

Town of Westmore

54 Hinton Hill Road

Municipal Building

August 5th 2025 at fellowship hall

6pm Select Board Meeting about recycle

Special Select Board Meeting Minutes

Anyone wishing to speak must be signed in and acknowledged by the chair before speaking. You must also identify yourself before speaking. We want to hear from you, but need the understanding that time during meetings is limited thus very important to us as a board making decisions for the town. Please keep comments or statements concise and to the point. Time limits may be set if public comments dominate large portions of time.

In attendance: David Stevens (board chair), Bill Perkins, Miriam Simonds, Isaiah Casey, Elaine Cashin, Dan Sicard, John Zimmer, Peggy Zimmer, Carol Davis, Paul Tomasi (NEKWMD), Tyler Valley, Olivia Bernard, Austin Sicard, Barry and Carrol Guitar, Laurie Lakin, Chris Houck, Kelly Casey, Carol Casey, Irene Badger, David Pasackow, Britta Milks, Andrew Zebrowski, Carmen Anderson, Angelo Rizzo, Randy Knaggs

In attendance by zoom: Donna Dzugas

At 6:00pm David called the meeting to order.

Bill Perkins started with some meeting outlines, and explained why we were having this special meeting as recycling is going through the roof.

John outlined the costs. A lot of the zero sort is the big cost here. Big cost out and no money coming in to offset that. In 2021 it was 28k in recyclables and in 2025 the first six months were 33k. And every 6 months recycling is going up by 7%.

Options spoken of were dial back on pick ups but not much in cost change.

Stop picking up recycling and if we do that according to Paul we cannot pick up trash either.

Residents can sort and bring down to Transfer Station and sort and recycle will go to WKMD= big cost savings. But people must sort their own recyclables. The guys down there will assist but cannot sort through everyone's stuff. People that want curbside pick up are more than welcome to hire their own company ex myer, cassella, zack chayer etc.

Paul explained with recycle if we buy trash bags then the land fill kicks money back to help pay for recycle but that is not the case if you are using zero sort. The pick ups cost the town then tipping zero sort then trucking to facility in Burlington then the actual sort; so a lot of man money.

Prepared by Isaiah Casey from August 5th

NEKWMD will take it much cheaper but the residents would need to do the work on their own recycle to save. Paul stated he believes Westmore is the last town in the NEKWMD district to do curb side trash and recycle. People got out of it due to the burden of taxes. It was brought up and can handle a huge influx of recycling. Paul said Westmore is on every other week pick up if needed weekly he could pick up from the transfer station weekly. They can handle what we send.

Paul also said if the trash bag costs are set right and people use the NEKWMD recycle area at transfer station should be able to cover costs for transfer station completely and possibly bring small revenue. Currently it is a tax payer burden and bag prices have gone up, why its costly for curb side pick up and its costly for zero sort recycling.

Carrol Guitar asked if it was true plastics not paying? Paul said not true at all certain plastics less than others but glass being least profitable.

Barry Guitar asked can they sort versus using zero sort, yes absolutely bring to transfer station and sort.

Laurie Lakin sees a lot of trash and contamination in recycling. It is an education thing to be educated to clean then recycle.

Peggy Zimmer asked if we got every one to sort could we keep picking up. No- as Act 148 we cannot pick up trash unless we pick up recycling. And it's too much to ask the small crew to help and educate people coming in and unloading and sorting a whole 1 ton truck load. You wouldn't be saving enough and the cost would increase more if you had to have them sort all the bags.

Paul mentioned there are about 6 used categories for plastics so it gets tricky.

Chris Houck asked could we make it simpler like color sorted bins and/or if you just simply don't want to sort can we buy bags to use for zero sort recycle?

Paul said right now he estimates 20% of the town is using private haulers to pick up trash and recycle.

Kelly Casey asked if we could combine routes but not enough room in the truck to do that.

Barry Guitar, asked to clarify- can we continue curb side trash you must continue curb side recycle , part of act148.

David Pasackow may consider the sticker price of bags to go up to offset costs.

Britta, how invested are we in keeping the curb side, and keeping the transfer station. We are at a good point to drop it. I don't think you would ever get out of the transfer station.

Laurie Lakin, still an option to buy a bag or weigh at the station if no more curb side is correct? Yes.

Olivia Bernard: Is this a cut and dry or can we go with partial options? We can go with partial options but regarding the curb side pick up; if you get rid of one you get rid of all. Rest can be trial and error, or , partial swaps. For example, you can charge for recycling bags and keep zero sort for them and the rest of people who don't want to pay for it can come sort on their own.

Prepared by Isaiah Casey from August 5th 2025 Special recycling meeting 2

Can we threaten to go somewhere else for recycling and see if Casella wants to drop rates? Well we can but they have a monopoly on it as they own the landfills, they own recycle centers and trucking and dumpsters etc.

David Pasackow asked if we eliminate the pick up would the 3% remain on the tax bill? Yes, would bag fees change? Possibly to bring bag fees up to eventually not have the 3% but it takes time to get that up and balanced so not on tax payers.

Donna Dzugas asked what do other towns do that don't have a transfer station facility? Paul responded that people are responsible to hire their own private hauler.

John said currently 3.621 cents per 100 is the cost each property pays on in tax to transfer stations. That average \$82 per year.

Isaiah Casey asked Paul why WKMD received the check for the scrap metal at our transfer station. Paul said that's how it was set up years ago. He supplies the metal dumpster they put money towards the budget to keep rates low on pick up costs.

Isaiah motioned to adjourn at 7:37pm Bill seconded. Motion passed

Executive session:NONE

Peter motioned to adjourn at 8:05 pm Mirium seconded

David Stevens (Board chair)



Peter Hyslop (*Vice chair*)

Bill Perkins



Miriam Simonds



Isaiah Casey



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