

MINUTES
FREEPORT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING #18-20
FREEPORT TOWN HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2020
6:30 p.m.

This meeting was held online/virtually, using Zoom teleconferencing

<u>ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:</u>	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
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, the Council recited the Pledge.

SECOND ORDER OF BUSINESS: To waive the reading of the minutes of Meeting #17-20 held on August 4, 2020 and to accept the minutes as printed.

Chair Egan explained that the August 4th meeting was interrupted by a power outage and does not actually notate an adjournment. The Council did adjourn the meeting officially after the power was cut off.

MOVED AND SECONDED: To waive the reading of the minutes of Meeting #17-20 held on August 4, 2020 and to accept the minutes as printed. (Reighley & Horne) **ROLL CALL VOTE:** (7 Ayes).

THIRD ORDER OF BUSINESS: Announcements (15 minutes)

- **NOTICE OF ROAD CLOSURE – WEST STREET**

West Street is closed to through traffic from Woodlawn Cemetery to the South Street intersection through Friday, August 28. The closure may extend into the following week if inclement weather delays construction.

The Town is replacing a culvert that drains the Village Area. This important stream restoration work is made possible by two grants and local match. The depth of cut and utilities involved require the road to be closed during the replacement. Traffic detours are available around the work area via Bow and Depot Streets. Traffic control signage will be installed by the contractor. If you have any questions, contact Adam Bliss, Engineer, 865-4743 x106

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- **NOMINATION PAPERS FOR THE NOVEMBER 3, 2020 MUNICIPAL ELECTION** are due back to the Town Clerk's Office no later than 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 9, 2020 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

For more information, call Town Clerk Christine Wolfe at 865-4743, Ext. 123 or email cwolfe@freeportmaine.com

ABSENTEE BALLOTS for the November 3, 2020 Election may now be requested by contacting the Town Clerk's Office at 865-4743 x 122 or 123. The online module to request absentee ballots at Maine.gov will not be active for another couple of weeks. Ballots requested now will be mailed the first week of October. Starting October 5, voters may vote in person at Town Hall. Chair Egan stressed that there are a number of ways particularly in the middle of a pandemic if people are wanting to avoid gathering at a public polling place on November 3rd. He wanted to make it clear that there are a number of ways for people to get an absentee ballot. They can request a Municipal ballot from the Town Clerk and the State ballot will be available in a little while. People can also come in and pick up a ballot at Town Hall and can vote starting October 5th. That is a full month in advance of the election for anyone who wishes to come in when the crowds are very small. There is plenty of social distancing protocol being upheld at Town Hall. Residents will be able to vote their absentee ballot early in person at Town Hall without dealing with crowds.

Councilor Reighley pointed out that the State's Attorney General allocated 105% of the eligible voters into absentee ballots for the Town of Freeport so there will be no shortage of those. Chair Egan noted that if anyone has questions, please call Chris Wolfe at 865-4743, Extension 123.

Chair Egan pointed out that there will be an opportunity to take public comment from members of the public a little later in the agenda.

FOURTH ORDER OF BUSINESS: Information Exchange

Councilor Reighley reported that the Ordinance Committee met on Monday and had three items on their agenda. One was a discussion of the Complete Streets Policy. It was moved and recommended by the Ordinance Committee unanimously to move this forward to Council. It will be scheduled for public comment and approval very soon. They also continued the discussion on Short-term Rentals and the Town Manager along with Staff will put together some of the items the committee was looking for. One of those being creating a Registry and a registry questionnaire. More will be added to this but it is getting the process there. The third item was discussion of inconsistencies to noise standards within the Ordinances. Working with a community group they will begin the process of identifying those and moving either through ordinance where ordinance is required or directing to Planning Board where Planning Board is required.

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Vice Chair Whitney advised that she is continuing to work with Chief Nourse and Johanna Hanselman on the COVID Relief Fund. This is a fund of donations set up to help Freeport residents who have been financially affected by this pandemic. She found it to be a privilege to get to know some of the hard-working people in Freeport that have lost their jobs and be able to help them out a little bit during this time. A lot of them were working more than one job. She has also been working with the School system, the Town Manager and Keith and businesses around town to try to see if they might be able to find some space around town to try to spread school kids around a little. She mentioned that the Town Manager will be talking about this more at length a little later tonight.

Councilor Pilch attended a Winslow Park Commission meeting which was the first in a few months. Neil Lyman is doing a great job managing the park. The numbers are down but sustainable so everything is going fine there. He also attended a meeting of the subgroup that is reviewing Police policies in relation to what is going on this year. They are doing it piecemeal. The first policy was around hate crimes, civil rights and they are going through the Police policies one at a time and reviewing them. There have been a couple of more people who expressed interest in joining the group and he will coordinate that with Lisa Andreassen who is volunteering her time to facilitate. He feels things are going well there as well.

