

**TOWN OF GOSHEN - SPECIAL MEETING - RECYCLING AND TRASH
COMMITTEE**

GOSHEN TOWN HALL CONFERENCE ROOM

02/12/2020 - 6:30 PM - WEDNESDAY

CALL TO ORDER: Bob Valentine, First Selectman, called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

ATTENDANCE: Cynthia Barrett, Garret Harlow, Lucy Hussman, Patrick Reilly, and Bob Valentine - First Selectman. Absent: Chris DeAngelis, and Tom Farrell - Recycling Coordinator. Guest: Rod Zander.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: **IN A MOTION** made by Pat Reilly, seconded by Garret Harlow, **it was VOTED** to approve the minutes of 1/23/2020 as amended with the correction of removing the duplication of *respond to* under Election of Officers. Voted unanimous.

MIRA CONTRACT AND RELATED ISSUES:

Bob Valentine reported that he had shared with the Selectmen, a letter from MIRA (Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority). The letter is attempting to gauge a "statement of interest" in the project to refurbish MIRA's WTE (Waste To Energy) plant and recycling facility to operate for another 30 years. The aggregate cost they project is \$330 million for refurbishment. Major factors are whether the State would help with the cost with "bonding" and incorporating the use of renewable electricity. Bob reported that via this letter, MIRA is trying to determine next steps for this project and whether the current MIRA municipalities would support this development project (which may produce a tipping fee of \$145./ton). They state in this letter their intentions of working with the legislature for various supplement revenue sources to reduce the proposed tipping fee, which would be imposed if this major overhaul of their facilities were to move ahead. MIRA's goal is to be consistent with those of the State to provide in-State disposal options satisfactory to the municipal customers. Goshen is contracted with MIRA, out to fiscal year 2027. MIRA would like to modify that agreement mid-summer, to be a 30-year contract which would change their pricing structure. Members of the RATS were invited to the Board of Selectman meeting on 2/11/2020 to provide their input. Bob also explained that MIRA is the successor to CRRA- (Connecticut Recourses Recovery Authority) which has been taking Goshen's trash for over 40 years then incinerating it and turning it into electricity. MIRA also handles all of our recycling. Bob noted that until recently, the cost for this service, referred to as a "tipping fee" was \$73.00 per ton for every ton delivered to the MIRA facility. Last year 1,351 tons were delivered at a cost to Goshen's tax payers of \$98,623. Starting in July of this

PAGE 2 - 2/13/2020 -RECYCLING AND TRASH COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

year the tipping fee will go up to \$91.00 per ton an increase of \$24,318. By July of 2022 it could be \$145.00 per ton, or an additional \$72,954.00. If that happens, the total tipping fee for trash generated in Goshen will be \$195,885.00, based on last year's total trash tonnage. Discussion was had and Bob will draft a letter to respond to MIRA's Informational Statement of Interest letter.

DISCUSSION ON RECYCLING INITIATIVES: Discussion was had by members on the following recycling initiatives for Goshen:

1. **Education** - Continued development of ways of promoting and educating residents to increase their recycling efforts and to avoid cross contamination by learning what items *should not* be placed in their recycling bin.
2. **Earth Day** - April 22 - Goshen Center School - Bob reported that USA Hauling has agreed to present a program on this day.
3. **School program** - Patrick Reilly reported that a Goshen Center School program on recycling is being worked on.
4. **Goshen Town Topics** - Patrick Reilly volunteered to gather information for the "The Recycle News Times" article for the next Goshen Town Topics.
5. **goshenct.gov/recycling** website development - Cindy Barrett volunteered to begin work on posting updates and announcements regarding recycling on the town website.
6. **Composting bins** - Discussion of promoting using compost bins to decrease food waste to MSW was had. Bob reported that the Goshen Center School utilizes one with the compost being used on their garden.

TOWN TOPICS: Bob shared the draft of the article "The Recycle News Times" which will be included in the next Goshen Town Topics. Two other recycling pages will include guidelines of what can be recycled to help residents. Discussion was had regarding paint recycling (www.paintcare.org), mattress recycling (<https://mattressrecyclingcouncil.org>), plastics recycling (www.plasticfilmrecycling.org), and the recycling events in Goshen which include Household Hazardous Waste Days, Electronics recycling and Shred-it Day.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, March 11, 2020, 6:30 PM, Town Hall Conference Room.

ADJOURNMENT: IN A MOTION made by Patrick Reilly, seconded by Lucy Hussman, it was VOTED to adjourn the meeting at 8 PM. Voted unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Barrett, Secretary

Cynthia Barrett

Attest

Megan Scanlon
Asst Goshen Town Clerk

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