

**MINUTES**  
**FREEPORT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING #17-20**  
**FREEPORT TOWN HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
**TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2020**  
**6:30 PM**

This meeting was held online/virtually, using Zoom teleconferencing.

<b><u>ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:</u></b>	<b>PRESENT</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>	<b>EXCUSED</b>
John Egan, 38 Curtis Road (Chair)	x		
Eric Horne, 62 Pine Street	x		
Henry Lawrence, 93 Hunter Road	x		
Daniel Piltch, 25 Quarry Lane	x		
Douglas Reighley, 2 Harbor Ridge Road	x		
Sarah Tracy, 2 Pettengil Road	x		
Tawni Whitney, 56 Baldwin Road (Vice Chair)	x		

Chair Egan called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. via zoom and welcomed everyone. He explained the process that will be followed for members of the public who wish to participate this evening. He took the roll. All Councilors were present along with Town Manager, Peter Joseph.

**FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS:** Pledge of Allegiance

While viewing Vice Chair Whitney's flag, Councilors recited the Pledge.

**SECOND ORDER OF BUSINESS:** To waive the reading of the minutes of Meeting #16-20 held on July 21, 2020 and to accept the minutes as printed.

**MOVED AND SECONDED:** To waive the reading of the minutes of Meeting #16-20 held on July 21, 2020 and to accept the minutes as printed. (Reighley & Lawrence). **ROLL CALL VOTE:** (7 Ayes)

**THIRD ORDER OF BUSINESS:** Announcements

Chair Egan announced:

- **The Freeport Community Library** is now open during the following hours:

Monday 12 p.m. – 5.p.m.

Tuesday 12 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Wednesday 12 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Thursday 12 p.m. – 5 p.m.

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Friday **CLOSED** – Open for curbside 12 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Everyone who enters must wear a mask for the entire visit. If you don't have one, they will provide you with one. The number of people in the building will be limited to **10 patrons**. In order to accommodate as many people as possible, each person will be limited to **30 minutes per visit**. For more details on restrictions, go to the Library's page on the town's website at [www.freeportmaine.com](http://www.freeportmaine.com)

- **NOMINATION PAPERS** will be available July 27<sup>TH</sup> for the November 3, 2020 MUNICIPAL ELECTION for the following offices:

COUNCILOR AT-LARGE – 1 seat  
COUNCILOR DISTRICT 2 – 1 seat  
COUNCILOR DISTRICT 3 – 1 seat  
RSU #5 Board of Directors – 2 seats  
SEWER District Trustees – 2 seats  
WATER District Trustee – 1 seat

Nomination Papers are due back to the Town Clerk's Office no later than 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 9, 2020. For more information, call Freeport Town Clerk Christine Wolfe at 865-4743, Ext. 123 or email [cwolfe@freeportmaine.com](mailto:cwolfe@freeportmaine.com)

**FOURTH ORDER OF BUSINESS:** Information Exchange

Councilor Reighley advised that today the Complete Streets Committee met and after two years of diligent work, they approved their Policy. It is recommended to come to the Council for approval. He is asking that it go before the Ordinance Committee first so it will be given due diligence. For the amount of time they put into it he feels the Council needs to respect the fact that we need to do our fair share of making sure it is the document we would like to have going forward. He congratulated the work the committee did.

Councilor Reighley reported that he actually walked into the Library on Monday and it felt really, really good. At 12:30 there was no line and no wait. Everybody was very cordial. All the safety disinfectant and hand sanitizer were there. The ability to go into the stacks and select a book he likened to going to heaven. While exiting going out, he discovered there is a new outside seating area with Wi-Fi access so people could take time and pick up whatever they brought from the Library and begin to look at it in the comfort of the green space outside.

Chair Egan thanked the Complete Streets Committee and in particular its Chair, Doug Leland who has been very patient and thorough in the process of organizing that Policy Statement. He also thanked Adam Bliss for staffing that committee.

Vice Chair Whitney advised that she has been attending meetings with the Arts and Cultural Group. They are continuing to work hard with thoughts on revitalizing downtown which is a theme she loves to work on. They are working on a grant right now which will be submitted in two days. She pointed out that it is a collaboration with the Town so they are hopeful to get the grant approved which will provide them with some funding to do some different programming throughout 2020-2021.

