

## **Alstead Advisory Budget Committee Minutes for the August 10, 2016 meeting**

### **Members in attendance:**

Glenn Elsesser  
Chris Hansen  
Marge Noonan  
Carol Reller  
Donna Sabin  
Priscilla Sawa  
Juliana Stevens  
Sam Sutcliffe  
Les Thomas  
Barbara Viegener  
Mary Ann Wolf

### **Also present:**

Mike Nork (Northeast Resource Recovery Association)  
Trish Anderson  
Jodi Kercewich  
Chris Rietmann

### **Review agenda, minutes and action items from the last meeting:**

The meeting minutes of July 27 were approved (5/yes, 0/no, 3/abstentions).

### **Northeast Resource Recovery Association**

NRRA is a non-profit organization that represents 400 communities in New England, so it has a comprehensive view of recycling practices in our area. The Alstead transfer station is “in the top tier” in its efficiency.

The Keene Recycle Center is an advantage for us, since we use loose containers (not bales). Keene Recycle is dual-stream, meaning that paper is separate from plastics/metals. Most other recycle centers collect single-source materials and charge more for their service.

Alstead produces 700 tons of compactor trash per year and pays \$87 per ton. We currently pay \$15 per ton for our recycled items, and receive some small revenue for certain items – cardboard, aluminum cans and mixed paper. Charges at the Keene Recycle Center might increase at some future point because of contamination (“wishful” recycling) and because the market for recycled materials is unstable.

Based on NRRA's experience, the pay-as-you-throw approach educates residents about the cost of trash, creates equity between big/small users, and encourages recycling. No evidence that it increases trash dumped in the woods. Langdon might

not want to pay a flat fee if we go to pay-as-you-throw. Perhaps we could issue a certain number of “free” bags to each resident.

NRRA recommends we consider a mandatory recycling policy. We need to make residents aware of the economic value of recycling.

NRRA can help Alstead get equipment. Grants are available from New Hampshire the Beautiful. If we want to get into baling, which requires an initial outlay and space for storage two/three years, we can discuss with NRRA.

#### **Planning Board:**

The Select Board wants the Planning Board to remain responsible for the CIP, but wants us to advise. Chris H. met with the Planning Board; they agreed we will work on a draft plan and then discuss it with them.

The Planning Board set a date of September 26 for a public hearing on Bragg Lane.

#### **Select Board meeting:**

The Select Board would like us to give advice on whether leasing trucks and other DPW vehicles is cheaper than purchasing. Patriot Freightliner, a local truck dealer, can help us with this.

Regarding the DPW budget, the Select Board is ready to outsource parks and recreation maintenance for 2017, thus reducing department work hours and the need for overtime.

Vilas Pool has to replace some plumbing. It could be costly, but should be paid for by the trust.

#### **New business:**

Les will be an alternate member going forward.

#### **Next meeting:**

Next meeting is August 24 at 6:30 pm at the Town Offices.

#### **Agenda items for next meeting:**

- Decide whether to focus subcommittees on department budgets or issues.
- Decide the meeting schedule.
- Review the budget and the draft CIP.
- Items from the punch list: budget review, town employee job descriptions, building maintenance, transfer station committee, CIP, and Bragg Lane.

*Minutes submitted by Priscilla Sawa*