

Town of Montville Public Works/Solid Waste Sub-Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, February 22, 2012
Room 102 – Town Hall – 5:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order

Chairman Longton called the regular meeting of the Public Works/Solid Waste Sub-Committee to order at 5:30 p.m. after establishing a quorum.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

Present were Councilors McFee and Longton. Absent was Councilor Caron. Also present was Public Works Director, Don Bourdeau, Volunteer Coordinator, Sandie Gregory, and Flo Turner.

4. Presentations – none.

5. Alterations to the Agenda

Motion made by Councilor McFee, seconded by Councilor Longton to amend the wording for agenda item 8 (b) Discussion regarding potential RFP to support fact finding for town wide trash pickup. Discussion, none, voice vote, 2-0, all in favor, motion carried.

6. Approval of the January 25, 2012 regular meeting minutes.

Motion made by Councilor McFee, seconded by Councilor Longton to approve the January 25, 2012 regular meeting minutes. Discussion, none, voice vote, 2-0, all in favor, motion carried.

7. Remarks from the Public regarding items on the agenda

Chairman Longton asked three times if there was anyone from the public who would like to come forward to address the Committee.

8. New Business

a. To consider and act on a motion to approve new signage at the intersection of Route 163 and the Southbound off ramp of I-395 as shown in Attachment A.

Motion made by Councilor McFee, seconded by Chairman Longton, discussion, Mr. Bourdeau indicated the owner of the property is in favor of the proposed signage and he is not aware of any opposition from the State regarding the proposal and stated the State may have a permit process to install the signs and Planning & Zoning may want to take a look at it prior to erecting the sign.

Motion made by Councilor McFee, seconded by Councilor Longton to approve the proposed signage at the intersection of Route 163 and the southbound off ramp of I-395 as shown in Attachment A and to forward the proposal to the Planning & Zoning Department for comment and review. Discussion, none, voice vote, 2-0, all in favor, motion carried.

b. Discussion regarding potential RFP to support fact finding for town wide trash pickup.

Councilor McFee discussed options for town wide trash pickup and stated the RFP will allow him to obtain numbers to support the charge he was given by the Committee to provide a proposal to the Town Council for review. He indicated he is seeking costs of town wide trash pickup of trash, recyclables and two yearly town wide pickups of bulky waste.

Mr. Bourdeau submitted documentation titled Town of Montville Town Acquisition of MSW Collection and Disposal Projected Potential Cost Considerations, a comparison of assumptive numbers from surrounding towns for the Councilors to review.

Mr. Bourdeau discussed fuel costs for transport of recyclables to the Willimantic Waste for recycling from the Transfer Station.

The committee discussed town wide trash pick-up as well as a pay as you throw program.

Councilor McFee stated town wide trash pick-up is a more cost effective method for taxpayers and in his plan, he estimates the cost to residents at about one hundred dollars a year. This number includes weekly pick-up and trash and recycling, and two bulky waste pick-ups a year based on estimated costs from the Town of Ledyard's trash collection program.

Public Works Director Donald Bourdeau stated he met with the regional coordinator of recycling and estimates that town wide trash pick-up would cost three hundred thirty eight thousand four hundred and sixty five dollars for collection and approximately four hundred thirty thousand eight hundred dollars for disposal based on the Town of Ledyard's figures for disposal. He stated he is a fan of the pay-as-you-throw program because it promotes recycling and allows residents to pay for what they use. Residents buy special trash bags at seventy five cents for a fifteen gallon bag and a dollar twenty five for a thirty three gallon bag. Councilor McFee stated he doesn't believe that the bags fund the entire trash program. When you add up the cost the town would pay to have the bags made, and you add the costs to haul and dispose of the trash, he said the bags will have to sell for two dollars and thirty cents each. Mr. Bourdeau stated that the pay as you throw program would help to cut down on the abuse of the transfer station pass program by eliminating the people who are bringing other people's trash from other towns to the transfer station at a cost to the taxpayers of Montville.

