Waste Management Prevention Division actively participates in the liner installation as well as oversight of overall construction of the landfill and are included in all relevant meetings.

Statement: Thousands of trucks transporting waste to the areas creates significant traffic and emissions. *(DUMP Website)*

Response: Accepted quantities of waste will not be increased with the proposed expansion therefore, truck traffic will not increase over the current amount set five years ago.

Statement: Various statement made regarding the future of planning by the State. *(Coe email to Solid Waste Program August 2018)*

Response: Casella is willing to participate and work with the State for the future of responsible waste management.

Statement: Conflict of interest for landfill to be conducting its own testing for PFAS and testing should be done by credible third party. *(Coe email to Solid Waste Program August 2018)*

Response: Professional certified water quality experts already conduct the third party testing. NEWSVT states their exception to the implication that the well-respected professional organizations are not providing neutral and unbiased testing.

Statement: ANR certification should have been delayed until an answer has been found for the PFAS dilemma. *(Pronto email to VT DEC Oct 2018)*

Response: There is no PFAS dilemma.

Statement: Coe's reference to bribery by Casella as means of conducting business. *(Coe to ANR Oct 2018)*

Response: (Response by John Casella) The serious and unfounded accusation, attacking the reputation and morality without evidence. Mr. Coe was requested to provide proof of this accusation or retract the disgusting and egregious accusations with an apology.

- Additional statements addressed and not detailed include information regarding PFAS testing, further accusations and subsequent denial that the landfill is leaking, as well as clarification of incorrect information cited regarding siting and environmental concerns.
- Mike Marcotte thanked Casella and stated that based on the information provided and effort seen from the company on a regular basis, he is confident the landfill is being operated well and environmental concerns are being addressed and are in compliance with all mandated regulations.
- DEC Commissioner Emily Boedecker stated that every responsibility is taken seriously with the oversight and permit considerations. The stringent permit and operating regulations are constantly updated to ensure evolving concerns are addressed.
- Commissioner Boedecker stated that the Department of Environmental Conservation is actively investigating and researching PFAS as an emerging contaminate. As a condition to the

landfill permit approval, Casella is obligated to investigate the source and treatment options of the PFAS.

- Mike Marcotte stated the repeated concerns about the landfill liners leaking and asked the DEC Commissioner to address their findings on the issue.
- Commissioner Boedecker stated that DEC testing and investigations agreed with those stated by Casella and assured the Board that there was no evidence of the landfill liners leaking.
- Brad Maxwell asked Casella to comment on the ongoing odor issues and what was being done to mitigate this for residents.
- Landfill Operations Manager, Jeremy Labbe, explained the ongoing efforts to address odor issues, the updated technology installed in recent months included automatic sprayers, capping and additional drilled wells for gas collection. Consistent ongoing research is being conducted into new technology for odor control.
- Recent compliance changes require all odor complains to be immediately reported to the Agency of Natural Resources who investigate to ensure issues are addressed.
- Mike Marcotte questioned the PFAS and the impact on Lake Memphremagog.
- The ANR explained the research into the new emerging contaminate and understanding its impacts. Standards are still being developed but currently the levels comply with those set on other groundwater contaminates. Public and environmental health and safety is the most important and is taken seriously.
- Irasburg resident stated his concern on the impacts of the truck traffic through Town and asked Casella to investigate; a request to have transportation vehicles switched to alternative fuels; and to provide a response to both in a public forum.
- Casella President, John Casella responded that 10% of the trucks were currently using alternative fuel however increasing that is difficult as the supply for such fuels was limited in Vermont. John also stated that the traffic impacts will be researched and addressed if necessary.
- Henry Coe addressed the previous statement from John Casella regarding his accusation of bribery by the company. Mr. Coe stated his apology which was accepted by John Casella.
- Mr. Coe questioned the DEC's participation in the meeting when there was an active lawsuit challenging the expansion permit. Commissioner Boedecker replied that as the ANR is working through the appeal process they wanted to keep the flow of information with the public, therefore, concerns can be discussed but the appeal will not be directly addressed in the meeting.
- Derby resident questioned the long term solution for the States waste and if only having one available site was pressuring the ANR to approve the expansion.
- Commissioner Boedecker stated there was no pressure to approve and the permit had to comply with all rules and regulations. A long term plan needed to be developed for the State with a hope that this would be addressed in Legislation.

- Commissioner Boedecker explained that landfills are privately owned and operated. The ANR is open to competition and will consider any applications for siting in other areas of the State, however, landfills are highly engineered facilities and with extremely strict regulations the development of a landfill is costly and they have not received applications to site other locations for solid waste.
- Craig Heindel, Waite-Heindel Environmental Management stated that he has been contacted by several people interested in pursuing landfill sites in other areas of the State. Initial environmental testing of a site can come at a cost of \$250-500 thousand dollars with no guarantee that the land will meet the strict criteria to proceed with permit applications. To date none of the interested parties have committed to making this initial investment.
- Chairman Mike Marcotte thanked everyone for attending the meeting and maintaining a respectful discussion with hopes that the information was helpful.

11. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

The next Select Board meeting will be held on Monday December 3rd at 4:30 p.m.

Michael Marcotte / Chairman

Bradley Maxwell

Scott Briere

Amanda Carlson / Town Administrator