

Waterboro Board of Selectmen
Workshop Notes
With Hollis Board of Selectmen re: transfer station
August 23, 2011

Present: Chairman Littlefield, Selectmen: Girard & Abbott, Hollis Selectmen: Severance, McCubrey & Marean, Clint Andrews, & Christina Silberman (Selectman Gale arrived at 5:30 pm.)

Chairman Littlefield opened the workshop at 5:00 pm and thanked the members of the Hollis Board of Selectman for coming.

Selectman Abbott explained that it was poor timing earlier in the year when they put together the agreement with Hollis due it being so late in the budgeting process. Approximately 200 Hollis residents are using the Waterboro Transfer Station for disposal of non-household items. We are currently considering recalculating the fees. We have approximately \$100,000 to operate the transfer station this year. There are fixed costs associated with running the transfer station. Waterboro townspeople should not bear the full burden of these fixed costs when others use it also. Some Waterboro residents do not use the transfer station. Selectman Abbott stated that we would like an open dialogue with Hollis to discuss what is fair and equitable for the process to work.

Selectman Abbott explained that Waterboro residents use the transfer station for household trash and recycling disposal after purchasing a dump sticker annually. They can also dispose of non-household items for a fee which is the same for everyone. Selectman Severance stated that Hollis residents may purchase a dump sticker for \$15.00 annually and then pay the current disposal fee for whatever items they dispose of. They cannot dispose of household waste or recycling in Waterboro. Chairman Littlefield asked why we prohibit them from disposing of recycling if the town receives revenue for recycling. Mr. Andrews answered that the Town of Hollis has curbside household trash and recycling pickup. Businesses are not picked up in Hollis and some businesses do bring in cardboard.

Selectman Abbott stated that we have tried to curb costs and asked if Hollis believes that there is some cost to be shared. Selectman Severance answered that the transfer station should have a use based fee system. He has a sticker himself to encourage other Hollis residents to use the Waterboro transfer station. The town of Hollis does the paperwork and pays for the stickers. He wants Hollis residents to continue to be able to use the transfer station but does not want this to cost the town of Waterboro. Selectman Severance said that Hollis disposal costs and stickers came to approximately \$8,000 last year. \$3,000 of this was for stickers that would assist Waterboro with their administrative costs. He said we can't live with administrative costs 4 times as much as that. Selectman Abbott said he understands. Selectman McCubrey said with these numbers we are looking at \$180 per user before they pay the cost of whatever they want to dump.

Selectman Severance asked what Waterboro would like to do. Selectman Girard replied that we are looking at expenses such as administrative costs, licensing, required testing with DEP, etc., and how to incorporate these costs to everyone that uses the transfer station. The disposal fee is the actual cost to the town to dispose of the item. We are not making a profit. Selectman Severance stated that an increase in fees may be needed. Selectman Marean asked what the sticker is for and Selectman Abbott answered that the sticker is needed for anyone to access the transfer station. Without a sticker, we don't know who is using it and people could dispose of household trash that is not from Waterboro. The more we enforce sticker compliance, the more the tonnage goes down. Selectman Severance asked if Waterboro has considered curbside pickup. Selectman Abbott replied yes, but the cost was high. Selectman Severance said that when you run a facility like what we have, you open yourself up for a lot of abuse. Selectman Abbott replied that we know this.

Selectman Girard asked if Hollis would still be interested in working with Waterboro if the costs are revised. Selectman Severance answered yes but it could get to a point where Hollis residents make other plans to dispose of items. Selectman Girard asked what they think a fair price is. Selectman Severance replied that Hollis has citizens willing to pay. If you want to control costs, have everyone pay. He said he cannot say what the right price is. This is a consumer issue, you have to find the place between where you are and where you want to be that doesn't deter the number of people paying.

Selectman Severance stated that Waterboro may be better off without Hollis using the transfer station. Hollis should not be costing Waterboro money. Selectman McCubrey pointed out that Waterboro is still going to have the administrative & testing costs without Hollis. Selectman Abbott said that our homework is to figure out whatever we are charging for disposal should be neutral to the expense.

Selectman Abbott & Girard thanked the Hollis Selectmen for coming and the workshop adjourned at 5:49 pm.