



Town Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 9, 2020 at 7:00 PM, in the Matthew Thornton Room

Chairman Koenig called the meeting of the Town Council to order at 7:00 p.m. Present at the meeting were Vice Chairman Boyd, Councilor Albert, Councilor Harrington, Councilor Healey, Councilor Rothhaus, Councilor Woods, Town Manager, Eileen Cabanel, and Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director Paul Micali.

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Koenig led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcements

Town Hall Offices will be closed on Monday, January 20th in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Budget meetings will be conducted on Wednesday, January 15th and 22nd beginning at 6:30 p.m. On Thursday, January 23rd, a budget workshop will be conducted beginning at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the Fire Department's budget, immediately followed by a regular meeting of the Town Council. All meetings will be conducted in the Matthew Thornton Room. Snow dates are January 16th, 29th, and 30th.

Absentee ballots for the February 11th Presidential Primary are available. Details can be found on the Town's website. Registrations for summer camp sessions at Naticook Day Camp and Camp Trek Teen programs for the summer of 2020 will open on Monday, January 13th. For complete details, visit the website of the Parks and Recreation Department; www.merrimackparksandrec.org or call 603-882-1046.

The Town Manager will contact the Moderator extending an invitation to the Council's next meeting should she wish to address the Council.

Comments from the Press and Public - None

Recognitions, Resignations and Retirements

1. Recognition of Retirement of Town Employee

Submitted by Human Resources Coordinator Sharon Marunicz

The Town Council will present an award to Assistant Fire Chief Richard Pierson in recognition of his retirement after 29 years of full-time service with the Town of Merrimack Fire Department. He will be awarded with a Boston rocker. Assistant Fire Chief Pierson retired on November 15, 2019.

Chairman Koenig expressed the desire to present an award to Assistant Fire Chief Richard Pierson in recognition of his retirement after 29 years of full-time service with the Town of Merrimack Fire Department. He will be presented with a Boston rocker.

Approved: January 23, 2020

Posted: January 24, 2020

Councilor Albert stated Assistant Chief Pierson is a sharp individual who knows his trade. He spoke of him being a people person, and of the outstanding service he provided the community.

Town Manager Cabanel spoke of how Assistant Chief Pierson worked in the trenches, of his extensive knowledge, and of the level of respect others have for him.

Appointments - None

Public Hearing - None

Legislative Updates from State Representatives

Jeanine Notter, Deputy Republican Floor Leader, stated HB687-FN, relative to extreme risk protection orders, went to the floor without recommendation. Asked what the bill says, Representative Notter stated it is a bill to remove firearms from homes. The debate is how it is done and what is being taken. The bottom line is someone could accuse you of being unstable, and authorities could go in and take your firearms without due process. The bill did pass 213-162, but will be vetoed. There is bipartisan support to sustain a veto.

Representative Rosemarie Rung spoke of HB655, regulating disorderly houses. For houses that are short-term rentals such as Air B&B, what has been seen is public disruptions, trash, drunkenness, etc. The bill was enabling legislation that would allow towns to pass ordinances that could ultimately fine the landlord \$1,000, had new eviction notices, etc. She commented she had trouble with the vagueness in the language, and because there would be penalties for someone on behavior he/she was not party to. The roll call vote was 178/188.

Representative Notter spoke of HB735, relative to carbon pricing, which was tabled without debate.

Current law allows for the arrest/conviction of an individual sitting behind the wheel of a motor vehicle while intoxicated. The bill to change that law was killed in committee, but was overturned on the House floor. The bill will go on to the Senate.

Representative Rung clarified it was an amendment (2781h) that was accepted. The committee's recommendation was Inexpedient to Legislate (ITL), which would essentially preserve what we have now where police would have more latitude in taking someone into protective custody or arresting them for attempted DUI. That failed, but an amendment was proposed that more specifically defines driving. If someone is not behind the wheel, if they don't have the keys, if they are in the back seat, they would not be able to be arrested; it would not be a crime. She offered to send a copy of the amendment to the Council. She stated her belief it is a good compromise for those that had concerns on both sides. It continues to give the police officers the latitude to arrest someone if they have an intent to drive. If they are sleeping in the back seat and their car is off then there is no crime being committed.

Councilor Albert remarked the Supreme Court has already ruled on all of this, and provided law enforcement a rule of thumb on how to deal with it. He is uncertain why a law was needed.

Approved: January 23, 2020

Posted: January 24, 2020

Representative Notter spoke of Article V Convention. She has been fighting Article V for 10 years, and is really excited that it is picking up momentum that others don't want it now either. Only 27 people voted to have a convention. There is the need for only 1 call for one, and there has already been one; call in 2012 for term limits. Prior to that, in 2011, the calls for all resolutions sent to congress asking for an Article V Convention to make proposals to change the Constitution were rescinded.