Chair Egan advised that last evening he attended the Sustainability Advisory Board and the entire topic of conversation was on the item that appears at the end of our agenda this evening and the potential opportunity to reduce the amount of solid waste trash going into the landfill and increase the volume of recycling. There are a number of ways to get to that and we will hear from the Committee later this evening so he didn't want to say much about it. He also attended a discussion with a couple of organizers of the Black Lives Rally back in June. That group is interested in asking if the Council would like to have an opportunity to get some training and some participation whether it is in person or on line, of a group discussion about how as a community and certainly as a town, we can improve on our implicit racial bias awareness and examine some things that have not been looked at for a while, similar to what the Police Department is doing with their policy. There may be an opportunity for a group led by some trained folks to review some of the H/R policies or other things going on in Town government to identify that we are not inadvertently or implicitly discriminating. It is a good conversation to have and one that a lot of members of the public are asking us to have. There is nothing formal yet. He wanted to let the Council know that it is percolating and there will likely be an invitation to the Council coming this fall.

FIFTH ORDER OF BUSINESS: Town Manager's Report

Mr. Joseph noted he had planned to talk about the West Street closure which has already been done. He expects it will be closed for a week and a half to two weeks going forward as long as nothing goes wrong weather wise. He then brought up absentee voting and advised that we are making a big push to educate people on this. They have developed an outline document that will go up on the Town's website and will be doing presentations to community groups. He added that we are seeing people register and absentee vote for the first time in their lives. He stated that one does not need justification to absentee vote in the State of Maine. In some other states and jurisdictions, one has to have a valid reason but they have mostly expanded it to include Corona Virus. Here in Maine just wanting to vote absentee is enough reason to get an absentee ballot. He pointed out that we make special provisions for any voter with disabilities that might affect their ability to vote. If someone has trouble with the traditional absentee paper ballot or requesting a paper ballot in any way, they can get in touch with the Town Clerk's office at 865-4743, Extension 123, or cwolfe@freeportmaine.com. If they have a family member that can reach out to Chris, there are accommodations that can be made or steps that can be taken to help out people with access and right to vote. The online registration of Maine.gov is actually up right now. If one requests an absentee ballot now versus coming in and early vote starting October 5th, so any requests that are made whether

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they be in writing, on the State website Maine.gov or over the phone to the Town Clerk, prior to October 5th, it will automatically get them a paper ballot mailed to one's registered voting address. If someone doesn't want to do that, residents should not request a ballot ahead of time because it will automatically get mailed to them. USPS is estimating up to a two-week delay. Mr. Joseph doesn't think that will be the case here in Maine but some people will get these across the country or foreign from here in Maine. If one comes in to vote early in person on October 5th or later, obviously it is done. The ballot will get recorded here, sealed and held until the election. If one gets a ballot sent to them because they requested one ahead of time, they do not have to be mailed back. They can be dropped off anytime during business hours between 7:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday. The Clerk's office is open to accept drop-off ballots by the voter or immediate family member. There is also a drop box that will be specifically set up for drop-off ballots on the side entrance to the Town Hall. After hours they can be dropped in the steel locked box. Depending on how many pieces of card ballots mailed out to voters, if it is overweight, and typically they are, they will require additional postage. It was something like 70 or 75 cents for the last election. Voters should make sure at the Post Office's counter or add additional postage to their envelope so it doesn't get turned away. If anyone is going to vote by mail, they should do it early to be safe. If it concerns anyone, their ballots can be dropped off here up until the day before the election which would be Monday, November 2nd up until the close of business. On November 3rd they will have to be dropped at the high school up until the close of polls at 8 p.m. At the last primary election, we had three-quarters of our voters vote absentee. We are going to continue to hammer this and make sure our residents know what the process is and how to exercise their absentee voting rights.

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

Chair Egan explained the topics that would be discussed shortly in less than 10 minutes but that the Council would not be taking any action this evening. If anyone has a different interest, this is the time to use the raised hand feature.

Pam Barry-Santos advised that she voted by absentee ballot and found it to be super easy. She wanted to reinforce the fact that it is super, super easy to do and it is handled well in Freeport.

Chair Egan explained that the Public Comment period is on every agenda that the Council has at its regular meetings. It is an opportunity for the Council to hear live from folks at a Council meeting. Contacting Councilors by e-mail or phone is also a way to reach the Council. It works well because he received a significant number of messages on the item at the end of the agenda this evening. The opportunity here is that residents get to address the entire Council at once and have a back and forth dialogue in real time.

Shannon Garrity asked if there is anyway to get funding to provide some poop bags put up in the village area similar to what Bean's has on their campus. A lot of people do not clean up after their pets. Adam Bliss advised that there are stations at some of our Town facilities so he will look for an appropriate station in the village. He noted it would make the Town look good on its Environmental Permit.

Chair Egan closed the Public Comment Period.

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

ITEM # 136-20 To consider action relative to adopting the August 18, 2020 Consent Agenda.