Councilor Tracy mentioned that she attended the PACTS Executive Committee meeting this morning and wanted to share a couple of items. She explained what PACTS stands for and that it is a regional agency that has all of the Southern Maine and also some Western Maine communities. She shared some excerpts. They have over \$53M of the Cares Act money to distribute and they shared today how they are

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distributing it. She displayed the spreadsheet on the screen and explained each column. Almost \$424,000 will be going to METRO, which we are now a member of. She feels it is important for Freeport to stay cognizant that there is federal funding coming through PACTS and we really need to be into this. Other communities are and we need to identify where there is funding available for us. Sometimes there isn't but sometimes there is.

Councilor Reighley asked her when Concord would be up and running again. She disclosed that they are a client of her employer, Pierce Atwood so she recused herself even though PACTS decided to fund them. Her understanding is that they will be reopened in a couple of months.

Councilor Tracy displayed maps of the PACTS community which she circulated to the Council earlier today. She noted that this is from their draft Civil Rights Plan. A better one will be soon issued. She pointed out that one map shows the percent of population living below the poverty level in all of the communities. Freeport is shown as having 5-10%. She feels it is interesting and that it shows minority populations, elderly populations, English language proficiency, Disability populations, households with no vehicles, foreign-born populations and equitable target areas. She feels it is interesting for Councilors trying to get a sense for where Freeport is relative to its surrounding communities. It is a point of information.

Chair Egan asked Mr. Joseph if this information could be made available as part of the record of this meeting so residents that just caught a glimpse of those maps will have a chance to look at them. Mr. Joseph advised that they could be put up on the Town's website tomorrow. He already has Councilor Tracy's e-mail and she e-mailed the Town Clerk's office as well. Chair Egan thanked Councilor Tracy for sharing this information because that exact dynamic comes up a number of times when in the mid-winter of our budget season anytime there is a mention of school funding, tax burdens, level of Municipal services so it is interesting to see the demographics of the communities around us. This is one of the compelling reasons why we belong to these regional organizations is that we are not on an island here in Freeport. We have to coordinate and be engaged with our surrounding communities for access to resources. Hopefully we will be able to propose some good ideas and engage in projects to access that Cares money PACTS has available. It is really valuable information.

Chair Egan took a moment to remind the public that the Council will have public participation opportunities in the agenda. Coming up after the Town Manager's Report, is the Council's standing order on every single agenda called "Public Comment period" on Non-agenda Items. If anyone is watching on zoom and is frustrated that they can't say something, we do have several elements in the agenda where we can open up the microphone feature and bring you into the Live Access part of the Panelist side of the participants here in our zoom meeting and you will have a chance to speak in live time. We don't turn on the camera for that portion, just the audio. You will have a chance to listen, ask questions and respond to Councilor comments on your item. Later on, we will have an informal discussion about recycling and other waste management topics and we will be able to take some public comments during that period as well. He reminded the public that it is not just one way here of the Council going through the agenda and talking and we will have some participation later on.

**FIFTH ORDER OF BUSINESS:** Town Manager's Report

Mr. Joseph advised that Councilor Tracy contacted him earlier and asked for an update regarding the Revenue Sharing Forecast which was released yesterday. The State just released revenue sharing estimates for distribution. Given the economic downturn, revenue sharing is when State revenues are divided up and a portion of those get shared by formula back to the municipalities. That has to do with taxes collected by the State so obviously in an economic downturn, when you are not seeing things like

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rooms and meals, sales taxes and things like that to the same extent that you would see outside of an economic downturn, that number gets impacted and pushed downward. We count on that to meet our revenue goal to some extent for the year. He noted that the good news is that in our budget this year we conservatively budgeted on the revenue side the number of \$495,000 for fiscal year 21 for revenue sharing back from the State. Their forecast right now is \$619,000 for that same period so we are over that amount by \$121,000. That is their estimate and he won't be doing a happy dance right now because that number could come in significantly lower. He feels the \$495,000 budgeted is a safe number for now. This is one of the many items including excise tax revenues so any non-property tax revenues that are on our watch list right now. He and our Finance Director are watching to see if any of the revenues we used to build our budget show a steep drop in the middle of the year due to the economic downtown or if it gets worse, a serious recession, they would have to make major budget corrections. Based on this forecast, they are not on track right now for any problems but will be watching it throughout the year to see what the performance is. They make quarterly payments on that so the performance against the \$619,000 number. If the Council does not hear anything the rest of the year on that, it is all good. If there are any problems, they will be back to the Council in the quarter when it is reported to them. The fiscal year just started a month ago. Councilor Tracy was glad to hear that we have budgeted appropriately. She thanked Mr. Joseph and Ms. Maloy and agreed it is something to keep an eye on.