Representative Notter stated Representative Dick Hinch spent New Year's Eve at Exit 11 representing the Merrimack Delegation. He was with the Governor, and they set the tolls to zero. A bill was introduced to eliminate the ramp at Exit 11. A voice vote was to ITL the bill. There were two voices she heard yell no to the ITL; Representatives Hinch and Barry. Representative Hinch requested she inform the Council that he has a plan regarding the removal of the toll plaza, which will be revealed shortly.

Representative Rung spoke of the spreadsheet she provided the Council of the Legislative Service Requests (LSRs) for the current term. The LSRs have now been assigned bill numbers, and to committees. Public Hearings are being scheduled. She indicated now to be the time for the Council to make her aware of any bill they wish for her to take a position on or solicit support for. The public hearing portion of the legislative process is the most influential part. It influences the recommendation of the committee. She will update the spreadsheet identifying committee and hearing dates for those she is requested to keep the Council informed on.

Session began the previous day. Bills heard and voted on were those that were retained in 2019. Regarding HB687-FN, relative to extreme risk protection orders, 17 states already have the bill, which is generally called Red Flag Legislation. They are brought about by ex parte; a specified people can bring them forward, e.g., family member, spouse, former spouse. There is a list of evidence that has to be presented. The original bill has been changed a lot. It is very similar to the domestic violence statute in the State where guns can be taken from someone who poses an immediate risk. They don't have to be convicted of a crime in order for that to happen, but there has to be demonstrable extreme risk posed. She spoke of several families in Merrimack who have indicated a desire for this law. One in particular reached out to her convincing her that had this been available, their child would still be alive today. She agreed, the bill is likely to be vetoed by the Governor.

Representative Rung noted the House voted to raise the minimum wage. It is a tiered system that goes up to \$15/hour in 5 years (2025). If it passes the Senate and is signed by the Governor, it will go up to \$8.50 at the end of this year. Currently the State is at \$7.25 (defer to Federal minimum wage). The State is among the lowest of our neighboring states.

She spoke of enabling legislation to regulate the use of paper and plastic; single use plastic bags. This is purely enabling legislation; allows a Town to adopt ordinances to control the cost, disposal, or to ban them.

The Commission on Environmental and Public Health Impacts of Perfluorinated Chemicals will meet on Monday at 10:00 a.m. in Room 302/304 of the Legislative Office Building.

Approved: January 23, 2020

Posted: January 24, 2020

A continuing education program on solid waste is being offered to Legislators on Wednesday (Representatives Hall from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.), and is open to the public. It may be streamed live.

Councilor Harrington questioned and was told, with regard to the Red Flag Bill, a hearing before a Judge is not required prior to firearms being confiscated.

Representative Notter added if someone accuses you and your firearms are confiscated, in order to get them back, you have to go to court. It is not an easy process. Representative Rung added after a year you automatically get them back.

Councilor Rothhaus questioned, and was informed there are those in the State that make minimum wage. He suspects there are very few in Town. He believes it to be market driven. Representative Rung noted it is different depending on the region of the State. Councilor Rothhaus commented on the day camp in Town noting it will have an impact there as revenue is used to support the program.

Representative Notter spoke of testimony at the hearing that cited the example of Seattle, WA. They raised the minimum wage to \$15/hour, which resulted in everyone getting their hours cut drastically. The argument has always been if you are an employer having to hire at \$15/hour will you hire a teenager or an adult. The desire is to avoid teenagers losing their jobs.

Councilor Rothhaus stated the Town Clerk's budget presentation included a request for a staffing increase based on increased workload. He spoke of transactions that can occur online and those that cannot such as boat licenses. He believes there is a lot of potential for use of such an online program/system to permit other transactions to be conducted. Representative Rung stated she would look into whether there is similar legislation that could have an amendment attached to it as a means of getting something through this year.

Asked about the toll at Exit 10, Representative Rung stated her belief removal of that toll is included in the Ten-Year Plan should that pass (2021).

Representative Rung stated the desire to revisit the minimum wage bill. She will look to ask Senator Shannon Chandley if she can amend it in the Senate to include the clause about teenagers making \$1 less, which is language that was in the original bill.

Asked if she would support such an amendment, Representative Notter stated she would have to see the language. The loss of employment by teenagers is only part of the problem with minimum wage. She noted for positions such as waitresses, there has been concern raised as an increased salary would impact the rate at which tips are calculated; "tips directly from the customer shall receive a base rate from the employer not less than 50% of the applicable minimum hourly rate". If the minimum wage is \$8.50, that would go to \$4.25. If \$15/hour the employee would receive \$7.50 plus tips.

