

MEETING
Washington Town Office
October 19, 2023

The following directors were present: Tom Pitzi, Norman Casas, Henry Hall, Scott Esancy, Elaine Porter, Gordon Thebeau, John Shepard, Alexandra Crocco, Sara Bullard, Jacob Tobias, and Lee Shane. Also present were David Stanley, Facility Manager, and Gail Philippi, Administrative Assistant.

Tom Pitzi, President opened the meeting at 6:34pm.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: A motion was made by John Shepard and seconded by Scott Esancy to accept the minutes of the July 20, 2023, meeting.

Corrections were noted: Lee Shane was elected Vice President not Norman Casas. Sarah Bullard, not Lee Shane, is taking over Google drive and will work with Tom Pitzi and Lee Shane.

John Shepard amended his motion to accept the minutes of the July 20, 2023, meeting as amended, and Scott Esancy seconded. Motion Passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The checking account balance as of today is \$276,023.94. The Reserve Account balance is \$61,719.12. The total is \$337,743.06. In September, \$77,000 was transferred from the Reserve Account into the Checking account as voted on to cover the paving.

Norman Casas made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report and Ali Crocco seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Tom Pitzi, we are doing well because of the demo, and we will have a discussion at the end of the year to address the amount in the checking. Norman Casas says we are running a good outfit.

BOARD REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:

Norman Casas was at Washington General today and a woman requested a green bag. They were out so we know they are selling.

John Shepard – People in Union are raving about the new pavement.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Manager's Report:

The pavement and markings are done. David didn't put the speed bumps back up as he needs to fill in at the edges, so we don't break them off. This should happen on a day we're closed. David has talked with John Monroe about doing it. He had the paper bins moved down to the lower parking lot while the paving was being done and he had Jake Barbour bring in crushed stone. They are going to leave the bins there and he has received overwhelmingly positive support. It feels easier to use and unless there are problems with snow plowing, he plans to leave them there.

In the upcoming Budget we need to refurbish or replace the spare can roll-off. We never needed a spare before, but we are now sometimes shipping two cans of demo a day. A new heavy duty can cost \$13,000 two years ago. Gordon will buy this old one if can't be repaired.

The trailers will be rustproofed by Don Bowman before winter. David hopes the spraying will buy us two to three extra years of service.

Chris Armstrong will plow and sand again and the cost will go up around \$500 for a total of around \$4900. Fuel costs are going up and Chris buys the sand and salt. Chris asked David for a list of anything different he would like David to do.

On the Third Quarter Budget report some expenses like Freon don't show yet as they don't get paid until the Fourth Quarter.

We are getting a lot of demo and out of town demo also for which we charge more. They are coming to us because we're a bit better deal and we're a clean facility without nails on the ground, etc. MCSW charges more for everything. We're non-profit. Our trash and demo pay for itself. St. George can only take so much and once full they can't take anymore.

A problem is that we can't budget for the same amount of demo next year as we can't predict how much we will actually get next year. Norman Casas says it seems like a good program, and only part of the cost is coming from taxpayers as some is from out of town. David said it justifies the additional maintenance we've done. Demo income is up 250%, Tipping expense is up 210%.

We have three attendants working each day during the week and often four on Saturday. The additional revenue pays for it.

We've kept the same bag price since August 2016 and the same Demo price since 2022 and need to make sure we're breaking even.

Tom Pitzi worried about needing extra staff because of the out-of-town demo. David is keeping the number of staff at what we have now because there are still slow days, and he can be flexible with schedules. Tom wondered if we have ever done a traffic study to see how many cars come in. David said no and out of town people usually have a load of shingles or demo, not a mixed mess with trash.

Sarah said people are reaching out to the website who are new to the area, and she explains how things work.

The clothing bin company had 131 bins on order, and we were #s 101 & 102. At first David was glad they hadn't come because of having the paving done but now will call them if they don't show up by the end of October. The bins will be down by the scale shack. It won't cost us anything, but part of the arrangement is that we need to dispose of any trash that is placed in the bins.

Sarah Bullard raised the subject of **Scrap Dogs Compost**. She goes to them in Rockland for work and it seems streamlined and self-contained. They now have a location in Washington and pick up there every day. Sarah spoke to the Assistant Manager at MCSW, and they have had no issues. We would just be providing a drop-off and pick-up place. Only people who have a subscription with them would use it. Subscribers can also pick up ½ yard of compost a year.

