

**TCSWMO MEETING MINUTES**  
**Liberty Town Office**  
**January 18, 2024**

The following directors were present: Thomas Pitzi, Lee Shane, Charles Garrigan, Scott Esancy, Henry Hall, Dana Philippi, Elaine Porter, John Shepard, Norman Casas, and Sarah Bullard.  
Also present were David Stanley, Facility Manager, and Gail Philippi, Administrative Assistant.

Tom Pitzi called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** A motion was made by Norman Casas and seconded by John Shepard, to accept the minutes of the October 19, 2023, meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Lee Shane and seconded by Norman Casas to accept the minutes of the December 14, 2023, meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** The checking account balance as of today is \$211,199.11 the Reserve Account balance is \$61,723.73 for a total of \$272,922.84. There was discussion about the paving expense and future infrastructure items and budgeting for them. Norman Casas made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report and Lee Shane seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**BOARD REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:** John heard a remarkable news tidbit that solid waste amounts being generated have gone up 50% since 2018. Norman noted that the state allowed a certain amount of additional biomass to come into the state to balance the trash. David added that we spend more to send our waste to a facility that recycles.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

**MANAGER'S REPORT:**

**Facility Report:**

As it hasn't been a whole quarter since we last met, not much has happened. The bins were moved back up top for a couple of months. A truck got stuck down at the lower spot. It is hard to keep bins where you want them. People still drive the wrong way.

We had the generator annual service. We have been using the generator for up to a day at a time. It pays for itself because it keeps the scales working. We also had the heaters serviced.

David says it is a mercurial business we have. On one Saturday it was rainy, cold, and slow. The following Tuesday we were inundated with as much revenue as we had in the whole previous week. Demo goes to Grimmel in Topsham which is a landfill. We try to pull out usable wood or shingles. We charge less than Midcoast. Metal is also recycled with Grimmel.

In response to a question about paving the lower yard where the bins are in the summer, David said that maybe we should consider getting an idea of the cost so as to budget for it. The best time to look at it would be in warmer weather. We'd have to get gravel down and have a good base. It is less congested when the bins are in the lower yard.

Copies of the proposed **Final 2024 Budget** were handed out and discussed.

David increased the revenue by \$9,000 from the preliminary budget. Lincoln Co went up more than expected, it is usually 3 – 6% and they went up 13.1% this year due to increased costs at their facility. They are the only show in town, and we also don't usually have a contract this early.

Tom said there are grants available for upgrading facilities. David wonders if we want to venture into this. He sees the problems that Lincoln Co has selling recycled material. There was a while when there was no

market for mixed paper and sometimes, he feels that he'd rather have them worry about it.

Assessments did go up. The Union tax assessment was less than expected.

We took money out of our checking and put it into the Reserve Account to reduce the town's assessments.

Sarah asked about demo tipping actuals being so much higher than the budgeted amount. David said there is no guarantee that we'll have that next year. Our expenses were higher too. David split the difference. We do charge out-of-town customers more; \$200 instead of \$160/ton.

There is the fact of quantifying wear and tear on equipment, but we do come out ahead. David thinks we are charging them enough because he still wants it to be disposed of responsibly. He thinks they'd be more likely to go elsewhere if we raised the price too much.

David says that there will be a day when there is sticker shock for the towns but as long as we do keep putting away more money in the reserve account it will lessen that. He feels that in the past we weren't aggressive enough in saving. David hesitates to go up too much as we more than break even with the current fee schedule. We are nonprofit and he also doesn't want to chase people away.

There was discussion about keeping the assessments flat or going up the \$7427.

Mowing may be more this coming year as David is trying to reduce tick habitat.

John pointed out that we need to be able to explain to citizens and justify the budget. He feels he can do that.

**Henry made a motion to accept the budget as presented, seconded by Norman. Passed unanimously.**

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

David said that a problem with adding towns is that Hope, Jefferson, and Warren are really spread out and half the people would say it is too far to travel.

We didn't always have scales either. They paid for themselves in a year in a half.

Scrap Dogs will come to present themselves at the April meeting.

The next meeting will be on 4/25/2024 in Somerville.

Norman made a motion and Henry seconded that we adjourn at 7:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Gail Philippi, Administrative Assistant