

Casco-Naples Transfer Station Council

Minutes

June 9, 2022

Council Members Present:

Priscilla Kyle, Kate Chute, Caleb Humphrey, and Jerome Poulin. Two vacant positions (1 from each community) for Casco and Naples have yet to be filled.

Staff Present:

Casco Town Manager Tony Ward, and Naples Town Manager John Hawley. John Kimball was absent, and the assistant facility manager position is still vacant.

Public Present:

Bill Chute
George Klauber
Matt Libby

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Caleb Humphrey.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Kate motioned to accept the meeting minutes from March 17, 2022. Priscilla seconded the motion, and an affirmative vote was cast.

Public Participation

Caleb opened the floor for public comment. There was none.

Old Business

Facility Manager's Report - *John Hawley reported on John Kimball's behalf.*

Accounting Software – After John Hawley and Towny Ward met with the software sales representative, it was determined not to purchase the update at this time. The impression was that the expensive cost would only update the existing software and not necessarily offer better application. It was decided that hiring the software company to come and do more focused training before updating may be more appropriate. The Council agreed with this approach. No action was taken, and Tony and John will continue to work on this.

Facility Assistant Manager – Jason Perfect resigned from his position as the assistant facility manager in April. His job has been advertised, but only three interested people have submitted applications to date. Tony stated that the search would continue until a suitable candidate was found.

New Business

PUBLIC HEARING

Facility Improvements Bond – There were no questions from those in attendance. John

updated the group to say that Naples has already had their town meeting, and the funding has been approved, contingent upon the referendum approval by both towns on June 14th. Tony stated that the bonding amount was included in Casco's referendum question, and we will know on Tuesday night if the project passes.

Priscilla asked the time frame for work if the project was approved. John stated that the plan is to work with Sebago Tech to draft the construction documents and prepare for bidding. However, he expressed concern about the current construction environment, the small number of contractors bidding on work, and the high cost of the bid proposals being returned for other work the towns have put out. Tony gave an example of a recent bid project that has come in much higher the estimated initially. John said we will still bid now but may have to reject bids if they are too high and rebid at a future date.

There were no other comments from those in attendance.

New Fee Schedule – John reviewed the proposed fees based on John Kimball's research regarding what other facilities charge for specific items. These include freon items, electronic devices, couches, recliners, mattresses, and box springs. John Kimball made recommendations based on the averages that the other facilities are charging. There was some discussion about whether coupons would also be collected on top of the surcharge. The Council felt that, yes, the surcharge should be on top of coupon collection because if not, we would essentially eliminate the coupon fee charged to people who do not have coupons to use. John Kimball had expressed concern about the software's ability to intake the additional fee, so more investigation with the software company would be needed to add the surcharge option. Tony mentioned that we would also need to look at the agreement with the Town of Otisfield to ensure they would be on board with the additional fees. Currently, the town pays that bill for their residents, and they may not have budgeted for the increase. They would need to decide if they as a town would be taking on the expense or if it would be passed on to their citizens. John will check with Otisfield.

There were no other comments from those in attendance.

Kate motioned to approve the new fees as a surcharge with the coupons but to table the implementation date until some of these additional concerns have been addressed. Priscilla second, and the motion passed.

Other Business

Matt Libby asked if he could take the donated cans and bottles left at the facility on behalf of an organization to which he belongs. The snowmobile club that has been doing it for their group has stated that they are no longer interested in managing the collection. Matt's organization is the Maine Raptor and Falconry Conservation. Tony noted that he had also received a Casco Raymond Historical Society request to do the same. The Council thought it could start with Matt's group and that other organization should submit a letter of interest. Then an alternating monthly collection schedule could be created to share the opportunity.

Priscilla motioned to allow the Maine Raptor and Falconry Conservation to take over the bottle collection activity at the facility. It received a second from Kate and was passed by the Council.

It was also suggested that a sign be installed at the collection site to identify who the bottles would benefit at the time. All agreed.

Tony talked about the Town of Casco's interest in considering the installation of a solar field on the closed landfill portion of the facility. Revision Energy would do the building at no cost. After six years, the town would have the ability to purchase the field, at which point the electricity generated would cover Casco's electric bills, and the surplus energy would be sold back to the grid. Discussion between the Town and Revision will continue, and Tony will update at future meetings.

There was a request for some gravel to be placed at the transfer station area to fill some potholes. Tony will call Genest to deliver some, and Matt Libby will get it spread with the facilities loader.

Kate asked if Casco had appointed another person to fill the vacancy created when Holly Hancock left the Council. Tony stated that he believed he had a person who would be willing to serve and that the appointment should be made by his Select Board very soon.

It was brought up that Jerome Poulin's term will expire in the next few days, and he has opted not to seek reelection. Jerome stated he has been on the Council since 1979 and was thanked for his dedicated decades of service. He will be missed.

The next meeting will be on October 6, 2022, at 6 PM at the Naples Town Office. However, the Council may be asked to attend a meeting sooner if their guidance is needed for the facility improvement project.

Kate made a motion to adjourn at 7:39 PM, seconded by Jerome. It was so voted.