

Town of Westmore VT
Selectboard meeting
Fellowship Hall
Sept 25, 2025
6:00 PM.

Select Board Meeting Minutes
Special Trash and Recycle Meeting

Attendance in person:

Bill Perkins, Miriam Simonds, Isaiah Casey, Elaine Cashin, Dan Sicard, John Zimmer, Audra Pitts (NDE), Ellie Majchrzak, Joanne Desposito, Kathleen Aldrich, Timothy Aldrich, Ron Dunsford, Steve Lewis, Gail Spears, Rosemarie Lunier, Mari Harter, Carolyn Ryzewicky, Mary D., Bill McGuire, Ryan Lauria, Carol Davis, Greg & Midge Gallagher, Bruce Wheeler, Deb Smith, Frank Jantschek, Caleb Lefebvre, Christopher Levy, Larry Perkins, Paul Tomasi, Kris Willey MLC, Carmen Anderson, Carol Casey, Susan Blackstone, Mary McCarthy, Martha McDaniel, Stephen Plume, Katherine Busby, Jason Waring, Cindy Sweet, Bob Fitzpatrick, Ann Dugin, Kelly Casey.

Attendance on zoom:

Jason and Britta Milks, Donna Dzugan, Nick Page, Kristen Farrell

Call to order: Bill called meeting to order at 6:00pm

Bill turned the meeting over to John to explain his presentation on the financials. John said revenue is down but usage for recycling is way up. Usage of trash is down. Costs are up. On a \$100,000 budget, 3% overhead, 23% pickup costs, 30% transfer station labor, 44% disposal cost. Of the 44% 30% is recycled, 8% household trash, 6% construction debris.

Recycling has tripled in 3 years.
Household trash down 10%.

Bill McGuire asked if pick up is stopped about how much will it save, response was about \$33,000 plus if more people use the NEKWMD sorting their own recycling it will be less zero sort more savings.

Martha MC Daniel stated it's kind of a monopoly with only 1 zero sort company. Paul Tomasi stated 1 pickup for NEKWMD is about \$49.00 vs \$400 per dumpster of zero sort.

Mountain Lake Cottages were not in favor of the change.

Robert Fitzpatrick was confused with numbers but it is \$23,000 savings in stopping pickup, plus about an additional \$10,000 saved in labor, for total of \$33,000 saved by stopping the pickup.

Ann Duggan if we used to hire it out for \$40,000 why don't we look at it again?

(Someone didn't state their name) Said I get no other town help, I want to keep it

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Frank Fletcher then why should we not throw everything in trash bags, throw it away and just not recycle. It would be cheaper.

Paul Tomasi replied in Vermont state it is deemed illegal to put recycling in trash. Paul then also mentioned that 90% of the 30% recycling is going through the zero sort that is the reasoning the cost is high. If people sort and bring to the transfer station the cost would drastically go down.

John Zimmer said Westfield is doing it and we are very similar in size to Westfield. In fact if people recycled with the sort for NEKWMD and we keep trash bags prices where they are it wouldn't matter where they come from as we can make this system be self sufficient and not use any tax dollars to operate.

Ron Dunsforth wanted to verify so we are still accepting trash bags and selling for \$5, and recycling is free if sorted at the transfer station. right now the zero sort is still free too but there may be a fee incurred in future.

Bill McGuire if the \$5.00 person bag covers it then why don't we throw the recycling in it too. Well it's illegal to do so.

Jason people from outside Westmore bring our costs up. We need to look into verification of who is using it, also how the truck is allocated as it gets used for more than just trash and recycling pickup. But he agrees with the board stopping pickup and trying to reduce taxes .

Bill McGuire's summer residence gets a big tax bill, and that means they pay their

share. Frank Jantschek asked if the \$23k includes wear, tear, fuel etc on the truck? Yes.

Susan Blackstone stated, elderly need pick up in winter, hard time lifting bags etc. private haulers are available.

Paul Tomasi said he misspoke at the last meeting, when he said if we don't pick up recycling that we cannot pick up trash. His reasoning was that because we offer recycling at the transfer station we could pick up just trash.

Gil spears asked if the transfer station open 2 days a week in summer can we expand that if needed, and could we possibly get the 2 days a week from May 1st through Columbus day? Can be discussed later.

Katherinerine Busby we need to encourage recycling and not dumping or burning of trash and recycling as those are prohibited by law.

Donna Dzugas complained she is more often getting increased taxes, with less services and she doesn't feel it is right and with a 14%tax increase she thinks we should continue pickup.

John stated again Westfield is similar in size, no pickup, pay per bag on trash and owner separates own recycling, and there is zero dollars coming out of taxes to fund their transfer station.

Paul stated that Act 148 was made to make recycling happen but if bags are priced properly the trash will cover the cost of disposal of both trash and recycling. Without taking \$ out of taxes for trash and recycling removal.

Chris Wylie asks why are we here tonight? To discuss why the decision was made and show financial about trash and recycling.

(Some one said but didn't say name) Renters in summer time throw bags out all the time not in green bags. Owners responsibility.

Isaiah Casey also reminded people that if they don't or can't go to a transfer station they can get a private hauler, for example cassella, Zack chayer, or Myers.

Katherine Busby stated again it is very hard for elderly in winter or summer to pick up the bags or move the can.

Jason said composting reusing means trash goes down, recycling will climb, that will mean less green bags sold and less money coming in.

Paul said before your bag price is not high enough to cover costs the whole town would have to recycle, sort at transfer station at least 67% of all waste. Trash never gets to a point of not enough waste to cover it yet that he has seen anywhere.

Susan Blackstone can I still just weigh and pay by weight at the transfer station -yes. She said it's cheaper.

Bill McGuire stood up and stated he wants on the record that the whole Selectboard should be ashamed of themselves. He stated that stopping pickup of trash and recycling is irresponsible and mean spirited.

Deb Smith stated Mr Pizza Man in Lyndon takes bottle redemption it was also pointed out the St. Paul's in Barton and the Boy Scouts do too. Also was discussed why not pick out returnables and return them for revenue, it was done in the past but numbers of bottles went down and cost of labor up so not worth the cost of looking, sorting and then paying workers to bring them to the redemption center.

Jason Waring asked why didn't go to a town vote? It was stated lawyer and VLCT lawyer both said they don't have to as the Select Board has power to do so.

Katherine Busby stated she thinks there should be a town vote.

Bruce Wheeler asked if we were still paying for trash then identification should be considered.

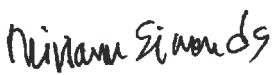
Isaiah motion to adjourn at 7:24pm Bill seconded.

Minutes Prepared by: Isaiah Casey x. 

X David Stevens. (Board chair) .

X Peter Hyslop. (vice chair) .

X Bill Perkins. . 

X Miriam Simmonds. . 

X Isaiah Casey. . 