Mr. Joseph advised that he has been contacted by phone and e-mail by people with questions about absentee voting and concerns about the November Election. We are expecting heavy turnout. At the last election in 2016 which was 80% voter turnout for Freeport. Naturally, people know that it is kind of to be expected with the level of interest in the presidential and general election coming up. While there is a bit of concern, there are a lot of questions such as how is that going to work? Do we have to be there in person? As everyone here is aware but many in the public might not be, there is no reason why you cannot vote absentee in the upcoming November election. You don't need to come in. You don't have to give a reason or an excuse to vote absentee. In Maine you don't have to take any special steps or provide any justification. You just have to call or come into the Town Clerk's Office to request an absentee ballot. He suspects they can be done on line through the Maine State website. Chair Egan asked Mr. Joseph to run that announcement on our new sign at the Public Safety Building. He does not feel it is too soon to advertise that absentee ballots will be available and put up the date. It will bring some comfort that people will have every chance possible to vote. He doesn't want anyone in our community to think they cannot vote. Mr. Joseph is 100% with Chair Egan and he will absolutely do that. He will work with Staff to determine if there are other ways to communicate that.

Mr. Joseph shared the interesting set of two numbers from the State-wide July Primary and the March Presidential Primary. In the March Primary we had 700 Absentee voters and 2,800 in-person voters. In the July Primary we had 2,600 Absentee voters and 500 in-person voters. It appears that half the electorate knows they can vote by absentee ballot. We need to make sure we can physically deliver those ballots. It will be a tough task with probably twice the turn-out from that primary for the Clerk's Office to handle. They were able to do the 2,600 votes with no problem. We are expecting that number to perhaps double from November. People who went to vote in person found no crowds, no lines. It went very well and everything was spaced. We are pushing the absentees and we will make sure that it is out there and people know they can do that. You don't have to vote absentee. You are welcome to vote in person but people in Freeport have shown 5 to 1 that they prefer to vote by absentee ballot in the most recent Primary. That was a 40% turn-out.

Councilor Horne asked if Chris Wolfe feels adequately resourced if we double the mail-in votes. Mr. Joseph advised that she can process them starting the weekend before and she may be bringing on extra people. We will make sure they have whatever they need for staff. It is not anything that will break the bank if they need additional staff. If anything, it is more stress on the office end of things to get that many

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ballots out to people in the period before hand. We don't have ballots to send out and don't do that until the State gives us the date and issues the ballots for them to go out. He believes that the Town Clerk is taking requests right now and logging them in. He will provide an answer on the date at the next Council meeting. He feels there is no reason here to believe there is a problem with an absentee vote being accurate. We are always accurate in recounts and are always within one or two votes every single time. There is a paper trail as well.

Mr. Joseph advised that we were contacted by Maine Water who operates the water utility in Freeport. They are going to be painting the Bow Street water tank in the next two months. Seeing as we own that tank which is an interesting arrangement, they asked us for input on what color we would like it colored painted. They gave us a very narrow range of colors to operate in – white, green, light blue and light gray. It can't be in something that is hot and will absorb heat. We have eight days to come up with a response. He asked for the Council's permission to do the stupidest thing he has probably ever done and that is to do a public color selection contest. The Council Chair does not think this is too smart but he would like to use the Town's website and Facebook to solicit input from people. We will not be picky by saying only residents or something like that. Over the next 6 or 7 days he has chosen some light colors from the options given to us that he showed Councilors. He would like to put them in front of people and ask them to rank their top 3 and then compile the list and give it to Maine Water. If they can't guarantee a specific color since they need to get thousands of gallons of this paint but they would try to honor our top choices. It is a \$500,000 project that will last for 20 years. Whatever color is chosen will be visible up at the skyline. The tank is very visible from the Main Street area and is currently a mint green color. He had a sample of the colors that are in a very similar range.

