

Town of Montville Public Works/Solid Waste Sub-Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 23, 2011 – 5:30 p.m.
Room 102 - Town Hall

1. Call to Order

Chairman McFee called the regular meeting of the Public Works/Solid Waste sub-committee to order at 5:40 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

Present were Councilors Beetham and McFee. Absent was Councilor Buebendorf. Also present was Public Works Director, Don Bourdeau and Program Coordinator Sandie Gregory.

4. Presentations

a. Mr. Tom Phetteplace, Director of Solid Waste, Town of Stonington to give a presentation to the Committee regarding the Town of Stonington's garbage pickup program.

Mr. Phetteplace was present to discuss the "Pay by the Bag" program used in the Town of Stonington for garbage disposal. He explained this program means the homeowner only pays for the amount of trash they throw out. Specifically marked yellow trash bags are available for residents to purchase at stores in town. The bags are available in two sizes and the costs of the bags cover the costs of transportation to and disposal of household waste to the Preston incinerator. If trash is not placed in the colored bags it will not be picked up by the contractor. The benefit of this program to the residents is they only pay for the trash they generate, there is not a flat fee for everyone. Some of the benefits to this program are the residents have control over their disposal costs and the program encourages recycling that in return leads to significant reductions in trash generation. He discussed the costs and sizes of the bags and where they are available for purchase and stated the town sells approximately ninety thousand yellow bags each year. He offered tips regarding how to reduce, re-use, recycle and compost household wastes. He reviewed items that are acceptable for recycle and items that can be recycled at the transfer station for a fee. A discussion was held regarding composting benefits and how doing so can reduce the weight and bulk of every day household trash. He discussed cost savings to the Town, stating since the program was implemented in 1992 the town has saved four million, eight hundred thousand dollars in tipping fees alone. He discussed the residential costs as well as the commercial costs of the program and stated an ordinance was passed to implement the program. Trash picked up at residential and commercial sites is done so by a contractor hired by the Town. There are approximately eighteen thousand residents in the Town of Stonington and they generate approximately

12.5 tons of trash per year. A discussion was held regarding accountability for the sale of bags, costs for seniors, transfer station operating costs, start up costs for the program, and the pros and cons of implementing the program in the Town of Montville. Mr. Phetteplace gave the Councilors a contact number at the State of Connecticut who is willing to help with the implementation of the program if the town decides to pursue this route. The Councilors thanked Mr. Phetteplace for his presentation.

b. Mr. Tony Lowe, owner of Lowes Sanitation Services to give a presentation regarding trash pickup in the Town of Montville.

Mr. Lowe was not present for discussion. Councilor McFee stated he will invite him to the next meeting to give his presentation.

5. Alterations to the Agenda – none.

6. Approval of the November 23, 2010 Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Councilor Beetham, seconded by Councilor McFee to approve the meeting minutes of the November 23, 2010 regular meeting. Discussion, none, voice vote, 2-0, all in favor, motion carried.

7. Remarks from Public Regarding Items on the Agenda – none.

8. Old Business

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

Ms. Sandie Gregory stated donations to the re-use room are down over the past months. Sales are also down, averaging three hundred dollars per week. She stated the weather could be a factor in the slow down of donations and sales.

b. Update/discussion regarding the town auction to dispose of surplus town vehicles.

Mr. Bourdeau distributed the list of items to be auctioned at the public auction. The list has been approved by the Town Council and the auction will take place at the Public Works garage as soon as the weather breaks. A discussion was held regarding minimum bids for the cars and heavier items that can be recycled.

c. Update/discussion regarding Adopt a Road Program

Mr. Bourdeau stated signs have been made for organizations that have signed up for the program and his office staff is in the process of making contact with organizations that have participated in the past to determine if they would like to continue to participate in the program.

d. Update/discussion regarding road repairs and paving

Mr. Bourdeau discussed the ongoing process of repairing roads and paving. He discussed frost heaves and sink holes, stating the unusually harsh weather this year has taken its toll on the roads. The Public Works Department will continue to patch and fill as the weather allows.

e. Update/discussion regarding Transfer Station Operations

Mr. Bourdeau discussed the unusual rise in the number of evictions over the past months and stated State Statute says the town must hold items brought to the Transfer Station by the landlord for fifteen days. Because of the lack of space at the Transfer Station the Town will only hold these items for the required fifteen days before they are disposed of. Ms. Gregory offered to take items that can be sold at the re-use/recycle room for the tag sales.

f. Update/discussion regarding bridge repairs

Mr. Bourdeau discussed a meeting scheduled for March to discuss the bridge repairs and stated the Town Engineer is looking into options for repair to the Montville Road Bridge. A discussion was held regarding requesting the money left over from the repairs to the Oxoboxo Bridge for repairs to the Montville Road Bridge. Mr. Bourdeau explained the money is not in a town bank account, it was returned to the Local Bridge Program.

g. Update/discussion regarding proposed metal collection ordinance

Mr. Bourdeau stated Councilor Buebendorf is working on the wording for the ordinance. A discussion was held regarding the issues expressed by the Town Council and the reasons for voting the ordinance down. A discussion was held regarding waiving fees for Freon disposal and the costs of implementing a metal collection ordinance.

9. New Business

a. Discussion regarding the Public Works sand and salt budget.

Mr. Bourdeau discussed the sand and salt budget and reviewed actual expenditures to date. He explained there is seventy four cents left in the overtime snow budget. He discussed street light repairs and the proposal from CL&P to turn the street lights out after midnight. He is not in favor of doing so for safety reasons.

b. Discussion regarding sidewalk ordinance.

Mr. Bourdeau discussed the need for a sidewalk ordinance for snow removal in the areas outside of Rt. 32. Some residents and businesses comply and take responsibility for snow removal and others do not

but it is not consistent. An ordinance would clearly state who is responsible and allow the town to enforce the ordinance if needed. He stated the town does not have the manpower or equipment to clear all of the sidewalks in town and it can become a safety issue if sidewalks are not properly cleared in a timely fashion.

10. Remarks from the public – none.

11. Remarks from the Councilors

Councilor Beetham is pleased with the actual numbers in the sand and salt budget presented by Mr. Bourdeau.

Councilor McFee discussed the Pay as you Throw program discussed earlier in the meeting and discussed the benefits it could have to the town. He stated he is going to experiment at home to determine if his family can reduce their trash over the next couple of months.

12. Adjournment

Motion made by Councilor Beetham, seconded by Councilor McFee to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 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