Town Manager's Report

Brian Levesque, Deputy Chief, Merrimack Police Department, is at the FBI Academy. He applied to the Academy. One percent of applicants are accepted. More information will be forthcoming.

Approved: January 23, 2020

Posted: January 24, 2020

The Planning Board reviewed the Town's Capital Improvement Plan. Their formal recommendations for priorities will be forthcoming. There was concern expressed about the amount of the bond for a public safety building going from \$4 million to \$7 million. The length of time spent considering such a proposal impacts costs for construction.

The Planning Board will hold a public hearing on the Route 3 pedestrian bicycle plan on the 21st, and a workshop on several potential zoning amendments, primarily concerning several sections that require modifications to address repeat offenses and/or enforcement tasks.

Councilor Albert questioned if a committee would be formed to address the public safety complex as was done with the Highway garage, and was told that would be done. Town Manager Cabanel suggested the Council determine membership, and invite the Police and Fire Chiefs to participate in a meeting with the architect to go over the plans in depth.

Consent Agenda - None

Old Business - None

New Business

1. Town Center Committee Charge

Submitted by Town Center Committee Chair Nelson Disco

The Town Council to review and consider the recommended changes to the Town Center Committee's Charge.

Nelson Disco, Chair, Town Center Committee, stated the desire for the Town Center Committee's Charge to be amended so that membership includes representation from the Public Works Department (PWD). Kyle Fox, Director, PWD, has agreed to be that member. Adding that representation would reduce the number of public participants from 5 to 4.

Another proposed change removes reference to the Economic Development Citizens Advisory Committee, which no longer exists. Noted was that the Watson Park Committee is no longer in existence. Reference to that committee can be removed.

Asked if the purpose is broader than identified, Mr. Disco stated that to have been the purpose when the Charge was established in 2009. Chairman Koenig suggested a focus on the Merrimack town center with emphasis on the Merrimack Town Center Pedestrian and Trail Master Plan just to give a little more leeway, and perhaps attract the interest of others. Mr. Disco offered to rework the language.

Chairman Koenig noted under "Organization of the Committee" it states in part "The Town Council will fill all vacancies of Council appointed members". Perhaps "or Town staff" could be added given the request to add a member of Town staff to the committee. The Library Trustees are not mentioned in that list. He recommended ordinance and building code references be reviewed to ensure they are current.

Councilor Healey commented on it being identified as an Ad-Hoc committee noting those are typically short-term, project-related committees.

Town Manager Cabanel recommended any suggestions be forwarded to Mr. Nelson so that additional amendments can be incorporated before bringing the document back before the Council for approval.

2. Recycling in Merrimack

Submitted by Public Works Director Kyle Fox

The costs of recycling in Merrimack will increase dramatically in December 2020. The Public Works Department will present some options to the Town Council for the future of recycling in Merrimack.

Kyle Fox, Director, Public Works Department, introduced Reagan Bissonnette, Executive Director, and Bonnie Bethune, Member Services Manager, Northeast Resource Recovery Association (NRRA).

Town Manager Cabanel spoke of discussions around changes taking place in the world of recycling. She is uncertain many people understand the extent to which recycling has changed. She provided the example of shortly reaching the point where the cost is greater to recycle than to throw items in the regular trash stream.

Ms. Bissonnette stated NRRA is a recycling non-profit and essentially a cooperative of municipalities. They started nearly 40 years ago when a number of municipalities in the State decided to pool their resources to generate greater volume of recyclables to sell at market and gain better pricing, but also to share information and provide each other with technical assistance so that they could improve their recycling programs and reduce their waste. They operate throughout New England. Merrimack has been a long-term member of the NRRA.

The two key services they offer are cooperative marketing and purchasing; help communities manage their own recycling programs and connect the sellers of recyclables to purchasers of those commodities. The other big piece of what they do is education and technical assistance; help communities improve their recycling programs, e.g., provide workshops, speaking engagements. They provide a tremendous amount of technical assistance (hands-on). They also have school programs to inform students about recycling and waste reduction.

A study done by the Northeast Recycling Council involved surveying 15 publicly owned or operated material recovery facilities. These are facilities that receive single or dual stream recycling. Materials in the typical single-stream mix include fibers (mixed paper and cardboard), which typically make up at least half of the recycling stream. In Merrimack, it is about 60-65%. That is the piece of the recycling stream that was hit hardest by China's national sword. Glass is, by weight, approximately 1/4 of most communities' recyclables. Plastic and metal, by weight, is a small portion of the revenue stream, but actually accounts for usually the greatest value from recyclables. Residue is essentially what the facility has to throw away; what comes in that they can't recycle, e.g., plastic bags. That is at a cost to the facility.

