

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, February 12, 2025

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*Noel E. Arpin*  
BRANFORD TOWN CLERK

**Present:** Chairman Muniz; Commissioners K Galambos, H Heyman, R Aitro, H Plunkett, and T Muhlburger; Sustainability and Compliance Manager T Bowne

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm.
2. R Aitro moved to approve the minutes of Dec 2024, H Heyman seconded, approved unanimously.
3. Program Operations:
  - a. T Bowne reviewed the January 2025 TS Report
  - b. Recycling Material Costs and Metrics
    - i. Monthly fluctuations in the number of tires are normal due to the pick-up schedule. Residents are allowed to drop off 4 tires per day with no charge. The Town does not receive any reimbursement for tires
    - ii. The volume of food scraps went up, current cost from Blue Earth is \$73/week.
  - c. Curbside Collection Performance Update
    - i. There is a steady increase in the amount of MSW, reflecting more tonnage plus more loads. Discussion on why this is happening because we expected that, under the new contract, MSW would go down while recycling would go up. There are more households now, but there is also a concern whether condo haulers may be adding commercial trash. Chairman Muniz asked T Bowne to investigate condo tipping practices and indicate if haulers may be bundling multi condo allowances.
    - ii. Recycling volume is also going up. The Single Stream recycling charge/ton is \$81.55, less than last month.
    - iii. Construction demolition is going down as expected with new fees being charged
4. Old Business
  - a. Thimble Islands collection: The current vendor will no longer provide service after the contract expires at the end of the fiscal year. There are two options: 1) put the job out to bid, or 2) consider a rebate similar to the condo rebate. Commissioner Muniz will discuss with the First Selectman and the RTM representative for the Thimble Islands.
  - b. T Bowne will investigate whether the trash vendor got the truck that was expected by contract
5. New Business
  - a. Budget
    - i. Most of the budget lines remain the same as last year.
    - ii. Lines that contain contractual increases: Regular Salaries and Raises, Refuse & Recycling, Condo Rebates
    - iii. The Material Handling increase of 7.78% is due to both contractual increases and tonnage increases
      1. There is a \$20.00 cost difference between Bristol and Preston. The MSW tip fee is going from \$72 up to \$77.49, and the Preston tipping

discount has not yet been offered. The draft budget projects costs for Preston. Chairman Muniz will discuss with the First Selectman.

2. Last year the MSW average tonnage was 138K, this year it is projected at 143K. Discussion on how these numbers were calculated.
  3. Other costs are also going up: tires, freon higher, Blue Earth
  4. Bulky waste is projected to be down, from 1300 tons last year to 1235 tons, with no change in unit cost
  5. The Recycling projection remains the same, but the price is higher this year, from \$98.80 to \$102.75. However, we have not paid over \$81.50 at any time since the new contract started.
- iv. The Town budgeted to put \$250,000 into a sinking fund for future equipment needs. However, this may be reduced for this year. R Aitro suggested it not be reduced unless asked
  - v. R Aitro made a motion to approve the draft budget, H Heyman seconded, approved unanimously.
6. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 7:05 pm. The next meeting of the SWMC is scheduled for March 12, 2025.