Ms. Turner stated the pay as you throw program promotes recycling and she is in favor of the program. She stated the town could add an educational composting program to reduce waste sent to the burn plant at a cost savings to the town.

Chairman Longton stated the decision to do a Request For Proposal was not to implement a town wide program at this time, but instead it is an effort obtain real numbers in lieu of Councilor McFee's estimates in a fact-finding effort. He explained that last month Councilor McFee was charged with creating a proposal that could be considered by the Town Council but it had to be based on actual numbers obtained from potential service providers and this is the purpose of this action, to obtain real numbers to support this effort to submit to the Town Council and the taxpayers for review.

Motion made by Councilor McFee, seconded by Councilor Longton to approve the language as discussed for the RFP for prices to support the proposal for the purpose of fact finding for town wide trash pickup. Discussion, none, voice vote, 2-0, all in favor, motion carried.

9. Old Business

- a. Discussion regarding re-use/free items and tag sales.

Volunteer Coordinator Gregory stated donations to the re-use/free room are down this year and therefore Saturday sales for the non-profit groups have also been down.

- b. Discussion regarding Transfer Station operations.

Mr. Bourdeau stated he is in the process of submitting to DEP general permit to run the Transfer Station, the original application for the permit was not approved so he decided to apply for the General Permit. He discussed the process with the General Permit and stated there are grants available once the Permit is in place for costs to the modification to the site, recycling, and facilities on site.

- c. Update regarding bridge repairs.

Mr. Bourdeau did not have anything new to report this month but he stated the applications have been submitted for the Local Bridge Program. Montville's funding has been secured and the town is currently waiting for Norwich to secure their funding obligations for their portion of the bridge repairs. They have verbally committed to the Town of Montville to move forward with the repairs to the Montville Road Bridge. Mr. Bourdeau stated the Silver Falls Bridge is currently closed and is third on the list for repairs. He stated he will provide the Committee with additional bridge repair information at the next meeting.

- d. Update regarding the proposed "Pay as You Throw" Program.

Mr. Bourdeau distributed copies of a document titled Pay as You Throw – an Integrated Approach to Solid Waste Management from the CT DEP, Solid Waste Advisory Committee dated June 26, 2007 (amended August 2009).

Councilor McFee discussed the costs and fees relative to the proposed program, he stated he experimented with the bag program at his home and was successful in reducing his household trash to one bag per week. He discussed the costs of the bags and the cost that will have to be passed on to the taxpayer to participate in the program to cover the actual costs of the bags and the disposal of the trash bags.

Mr. Bourdeau stated he spoke with a representative from DEEP who is willing to give a presentation to the Committee at the next regularly scheduled meeting regarding the pay as you throw program. It was the consensus of the Committee members to invite the representative to the next meeting.

e. Update regarding Old Town Hall repairs.

Mr. Bourdeau stated he will prepare a proposal regarding the repairs options for the building for the Town Council to review at their next meeting. He stated if the building is repaired it can be utilized by the Parks & Recreation Department for programs once repaired and he will meet with the Parks & Recreation Director to for additional information. Councilor Longton stated he would like to ask the Town Council to forward to the Finance Director. Mr. Bourdeau sated he will have the information by the April meeting.

10. Remarks from the Public

Ms. Flo Turner stated she is in favor of the pay as you throw program, stating it promotes recycling and she is in favor of an educational composting program to help reduce waste.

Mr. Rick Gladue stated he is in favor of the town wide trash pickup proposal but is not in favor of the pay-as-you-throw proposal.

Chairman Longton asked three times if there was anyone from the public who would like to come forward to address the Committee.

11. Remarks from the Councilors

Councilor McFee thanked Ms. Turner for her recycling efforts, stating he is in favor of promoting recycling in the town.

Councilor Longton thanked Councilor McFee and Mr. Bourdeau for all the research and time spent to investigate the pay as you throw and town wide trash pickup options for the town.

12. Adjournment

Motion made by Councilor McFee, seconded by Councilor Longton to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 p.m. discussion, none, voice vote, 2-0, all in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by:

Audrey Ulmer, Recording Secretary for the Town of Montville.