Comparing single stream recycling to fully sourced separated recycling; the positives of single-stream recycling are the ease of use for residents (tends to take up less space). One of the major downsides is that it tends to be associated with higher levels of contamination; essentially material that does not belong in the stream in the first place. With single-stream recycling we tend to see more contamination/residue coming out of material recovery facilities. The resulting commodities that are being sold to the companies that want to purchase those and turn them into new recyclables, tend to be of lower quality and therefore worth less money.

What was seen is that the higher contamination levels associated with increased single-stream, recycling throughout the United States are a key factor that lead China, which was a major purchaser of a lot of the recyclables, to implement a new policy restricting the importation of certain materials. They were receiving a large quantity of that residue, and it was leading to some environmental challenges for that country.

China's National Sword Policy went into effect January 1, 2018, and banned the importation of all plastic, unsorted mixed paper & textiles, some glass and metals, and even for the materials they still accept, they lowered their acceptable contamination levels. International standard was about 2%. China's is now 0.5%. That is virtually impossible for our modern materials recovery facilities to meet without additional equipment. The largest impact seen is on fibers. Those fibers are half or more of the recycling stream. Prior to the policy, China purchased over half of the entire world's scrap paper. When the largest buyer suddenly stopped buying, there became a massive oversupply of mixed paper. Since that is half or more of the recycling stream, it is a large factor in why we are seeing a decrease in the revenue from recycling.

Ms. Bissonnette spoke of the trading price of mixed paper. In early 2017, it was a positive of about \$85/ton. In January of 2020, it costs \$70-\$80/ton to recycle mixed paper. Across the country we are seeing paper mills coming online that are going to take mixed paper as a feed stock or existing paper mills that will take more mixed paper as a feed stock. They have heard from vendors that the hope is by the end of 2020 we see the cost of recycling mixed paper decrease. This is a global market. Just in the past few weeks the price of mixed paper has dropped dramatically because India, who has been taking a lot of China's surplus, has been putting in more strick restrictions.

Ms. Bissonnette spoke of the importance of understanding the financial impacts on the material recovery facilities. Over a ten year period (2009-2018), the processing costs for the facilities has gone up from roughly \$60/ton to \$95/ton. The cost of running those facilities has gone up, and the value of that average ton of recyclables has gone down. When looking at the breakdown of the costs of the facilities, their fixed costs have doubled over that time. They need larger facilities, better technology. Their operation and maintenance costs have also gone up because of labor shortages. They have had to slow down the production lines so that they can have cleaner material coming out. An increase in residue has also been seen.

With regard to what is occurring in the Northeast, information gleaned from the Northeast Recycling Council Report that looked at the 15 publicly owned or operated materials recovery facilities in the Northeast; in 2018 communities that had a contract to bring their recyclables to these facilities, on average, were paying \$38/ton, processing costs averaged \$82-\$83/ton, and revenue made by the sale of

the recyclables between April and June of 2019 was \$45.83 and July and September of 2019 \$34.85/ton.

Many of these facilities are just breaking even or are losing money as they are relying on older contracts that provide them with less revenue coming in while receiving less revenue when selling the material. Are contracts are being renegotiated, they are changing the game to ensure they are charging a high enough price to at least cover operating costs. Tipping fees are being seen over \$100/ton. In some instances, there are incentives if you remove glass from single or dual stream. There are at times options available for a flat fixed rate for new contracts or cost sharing options.

One of the most popular programs the NRRA has is the glass program. They enable communities to either collect glass bottles and jars that will ultimately be recycled into new fiberglass insulation and they also have a program for crushing glass into an aggregate to be used in road and infrastructure projects.

Town Manager Cabanel remarked when looking at tipping fees in Merrimack for regular trash, it is \$71.50/ton. This \$100 and over is also just for disposing of recyclable materials.

Ms. Bissonnette commented in the Northeast we have the highest tipping rates for trash in the entire country. That is because we have the least amount of available space for new or expanded landfills. However, we have never seen the cost of disposal of trash decrease.

Ms. Bethune noted over 50% of the State is single-stream recycling. There are no single-stream material recycling facilities in the State. A chart was displayed depicting a sample of single-stream pricing, e.g., spot market costs are NRRA negotiated costs with Waste Management; Rochester \$143/ton with glass and \$123/ton without. Proposed contract costs were broken down to identify the main facility (\$105/ton), the flat rate (\$155/ton) and the revenue/cost share rate (\$125/ton). Costs referred to represent tipping fees alone.

Ms. Bissonnette remarked this is not the first time a downturn has been seen in the recycling markets. This occurred in 2008 during the recession. What is different here is that the world's largest purchaser of recyclables has decided that they are closing their doors for the large part.

