

TCSWMO MEETING
Union Town Office
July 25, 2024
6:30 pm

The following directors were present: Thomas Pitzi, Norman Casas, Henry Hall, Jacob Tobias, Scott Esancy, Dana Philippi, Elaine Porter, Gordon Thebeau, John Shepard, and Lee Shane.

Also present were President David Stanley, Facility Manager, and Gail Philippi, Administrative Assistant.

Tom Pitzi, President opened the meeting at 6:37 pm.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: A motion was made by Norman Casas and seconded by Lee Shane to accept the minutes of the April 25, 2024, meeting. Motion carried with two abstentions.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The checking account balance is \$200,065.75. The Reserve Account balance is \$161,750.87. The total is \$361,816.62. Gail will correct a couple of Assessment payments in QuickBooks so that the Town names show. John Shepard made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report as presented and Norman Casas seconded. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

BOARD REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:

Norman was asked by someone about our holiday schedule. Employees are only paid for days that the Station is scheduled to be open and they are scheduled to work on the actual holiday. If everyone was paid for a Federal holiday it would be \$694.62/day.

The holidays are listed in the Personnel Manual, which is not revisited on a regular basis by the Board. Tom will make a note to look at it by the April meeting.

Norman says everything is looking great.

FACILITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

The scales were calibrated, and no repairs are needed. This is done twice a year by Maine Scale, also by Maine Department of Agriculture. Dana asked about the degree of the scales accuracy. David said the scale measures in 20# increments and it is a 150,000-pound scale. The scale paid for itself in the first year and a half that we had it.

Household Hazardous Waste Day (HHW): We had 65 customers this year, 75 last year. Nothing really exciting came in. Proof of residency is required. The company (EPI) doing the work keeps track of units but not by the gallon. A unit is the equivalent of 20 pounds or 5 gallons. We received 168 units this year. Materials are not combined. PaintCare takes back unused paint in original containers. EPI will take it on HHW at no charge to the customer. They sort it and turn it in. We get a report showing units but not chemicals received. David will check the manifest.

Demo income is strong. David estimates on the conservative side when budgeting for demo. We are getting a lot of non-member town shingles. We remain a popular transfer station as we are clean, customers get waited on and we rarely close. Our fees are very competitive with Midcoast at \$10/100, Midcoast charges \$10 and \$15 for sheet rock. Grimmel takes our demo. St. George and Warren estimate weights as they have no scale.

David will keep an eye on our trash numbers which have gone down. We are at 33% of the estimated income halfway through the year, which is an anomaly. We may be losing trash to dumpsters.

MMA did a site safety inspection for Worker's Comp. This can reduce our rates and involves training. David will work on facility improvements.

Apparel Impact is setting up a route to include Warren and us. David is hopeful that this will be within a couple weeks. If there is not enough volume at the Station, they might relocate to a nearby Town Office. We had Planet Aid in the past.

Union residents get a tax break as we don't pay property taxes. Yesterday David had to call 911 for the 3rd time this year and received immediate help from Union Rescue for a woman having a medical emergency.

Ticks – One thing David is doing is keeping the Station mowed, Dana Kennedy mows inside and Merton Moore bushhogs further out. David looked into having the Station treated to prevent ticks, but it is pricy. He contacted Tick Talk in Rockland. They walked the property, and it would be \$650/treatment which they like to do twice a year in the spring and fall. David would have them do the area where employees work. Tick Talk does have the highest ratings. David has had them spray at his property in Rockport. David will check on the main chemical ingredient again and get a second quote. He'll find out if we should start in the fall or wait until next spring.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Lee Shane nominated, and John Shepard seconded Tom Pitzi for **President**.

John Shepard nominated, and Scott Esancy seconded Lee Shane for **Vice President**.

Lee Shane nominated, and Norman Casas seconded Jacob Tobias for **Secretary**.

Lee Shane nominated, and Norman Casas seconded Henry Hall for **Treasurer**.

Lee made a motion to re-elect and vote everyone in as a group and Scott seconded, motion carried. Tom called it to a vote, the motion passed.

ScrapDogs: Lee made a motion to move this topic to the next meeting when Sarah Bullard is here. We are still waiting for paperwork from ScrapDogs.

Tom reported that the Town of Palermo worked out an agreement with China so they will stay there. We do need to discuss what we will do if a member town wants to leave, or a new town comes in.

Lee suggested incorporating it with looking at the Personnel Policy. Tom reported that Roger Therriault said that it is ultimately up to the Board how much we charge. The value of the asset being bought into or exiting from is part of it. A question is how it is calculated. Gail will research old minutes and scan up to 5 pages from when Palermo originally joined TCSW.

Scott asked if there is a Waiver of Liability for volunteers coming in and helping at the Station. David will call MMA.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was discussion about if we can do something with our money. David talked with our bank Camden National Bank (CNB). They have a 12-month CD for 4.56% with an APY 4.65% and also has a savings account now paying 4%. Lee recently opened a CD for 6 months for 5% at 5 County Credit Union.

Tom suggested going on a staggered approach starting with \$30,000. Gail suggested getting two \$15,000 CDs instead of one larger one. Henry said that savings accounts are insured by the bank, but CDs are not. You can also have various length CDs.

Norman suggested putting the whole \$160,000 into a CD for 3 months and revisiting this in our October meeting. We could also come up with an equipment replacement list.

Tom will talk with CNB on Friday 7/26/24.

Lee Shane made a motion to move the Reserve Account total to a higher yield savings account asap and once completed, move \$50,000 into a 6-month CD which may entail moving that to another institution. Scott Esancy seconded. Norman Casas called the question. Motion passed with one abstention.

David said within the next year or year and a half we might need a new roll off. It will probably be 2026 before we need a trailer. He doesn't know about the backhoe. It runs well but is starting to show its age. Scott asked about leasing and can we explore this a bit further. We would always have new equipment that gets serviced. Scott will get names and phone #s to David. Tom said leasing is usually for a tax advantage that we don't get.

Scott asked about purchasing more land. David will talk with Jim Murphy the Town of Union Assessor about exactly what we own.

OLD BUSINESS:

Bradley Leeman filed suit against us about a year ago. He decided to represent himself as no lawyer would take his case. We filed for summary judgment and dismissal. That request was granted by the Court. He can appeal as the court decision was made with no prejudice. Our \$2,000 insurance deductible covered this our legal fees. Dana reported an encounter with Bradley Leeman at the Station.

The Second Quarterly Financial reports and the July warrant were previously emailed or delivered at the meeting.

The next meeting is October 24th in Washington.

The Preliminary Budget meeting is December 19th in Appleton.

The Final Budget meeting is January __ in Liberty.

Scott Esancy made a motion and Lee Shane seconded to adjourn at 8:12 pm.

Submitted by, Gail Philippi, Administrative Assistant