

**TOWN OF BELGRADE
BOARD OF SELECTPERSONS MEETING
PUBLIC HEARING ON THE TRANSFER STATION FEE
SCHEDULE**

TUESDAY / APRIL 7, 2009 / CENTER FOR ALL SEASONS

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED AT 6:30 P.M./ Closed 6:50 p.m./Selectpersons Meeting convened 6:51 p.m./ Adjourned 9:55 p.m.

Officials in Attendance:

Dan Newman	Selectperson, Chair	Phil Sprague	Cemetery & Tree Com.
Ricky Damren	Selectperson	Nancy Mairs	Town Historian
Melanie Jewell,	Selectperson	Pat Pow	Library Board of Trustees
Bruce Plourd	Selectperson	Gordon Pow	Building Com. & Bd. Of Appeals
Dennis Keschl	Town Manager	Jack Sutton	Budget Com & Transfer St.
Linda Bacon	Board of Parks & Recreation	Tom Streznewski,	Budget Committee
Gregory Keene	Transfer St. Com.	Renee Burdet	Building Committee
George MacDonald,	Transfer St. Com.	Dennis Purington,	Building Committee
Clarence Burnham,	Transfer St. Super.	Conrad Shaw	Building Committee
Scott Damren	Facility Main. & Sexton	Lani Carlson	Building Committee
Marcia Haigh	Librarian		

Others in Attendance: Haley Fortin, Christine Devine, Edith Stratton, Bruce Trumper, Ernie Rice, Penny Campbell and Pollie Beatie

Public Hearing on the Transfer Station Fee Schedule

Dan Newman declared a quorum and opened the public hearing on the proposed amendment to the Transfer Station Fee Schedule. The Town manager stated that the original fee schedule was adopted in May of 2007 and from that date until now; there has been no fee for the clean wood because up until September 2007, it was acceptable to dispose of the clean wood with the brush pile, which was burned periodically. However, in September of 2007, the Town decided to discontinue burning the brush and clean wood and removed all wood ash from the brush pile area. The present practice for processing all the brush and clean wood products is by chipping. However, to meet current DEP regulations, it became necessary to stop placing clean wood onto the brush pile and to place it on to the demo pile, because of the potential of the pile failing testing. The problem is the clean wood was being tossed into the brush pile and it was not clean. There were contaminants such as nails, paint stains, paint, resins and glue, as well as other non-pressured treated lumber, which was contaminating the brush pile. The clean wood has now been moved to the demo pile and there is a fee to grind this pile. There is currently a fee for the demolition debris. The Transfer Station Committee is recommending the town amend the current fee schedule to include a charge for the clean wood. Last year's cost of grinding was \$8,000 and the town only received \$4,000 in fees.

Bruce Galouch said even if the town starts charging a fee for the disposal of clean wood it would not make up the difference in cost. There is currently more clean wood coming into the transfer station than there is demo wood. Bruce stated that most of the towns charge for the clean wood as well as the demo wood.

Dan Newman stated he was concerned about how much will be buried or burned if the town decides to start charging a fee for the clean wood.

Bruce Plourd agreed that he felt people would start to burn clean wood including pressure treated wood to avoid paying the fee. Bruce stated some taxpayers feel they are paying for the transfer station through there property taxes.

Ricky Damren said the Town of Oakland only charges contractors and not private citizens.

The Town Manager stated that since the fees have begun, the tonnage of waste at the transfer station has dropped by over 300 tons, which is a benefit to the town. It has eliminated the illegal dumping that was potentially taking place.

Melanie Jewell asked if the committee could place a fee on the clean wood and keep the pile separate, and then give this back to the community as mulch.

The committee stated they did not feel it was practical to do this, as it would mean the person grinding would have to set up the equipment in different locations at the transfer station, which may cost an additional fee.

George MacDonald stated that the nails and other items not picked out prior to the grinding of the wood can end up in the finished product (mulch), which could be dangerous to residents picking up mulch made from clean wood.

The Town Manager stated that he would have concerns turning clean wood into mulch as there are compounds that may be problematic and contaminate soils.

Jack Sutton stated many times when residents come into the transfer station and there is a mixture of clean wood and demo wood, that it would simplify the process if there was one drop off spot and one fee.

The Town Manager stated in the recommendation of the Transfer station & Recycling committee, they are not trying to make money, they are just trying to defer costs.

Ricky Damren made a motion to close the public hearing on the proposed amendment to the Transfer Station Fee Schedule at 6:50 p.m. Bruce Plourd seconded the motion. **CLOSED 4/0/1 ABSENT (CHRIS MERROW)** Chair, Dan Newman asked for a motion. Ricky Damren made a motion to approve the proposed fee schedule to charge for the disposal of clean wood. Bruce Plourd seconded the motion. **CLOSED 0/4 AGAINST / 1 ABSENT (CHRIS MERROW)** The Town Manager asked what direction would the board like to provide to the Transfer Station Committee.