Councilor Harrington suggested it could be a blessing in disguise in that it could force us to utilize those components here. Ms. Bissonnette commented one of the new mills is in Maine, and is owned by a Chinese company. That company still wants access to our mixed paper, but they can't bring it into the country. They are going to be purchasing mixed paper, and will be creating paper pulp and shipping the pulp to China. Even though China shut its doors, they still have a great need for material. She believes it to be very realistic that we will have domestic infrastructure being built to manage our own recycling because it needs to go somewhere, but a large piece of it is quality.

The NRRA is still able to get all of its members' recycling recycled. In the case of mixed paper, it is at a cost, but so long as that cost is less than the cost of disposal it still makes financial sense for many communities to keep recycling even with the depressed market. She would not go so far as to say we are at the bottom now, but she would say that she thinks we will hit a bottom and go back up.

There is a company that is planning on opening a new glass recycling facility in Massachusetts. The largest purchaser of recycled glass in the country was in Massachusetts and closed in 2018. The new facility is expected to come on line in the next year.

A report done by a company called Waste Dive identified 60 examples of communities with curbside recycling who had suspended or significantly altered their programs. There are only a handful in the State of New Hampshire who have done so. There are dozens and dozens of examples of communities who have been making strategic proactive adjustments to their recycling programs so that they can weather this storm, e.g., removing glass from recycling.

Chairman Koenig commented a key takeaway is that you don't see the need in China evaporating. They may be creative in how they will fill that, and it will take some unknown amount of time before they find a way, but there is still a market there. Ms. Bissonnette responded there is a bit of a gap because they overnight didn't develop the infrastructure in their own country to capture all the material they need. In effect we were outsourcing the sorting of the recyclables to a country where the cost of labor is less expensive to do so whereas in the United States we have to rely on more expensive equipment to sort out our materials. Asked if it was the residue that was causing them the most difficulty, she stated it was a wide number of factors. Essentially there were not as strict standards in what was being imported. In part we and other countries got lax in feeling like we could send material with a large amount of residue, and in China they didn't necessarily have a good system for managing that waste, and that lead to some really significant environmental problems and a real P.R. issue for them.

Chairman Koenig commented in the short-term we need to adjust to try and manage the situation, long term it will likely take care of itself. He commented on his belief we will not return to the scenario of recyclables generating revenue because of the cost of managing it, and asked Ms. Bethune for her opinion. Ms. Bethune stated she has been doing this for 40 years and has seen the trends. As a broker, this is very different. Even for the source separated material, e.g., cardboard, she has to provide pictures to her vendors in order to get a price. She has to truck the material to the market. It is a very different world, but we will always need those resources. When you go to buy a Tide bottle, it says post-consumer 60%/40%. That is what we are producing here. As we encourage that more, there is going to be more of a need for that. She sees things improving as far as quality.

Director Fox stated the Town started single stream recycling in May of 2010. Since that time, the Town has recycled nearly 14,000 tons of material. Over the past 10 years, the Town has gone from recyclables being a revenue source to incurring a cost for disposal. Town Manager Cabanel stated the presentation material addresses all costs whereas the prior presentation identified costs associated with tipping fees alone. Although we are now paying \$60/ton, it is picked up and taken away. Transportation cost is \$50-\$55/ton.

Director Fox spoke of the change in the price of mixed paper; two years ago it was \$85 in revenue whereas now it is a cost of \$80. The Town has been largely protected from the price changes because of the multi-year contracts over the past 6 years. That expires on November 30, 2020.

The Town has been consistent over the years in the amount of material recycled; high of 1,512 tons five years ago to 1,458 tons last year. For the sake of projections, they have taken the five year average of 1,477 tons/annually.

The breakdown of single stream recycling; OCC (cardboard) 14%, mixed paper 44%, aluminum beverage cans 1%, steel/tin cans 2.5%, PET (#1 plastic) 5.5%, HDPE natural (plastics) 1.5%, HDPE colored (#2 plastics) 1.5%, glass 20%, and residue 10%.

Chairman Koenig questioned if there is something educationally the Town can do to get people to stop throwing away what ends up as residue. Director Fox spoke of flyers that were distributed about wishful recycling. People see recycling as a way to do their part to help protect the environment. Unfortunately, sometimes that leads to contamination. One of the big culprits is manufacturers who strive to make packaging more economical for them and do not consider the municipalities who, at the end of the line, have to deal with that. Another example is the paper orange juice container that has that plastic piece on the inside that the cap screws onto. It is simply not recyclable because the machine cannot separate the two materials. Another is toy packaging that contains metal ties and tape.