BE IT ORDERED: That the August 18, 2020 Consent Agenda be adopted.
(Whitney & Horne)

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

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

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Continuing discussion of Recycling

Chair Egan explained that this is a continuing discussion picking up where the Council was interrupted by a power outage two weeks ago. The Council was in the middle of the first discussion of some recommendations from our Sustainability Advisory Board on potential options for increasing the amount of recycling in our community and decreasing the amount of trash volume overall. In particular, there are a couple of options that the Board was presenting.

Chair Egan wanted to start with a statement because he and many other Councilors have received an enormous amount of input from the public about trash pick-up, who they like as a trash hauler and specifically what they don't want is the Town telling them who to pick as a trash hauler. He believes a lot of this comment was in reaction to a notice that one of the haulers included with a lot of his customers. Chair Egan is one of his customers and received the notice this morning when he came to his house. Chair Egan stated plainly for those listening that there is no action proposed. There is no vote being taken and the Council is not concluding anything about how Freeport as a community handles municipal solid waste or trash and recycling. At this point, the Council is just starting a discussion about potential options as a means to:

- reduce the amount of solid waste going into the landfill
- improve the amount of recycling content
- most importantly, reduce the cost of trash to the entire community by lowering the amount of money the Town pays to Ecomaine for trash hauling

The conversation tonight is to hear some different options. The Council is far from making any specific decision or recommending any particular options. It became clear to Chair Egan over the past week or so while talking to the public that we have a lot more education and information to share and a much bigger communications campaign to have about this issue about why the Council is interested in talking about it. Many people who contacted him and other Councilors are perfectly satisfied with the way the trash situation is in our community. He does not deny that they are plenty satisfied. The Council is looking at trying to save some money for the Town and also improve the environmental sustainability of our community by increasing recycling and reducing the amount of solid waste trash going into the landfill or incinerator. Those are the goals and objectives of this conversation to focus on those items. We have a well informed and research driven Sustainability Advisory Board that has data to present and we will get to that but he wanted to let everybody know that there is no vote planned this evening or action plan. The concern that the Council is about to make a move to put a particular business owner out of business is not true and is not part of tonight's conversation. He wanted to make that clear.

Councilor Reighley advised that he received over 90 e-mails and unfortunately at times he was unable to get his mail because he was talking with his constituency in the South Freeport Post Office as they were locking the door. This helps him understand where he should position himself in response to what his constituents are bringing forth.

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Chair Egan advised that one of the components of the discussion item was to try to facilitate and improve the amount of recycling that goes on from the waste stream and try to eliminate hurdles for people to separate recyclable items from their trash. He explained the number of ways going on today that are already doing that. The most successful one is the trash compactor at our Transfer Station that takes recycling. It is practically a community center on Saturdays when you meet many people you might not see otherwise doing the same thing you are doing which is emptying their recycling into the single sort compactor and potentially dropping off bags of compost as well. There is a hauler that is doing curbside recycling for a cost which is a private arrangement between the homeowner or business owner and the company. There are two recycling containers in the community today, one at the Hunter Road Public Works office and one behind the Public Safety Building on West Street. Part of the starting initiative is to see what is working and what is not working. Last year the Council voted to eliminate two of the recycling containers due to heavy continued and ongoing contamination. Contamination meaning non-recyclable items being mixed in with recyclables and that causes the entire container to be transferred over to the trash side of the operation at Ecomaine at considerable cost to the Town. Not only are we paying for the shipping of the container but also paying tipping fees to empty it, largely for recyclable materials that didn't have to go into the landfill or incinerator. Due to the high level of contamination, two containers were pulled back and we have some data available that shows some improvement in recycling habits of our community at large with some more improvement yet to go so we are taking steps in the positive direction. He feels there are a number of alternatives out there but the conversation tonight is to start the dialogue with our sources and committee.

Councilor Reighley advised that he would prefer to have our Town Engineer speak first but it is important for our residents to realize that Mr. Bliss was charged with the responsibility of generating this report and it is a report on his findings. It is not necessarily his personal opinion and it is important to realize the Council asked for this.

Mr. Bliss did not have anything new to add. He felt Chair Egan did a great job summarizing where we have been and where we are at. He articulated well that this was an idea generated from the Sustainability Committee with great intention. It was a task he was charged with and gratefully accepted. He prepared a memo that was discussed at the last meeting. That memo is not an exhausted analysis. It takes the most basic components, cost, impact to local businesses, the Town's Charter, recyclables contamination and opens up those four cans so we can have a place to start. There is more analysis to be performed. It is a starting point because there is no sense to generate a 50-page report that doesn't generate enough interest in pursuing a new collection model. It would be helpful to hear the Sustainability Advisory Board's perspective.

Chair Egan advised that he invited Rod Regier who is our representative on the Ecomaine Board, a past Town Councilor and has an enormous amount of knowledge about this issue. He is hoping Rod will participate this evening and lend his perspective as well.