Dan Newman said he understands what the committee is looking to do, but he has a problem with increasing the fees.

The Town Manager stated the idea of the fees was to remove the burden off the property taxpayers and right now it is being supplemented with the cost of the clean wood grinding.

Melanie Jewell stated that she did not feel it was the intention of the board when the fee schedule began to offset the cost of running the transfer station 100% by charging fees.

Dan Newman said he felt this issue needed to be given some thought and discussed further. The Town Manager agreed and will bring it back to the board on a future date.

Order of Business:

1. The Board reviewed the meeting minutes of the March 17th, 2009 meeting. Ricky Damren accepted the minutes as amended. Bruce Plourd seconded the motion. **CLOSED 3/1 ABSTAIN (DAN NEWMAN)/ 1 ABSENT (CHRIS MERROW)**

The Board reviewed the meeting minutes of the March 31, 2009 meeting. Ricky Damren made a motion to approve of the minutes. Bruce Plourd seconded the motion. **CLOSED 4/0/1 ABSENT (CHRIS MERROW)**

Unfinished Business:

1. The Town Manager stated he had sent out the RFP to DOT and contractors. He did have comments come back concerning the mix. However, the Town Manager recommends the board authorize him to move forward as the town has specked it. He told the board that the town has not put a top coat on for years and maybe this can be looked at for next year, but this will be at an additional cost for another inch of topcoat. The board was ok with moving forward. The town manager will put the RFP out the week of April 13.

2. The Town Manager has scheduled a meeting with Lesley Jones from Hatch Hill processing Center for April 15, at 11:00 a.m..

3. The Town Manager stated because the PUC has lowered their standard pricing, there is not much of a cost savings to be had from alternative energy companies.

New Business:

1. The Board reviewed the renewal application for a liquor license for the Belgrade Lakes Golf Company, LLC. Kyle Evans was present for the discussion. He stated there had been no changes to the facility. Ricky Damren made a motion to approve of the liquor license for the Belgrade Lakes Golf Company, LLC, located on 46 Clubhouse Drive, Belgrade Lakes, ME. Melanie Jewell seconded the motion. **CLOSED 4/0/1 ABSENT (CHRIS MERROW)**

2. The Board reviewed the re-application for Phil Sprague to the Tree Committee. Ricky Damren made a motion to approve of the appointment of Phil Sprague to the Tree Committee for a three year term to expire 2012. Melanie Jewell seconded the motion. **CLOSED 4/0/1 ABSENT (CHRIS MERROW)**

The Board reviewed the resignation letter received from Mike Atwood to the Board of Parks & Recreation. Ricky Damren made a motion to accept the resignation of Mike Atwood with regret, and to send him a certificate of thanks for his service. Melanie Jewell seconded the motion. **CLOSED 4/0/1 ABSENT (CHRIS MERROW)**

The Board reviewed the application of Haley Fortin to the Board of Parks & Recreation. Ricky Damren made a motion to approve of the appointment of Haley Fortin to the Board of Parks & Recreation for a one year term to expire 2010, as she is fulfilling a term that was previously vacated. Melanie Jewell seconded the motion. **CLOSED 4/0/1 ABSENT (CHRIS MERROW)**

The Board reviewed the application of Christine Devine to the Board of Parks & Recreation. Ricky Damren made a motion to approve of the appointment of Christine Devine to the Board of Parks & Recreation as an alternate with an indefinite term. Bruce Plourd seconded the motion. **CLOSED 4/0/1 ABSENT (CHRIS MERROW)**

3. The Town manager stated this is the third time it has come before the board. The reason it is on the agenda again is that it was employee initiated, and the staff had written letters addressing the Saturday openings. The Town manager said he recognized the value from the board's standpoint. Melanie Jewell stated she did not believe that a dramatic decrease of people in the office was due to the online registrations, because they did not appear to have increased. Rick Damren asked if we need as many people in the office if the number of individuals coming into the office has decreased. Melanie Jewell said that she does not feel the intent was to reduce the number of workers at the office. There was continued discussion about the Saturday openings. Ricky Damren made a motion to keep the Saturday openings as they are. Melanie Jewell seconded the motion. **CLOSED 4/0/1 ABSENT (CHRIS MERROW)**

4. The Town manager stated the office had received a petition from Edie Stratton on the 19th of March. **(Please see the attached petition)** The town clerk had certified the signatures. The petition was to eliminate voting on the floor. The Town manager said he had reviewed the requirements and there is a 60 day deadline for the board to place this to referendum, or the board can wait until the next referendum if there is not a referendum within the 60 day timeframe. There is a question concerning whether a municipality can change to an all referendum voting, or whether or not the municipality must have a charter. A reason for this is that each town meeting is a separate legislative body and even though one may vote that all future town meetings use secret ballot another can vote to ignore this and vote to hold an open town meeting. The Town's lawyer's office stated they felt that the petition was ambiguous and that the legality of the petition to seek to have all warrant articles submitted to the voters as referendum questions is uncertain.