Director Fox spoke of the pricing on single stream for the past 3 years. The current contract expires November 30th. The \$57.50/ton all-inclusive cost (tipping fee, transportation, rental of containers, rental and maintenance of compactor, etc.) will be gone. The Town is in discussion with vendors to obtain pricing going forward to dispose of recyclables.

Director Fox stated there to be 4 distinct options:

Option 1 - continue the recycling program as it is, and absorb the cost for the short term hoping we see the turnaround.

New vendors have expressed strong importance of maintaining compositions. Some companies want the glass in there and some don't. Some are offering the option of with or without and providing different pricing for each. Within that, we would be subject to more strict audits. The 10% number seems to be what they are setting as the breaking point. If your contamination is greater than that you will pay a surcharge. All other costs would remain similar. Projections assume each recycling container will hold about 5 tons.

Projected costs for FY21: July 1st to November 30th (locked in) tipping fee of \$57.50/ton, no cost for trucking, no cost for equipment rental, December 1st to June 30, 2021 tipping fee of \$84.76/ton, \$260/haul for trucking, \$350/month equipment rental (3 trailers and compactor). Utilizing the five-year average for tonnage and the 2020-2021 contract period for transportation costs, the total FY21 cost is anticipated to be \$155,064 or an increase of \$68,814 from FY20 (\$105.04/month). Identified in the draft budget is an aggregate of \$92/month.

Once experiencing costs for a full year outside of the contract, the increase (compared to FY20) is slightly over \$120,000 each year with a total fee of around \$141/ton.

Town Manager Cabanel spoke of a quote received from another company at a cost significantly less than the price/ton identified in the NRRA presentation.

Option 2 - return to source separation.

Considerations include increased labor costs; would have to add a third recycling attendant right out of the gate. There would be increased costs associated with utilities, supplies, storage, transportation, and reintroducing source separation to the public, which is believed will be challenging, and result in delays.

There is a lack of room at the facility to store materials. With single stream, recyclables are co-mingled and put into the compactor. Harvey comes with their truck, and haul away two at a time. When full the loader operator takes the container, pulls it out, puts the empty one back on, and is done. When you go to sorting your components you need to have enough material to fill a trailer to make it worthwhile to transport. You're now onsite storing all of the materials. There is the need to keep the materials dry; particularly paper goods.

In addition, there are capital expenditures to gear up. The old baler is used occasionally, but to go back into this kind of production mode it is likely a new baler would have to be purchased in addition to a trailer to truck the material away.

A slide was shown displaying *tipping* costs for the various commodities broken down in a source separated model. The result is an annual projected cost of \$40,292.

Costs associated with the hiring of an additional attendant, overtime (transporting materials), onsite storage (trailer rental), supplies, trucking (maintenance/fuel), and new equipment purchase (baler and box trailer) totals \$301,037 (assumes capital cost items expended fully in year 1). Adding that to the tipping costs puts the cost per ton at \$203.82. The estimate for the ongoing cost is \$112.42/ton (would utilize CRF to plan for equipment replacement).

Chairman Koenig noted costs are also based on the same amount of recycle materials. He believes that would be reduced if moving away from single stream.

Option 3 - suspend the recycling program altogether

Increased labor costs (15% increase in material having to be trucked to incinerator). It will likely be difficult for many residents to accept that change. Noted was that the recycling center also recycles lightbulbs, electronics, propane tanks, batteries, etc.

Projected costs associated with tipping fee, trucking, overtime, and 15% component addition to wage of three individuals totals \$176,609/year or \$119.57/ton.

Option 4 - some sort of hybrid recycling

The most common seen is separating glass from the recycle stream. The complexities of that are being looked into. The vendors that have provided a quote have done so with and without glass.

Director Fox stated the four options are available for consideration, and would not represent a great magnitude of difference in the budget. However, he is of the belief we should do anything we can to keep recycling and making the products viable.

Another option is that we only recycle items that generate revenue. We could send all paper and glass to the trash stream and just take the cans and plastics. We could keep the operation the same logistically hoping the current situation is temporary, and move the recyclables to the transfer station building ourselves so that visually it looks the same, but we would really be doing option 3.

Councilor Rothhaus questioned why we would not just retain glass (a non-pollutant) in the back 40. Director Fox stated another program the NRRA does with communities is take the glass and that of other towns, stockpile it (they pay us), and then NRRA can bring a crusher down a few times a year to crush it up and make a product out of it. That model only works if there is someone to buy the product. They do that with a couple of communities. There are all sorts of things in this new world that will be explored.

