

**TCSWMO MEETING
Preliminary Budget
Appleton Town Office
December 14, 2023**

The following directors were present: Tom Pitzi, John Shepard, Henry Hall, Lee Shane, Don Thebeau, Elaine Porter, Scott Esancy, Charles Garrigan, Ali Crocco, and Norman Casas.

Also present were David Stanley, Facility Manager, and Gail Philippi, Administrative Assistant.

Tom Pitzi, President opened the meeting at 6:38 pm.

Preliminary Budget:

Tipping: ecomaine sets changes at the end of July now \$81.74/ton, the trash tonnage is pretty constant, we do lose ground to dumpsters.

Libby – David is keeping the estimated number of loads at forty. We make loads as heavy as possible as we pay per load. We have had loads as high as 30 tons.

Grimmel is going up \$10/ton which does affect us, they haven't gone up in a while

Demo – The change in income is because of out-of-town customers. They are not necessarily loyal to us so we can't count on next year being the same as this. The St. George transfer station can be cheaper. David is going lower on estimating and hoping to get higher. 2022 – 2023 have been the big years. **Metal** has been consistent.

Lincoln County is an estimated 3% increase as they don't do their budget until February. David doesn't expect anything significant.

Help – David put in a 3% increase this year, last year was 4%. There was a significant jump in pay in 2022. Part time help numbers are as of December 1st so he estimated by the number of pay periods left. There will be changes in actuals in January. David no longer has an employee do extra work such as mowing which is now hired out. We still need to pay for unused vacation pay.

Tipping & Hauling are extrapolated from numbers mentioned.

We have to pay to have the **trailer moved** for repairs/maintenance.

Fuel contingency – Fuel is not as high now. The fuel surcharge is not a carryover cost.

HHW – Environmental Projects went up on fees. It costs \$1500 for them to show up, and \$31 per unit. We went up a small amount. If we went up too much, customers might not dispose of these materials responsibly. We had a great turnout.

Freon – Appliances don't last as long so we are getting a lot of refrigerators. Ozone Saver's price has been the same for at least the last eleven years.

Fluorescents – We are getting a lot as people are changing to LEDS. David passes new ones still in the package on to people needing them.

Worker's Comp is paid by us as we are not part of the Town of Union.

General Liability Insurance – We are assessed by them on a regular basis.

Heat & Utilities – This will be the same. Propane is split out for heat and for the generator.

Trash Bags – There is a cost break for 100,000 bags. The supplier expects a 7% increase in resin costs. We will need to buy more bags in 2024.

Signs – These are magnetic for dumpsters. They are ordered out of Canada and are made out of durable vinyl.

Education – David is hoping for a worthwhile course in Waste Management. The State hasn't changed their programs.

Plowing & Sanding – We contract with Chris Armstrong who we pay for extra sand if he has to use it.

Diesel – There is another bill coming.

Backhoe – The backhoe may need to have the valve body replaced.

Carry forward accounts – Trailer, facility, and backhoe maintenance & repair.

Trailers – We have two trailers (2015 & 2020). We keep up on all repairs and they are inspected annually. We

spent money on the old trailer (brakes, cans, lines) and it has some structural rust. Bowman or Schofield will do repairs in the spring which should prolong the life of the trailer another three years.

Old metal roll off – We have been using it more with all the demo. Within the next four years we will probably need to replace a trailer and one of the demo cans.

Maintenance & Repair – This includes anything without wheels on the bottom.

Woodlot cutting – Nothing has been done in a while and we never received a bill from Nolan Steele. David will call him.

Paving – \$77000 came out of the Reserve Account. Monroe filled in around all the edges of the paving, so they don't break off with plowing, etc.

Reserve Funding – In times past we put lower amounts in. David believes that this hasn't been realistic.

Putting in \$19,000/year won't be enough to replace equipment without borrowing. As our checking account balance is healthy, he is planning on putting \$10,000 in for Infrastructure and \$52,320 for heavy equipment replacement fund.

Tom pointed out that the checking account balance depends on the time of year and the auditor says we should keep \$150,000 in there. Tom says if we have excess, we need to decide how do we use it: to offset assessments or put money in reserve?

David says that if demo drops off, we won't have the excess. As stated, Grimmel is raising their rate per ton.

Scott asked if it would be crazy to think about trading in the backhoe now for a new one, at some point we will have to replace it. David said we are putting money into it, but the maintenance is good, and it is functional. He is not ready to replace it yet. When we do, he'd like to buy something more local like SANY or John Deere.

There was talk in 2014 of replacing it but it is still reliable and works well. A new SANY backhoe is close to \$100,000 but we can't buy a Case or John Deere for that. David said he would rather not lease. Maybe if we were bigger. Tom stated that there is no tax advantage for leasing which is one of the reasons to do that.

Norman feels it is a good idea to put a sizeable chunk of money away. David said that when we put \$16,000 into the Steco trailer we got 3 more years out of it and then sold it.

This money would put us at \$124,000 and David said that we can't purchase both a trailer and backhoe for that.

Revenue: David is keeping revenues conservative in case it doesn't happen.

Trash Bags – Sales of bags are flat, we lost ground to Riverside and dumpsters. Some people have given up their dumpsters. Union Fair has gone another route, so we are not budgeting for their trash.

Demo – We can't plan on getting what we received these past two years. We use our equipment more because of it.

HHW – David is budgeting up to \$2000, and this depends on how many people show up.

Metal – Pricing is mercurial. What we take in is still healthy, we pack roll offs tight, but we are getting lots of tin and drip edge from roofers and that weighs less.

Electronics don't last as long, and we are getting more. This helps pay for fluorescents, etc., which we pay to dispose of but don't charge for. The State is telling people they can drop off fluorescents at transfer stations and we are receiving many.

Assessment reduction – This comes from being frugal, the \$37,678 lowers the towns assessments.

Lincoln County is not assessed to Somerville as they are our only town in Lincoln County.

Union is not assessed as the Station is there. **Union tax non-assessment** is \$9,010±

Total Assessments are within \$6.00 of last year.

David stated that there will be some minor adjustments at the next meeting, but the budget is flat from last year. Scott would like to start looking into backhoes and thinking about what we want someday.

The next meeting is in Liberty on January 18th at the Liberty Town Office.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 pm.

Submitted by, Gail Hansen Philippi, Administrative Assistant