Edie Stratton stated her intention was to have all items concerning money, to be voted by referendum as other towns have taken this avenue, and they are happy with the way things are running.

The Town manager stated if the intention was to have the articles concerning money be voted on by referendum, then the board could ask the petitioners to rewrite the petition.

Melanie Jewell stated that the town retains the services of the lawyer and there is a legal opinion and she feels the board should adhere to the opinion provided to them. She does not believe in getting rid of the town meeting as this provides an opportunity for residents to listen to the discussion on articles.

Ernie Rice stated his viewpoint is that there was a large money article on the warrant and he felt this should have been voted on the day before the open town meeting.

Dennis Purington stated that the article was only for \$75,000 for the engineering studies and the proposal to move forward with the building would have been brought back to the voters.

Ricky Damren stated he did not mind if the petition was reworded and then submitted to put forth to the voters.

Melanie Jewell made a motion to not accept the petition submitted by Edie Stratton, because the wording was ambiguous as well as the town not having a charter, based on the legal advice of the town's attorney. Bruce Plourd seconded the motion. **CLOSED 4/0/1 ABSENT (CHRIS MERROW)**

5. The Town Manager stated he had place this agenda item on the agenda to discuss with the Board was position they would like to take with the building committee.

Resident, Ernie Merkens stated he appreciated the work the board and the building committee have done. He said he feels if a vote had been taken at town meeting to see what direction a people would like to take concerning the municipal building. He believes that most at the proposed together, it bothered him as he felt it was a hijack situation and felt there was only one option, where there should have been several for people to vote on. He stated he felt the outcome was a decision to not decide and feels it is incumbent on the board to urge the building committee to see what the town really needs.

Resident and budget committee member, Tom Streznewski stated that the building committee performed a lot of quality work, and with last year's warrant the building committee was tasked with looking at four different options and they came back with five different options. These were presented at public meetings. The decision was to move forward with the one that best fit the needs of the town. This was done and followed up with an article to provide \$60,000 worth of engineering and plans to ensure this would best fit the needs of the town.

Building committee, Chair Gordon Pow, stated that along with looking at building a new municipal complex the committee was tasked with a 25 year plan which would look to build a building that was expandable. This is inline with the 1998 comprehensive plan for the town. It is a shame to throw away the investment of \$20,000 that has already been made. This building committee has completed its task and now they are done. He stated he was disappointed that voters were not informed. There is room to downsize the building, but the board has to make decisions and public education needs to be increased.

Jack Sutton stated that his biggest concern for the multipurpose building as it was presented was the 10,000 square feet for the Library, Historical Society and the Food Pantry. He feels we should move forward with the Town office and the town should be given options.

Melanie Jewell said the board formalized the use of the space for the food pantry and have tried to take care of providing an adequate space for the historical records of the town with the proposed space. Melanie stated she felt the building committee came before the board with several options for sites. Melanie said she felt the Library was a catalyst for the building project and the town decided to jump on the band wagon and move forward, rather than to build a number of buildings to address the town's needs.

Ernie Rice stated he would like an opportunity to have an option to vote to build a new town office.

The Town Manager stated he would like to see if the board would like to place a question on referendum to see if the town would allocate some money to develop a path to move forward, as the building committee has completed its work.

Ricky Damren stated that he felt the building committee could reform if Gordon would be willing. Gordon stated that he would be willing to be on a building committee, but he did not want to chair another building committee. Ernie Rice stated he would like to be on a building committee, but not a committee for a multipurpose building. Lani Carlson stated that the group that was the building committee were all objective members and did as they were tasked to do, which was to look at a multipurpose facility. Ernie Merckens expressed interest in being on a building committee as well. Melanie Jewell said she thought there were others who had expressed interest in being on a building committee. Ricky Damren stated he thought perhaps the board should hold a meeting with the building committee to discuss how they would like to proceed.

Ricky Damren made a motion to meet with the original building committee to discuss how they would like to proceed and to form a new building committee to include some of the residents who have expressed an interest. Melanie Jewell seconded the motion. **CLOSED 4/0/1 ABSENT (CHRIS MERROW)**

6. The Town Manager addressed the request for additional money for the sound system for the town's events. He informed the board we may want to upgrade based upon the estimate, it was budgeted for and after discussions with Harley Smith who set up the sound system at the town meeting, and we may want to ask for more money to buy a system equal to the one the town used for town meeting. Ricky Damren stated that he thought we should contact the tech team at the school to see if we would be able to purchase something through them. Dan Newman said he would like to see a firm price. Ricky Damren made a motion to have the Town Manager get a firm price for the sound system and to bring the information back to the board. Bruce Plourd seconded the motion. **CLOSED 4/0/1 ABSENT (CHRIS MERROW)**

7. The Town Manager informed the board that currently there are no bylaws for the Transfer Station & Recycling Committee, which was formed in 2006. Melanie Jewell made a motion to accept the bylaws as written. Ricky Damren seconded the motion. **CLOSED 4/0/1 ABSENT (CHRIS MERROW)**

The Town Manager stated that there is a free day request and the Transfer Station and Recycling Committee felt the cost was high in letting there be a free day.