Councilor Reighley mentioned he heard from a constituent that asked if there is any opportunity to add additional cell phone towers to the water tank. Mr. Joseph advised that there is and he is working right now on a lease with Verizon. We make money off that and he would be glad to provide the run down of how much that is. It will be a long-term lease and will come to the Council for approval. Chair Egan noted that we can use all the amplification for cell service we can muster. Mr. Joseph asked Councilor Piltch to drum up his neighborhood's interest because they are going to be looking at it for 20 years and he promised to not do anything crazy. He would love to hear what that neighborhood has to say. Councilor Piltch offered to circulate this around his neighborhood but as the painting and other work is being done, he asked Mr. Joseph to remind everyone to use the Bow Street right-of-way trail. Mr. Joseph agreed and mentioned that any time people come to him for permission, they are advised to go through Bow Street but most people do not have to come to him for regular service. He mentioned that he hears complaints from Councilor Piltch's neighbors about heavy traffic going through there with equipment.

Councilor Tracy wondered if that neighborhood should receive notification. We could stuff their mailboxes with fliers. It would be good to make a determination on what is a reasonable circumference. The tank is a huge part of that area up there. Mr. Joseph advised that every effort will be made to reach out to that neighborhood. Councilor Piltch added that the tank is more visible to people who live downtown. He does not see it from his street, Mr. Joseph pointed out that that is the direction he will go in just announcing it here and stay tuned. He does not need a Council committee. He can make the recommendation to Maine Water and try to get us the preferred color we choose.

Chair Egan brought up confirming the three voluntary ad hoc members to the Fair Hearing Authority for Johanna Hanselman. Mr. Joseph explained that it is coming up on the Consent Agenda but offered to preface it now. He explained that the Fair Hearing Authority has to be appointed by the Council to hear appeals of General Assistance decisions. They picked a member of the Council, a member of the community that does social work and a Town employee not related to doing social work that doesn't touch any of these cases. It was constraining to find anyone that met all three of those criteria. We have

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Councilor Whitney that has experience being on the Council and also did social work in her past. Sarah Lundin who is the Director of Programs at FCS who obviously has done social work in her past and also has done General Assistance in the past. Nick Adams does not touch anything to do with General Assistance here in the Town Hall. He is an impartial third-party employee who can read an ordinance and interpret it. That is the formula we have used in the past to try to balance the hearing. Chair Egan thanked him for his preface on that. It will be taken up at the Consent Agenda.

**SIXTH ORDER OF BUSINESS:** Public Comment Period – (30 Minutes) (Non-Agenda Items Only)

Chair Egan pointed out that right now this is an item that is on all of our agendas for members of the public to identify their intent to address the Council and get to speak and potentially participate in the dialogue if appropriate on non-agenda items. This is for covering any topic that may be on your mind on an issue that has come up in the community, a question you have about municipal functioning, something coming in the future like elections, whatever might be on your mind that is not specifically on tonight's agenda. It is fair game for this next segment which is called public participation on non-agenda items. He explained the process for members of the public to provide input tonight. He provided a few minutes for the public to call in. No public comments were provided.

Chair Egan reminded the public that the Council will have an opportunity to hear from the public in the informal conversation at the end of our agenda on Recycling and Waste Management issues facing our community. The Council is not taking any action this evening. It is a public discussion on those particular topics the Council will take up after its regular agenda. The Council moved on.

**SEVENTH ORDER OF BUSINESS:** To take action on the following items of business as read by the Council Chairperson:

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ITEM # 130-20                      To consider action relative to adopting the August 4, 2020 Consent Agenda.

**BE IT ORDERED:** That the August 4, 2020 Consent Agenda be adopted.  
(Egan & Reighley)

Chair Egan reviewed the items on the Consent Agenda for members of the public.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** (7 Ayes) (0 Nays)

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ITEM # 131-20                      To consider action relative to amending the 2020 Town Council meeting schedule.

