

MINUTES
COUNCIL FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2015
4:00 P.M. – Municipal Building / Council Chamber A

1. Call to Order. Shawn Babine, Finance Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Finance Committee Members present – Peter Hayes and Shawn Babine and William Donovan; also present were Thomas Hall, Town Manager, Mike Shaw, Public Works Director & various Department Heads.

Public Comment: S. Babine, Finance Chair opened the floor for public comment at 4:01 p.m.

Public Comment was closed by S. Babine, Finance Chair at 4:02 p.m. with no comments from the public.

2. Approval of Minutes. Motion by W. Donovan, seconded by P. Hayes, to move approval to except the minutes of January 14, 2015, Finance Committee meeting.
Motion passed: Vote – 3 Yeas.

3. Discussion Items.

a. Review and Discussion of the Solid Waste Management

1. M. Shaw, Public Works Director gave an overview of the Solid Waste Management Program. M. Shaw stated that the curbside program began in the spring of 2007. The Town's recycling average before the inception of the automated curbside program was at 19% and has increased to 32% to date. The cost of solid waste recycling in the Public Works budget was 1.6 million and is now 1.3 million. The curbside recycling portion is carried out by the current contractor Pine Tree Waste at a cost of \$378,000 annually.
2. M. Shaw, Public Works Director explained that the tipping fee portion is the cost per tonnage to Ecomaine. The cost was \$88 per ton and now are \$77 per ton for disposal. That is where our garbage is disposed of through incinerating to generate electricity that generates revenues for Ecomaine, therefore the town one of the owner communities. The special waste disposal cost annually are \$130,000 and \$57,000 cost for the silver bullets. Three times a year the town does hazardous waste disposal for Scarborough residents in conjunction with two other municipalities.
3. M. Shaw, Public Works Director stated that in the past year we have instituted the RFIE tagging program for the carts that associates the carts with a the parcel not with a person. Therefore allowing Public Works to know where the carts are and that they stay with the correct parcel. All carts stay with that parcel and do not move from one home to the other within Scarborough. The tagging system insures that the carts stay with the appropriate parcel. The carts were projected to have a minimum life-span of ten years but are going to last well beyond that timeframe. Public Works budgets \$14,000 annually for cart

purchases for new homes. As well Public Works repairs carts that are repairable and uses the funds to replace those that are not salvageable. M. Shaw stated that the cost of recycling for a year is a total of \$780,000 annually for just trash.

4. Miscellaneous/ special waste disposal line consists of \$6800 is the actual cost to the Town for Public Works to dispose of materials that may be left at turn-a-rounds on the side of the road etc. If we didn't have the other means in place such as bulky waste etc. the cost would be significant to the Town.
5. M. Shaw, Public Works Director stated this is just a quick snapshot of the cost to provide solid waste disposal and recycling to the community and what is received for the funds spent.

b. Review and Discussion of Ecomaine

1. Kevin Roch of Ecomaine gave an overview of the company from its inception to the present date. Mr. Roch stated that the Mission of Ecomaine is to provide a comprehensive long-term solid waste solutions in a safe, environmentally responsible, economically sound manner, and is a leader in raising public awareness of sustainable waste management and strategies. Through the public awareness the public learns what the programs consist of and how to go about using them. If the public is unaware of the programs and how to utilize them then they will never use the programs.
2. Mr. Roch stated that at the core of the Ecomaine mission lies a commitment to environmental sustainability that rests on the Waste Hierarchy. The foundation of Ecomaine is built on the state of Maine's Waste Hierarchy:
 - Reduce
 - Reuse
 - Recycle
 - Compost
 - Waste to Energy
 - Landfill

Ecomaine is governed by a Board of Directors that consists of 29 members serving 20 communities. They have 53 member communities in total with 20 owner communities of which Scarborough is one the rest are either associate members or contracted communities.