David said Davis from Scrap Dogs showed up at the Station once but with no printed information. David has had two other outfits try to do this, Lincoln County being one of them. With our paper bins now down below space is limited. MCSW is a very different operation. David doesn't feel he can do it right. Ali Crocco feels the Board needs to represent residents. David doesn't trust the honor system with this. We had a compost pile in the past.

John Shepard is uncomfortable overriding the Facility Manager who we pay to manage the Station the way he thinks best. What are we gaining? Norman Casas agrees with David's concern about traffic and where would the drop-off point be? If we were convinced, we should do it, maybe could figure it out. Jacob Tobias asked is there anything Scrap Dogs could do to make David feel better? David said people like our facility, it's not crowded, and he now has had to find places for people to drop off other types of things. Tom Pitzi thinks they should come to us or have a small group of people go to them. He wonders would they publicize us? And will it create a traffic problem? How do they manage pests? Do they come when we're closed? We don't need to create a new problem for ourselves but should explore it as a possible service for our residents. It could reduce the weight of our trash. Tom thinks we need to talk to them. Sarah said they have a key for MCSW and use their scale.

Gail suggested they come to us so the whole Board hears the same thing rather than just a small group hearing it. Sarah will let them know that the next available meeting is in April.

Lee Shane asked if the draft **minutes** should be run by the Secretary first before being sent to the whole

Board. Lee says the Administrative Assistant should be collaborating with the Secretary who is a member of the Board. She has always collaborated with the Secretary on other boards and she thinks it would save time. She's been in court over this in Massachusetts.

Norman Casas asked the Secretary Ali Crocco if she takes minutes on her own which she does. Norman Casas suggested that Gail send it to David and Ali at the same time. John Shepard said that sounds reasonable.

Tom Pitzi says we don't review minutes until 3 months later and having a board member's eyes look at it would be helpful. He would like to make that change and we can make the change. Gail, David, and Ali will agree on the draft and have the draft minutes sent out to the whole Board within 30 days of the meeting.

Ali Crocco suggested a **timeline** for staying on track during the meeting. Norman Casas says that feels artificial and he's seen it in other groups he's in. Norman Casas says the Board has to keep talking about somethings if it's necessary and doesn't see that as particularly useful. John Shepard said we could all try to be self-determining. Jacob said if we feel ourselves going over we can bump it to the next meeting. Ali will bring the topic to the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Changing the fiscal year, July - June vs a calendar year: David talked with our auditor Bill Brewer's son Fred. Fred Brewer said we could do a 6 month and a 12-month budget or one 18-month budget, but he didn't recommend an 18-month budget because it is too long to spread some expenses out. The Towns of Appleton, Liberty, and Union are a July – June fiscal year. The Town of Washington has a calendar fiscal year, and the Town of Somerville is unclear. Tom Pitzi said he was told the Town of Union wouldn't go for it, but we could still change it.

David mentioned that there are items like trash bags and worker's comp that are paid for all at once or all in the first half. It would be preferable to do a January – June 2025 6-month budget and then do a July 2025 – June 2026 12-month budget. Board members will go back to their Municipal Officers to get their opinion.

Tom Pitzi stated that there is an issue to be discussed that will require entering **Executive Session**.

Norman Casas noted that he wasn't in the last Executive Session. Tom Pitzi said if we have to have a vote, we do have a quorum.

At 8:05 pm a motion was made by Lee Shane, seconded by Ali Crocco, and passed to enter executive session to discuss a personnel matter pursuant to 1 MRSA 405§6(A). At 8:24 pm a motion was made by Lee Shane, seconded by Ali Crocco, and passed to enter the Director's regular meeting.

The Third Quarter financial reports were emailed to Board members last week and mailed to those without email.

The next meeting in December is to discuss the preliminary budget which is voted on in late January.

OTHER:

The Preliminary Budget Meeting is on December 14th in Appleton.

The Final Budget Meeting is on January 18th in Liberty.

Lee Shane made a motion and Ali seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:28 pm.

Submitted by Gail Philippi, Administrative Assistant