

## **COUNCIL MEETING NOVEMBER 19, 1996**

Present: The Board of Selectmen; Bob Fay, Dennis Abbott, Dale Witman. Pat Sicard.  
50 residents of Waterboro attending.

1. Bob Fay starts the meeting with Introductions. Bob turns the meeting over to Millard Genthner as our RWS representative to introduce the guest speakers. Millard introduces Chuck Foshay from Regional Waste Systems and turns the floor over to him.

Chuck starts off by explaining our original agreement with RWS, going back two years. Our agreement is in effect until the year 2014. Our original agreement, along with 21 other towns included 180,000 ton of waste. RWS spent \$100 million to build the facility and get it going, based on this amount of waste coming in. Because of a Supreme Court decision not long after starting this facility, RWS was no longer able to count on this amount of waste and in the first year the amount of commercial waste dropped by 50%. RWS has tried for 2 years to get Congress to enact legislation to correct this, and as of yet has not happened. They are also trying to get the towns that have contracts with RWS to collect their own waste. None of the communities in contract with RWS are able to do that. The increases in cost in the past two years are directly related to the 50% decrease in commercial waste. The forecast for the next three years is that the price of waste removal should stay stable. Two reasons for this are; 1. They are at the highest end of revenue right now and 2. In 2 years they will be able to refinance their debt at a lower interest rate.

A question from the audience was "where did the 50% of waste lost, go?" It went to facilities north and south of us that can offer lower rates. Bob Fay asks "Does RWS have a waste flow ordinance and what is the length of the contract with CMP?" The answer is no to the first question, and the rates with CMP are locked in until the year 2010. After that, the rates are subject to a CMP formula and at this time Chuck has no way of knowing what that will mean.

Bob Fay asks what is the landfill situation and what will that cost. Chuck says they have 6-9 years of landfill space. The Gorham site was to be a demolition disposal site. It was put together along with 31 other communities, because of a letter from DEP 4 or 5 years ago that stated they would be enforcing the closing of all stump dumps. RWS went out and bought this property and did planning for this site. There was a major effort in legislature that put a moratorium on the DEP decision, making it unnecessary for RWS to have bought this property. They will probably sell this property and will ultimately take a loss on the whole project.

Brenda Charland asks if all communities in contract with RWS experienced an equal amount of increase in cost. There was an 85% increase across the board that all

communities realized, but there are two groups of members to RWS, (Regular and Associate) and the Associate members didn't have as much of an increase.

How are the cost figured? RWS adds all their revenues and the difference on what they have to come up with for their bills is distributed through the 21 communities. There is a \$40 a ton tipping fee, because of problems they've had with differential fees. Most of the fee is based on the amount of tons we generate.

Bob Fay asks Chuck to explain the figures on a recent report that the Town received. The first billing is for the proportionate share of the debt that is distributed through the 21 communities. The second part is the share of the landfill closure.

Dennis Abbott asks if it is possible that the debt go down when RWS refinances. It will depend on the percentage rate when they do refinance. When RWS sell the Gorham land will our cost go down? RWS spent \$7 million on the landfill project, and it won't make a difference in our fees.

At this time, the meeting is turned over to Eric Root, from RWS. Eric starts by stating he recognizes that demands are rising every year. We've all heard this before but he will say it anyway, Reduce, Re-use, Recycle. Waterboro recycles a little over 4% of its waste. The most that the best of towns recycle is 20%. He thinks people will pay attention if we charge by how much waste we bring to the dump.

Jon Gale asks, if we charge by the bag, is there any data on towns who have done that as to people dumping trash outside of the dump. Yes, that has been a problem but it stops because there is a high price for that if you get caught, and most people do get caught.

Can we put more silver bullets (recycling containers) around town other than at the dump. There has been one placed in Lake Arrowhead. That is the municipalities decision to do that. The silver bullets cost about \$4500 a piece. Eric's opinion is that they work best at the grocery store. It is a place you have to go about every week and you could just bring recyclable with you and pick up some more. A question was asked, "Has RWS ever gone to the schools to educate the students on recycling? Kids have a big influence over their parents." Eric agrees. "An 8 year old who thinks he's right is a non-stoppable force." A comment was made that maybe we could get retired teachers to volunteer to educate students. That would be something to look into.