3. Mr. Roch informed the committee that Ecomaine has three facilities:
 1. Single-Sort Recycling
 2. Waste-to-Energy
 3. Ashfill/Landfill

4. Mr. Roch stated that Scarborough received a rebate in FY15 in the amount of \$110,000.
5. Ecomaine takes down the turbine every 5 years to be refurbished in the hopes that it will run another 25 years.
6. Lastly the Ecomaine Board of Directors has sent a message loud and clear that the priority is cost reduction to the member communities.
7. S. Babine inquired if Mr. Roch could elaborate more on the Capital Improvements that the Ecomaine Board has set in place. Mr. Roch stated that ten years ago the board made a commitment to first and foremost to improve performance. 1. Ecomaine had to prospect enough waste to keep the boilers going at full capacity and performing. 2. To reduce cost by prospecting more waste. In order to keep the performance up and run at capacity Ecomaine must continue to put improvements back into the boiler in order to continue the performance. In the future Ecomaine plans to improve pollution control performance by continued investment. All of these improvements costs money but are necessary to keep performance at a very high level.

On the liability side a reserve account has been set-up as of FY15 in the amount of \$1 million to prepay a necessary landfill closure. Ecomaine has a five year plan in place continuing to put funds into the reserve account for this purpose.

8. P. Hayes, Councilor inquired as to how long is the turbine off line and is there a cost to the Town for those 5 or 6 weeks? Mr. Roch stated that Ecomaine budgets for any down time.
9. T. Hall, Town Manager stated that the Town has had great results since the 2007 implementation of the Single Sort curbside recycling program. The residents have participated in making the program a success by embracing the recycle concept totally. The program is wholly supported by the taxpayer in the amount of \$800,000 annually. The Town is researching ways to increase the participation in recycling while also lowering the cost to the tax dollar. A Pay-As-You-Throw program would be one option to consider.

c. Review and Discussion of Pay-As-You-Throw (Waste Zero)

1. John Campbell of Waste Zero gave an overview of the Pay-As-You-Throw program his company provides. The company works with 800 cities and towns that use the bag program. The mission statement of company is to cut trash in half in the USA. Waste Zero has been in business since 1991 with the headquarters stationed in Raleigh, NC with regional support in New England, the Midwest, and the South.
2. W. Donovan inquired what the most common complaint is and will we have illegal dumping? Mr. Campbell stated the most common complaint is going from free to a charge.

3. P. Hayes inquired how long it would take for Scarborough be up and running if the Town should go with a Pay-As-You-Throw program. Mr. Campbell stated that typically it would take 90 days for a community to be up and running.
4. P. Hayes inquired where the company makes money from this program. Mr. Campbell stated that the company makes its revenues from making and selling communities the bags. We have a program management fee through contracts with the individual communities that are rebid every three years.
5. S. Babine, Finance Chair sees this as different type of billing mechanism instead of paying through the tax bill, a household would pay by purchasing the bags at the grocery store. Residents were reluctant at first when the curbside recycling program was implemented but now are very comfortable with the system. S. Babine stated that it will take a lot of outreach and education to the taxpayers in order for them to be comfortable with a new system.
6. S. Babine, Finance Chair stated that the Finance Committee should review all of the information for the next finance committee meeting. At the next meeting S. Babine would like the committee to give the Town Manager direction if the program should be presented to the Town Council or be considered in future years.
7. T. Hall, Town Manager stated that there are different classes of taxpayers who are assisting through taxes in paying for curbside recycling that do not receive the benefit of using the program. Those taxpayers are Commercial Industrial, condominium residents and residents who live on private ways.

4. Future Meeting & Agenda Items.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 25 at 4:00 p.m.

- . Pay-As-You-Throw
- . County Government discussion with County Commissioner & County Manager

5. Adjourn. Motion by W. Donovan, seconded by P. Hayes, to adjourn at 4:25 p.m.
Motion passed: Vote – 3 Yeas.

Respectfully Submitted
Colette A. Mathieson
Recording Secretary