**BE IT ORDERED:** That the 2020 Town Council meeting schedule be amended to remove the Annual Joint Meeting with Bustin's Island and add an additional Town Council meeting on August 18, 2020 at 6:30 pm. (Whitney & Reighley)

Chair Egan mentioned that it is very disappointing that the Council is not going to get out to Bustin's Island. That summer meeting has been one of the highlights for the entire time he has served on the Council. It is a fabulous evening out there. He noted what a special community we have in this town with that island and its history. Councilor Tracy advised that she is not running again and this would have been her last Bustin's Island meeting so she wanted to take this opportunity to thank the residents of Bustin's

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Island for seven great summer events, all of which she has attended. It has been lovely every single time and will be sorely missed. She looks forward to other Councilors having the opportunity to do it again. It shows what community is all about. She thanked everybody who put this together every year. Bustin's Island was in her District.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** (7 Ayes)

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ITEM # 132-20                      To consider action relative to a radio communications bid award to Radio Communications Management Inc.

**BE IT ORDERED:** That Radio Communications Management Inc. be awarded a contract for the comprehensive upgrade of the Town's radio communication network in the amount of \$350,056.51.

This upgrade includes upgrades to, and the expansion of, the Town's entire radio communication network, which is currently used by the Freeport Police, Fire, Rescue, and Public Works Departments.

*Note: The Town Council appropriated a total of \$352,643 for this project in the FY2018 through FY2020 Capital Budgets. The current balance in the three Reserve accounts (police equipment, fire department equipment and rescue) is \$2,258,716. (Piltch & Reighley)*

Chair Egan advised that this item has been in our Capital Budget. It is not a new or a surprise expense. We have been planning on this and it is actually a little under what we budgeted for. Mr. Joseph explained that we have a radio communications network now which is sufficient. It has problems but specifically the issues are not that people can't hear what is put out over the radio but it is that not everybody can talk back to the radio everywhere in town just because of geography in the low powered portable hand-held units. We have two current sites that probably cover 80% of the town. There are little pockets specifically east and west of town, in the Webster/Granite area and then in the Beech Hill towards Brunswick area that have bad reception. This would expand from 2 to 4 sites and would upgrade all of the equipment on the current existing 2 sites and the 2 new sites to an all digital hand-held analog hybrid system. Currently the system is completely analog. The Police Department would switch immediately to digital but the Fire Department and Public Works would remain with their existing equipment on the analog bands. They may choose in the future to upgrade but it is unlikely because analog works for a lot of what they are doing. This would take care of a few little problem areas in town but would also do a substantial upgrade to the backbone of the whole communications system. Everything is not on fire and the sky is not falling right now in terms of the radio system but there are problems and there always has been in terms of these kinds of little areas that this seeks to address. That is what it is. They had a very extensive six-month specification process for this rfp that they put out which involved all of our town departments and also some outside departments, specifically Falmouth who had some radio experience. Their Police Department recently went through a very similar process and they assisted us pro bono and gave us some of their communications staff to help develop the rfp to see what we needed. We had a lot of input on this.

Chair Egan pointed out that \$350,000 can seem like a lot of money but when you are in a crisis situation and you can't communicate with the base, the Police Department or the Police Station, you would be very sorry we didn't spend the \$350,000 to make that communication in an instant during a crisis situation. He is glad we are upgrading. Councilor Reighley asked what the age is of the existing system. Mr. Joseph advised that there is not a specific age. A lot of it has been upgraded. It has been in place for 20-30 years

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but individual parts have been upgraded. The most recent part is maybe six years ago we put in the repeater down at Winslow Park. We went from a one-site system for years to Winslow which picked up another 20%, a lot of the flat land on the coast and kind of the islands. It was close to \$100,000 for that site. The rest of the system, pieces have been replaced piece meal. There is not a set single age of the system.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** (7 Ayes) (0 Nays)

Chair Egan is very pleased to hear that we can get this in place and have much more thorough coverage for our Public Safety teams and Public Works.