Councilor Reighley asked Mr. Bliss where we are on pick-up days for our silver bullets, how far have we come and what is our load percentage? Mr. Bliss advised that we removed the silver bullets at South Freeport Village and Doherty's Market. The two locations removed have generally spread to the other three locations. West Street is very popular and required that we add an extra hauling day, certainly in the summer period. With the pandemic, the number of cardboard boxes due to online shopping has put a strain on the efficiency of those containers. They fill fast by volume but not by weight because they are not compacted. West Street is presently hauled five days per week because of these dynamic changes. Hunter Road is hauled three days a week. Councilor Tracy asked when there were four silver bullets,

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what was the schedule for West Street. Mr. Bliss suspected that it was at least three but could have been four. He offered to double check.

Chair Egan offered to provide an outline so everybody would have an opportunity to speak. The Council invited the Sustainability Advisory Board to open with some motives behind their recommendation and their reasons why they are suggesting a number of options for us to increase our recycling and decrease our solid waste stream. They will be presenting some data as well as some potential options for us to take. After that presentation the Council will take some participation from members of the public. Again, this is an informal item. There is no action or vote anticipated this evening by the Council. There is no resolution or decision being made this evening. It is just a conversation to learn about the issues and dynamics going on.

Valy Steverlynck from the Sustainability Advisory Board thanked the Council for allowing them to introduce their reasons why their Board brought this item to the Council's attention. They have noticed over the years that the recycling contamination is high in Freeport and the ease with which people can recycle is not great. They came up with a few ideas they wanted to address and one of them was to add convenience to the recycling process for residents in town and increase the rate of recycling. It is a known fact that recyclables when they get disposed of at Ecomaine costs about half the price of trash. It would be very advantageous to the tax burden in Freeport to have a higher rate of recycling and a lower rate of solid waste trash disposal. They have found that if the Town gets involved and promotes recycling using interns, contamination drops drastically. Their Board used their funds and hired two interns last summer who were able to approach people at the silver bullets and successfully lower the contamination rates. It has not been the case with the private haulers. Pine Tree is the largest hauler and picks up recycling at the curb in Freeport and unfortunately their contamination rates have continued to be very high. If the Town were to get involved and address the contamination with the private hauler, there would have to be some sort of rfp process and contracts issued with private haulers so it wouldn't be a straight relationship between a private company and customer if the Town got involved. That is where the idea of curbside recycling came up. This is not a novel idea in some of our surrounding communities. If we can reduce the amount of trash that we send, it will save money for the taxpayer. If we reduce the contamination rates, we won't have to pay the fees for our contaminated recycling which now has been transferred to our private haulers. That is basically the two reasons why they started but there are other possibilities that would come with curbside. In the future, the Town could move on to curbside composting. It is very expensive to dispose of anything that is wet because of the weight. Composting is in the future. It is not something for now. They are also trying to address the pay-per-bag proposal because it is a fair way to distribute the costs for disposal of the trash and users who generate more, would pay more. She added that Kate Rosenfeld is on this call. She is no longer on their Committee but has a lot of information on what other towns are doing. Josh Olins is also on this call.

Kate Rosenfeld advised that they are coming at this realizing that the cost of dealing with trash and recycling is increasing so they asked how they could cut costs realizing that it costs the Town more to dispose of trash and increase recycling. It is really about environmental issues and financial issues for the Town's taxpayers. She explained that she gathered information from websites and made calls to 14 nearby communities and found that currently 9 of the 14 have municipal curbside pay-as-you-throw or pay-per-bag programs run by their towns. They offer curbside recycling pick-up and curbside trash pick-up. The trash must be placed in a bag that residents buy and the cost of those programs is supported in part by the pay-as-you-throw bags. She likened pay-as-you-throw to pay for electricity that you use. If you are producing more trash, you buy more bags. If you decrease your trash, you buy less bags. 7 communities have similar bag prices, 2 have much lower bag prices so bag prices can be adjusted and be somewhat flexible. 4 of the remaining 5 towns do something significant to either increase recycling or decrease trash. She offered to give specifics on those programs at a later date. We are in the category

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where we could certainly be doing more to reduce our trash production and increase recycling. She offered to leave it at that for now.

Josh Olins, Chair of the Sustainability Committee noted he would be brief because the previous speakers spoke eloquently about the issues. He wanted to add another piece and that is when we get closer to moving forward with proposals and even perhaps an rfp at some point, he wanted to ensure that Danny Wentworth and anyone else who would like to be involved, should be involved. He reached out to him yesterday personally and had a positive conversation. The Town has made a previous commitment to him and his business. They certainly want to support him in his hopes to stay in business as long as he wishes to and he wants our Town to recommit to him if he is interested in staying involved as a hauler of any sort. Obviously, we are thinking about things that are new and it is important to keep up with those changes but they certainly do not want to lose a great local businessman and his happy customers. Mr. Olins looks forward to some form of compromise and solution that involves everyone who wants to be involved but at the same time increases the rate of recycling and decreases the Town's costs.