Bruce Galouch stated the committee reviewed the free day and the committee said they felt the town should not offer the free day for the same reasons they had stated before. They felt some residents would abuse the free day, there would have to be additional man hours for the day, there are concerns with mattresses, box springs, tires, etc.

Melanie Jewell stated the committee should tie the free day into Earth Day, on Wednesday, April 22. The Town manager stated he thought this would be too short of a timeframe. Melanie said notices could be handed out on Wednesday and Saturday.

Dan Newman said he was in favor of a free day, but felt there should be some restrictions.

The Town Manager said that some restrictions can be set up, but he would like to get the information out as soon as possible and set up the date before the non-residents come back.

There was some discussion concerning the cost to the community, while others felt it was good to give back to the community.

George MacDonald stated that he has surveyed surrounding towns and there is only one town that allows for a free day with restrictions. George also conveyed that there will be a need for additional staffing at the Transfer Station that day.

Bruce Galouch stated that there would be a board meeting Monday for the Transfer Station Committee and he would bring it back to the Board to develop some restrictions. The Town Manager stated that after the Board meets he would send out the list of restrictions via email for the board's review.

Dan Newman stated that the number of loads could be limited or the amount of time could be limited.

8. The Board reviewed the list of annual municipal appointments. Ricky Damren made a motion to approve of the following names for annual appointment. **(Please see the attached list)** Bruce Plourd seconded the motion. **CLOSED 4/0/1 ABSENT (CHRIS MERROW)**

9. The Board reviewed the written policy for payroll disbursement. Ricky Damren made a motion to approve of the current policy. Bruce Plourd seconded the motion. **CLOSED 4/0/1 ABSENT (CHRIS MERROW)**

10. The Town Manager stated Bruce Galouch had looked at the boiler at the Center For All Seasons and reported back in December of 2008, that the cost could run up to \$3,000, but he was not sure, because there are some unknowns until he splits it apart to see what the damage is to the boiler. It was not put together tightly initially and this has caused water to leak, exhaust to leak, which in turn could have damaged a section of the boiler that is not under warranty if this is the case. Ricky Damren made a motion to authorize an amount up to \$3,000 from the Recreation Capital Reserve Account to be utilized for the investigation into the repairs of the boiler at the Center. Bruce Plourd seconded the motion. **CLOSED 4/0/1 ABSENT (CHRIS MERROW)**

11. Ricky Damren made a motion to authorize the town office to be able to perform registrations for the Town of Vienna, while there Town clerk is on vacation. Bruce Plourd seconded the motion. **CLOSED 4/0/1 ABSENT (CHRIS MERROW) (Please see the attached letter of request)**

12. The Town manager stated there was no authority to trade property owned by the town, until this year's town meeting. Article # 13 gives the authority to convey the property as the Board of Selectpersons deem in the best interest of the Town. Bruce Plourd asked what offer had been made and suggested perhaps the town may want to make another offer on the property up to \$30,000. After some discussion, Bruce Plourd made a motion to authorize the Town Manager to make an offer of \$29,000 and to not go any higher than \$30,000 for the property adjacent to the Town's Transfer station. Ricky Damren made a motion to second the motion. **CLOSED 4/0/1 ABSENT (CHRIS MERROW)**

13. The board reviewed **Municipal Warrant # 14** for the amount of **\$455,628.35**. Melanie Jewell made a motion to approve of **Municipal Warrant # 14** for the amount of **\$455,628.35**. Bruce Plourd seconded the motion. **CLOSED 4/0/1 ABSENT (CHRIS MERROW)**

14. The Board reviewed **Manual Warrant # 2382** for the amount of **\$7,579.10**. Dan Newman made a motion to approve of **Manual Warrant # 2382** for the amount of **\$7,579.10**. Ricky Damren seconded the motion. **CLOSED 4/0/1 ABSENT (CHRIS MERROW)**

Updates & Announcements:

- Town Manager Updates (**please see the attached updates**)

Melanie Jewell made a motion to adjourn at 9:55 p.m.. Bruce Plourd seconded the motion. **CLOSED 4/0/1 ABSENT (CHRIS MERROW)**

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Vogel, Executive Secretary to the Board of Selectpersons