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**OTHER BUSINESS:**

1. Continuing discussion on Curbside Recycling.

Chair Egan noted this is a more informal segment of the agenda for a little more back and forth. The Council is not taking any action on this item which is related to recycling and potential discussion of curbside pick-up of Municipal waste and recycling. We have had a number of people express interest in what the Council is going to do with the community-based recycling containers now that are still in place. We have one at the Public Safety Building and one on Hunter Road near the Public Works Building. That is down from the four we have had in the past. Last year's Council made a decision to remove two of those because of the level of contamination in those containers that was costing the Town a significant amount of penalty fees at EcoMaine in addition to hauling fees for less than full containers. He knows the Council has an extensive amount of data collected in that year since that decision was made that went into effect August 1, 2019. Tonight, Adam Bliss has a presentation to make and the Freeport Sustainability Advisory Board is also present at tonight's meeting and will very likely make a presentation and hopefully participate in some dialogue and answer questions on this topic. Since the agenda is light this evening, he is hoping the Council can spend the hour that is allocated to go over this item. Again, we are not taking any action or voting on anything tonight but it is a discussion we set out to have last year when we said we would revisit the idea of the community-based recycling containers and we are excited to hear what the data shows on the collection and contamination rates from those containers. The order we will start with is the Town Engineer, Adam Bliss.

Mr. Bliss pointed out that we are discussing this item because the Sustainability Advisory Board wanted Staff to revisit the feasibility of moving away from the Transfer Station waste collection model to a curbside collection model. They honor that request and as a reminder to the public and Councilors, they have been visiting recyclable contamination and curbside collection for almost two years now. They have viewed it through many different lenses from cost to business impacts, sustainability in terms of greenhouse gasses and so forth. He feels they did a good job in looking at the new model through as many lenses as possible. He presented a memo to the Council which really distills all of those viewpoints into four primary issues and he is confident he can work through two of the four issues pretty easily, those being cost and the contamination but we do need to spend considerable time working through how to ensure local haulers are not put out of business if we go towards a curbside collection system. The other issue would be how do we educate residents that the new model would not violate the Town Charter Policy.

Cost is the easiest place to start. Within his memo is a table that largely shows a cost savings to all user except under one of those scenarios. The least cost to users is the Transfer Station but they think they can equal that cost if they go to curbside collection. The highest cost would be those that privately contract

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with either the local hauler or the bigger businesses that charge higher rates. They are looking at costs and local business impacts. Each scenario within that table provides different levels of service and different expectations of service. Each scenario has varying levels of contamination. While he could go on, he wanted to set the table and allow the public to comment and also the Council to ask questions that they may have.

Chair Egan mentioned the table under Scenario 2 and 3, the numbers listed, he asked what is the \$135. Is it a \$135 savings and is it a unit of time or is it a unit of volume? What is it to compare that to something that tangible from what people are paying today? Mr. Bliss explained that the red values represent out of pocket savings to residents and the three scenarios all compare to curbside collection on an annual basis. Chair Egan noted there are some assumptions about what per week or per year cost is that people are using now. We have rates from the two private haulers and there are residents that don't engage in a private contract with either one of those so are we making an assumption of what they are paying per bag for disposal at the Transfer Station? Mr. Bliss agreed there are assumptions within the analysis. They minimized the margin of error within those assumptions to the degree they can by reaching out to the two haulers and consulting with Staff at the Transfer Station. The biggest assumption is any single person or household brings about six bags to the Transfer Station per month so each bag is 90 cents times twelve months would be about \$71 per year. That is a very average cost.

Chair Egan mentioned in Mr. Bliss' scenarios he indicated hauler #1 and hauler #2. Are those separated by the existing companies we have today? In other words, the savings would be in the middle column where it says Scenario #2 would be those customers currently engaged with one of the haulers he identified as Hauler #1. The next column is for people engaged with the other commercial hauler we have? Mr. Bliss advised that that is correct. To be transparent about who Hauler #1 is, it is our local business Wentworth and Hauler #2 is a much larger regional hauler and at a much higher cost. Chair Egan wanted to clarify that Scenario #2 and Scenario #3 are not doing anything different than the current engagement by contract that residents are using now. Mr. Bliss noted there is one difference between private Hauler #1 and Hauler #2 and Hauler #1 does not collect recyclables.

