

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMISSION


BRANFORD TOWN CLERK

MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, April 10, 2024

Present: Chairman Muniz; Commissioners Aitro, Muhlbauer, Heyman, Plunket, Galambos;
Sustainability Manager Bowne

1. Chairman Muniz called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm via Zoom
2. Chairman Muniz made a motion to revise the agenda to discuss the budget first. K Galambos seconded, unanimously approved.
3. Budget
 - a. The total increase in the proposed SWMC budget for 2024-2025 is 2.4%, which is an improvement from previous years.
 - b. There are minimal increases, most of which are a result of contractual terms. Also, some items were moved into different lines based on our new contracts.
 - c. The cost modeling that we used in the new contracts is working out very well, and in most cases our costs are running lower than the higher estimates.
 - d. The Finance Committee has already approved the proposed budget, and it will be voted on by the RTM on April 25
 - e. K Galambos made a motion to approve the SWMC 2024-2025 proposed draft budget, R Aitro seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
4. Thimble Island Pick-Up
 - a. The RFP has been posted on the Town website. The contract runs from Memorial Day to Columbus Day. The bids are due on May 2. So far two vendors have expressed interest.
 - b. The current vendor is not interested in bidding, but will continue to serve until the summer. Chairman Muniz will follow up.
5. Program Operations: see attached reports for December 2023, February & March 2024
 - a. Recycling Material Costs and Metrics
 - i. Because we have single-stream recycling, there is more plastic in the loads. The plastic is bulky and takes up a lot of space in the rolloff dumpsters. Accordingly, hauling costs are higher because more frequent trips to the reprocessing center are needed, although the weight/load is less. Compaction is not currently an option. This will be monitored and considered when the next contracts are due.
 - b. Curbside Collection Performance Update
 - c. Transfer Station Performance and Practices Update
6. Manager Bowne announced that he will be leaving and thanked Chairman Muniz and the Commission for their help and support since he was hired. All Commissioners thanked him for his excellent work and wished him good luck in his new job.
7. K Galambos made a motion to adjourn, Chairman Muniz seconded, passed unanimously. Chairman Muniz adjourned the meeting at 6:28 pm. The next meeting of the SWMC will be on May 15 at 6:00 pm.