Dale adds that at the Annual Town meeting the article on a charge per bag system at the dump was voted down by 8 votes. Maybe we should take another look at that.

Bob turns the floor over to Dennis to give a financial overview of the town. Dennis states that the Board has set the tax rate for this year, and explains why the rate went up. We had to raise 3.5 million which is 8% more from last year. The tax rate is .1785 per mill. Last years cash balance was \$1.5 million. In 1990 it was \$70,000. We are not borrowing money, The town is running on it's own money.

2. Dale gives the Selectmen's report. Some work has been done to the intersection of Route 5 and Townhouse Road, which has increased visibility. The work was done in cooperation with DOT and the land owner of that intersection.

The town will be on the Internet with it's own emblem, for authenticity of Town business, compliments of Saco River Telephone at no expense to the town.

The article on plowing of East Shore road was voted down 19-21 at the special town meeting. The Tax collector, Clerk, Treasurer article was passed for a 3 year staggered term.

There will be a county budget public hearing Dec. 7 at the courthouse in Alfred if anyone is interested in going.

Dennis adds a comment about Regional Waste. Regional Waste Systems is really us. Millard is our representative on that board, we have a vote in the way things are run.

3. Pat Sicard gives the Selectmen's Assistant report. The town is in the process of working on an internship program with Massabesic High School. On the issue of solid waste, she agrees, students might be the way to get at the recycling issue.

She reports that Ray Boudioun is volunteering his time to help the town put together the Internet Page. There is a terminal at the Library, and one at the high school library to access the Internet.

In the aftermath of the flooding, an excellent job was done in clean up after the storm. Only 16 people from Waterboro have taken advantage of the Federal Emergency help that is available. There is money available to help with repairs due to damage resulting from the storm. This is not a handout, it is money that comes from our tax dollars.

Pat and Millard will be meeting with RWS on Thursday and will report on that at next month's council meeting.

At this time Bob Fay introduces Janice Daney, the head Lioness to speak about that organization, and to introduces the rest of the lionesses. Janice reports that they have been in existence for 20 years. They are always looking for ways to earn money to give back to the townspeople. They started the Library and ran it for the first three years of it's existence, all on a volunteer basis. Some of the programs that the Lionesses run are A trip in the spring and fall. Sponsor a party for Maine Center for the Blind, Two scholarship funds, they donate to Caring Unlimited and the Jerry Lewis fund among many other things. They are non-profit, all the money they bring in goes back to the people of the Town. There are 32 members now, 5 of them being charter members from the beginning. All of the Lionesses present at the meeting were introduced at this time.

Pat presents the plaque to the Library Trustees, Staff and Volunteers. She also passed out certificates of appreciation to all present who have helped with the Library.

Bob asks Toni Todd to speak about the Food Pantry that she runs. The Holiday season is here and there are many people in Waterboro who are helped by her efforts. If anyone has any donations of food, or is in need of food they can call Toni at 247-3208.

Bob asks Dennis Brewster, the local veterinarian to give an update on what he knows about the rabies situation in Waterboro. Most of the animals that have rabies are skunks and raccoons. He says a lot of people don't know realize that if you see a raccoon or skunk during the day, that is an indication of rabies, especially if the raccoon has porcupine quills in it. (That is a sure sign of Rabies.) The State does not test wild animals, they only test animals in question.

Bob introduces Elias Smith as the new Fire Chief. He reports that Neal Courtney is still working on the survey for the Fire Department, it will be ready before annual town meeting.

Doug Foglio reports for the Planning Board. There was a workshop held by the Planning Board that 25 people attended on the 14<sup>th</sup> of November. Workshop was held to take an up to date look at our Zoning Ordinance and there will be more workshops like this in the future, to see what direction the town wants to go with our zoning. Doug says it was quite a lively crew. It is our town and we have to make it what we want it to be, have to be involved.