Councilor Reighley advised that the service provided by Danny Wentworth is that he actually comes to the house and picks up at the house so Mr. Bliss did not factor in the cost difference by what he is saving in time by picking up at the location rather than someone having to walk down to the street to take your trash out all the time. It should be a considered factor and should not be a nonfactor on that cost. Mr. Bliss agreed and noted in the memo that levels of service should not decrease. In full transparency, he learned through conversation with Councilors, residents and friendly exchanges at Bow Street Market that Wentworth provides excellent customer service to his clients in Freeport. Just to put a number on the residents he serves, he knows it is at least a third by household count but it is also 45% by weight or tonnage delivered to EcoMaine. Mr. Joseph added that Scenario #1 for people using the Transfer Station it is a similar disclaimer that it doesn't factor in any personal sunk time to take out the trash, put it in your car and drive it to the Transfer Station and throw it in. That is not reflected. Scenario #1 and 3 on the memo aren't comparable to Scenario #3 because you have to haul your barrels down your driveway to get picked up but that might be different for everybody. In Scenario #1 you have to haul your own recycling and trash to the Transfer Station or to the silver bullet with hopefully just the recycling but in some cases, your garbage too. They are all different levels of service but he would say that #2 is the current highest level of service, #3 being second and Scenario #1 being the lowest level of service. Those are complicating factors but they ran some numbers on napkins with the Sustainability Advisory Group. He and Mr. Bliss bounced those numbers around like if you counting minimum wage, average distance travelled for Scenario #1 and the miles and gasoline for cars, you get into the box but it is not standard and you can't get an average but they looked at that.

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Chair Egan pointed out to anyone listening to this conversation that this is an illustration of a potential strategy. He thinks the numbers are compelling and his individual vote is that he is hoping it becomes more than a potential strategy and it does move forward because of not only the financial savings here but also the reduction in contamination with recycled materials. If your trash is at the curb being picked up as part of a Town-service offering, it is much more likely we will have a much higher participation in collecting and capturing recyclable materials which will dramatically reduce the amount of Municipal waste the Town is paying for in tonnage at EcoMaine. That is the compelling argument. He wants to make sure people understand that we are not taking any action vote tonight but the numbers are compelling and we can use the great research that Mr. Bliss has pulled together with the many hands that have been participating to illustrate that as an opportunity for us to move forward as a community.

Councilor Reighley pointed out that we also have at this particular time, tourist season and in his non-official observation of the silver bullets we seem to be more contaminated now that we have out of town people willing to leave their refuse on their way going back to some foreign state. Will we see it increase in our contamination rates over the summer months. Chair Egan advised that they would get to those numbers in a little bit but he did not want to get Mr. Bliss out of sequence. He, too, is interested in that as well.

Councilor Tracy had questions for Mr. Bliss. When he says the annual collection cost is estimated to be \$450,000 and from that he is comparing the costs that people are already paying to the mil rate increase that that \$450,000 would result in. When he is doing his cost comparisons, she asked if he is factoring in a Pay-As-You-Throw Program and she assumes we will have to pay for the bags. The Sustainability Committee is recommending a Pay-As-You-Throw Program model for equity and environmental policy but she assumes that would add some costs to residents. Mr. Bliss clarified that he is not factoring yet. They need to discuss that Pay-As-You-Throw system. The Town Charter is very clear that we cannot implement a pay-for-bag system to cover disposal costs that are tipping fees at EcoMaine. It would have to be implemented under to cover transportation costs which is effectively what our punch card system does albeit a very small amount relative to the total costs. An important point for the uninformed relative to costs in the table is that users are paying it privately out of pocket but when currently contracted with a private hauler, and we are paying it through our budget for the tipping fees at EcoMaine. We have to look at the sum total. Mr. Joseph added that to implement a pay-as-you-throw system, if everybody threw away per capita, per household, per tax dollar the same amount of bags of garbage, it should not change from Mr. Bliss' analysis here. What it would do if you were a heavy garbage user and we had a pay-as-you-throw system as opposed to a light garbage user, the light garbage user would see further savings and the heavy garbage user would likely pay more. It would transfer volume.

Councilor Tracy noted that this is recommended but we are not necessarily doing this. If we did do that, then heavy users pay more because they have more bags and you pay it at the grocery stores because that is where you buy the bags. That money gets funneled back to the Town and it gets applied to transportation costs for the hauler that the Town is now putting into its budget. That transportation cost is estimated at \$450,000 but it doesn't reflect any offset from revenues from pay-as-you-throw bags.