Chair Egan thanked the committee for its diligence to get at the details on the issue here. It is great to have that data available. The focus here in his opinion, previously we have not communicated very well what was just articulated. The goal of having this conversation in the first place is to increase the amount of recycling content that the Town can generate which is diverted from the waste stream. He feels it is pretty much understood when you meet someone at the Transfer Station or have that conversation at the grocery store or post office. Getting behaviors to change may be a much harder reach but he feels we have to start with a much better communication information effort in our community to really understand and share with the public what the issues and data we have just heard and the compelling arguments of how it could save money for the Town's taxpayers.

Rod Regier advised that he is using his cell phone in order to talk but is using his computer screen so he can see everyone. He wanted to make sure that it is clear he is not wearing his Ecomaine hat. His comments are his own. Ecomaine's interest is strictly to get all Freeport's trash and all of its recycling with the recycling as uncontaminated as possible. As far as how it is collected in towns, Ecomaine has no part in this. He will be referring to Ecomaine in his experience there. This comes from a number of years of meetings down there as well as coffee conversations. One of the outstanding comments is how different every town is among Ecomaine communities. Unless you get into the weeds of those differences, it can be very difficult and even misleading to compare towns. He long thought that Freeport's recycling rates are artificially low because those rates do not include the material residents dump into those hundreds of black composting barrels that were distributed years ago. It doesn't show up in the data so Freeport's recycling rates are artificially low. If you get into things such as paper bag costs, that could be misleading too because different municipalities have different intentions for the revenue. Some towns charge their revenue specifically to equal the aggregate tipping fee. Freeport with its pay-for-bag system at the Transfer Station, charges just for transportation. Some towns like Cumberland collect an amount of money and the amount is not related to any specific purpose. His conjecture is that it is a political decision of Cumberland Councilors deciding what their residents can stomach. It is important to know that in Cumberland's case, the revenue from the pay-per-bag system does not cover the transportation cost and in fact, there is an additional line item in Cumberland's budget to make up the difference. He cautioned the Council as it tries to make comparisons from town to town. With regard to the uniqueness of Freeport, it is unusual that Freeport operates a full-service Transfer Station of where everything except hazmat is accepted. It is unusual that Freeport does not have a curbside recycling section to have recycling rates that are basically on par with towns that do have curbside recycling. It is unique that Freeport has three different methods for residents to dispose of their trash, whether it is Wentworth, Casella/Pine Tree and the Transfer Station. He asked the Finance Department at Ecomaine to take a look, it is public record, at the proportional amount of trash brought by those three suppliers and

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the answer has surprised everyone he has seen. Danny Wentworth is by far the largest hauler of trash for Freeport moving more than 40% of the trash generated in Freeport taken down to Ecomaine's incinerator. The balance of pretty much 30% each is distributed between Pine Tree and the waste compacted at the Transfer Station. It is surprising that almost as much waste from Freeport goes through the Transfer Station as Casella/Pine Tree moves. The Transfer Station is a really popular low-cost option for folks and in this case, personally he has a one-person household and he generates one bag of trash every three weeks or so and he would hate to have to pay for a program that has a \$300,000 truck with two operators to stop once every week because it is not necessary and would be an unnecessary cost. As the Council goes forward, he mentioned some of the elements of the financial analysis that he feels needs to be considered further. He hopes that the Council will take a close look at this and look not only at the obvious savings that might be made from ceasing transportation costs for the compactor and silver bullets but also be warned that there is a strong possibility for producing unintentionally a new and even substantial budget line dependent on what the bank charge is. Using the Town Engineer's figures from last week his estimate of a quarter of million dollar hauling fee, he feels it may be a little high but it is probably close to where we will land. These fees are all based on the number of stops in town and internally in this case Casella/Pine Tree, the density of pick-ups along the route and the number of municipal miles in the distance to Ecomaine. He thinks the \$450,000 estimate Mr. Bliss made is a good conservative working number but if that is the case and you want the pay-per-bag system to pay the entire transportation cost, we will end up with bag costs higher than any of the surrounding towns' charges are and if you want to equal surrounding towns, you will be introducing a new budget item for basically the make-up. As this goes forward, he urged that there be a more global consideration of the costs and revenues for any change in the current system. He also urged that in looking at the number of people that use the lowest cost option, the pay-per-bag at the Transfer Station, that however this discussion lands, there be some form of a low-cost option like that retained. His personal thought is that there be some kind of hybrid which is possible. Again, since these contracts are typically based on the number of stops and a commercial hauler is not going to unload into his truck equipment that is not his own. It should be pretty easy to keep track of the number of households where a commercial hauler would use and continue with the pay-per-bag system at the Transfer Station for those who wish to manage their own household waste. He tossed it just as a possibility. He hopes that as this moves forward, other options are considered other than a single town-wide contracted hauler.

Chair Egan thanked him and noted he appreciates that informed perspective and recognizes that Mr. Regier was speaking as a resident of Freeport and not as our representative on the Ecomaine Board. Chair Egan offered to listen to public comments and explained how to use the raise hand feature. He asked that speakers limit their comments to three minutes since there is a number of people here.