Ms. Bissonnette stated there to be two different options for managing glass; both involve communities that either have enough volume to store the glass onsite until having sufficient material to either ship 30 tons of glass to the vendor in Quebec that will then clean it and crush it, and send it back to the U.S. to be made into fiberglass insulation or store glass onsite until having 1,000 tons at which point a mobile crushing unit can be brought in to crush the glass, or you can take the glass to one of the host sites where the glass is combined with the glass of other communities and then crushed once there is 1,000 tons. The host site has the option of selling the aggregate or utilizing it in road and infrastructure projects or can ask the contributing communities to take the material back.

Town Manager Cabanel spoke of the available options noting the belief they are not all equally viable. The recommendation of the Administration is to continue with the recycling program as is, and going with the quote provided for a short period of time (perhaps 2-3 year contract) while looking at the issue of glass.

Councilor Rothhaus stated agreement with the recommendation. He does not believe a drastic change would be widely accepted, and believes pricing will settle into a position. Chairman Koenig stated agreement. He believes it would be a much easier transition to remove glass.

Councilor Albert stated agreement with the recommendation of the Administration. Councilor Woods cautioned a decision that has to do with formulating the coming budget. He spoke of the difficulties of changing people's habits. Councilor Albert requested the presentations provided the Council be placed on the Town's website. Vice Chairman Boyd commented on having received the level of assurance from NRRA that it is worth riding out the storm.

3. Turkey Hill Road / Baboosic Lake Road Intersection Improvements Discussion

Submitted by Public Works Director Kyle Fox and Deputy Public Works Director / Town Engineer Dawn Tuomala

The Town Council to be presented with the options for the Turkey Hill Road / Baboosic Lake Road intersection.

Approved: January 23, 2020

Posted: January 24, 2020

Dawn Tuomala, Deputy Public Works Director/Town Engineer, stated traffic goes east and west on Baboosic Lake Road and turns in and out of Glenwood Lane. The largest issue is coming in from Turkey Hill Road. In order to head east on Baboosic Lake Road, motorists would have to turn their head all the way around to look to the back. Heading west on Baboosic Lake Road, wanting to make a left-hand turn, there is a fence and other obstacles in the way that make it difficult to have a good line of sight.

Traffic data indicates from 2005-2012 there were 13 accidents, 10 of which resulted in property damage and 2 in personal injuries. Twelve were due to driver error and 1 to weather. From 2012-2019, there were 20 accidents 19 of which resulted in property damage and 1 in personal injury. There were no fatalities at the intersection. There was 1 involving a school bus, but it was not reported. When that occurs, it is not investigated.

Deputy Director Tuomala noted both concepts being presented are at approx. 30% design. The desire is to have a direction to move forward in before expending funding towards engineering.

One option is a T intersection (approx. \$100,000). A diagram was provided showing Town owned property. A section of land was requested when the subdivision to the west was done so that something could be done to the intersection.

With regard to traffic flow through that intersection, there would be 3 lanes on Baboosic Lake Road; through lane going east and west, turn lane to make the left-hand turn to get onto Turkey Hill Road, and a third lane from west to east. There would be a stop sign at the location. This would not stop any T-bone crashes. There is close proximity of Joppa Road to the west. It just makes the distance required. It will be very busy in that area, and this design would not stop the accidents. Accidents could have a higher injury rate because traffic will be moving at a higher speed.

The next option is that of a roundabout (approx. \$310,000). The problem with that is Glenwood Ave. It is very hard to get a large enough diameter roundabout. If moving it to the Glenwood, it would only be 90' wide and trucks, buses, and fire trucks might have a bit more difficulty maneuvering. The diagram shows a roundabout with a 120' diameter that is suitable for fire trucks, etc. All traffic would come into the roundabout at a 90 degree angle and at the same speed. All directions would have yield signs.

Concord has a similar situation and addressed it through a roundabout about 10 years ago. It is working for them.

Chairman Koenig questioned if entering at a 90 degree angle is an important factor. Deputy Director Tuomala responded no, but it makes everyone equal as they are coming into the roundabout. Director Fox noted the feature and benefits of the roundabout concept are sharing the intersection, controlling speeds and giving each leg of the roundabout equal access. Having each leg come in similarly aids in how it functions.

With a T intersection there remains the opportunity for T-bone accidents. With roundabouts, it is the geometry that makes it safe. By having that kind of geometry where it is a 90 degree entrance and

forces the cars to make that right-hand turn through that triangle island, is what keeps cars at a maximum speed of 15 mph. If you do get those accidents they will be side swipe and fairly low speed.

Councilor Albert remarked if you look at a regular weekday morning, with motorist traffic and school buses, there is a backup coming out of Turkey Hill Road every morning. That T intersection will force motorists to stop and will create a longer backup. At the end of the school day traffic will be trying to make the left-hand turn. With traffic coming and trying to make left-hand turns, there is delay and risks for accidents with cross traffic. With a roundabout traffic continues to move. It will be at a slower rate, but will continue to move. There will be less of a risk. He stated support of the roundabout option.