Dennis Abbott gives the report for the Tax Collector. He reports that the excise tax collected as of 11/19/96 is \$214,981.92 which is \$32, 064.04 more than last year at this time.

Dennis gives the report for the Treasurer. The audit has been completed and will be reported on next month. Treasurer will be attending the Finance Committee meeting next Monday. The office is located upstairs and residents are welcome to visit.

Dennis reports for the Motor Vehicle Agent. There were 419 transactions during the past month resulting in Excise tax collected in the amount of \$50,661,06. The town is scheduled to go on line with State Dept. of Motor Vehicles during the week of December 9.

The Tax Collector could not be at this meeting but she did leave her report in each seat for anyone attending to go over.

Rex Koller reports on the Saco River Corridor Commission. The commission has issued 86 permits, 3 of them being in Waterboro.

Len VanGaasbeek reports on Lake Arrowhead. The boards are back on the dam and the lake is coming back up. There was a Halloween party which 60 people attended. The silver bullet is now located at club 3 and has been there for 3 weeks, is about  $\frac{3}{4}$  full. The community is starting a neighborhood watch program in conjunction with the Sheriff's Office and the State Police. There is a holiday decorating contest in the community. Thanks to Fred, for paving New Dam Road. Questions on the article at special town meeting allowing the sale of town owned lots, Are they going to be non-buildable? Dennis says yes there will be a clause in the deed stating these lots are non-buildable, they will be able to be made contiguous with the present lot abutting.

Dave Dittmer reports on Park's and Rec. Committee. There are 100 kids signed up for basketball. There is a meeting Thursday night for winter programs, skiing and ice skating.

There is a space opening on the Park's and Rec. Committee. The Rec. office is open can reach Dave at 247-6199.

Sharon Abbott reports for the Code Enforcement Office. Of the building permits issued so far this year, new home construction is up as compared to remodeling. The office is open from 9-5 and on Tuesdays from 6-8 p.m. There are occasions when the office is closed due to classes or tests being taken by that department, however they try to give advance notice of these times. Bob Fay states that he would like the Town Hall to be user friendly and to feel free to ask questions of anyone here.

Dave Kruegar reports for the Zoning Board of Appeals. There was one hearing in October. There are no hearings scheduled at this time. They are looking to hold classes on the zoning ordinances.

Dave Benton reports for the Road Review Committee. They are doing there best to make the roads safe to travel on. They are meeting 1<sup>st</sup> of next week to get the budget request ready. The meetings are open to the public. Bob Fay explains that this committee is an advisory committee to the Selectmen.

Dave Benton reports on the Water District. It hasn't changed much. There are 64 customers. They are hoping for more expansion and to get system up to full capacity. They meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday nights each month at the Town Hall at 7:30.

Fred Fay reports as Road Commissioner. Most of the road work is done for this season. The big jobs have been done. The sand pile is stocked up to 4300 yards. We have 50 tons of salt right now and will be ordering more soon. Last year the Town used 200 ton of salt.

Pat Sicard reports on Cable TV in place of Dick Bateman. The cable company has been given a 6 month extension on their contract. Frontier Vision is working with the high school for students to have their own station.

Bob Fay reports that Mike MacAlevey and Jim Libby were voted in on November 5<sup>th</sup>.

Millard Genthner reports for SAD 57. They are negotiating contracts right now and working in the budget process. There are 75 additional students in the district, this year from Waterboro.

Bob Fay asks Larry Jacobsen of the Planning Board to speak on his ideas on home occupations. Bob feels we need to change the rules on this zoning issue. Larry would like to see the ordinance changed to make our town more friendly to people who need to work out of their home. Most home occupations have very little impact on abutters.

Dale Witman reports that The Town Clerk reported a 68 % voter turnout on November 5<sup>th</sup>. As a result of this, the Board of Selectmen have voted to open the polls at 7 a.m. on all state and national elections.

Bob Fay pay tribute to all the people that have passed away from Waterboro recently.

Council meeting adjourns at 9:05.