Jim Hughes advised that he served on the Solid Waste Committee several years ago and they made the decision to keep trash collection competitive among many vendors. He encouraged that there still be some options for competition. The best way to keep prices low is to have competitors. He mentioned when he goes to the bins, he finds cardboard boxes that are not broken down. He suggested putting up a sign or making the ruling that boxes must be broken down. He feels that some of the recyclable materials such as glass, paper, cardboard may have value and instead of paying to get rid of them, we should be selling them. He feels we should go back to have separate containers for glass, cardboard and one for everything else.

Jerry Edsen mentioned talking to Councilor Tracy this weekend and found her to be helpful in determining the considerations. He feels the goals to reduce cost are worthwhile but he divulged that he and his wife are in their late 70s and their home is at the end of a .4 of mile driveway so getting their trash to curbside is a bit daunting on a weekly basis. He does take recyclables to the Transfer Station but the thought of bringing their garbage container down to the end of their driveway, especially in the winter is

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daunting for someone getting on in years like he is. There may be others in Freeport thinking the same thing. The level of service that Danny Wentworth provides is important to them. Danny's level of service to them since 1982 has been exemplary over these years. He is lobbying for the Council to consider alternative ways, pending the needs of individual customers so the level of service does not degrade. It would in their case just by having to bring the garbage to the curbside. He has not spoken to Danny about this but if an rfp was put out and bids were received and it required the bidder to recycle, Danny would have a decision to make. He would have to decide he was going to get into recycling or he is out. He would not be an eligible bidder and that seems catastrophic to Mr. Edsen for a small business owner in Freeport for the number of years the Wentworths have been in this town. Chair Egan noted that Mr. Edsen is far from the minority of people that have spoken out about this. His comments are in line with many others Chair Egan has received.

Shannon Garrity asked if there has been any consideration to possibly having one of the days that the Transfer Station stay open to 6 or 7 p.m. Those people who work a 9 to 5 job find it impossible to get there during the week and if one has plans to go out of town, they can't take care of their trash for a week or two. She knows the silver bullets are available and she lives really close to one of them but she has not been able to put anything in because it is always full. She suggested having the Transfer Stations stay open one night a week for people to go and drop off their trash and recyclables. She finds it limiting to only have Saturdays on the weekend for a lot of people.

Mr. Joseph advised that the hours at the Transfer Station are on the radar. He feels we are stuck in the middle ground as they try to figure out what the long-term solid waste and recycling options are here in town. Staffing levels at the Transfer Station if we continue as they are currently or if we expand and we will need to increase staffing up there. It is something that is on the radar to analyze. We don't want to bring somebody on to expand the Transfer Station hours and decide that the Council wants to go to curbside collection and then basically let that person go.

Tim Doughty from 231 Flying Point Road advised that he has had Danny Wentworth for more than 25 years and can't get over the type of service he provides. He does not want to see him go away. He admitted that he hasn't been up on this issue and trusts the Council to do what it thinks is the best thing to do but he has a 656-foot driveway and is 64 years old. He does not look forward to the task of dragging a few boxes down to the end of the driveway every week. The service that Danny provides is phenomenal and he doesn't know if it happens in other towns but it is pretty special in this town. He trusts Danny and likes that he is in his driveway every week and just does not want to see anything happen that would do away with that service.

Greg Link echoed other people's comments regarding the service provided by Danny Wentworth. They have only had him for about 10 years now in comparison to other folks. They live at the end of Dixon Road next to the Yacht Club and he is not sure what defines curbside but he suspects that curbside would probably be Harraseeket Road versus a truck coming all the way down to the bottom of Dixon Road to turn around and go back up for their trash. Currently Danny does that. He and his wife are in their 70s and on a good day if they are really ambitious, they can walk up that hill but in the winter time they would not be excited about doing that if they are each toting a garbage can. He pointed out that Danny is providing a service to a number of them and they would hate to see that go.

Amanda advised that they are fairly new to Freeport unlike the other callers. They moved to their house two years ago and when they first moved here, they hired Casella/Pine Tree for their shop over on Route One for their tenant to use. Everything was fine. They picked up and did the recycling, it was on Route One. Their house is down off Lambert Road on Crow's Nest which is a dirt circle that feeds 3 or 4 different houses. They had nothing but trouble with them coming down their dirt drive in the winter time.

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To complain that trucks weren't coming around to pick up the garbage they put out, they indicated that the road was impassable even though it was plowed. They told them they wanted to cancel their service since they weren't being serviced, then it created about three months of bills coming and trying to get them to take things off. It was a pain and their neighbors asked why they were not using Wentworth. They have found him to be considerate and if they haven't put out their garbage, he comes down their 300-foot drive and asks if they have any garbage. It reminds her of what she loves about Freeport that she is part of the community that cares about everything. She agrees it is great to look at this and consider different options but it is an emotional issue for a lot of people. She feels that Danny is far more reasonable than Casella and she worries about paying for bags for pay-as-you throw because of her experience in Portland.