Mr. Joseph noted that this is correct. If you charge \$2 -\$3 per bag roughly on the volume we throw away here and the average size of the bag would generate the revenue to cover the \$450,000 and then it would be completely tax driven. Any amount between zero and \$2 or \$3 would kind of be proportional.

Chair Egan advised that another reason is that the pay-per-bag is a way to encourage more recycling to reduce the volume in bags which is one of the most compelling arguments that is in the memo from the Sustainability Board. It won't take long without changing much habit if you go to a place where you are buying x number of bags per month for the pay-per-bag option and then you realize what recycling can do to the volume of that trash in terms of encouraging a much smaller municipal solid waste stream and a

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much larger recycling stream. That is the particular goal that puts the incentive and the motive and result all in the same locus. Mr. Bliss added that it costs \$35 to dispose of recyclables at EcoMaine and more than twice that to dispose solid waste. We want to encourage more recycling and less solid waste.

Councilor Horne pointed out that people recognize they can compost their waste, they are reducing the amount of water going into our incinerator and the weight going down the road from Freeport. That is something a lot of households have discovered.

Councilor Tracy pointed out that Valy Steverlynck is on the Sustainability Committee and provided some useful information earlier in the afternoon and she hopes we can get it on our website. She doesn't know who did the survey of nearby towns and all of them except for two have a pay-as-you-throw program. She noted that we are now in the minority of towns for whatever that is worth but on the flip side she thinks people of lower income will feel it is an additional tax to have to buy orange pay-as-you-throw bags at the grocery store. That will feel difficult for them but even though overall it is a savings when you do all the math. It is two sides of the coin.

Vice Chair Whitney noted that is one of the concerns she had from the beginning of this project too and she did speak about it when she was on this committee. They mentioned that we might be able to have bags at FCS when people are picking up groceries. That was definitely a concern of hers from the beginning. This is something she definitely feels needs to be talked about before we close up.

Chair Egan advised that we had a similar conversation about 5-6 years ago when there was a group that came forward to suspend opportunities to use single-use plastic bags in grocery stores and adopt reusable grocery bags. That particular dynamic was identified and that it would be an additional cost for people on a fixed income or with limited means that would have to go buy their reusable bags. At that point FCS was given access to be able to purchase and supply them for their clients. He is confident something like that can be worked out for the pay-as-you-throw trash bags. It would not be a complicated arrangement.

Councilor Lawrence asked if those grocery bags are what we can use right now because of COVID? Chair Egan noted this was a good point. Grocery stores are now allowing customers to use reusable bags if the customer packs them personally. Councilor Lawrence asked with Option 3 does it take away the Transfer Station? Does any of it include the Transfer Station being eliminated or not being used to do recycling. He also asked what guarantees are that people will be recycling with the ability in Option #3? Mr. Joseph advised that it takes away the MSW in the recycling service but it does not close the Transfer Station. There are still things that are done up there that this wouldn't replace. We may see similar or slightly reduced hours anticipating keeping the staff but they would only be handling yard waste, bulky waste, tvs and the things besides the two compactors in the front. They would be maintaining the program and administration of the program which would involve inspections and following up on routes. Anybody that ever has run a municipal garbage pick-up program, it is the number one complaint in the community because "they didn't pick up my trash or they hit my barrel". There is a ton of customer service that would fall back on the town. It would not eliminate the Transfer Station or our staff but it may change the mission of what they are doing a bit. It does anticipate taking away the drop-off at the Transfer Station because everybody would have curbside service but not driveway service. Councilor Lawrence pointed out that he likes going to the Transfer Station and doing his recycling there. Is there a combination there?

Mr. Joseph advised that as the Town Council, this is limited by your imagination. You could have five methods of throwing away trash if you wanted. It might not be huge to leave some type of pick-up at the Transfer Station. They could look at that if that is what the Council wants to delve into. Chair Egan agreed with Councilor Lawrence but was not able to finish his sentence.

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**NOTE:** Electricity was cut off because of the Tropical Storm at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Coffin, Council Secretary