MINUTES FROM 04/07/2015

SPECIAL MEETING OF SELECTBOARD

**PRESENT:** Steve Aubin (Chairman), Alton Bruso, Robert Creller, Bernard Savage, Amy Erno Mashtare, Donna Bohannon

**GUESTS:** John Beaulac, Terry Tatro, Jamie Gotshall, Heidi Gotshall, Fred Schuler, Corinne Russin, James (Bubby) Irick, John Goodrich

**6:00PM: OPEN MEETING:** Meeting opened at 6:00pm by Chairman Steve Aubin

**ADJUST THE AGENDA (if needed):** No adjustments

**TRANSFER STATION DISCUSSION:** Steve opened the meeting by explaining to all present that this was going to be an open meeting to discuss the future of the Alburgh Transfer Station. He then proceeded to open the floor for visitor input and questions.

**VISITOR INPUT:**

* Jamie Gotshall began by asking the Board what the plans for the Transfer Station are. Chairman Aubin stated that one of the first things that is being planned is the purchase of a scale so that pricing can be changed over to a weight based system. There was agreement among the majority that if the Town is being charged by weight to ship the trash out of the Transfer Station that it would make sense to be charging by weight. Chairman Aubin informed the group that the cost of the scale was going to be approximately $1,400 and that includes the scale, the printer, and the computer.
* John Beaulac asked what the projected cost of a fifty pound bag would be – Amy Erno Mashtare replied that it would figure up to $9.00 for a bag that weighed fifty pounds based on the formula that the State uses. Mr. Beaulac replied that if that same fifty pound bad was picked up at the curb, it would cost $3.85 so why would anyone pay $9.00 to bring it to the Transfer Station when they could pay less than $4.00 to have it picked up. Mrs. Mashtare replied that curb side prices will be increasing with the new laws and that the purpose of the laws is to encourage people to recycle. The less weight they have in their bag, the less money it will cost them.
* Terry Tatro wanted to know if anyone knew what it would cost to shut the Transfer Station down. Mrs. Mashtare replied that if it was to be shut down the Town would never be able to open it again.
* Frank Shuler stated that he thought the Transfer Station made a profit for the Town. There were several people that replied that it did not make a profit, it was costing the taxpayers more money in their taxes. It was then stated that if there were certain things put in place, the scales for example, then it could potentially break even or begin to produce revenue for the Town.
* There was more discussion about the scales and how the Board would calculate what the rate per pound would be.
* Jamie Gotshall asked if the Transfer Station was going to be able to accept brush and stumps. Chairman Aubin replied that after July 1st of this year Transfer Stations will not be able to burn wood but will still be required to accept most wood. This will mean that someone at the Transfer Station will have to chip the wood or arrangements will have to be made for the wood to be picked up. He also informed the public that the Transfer Station will be able to charge for the wood to be left there.
* Mr. Beaulac stated that when he was a Selectman it was determined that there is enough room at the Transfer Station, toward the back, that brush and other wood debris could easily be piled there for years without interfering with the surrounding area or the Transfer Station business.
* There was a question about who would be the person that would run the chipper if that is what the Board choses to do. Mrs. Mashtare stated that she could run the chipper. There was some discussion about training and liability pertaining to that topic.
* Heidi Gotshall asked if the public will be able to bring everything, including construction debris to the Transfer Station. Mrs. Mashtare replied that those items are accepted now but without a drive on scale it is difficult to charge people accurately for what they bring in.
* Mrs. Gotshall asked the Board how much money will be saved by switching to the scales. Chairman Aubin replied that at the moment there will need to be money transferred from the General Fund to cover the expenses of the Transfer Station but that the goal is to make the Transfer Station self-sustained. He also stated that a $1,400 scale would be a good investment.
* Mr. Gotshall suggested that the Town invest in a garbage truck of their own and haul the trash rather than paying someone else to haul it. There were a couple of people that responded that they had thought of the same thing in the past and that it will be something to consider.
* Mrs. Gotshall stated that there should be a cost analysis done comparing the cost of various options so that an informed decision could be made.
* Mr. Tatro stated that citizens should be responsible for their own trash. If the Town shut down the Transfer Station people would have to hire their own garbage company and be responsible for their own garbage.
* James (Bubby) Irick stated that he just wants to be able to continue to bring stumps to the Transfer Station.
* There was some discussion about the dumpsters and compactors that are currently being used and what their condition is. Some of the equipment is getting old and falling apart.
* Chairman Aubin stated that there is $21,000 added in to the budget for the building of a new storage building. He thought that the Board should consider purchasing a larger dumpster.
* Mr. Beaulac stated that Billy Duchaine could add extra footage on to one of the existing dumpsters in as little as a week if he had the time and supplies. *Chairman Aubin will talk to Billy Duchaine about using the 40 yard dumpster with bad doors and adding half of it to the other 40 yard dumpster to make a 60 yard dumpster.* This will be part of the cost analysis.
* There was a question about how the Town Highway crew would be paid if they were to be the ones to do the work on the dumpsters. This will have to be addressed if this is the route that is chosen.
* Mrs. Mashtare stated that the Transfer Station shipped 408 tons of garbage last year.
* Mr. Beaulac stated that if the charge per pound was to be ten cents, the Transfer Station would be making a profit after paying hauling and tipping fees.
* Mrs. Mashtare stated that one of the things that is needed is a building for the hazmat materials. It was stated that a conex box could be used for this as it is enclosed.
* Mrs. Gotshall inquired about who owns the sweeper/snow blower, the Town of the Village. She stated that the sidewalks were dangerous and that there should be a sander on the back of the machine. There was some discussion about this topic but no decisions were made.
* Chairman Aubin stated that he is aware that the Transfer Station is costly to maintain but that the Board is taking steps to streamline the operations and make it more profitable to run.
* Mr. Tatro stated that when the cost analysis is done that they should do an analysis of what it would cost to shut it down as well.

**ADJOURN:** *At 7:20pm Alton Bruso motioned to adjourn – seconded by Robert Creller – all in favor – motion carried – meeting adjourned*

Respectfully submitted,

Donna L. Bohannon

Alburgh Town Clerk

Please note the above minutes HAVE NOT been approved. Approval or changes to the minutes will be addressed at the next meeting, currently scheduled for April 14th, 2015