Peter Quesada believes like most people in Freeport that what is good for the community is good for all of us. Recycling is good for the community and there are lots of ways to make more recycling. For them the best way is to ask Danny if he can take it or if they have to take it to special waste for recycling. He feels it will be hard for the Council to find someone better than Danny and putting aside the incredible convenience he provides in not having to haul your trash down to the foot of your road. He does not feel this is a community issue. He encouraged the Council before going with a single person we all have to use, to think about whether this is really one of those cases where that is the only way to serve the community.

Lydia Veator explained that she and her husband have lived in Freeport for two years. They came from Portland and used a pay-for-bag system and paid about \$3 for a 30-gallon bag. That is a considerable amount higher than what they are paying right now. They are customers of Danny Wentworth and echoed all the earlier sentiments of his great customer service and convenience. They have found his price to be affordable for them. With the pay-per-bag system you don't get to choose your own kitchen bags as well. If what she is hearing is that the desire is to increase recycling in the community, they haven't seen any educational materials about recycling or any sort of recycling campaign. They might have missed that but her question really is if the goal is to increase recycling participation, what kind of educational materials or campaign has the town initiated to increase recycling at the individual level. Perhaps without having to overhaul the entire system, earlier in the presentation interns and educational materials were mentioned as part of the overall idea. She asked if that is a piece of the plan that can be utilized without having to force everybody's hand into a pay-per-bag system to lower the trash and recycling rate to get the costs down. Chair Egan mentioned there have been lots of efforts from environmental groups as well as representatives from Ecomaine who have come to our community and held workshops and evening events. We have had information boards out at the recycling containers that have been positioned at various places in the community but we need a whole lot more. If nothing else, the amount of contamination in the recycling containers proves that people are still trying to figure out what to put in and not to put into those containers. He agreed with Ms. Veator completely. It appears she has not missed any broad sweeping efforts; he thinks they have been good intentioned but not broadly executed across the community which is something that has become sharply illustrated in the past week here about how much more education and information the Council needs to conduct. He thanked her for her perspective and welcomed her to our community. She mentioned that she and her husband can be a lot better about recycling but they didn't know that it was such a concern in the community but would welcome any sort of educational efforts to help them on that. At the same time, they really like Danny's service to them. Chair Egan advised her that the Town's Sustainability Committee has education and community information as one of its core values as well so there may be an opportunity if she has some ideas and eventually wanted to contribute, there may be a vehicle there to help participate. He is aware that the committee has brought that subject forward, including last year arranging to have some interns stationed throughout the community. It was a small effort and made some impact. There is nothing like having

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somebody at the container helping you identify what works and what doesn't work in the recycling container. Ms. Veator noted she would reach out and see if she can help.

Joyce Veilleux advised that she is speaking on behalf of her mother who is stuck in Arizona because of the virus. Her grandmother had Danny Wentworth's father's service so it is obvious from the number of people Danny's little flier touched, maybe if we have an educational thing, we should have Danny distribute some of them. Danny comes to her mother's door. She lives on a small road and is 95. She puts her garbage out right by her door and Danny picks it up. If there is no garbage there, he will come to Joyce's house and stop and knock on her door and ask if her mother is okay. That is a service that is beyond anything to her and we won't get that from any of the large companies that might bid for a town-wide program. Education is needed. A lot of Danny's customers are good about recycling and take their things to the silver bullet or Transfer Station. She feels it is more than the cost of recycling and the cost to the town. Service is a big portion of it and needs to be looked at.

Ken Mann advised that Danny Wentworth has been picking up his rubbish since he was successful in helping him and Ralph Waterman with the Charter amendment that you see in the Town Charter which calls for no pay-per-bag, no user fee, no new tax relating to the tipping fees at RWS. He received a note from Danny which he read into the public record:

"Save my business. Wentworth Rubbish Removal has been providing trash removal services for Freeport since 1967. The company was started by my father. I took over in 1982, 30 years ago. We always specialized in house to house pick-up. On August 18, 2020 the Town Engineer made a presentation to the Town Council that outlined a single hauler, pay-per-bag town-wide waste collection program. This proposal would increase the property tax mil rate and put the town in a trash hauling business or it will bid off trash hauling to a large company. My company provides door to truck service and we are honored to know our customers. This proposal will end my company. Please let your Town Councilors know. "

Mr. Mann felt it was important that this was put into the record for those who may not know about it. He asked why Danny would think these discussions might put him out of business. If you look specifically at the flier that was done and the memo provided by the Town Engineer, it talks about an option to have the Town purchase collection trucks and frames bid specifications around town-wide equipment or provide the services themselves with employed labor and capital investment. Collection trucks are estimated to cost \$300,000 over a 10-20-year depreciation schedule and require two additional full-time staffs estimated at an annual cost of \$120,000 including salary and benefits. If you look further on the report from the Town Engineer, it says any collected recyclables moved away from the Transfer Station to curbside collection method would likely have a negative effect on the contamination rates. He feels it is important to step back and start to rule out some of these ideas. That is his input and he appreciated the Council listening to him.