Vice Chairman Boyd noted if on Glenwood Lane wanting to exit onto Baboosic Lake Road to travel east, motorists will have to make a right-hand turn into the rotary to wrap around to go east towards Town Hall. The option for motorists would be to access Shady Lane through the neighborhood or get onto Joppa Road and come through the roundabout.

Councilor Rothhaus remarked Joppa Road from a different direction is a nuisance getting onto Baboosic Lake Road, but the traffic flow and line of sight going westbound is difficult. The backup of the vehicles on Turkey Hill Road is substantial in the morning. He believes that will all be calmed with the roundabout. With a 90 degree turn, he suspects it will slow traffic down enough to allow traffic from Turkey Hill Road to blend in with the flow much more easily.

Deputy Director Tuomala remarked she did not do traffic counts on Baboosic Lake, but there was one done a little further down on Turkey Hill Road this year. Flows per day were around 5,000 - 6,000.

Chairman Koenig remarked that indicates the T intersection could back up on Turkey Hill Road dramatically if people are flying down Baboosic Lake Road because there is nothing to slow them down. It would make it similar to the Amherst Street/Turkey Hill Road intersection at the other end where we have to have an officer there in the morning to allow traffic to get off Turkey Hill Road. Councilor Rothhaus stated agreement. He had been prepared to support the concept of a T intersection because of cost, but the roundabout would be a greater benefit for the investment into that intersection.

Councilor Healey commented on having read an article on how transportation is moving away from roundabouts as motorists don't know how to maneuver around them. That can result in accidents. She stated her preference for the T intersection, but without the stop sign. She would put a light there with the blinking yellow left.

Town Manager Cabanel remarked it is not a multi-lane configuration being discussed in terms of a roundabout. It is a very simplistic roundabout, and the only thing motorists need to understand is if you are in the roundabout you have the right of way. It is as simple as that.

Councilor Albert questioned if the PWD has spoken with the Town of Bedford to see how the roundabout they placed by the country club has worked out. Deputy Director Tuomala responded she has not. She was looking for intersections having the same issues as experienced here. She will look into the statistics on the Bedford roundabout.

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Vice Chairman Boyd stated his support of the concept of a roundabout. The definitive entry to the Town Center is something he is pleased with. From the standpoint of safety, slowing traffic at that stretch of road will allow a better ease of traffic from people using Joppa Road to get down to Bedford Road.

Councilor Harrington remarked although she is not pleased with the cost, she believes the option of the roundabout improves safety and flow of traffic.

Councilor Woods stated his opinion the roundabout makes the most sense. He spoke of the lifespan of the road.

Director Fox commented one of the big difficulties with the roundabout concept is Glenwood Lane. The Council could make the decision to make Glenwood a one-way road, which would ease the geometry of the roundabout tremendously.

Asked about public input, Director Fox stated the desire to get the thoughts of the Council, move forward with a more detailed design, and reach out to the Planning Board to receive feedback. A more developed concept will be brought before the Council. Generally, for these kind of projects, public information meetings are conducted. They will look to get feedback from the Fire Department, school bus company, etc. It will require a great deal of education and emphasis on the positives of a roundabout.

Minutes

December 19, 2019

The following amendments were offered:

Page 6, Line 31; replace “serviced” with “services”

Page 6, Line 44; replace “readied” with “ready”

MOTION made by Vice Chairman Boyd and seconded by Councilor Woods to approve the meeting minutes of the Town Council meeting of December 19, 2019, as amended. MOTION CARRIED 7-0-0

Comments from the Press - None

Comments from the Public

Rosemarie Rung, 21 Ministerial Drive

Suggested the Council appoint an Ad Hoc Communications Committee that could begin educating the public on the issue of recycling.

Approved: January 23, 2020

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She spoke of being in full support of the concept of a rotary; particularly as an entrance to the Town center.

Comments from the Council

Councilor Harrington noted the day to be Law Enforcement Appreciation Day, and spoke of the Council's appreciation.

Councilor Healey stated three Scouts from Troop 424 have completed their projects, and have made the rank of Eagle Scout. They are Ethan Burns who did the Chapel in the Grove project, Benjamin Haddad who constructed the Gaga Ball Pit, and Rohan Sreenivasan whose project was the solar lighting at Wasserman Park.

Adjourn

MOTION made by Councilor Harrington and seconded by Vice Chairman Boyd to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION CARRIED 7-0-0

The January 9, 2020 meeting of the Town Council was adjourned at 10:08 p.m.

Submitted by Dawn MacMillan