Chair Egan thanked him and clarified that the components of the proposal that Mr. Mann just read was an identification of one potential option, it was never identified as a preferred option. It was just to provide data and background for the Council to consider among a range of options. We didn't do a good job communicating that it was just one of a potential range and it was certainly not a proposal originated by the Town Engineer. He apologized on behalf of the town for miscommunicating that and how it was put out. They should have clarified that it was just one of many potential options that we may look at. The discussion this evening is giving pretty clear evidence about the folks attending here their opinion on whether or not we make any changes.

Mr. Bliss pointed out something he learned in school that when you communicate something, it is not necessarily what you are showing them but you have to consider what you aren't showing them. Correctly

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so, he did not clarify in his memo that he was not recommending that the town purchase their own truck. He concluded his comment where he believes he left off at the last meeting, right before the power cut out, was his statement that Danny provides excellent customer service and they have no interest in putting him out of business. They want him to compete but that is another discussion down the road on how that concurs but they really like Danny and have no interest in displacing local hauler business.

Pam called for a round of applause for Danny because they have used him for three years. She explained the good service she has received from Danny. She noted that she finds the Hunter Road silver bullet is usable Wednesday afternoons but requested that people not fill it up before she gets there.

Tim Doughty wanted to say that he just heard about this today and had not been solicited by Danny and did not want to give the impression that he was generating input even though he has the right to. He just based his comments on the 25 years of service he has provided. He wanted to make it clear that this was all on his own and no one asked him to do anything in this regard. He supports Danny and supports his services and would like him to continue.

Joe Migliaccio wanted to thank the Council for looking at all the statistics and looking at everything. He spoke last year about additional travel and fuel burnt when we were discussing the silver bullets. The data continues to show him that Freeport is very diligent and a great high performer and responsible citizens by continuing without regulation having an in-line recycling rate and contamination rates. He asked if the Council has any insights as to how the needles moved since last year and the silver bullets have been changed. He asked if the Council has seen a change in recycling rates, up or down? Again, great job Freeport. He doesn't think we need the regs. We are doing a good job.

Mr. Joseph advised that the contamination percentage is down and the recycling rate is pretty steady. He attributes that to people starting to listen to the numerous repeated comments by this group and the educational interns and employees that were stalking the silver bullets advising people what they could or could not throw out. All those things contributed to the contamination rate going down.

Valy Steverlynck mentioned that after listening to all the comments earlier, it occurred to her that they didn't share all the research that they did around the ways collection happens in municipalities that offer municipal collection at the curb. Some communities have different zones to accommodate for a competitive bidding process for both small and large haulers. Small haulers can bid for one zone and the bigger haulers can bid for three or four zones. The other thing that is note worthy is that even the large haulers have trucks the size of Danny Wentworth's. They are called dual purposed trucks and they are used for either recycling or trash. Pine Tree/Casella that services our town has access to smaller trucks and can go down smaller streets. The ones circulating Freeport's streets are dual purpose trucks that do recycling and trash collection at the same time. At one stop they collect both but that may not be the case especially if you have one hauler that does only trash and you need to complement with one that does only recycling. That is an option that is used by other municipalities. The other option that is offered by larger haulers such as Pine Tree has an operator and another person who sits next to the operator drives down to a garage of someone who is elderly or unable to bring their trash to the curb. So many people have expressed the need for door to truck access. There are many ways if the Council chooses to go forward with this discussion and you can tailor the rfp to whatever the community wants. If the Council wants to give a fair chance to the small local haulers, you can give preferential treatment to haulers with small trucks or people who do long driveways, however you write it, you can respond to the needs and desires of the residents.

Kate Rosenfeld noted she wanted to follow up with a couple of comments. She found it interesting to look again at the Town Engineer's memo. She thinks it covers a lot of good information. As she understands it

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with what we are spending now on hauling, we could do a curbside program for trash and recycling for the same or less. It is the responsible thing to do fiscally and environmentally. She pointed out that she is a real fan of Dan Wentworth. He is also her hauler and he is the best. When she was a member of the Sustainability Committee, she felt that everyone hoped and wanted Dan to be a part of this going forward. She feels Rod Regier made a good point that you can't compare communities directly and this is an example where we might want to create something in Freeport where we have a kind of a hybrid situation that works for us. In looking at the 14 other communities, she wonders how they are managing these rising costs and the environmental and economic issues. She sees a theme there with curbside and pay-as-you-throw. Within that there is a lot of variability and you can see different towns are doing their own thing and it clearly works for that community. For instance, some still have even though they offer a municipal curbside program with pay-as-you-throw, their Transfer Station is still open. As far as bag fees, some towns like Durham do not do bags. They use tags instead and they give out 26 free tags a year for garbage to their residents so that is an example of a much lower fee for trash. Not every municipality has the exact same needs.

Mr. Joseph wanted to make it clear that he lives close to the Transfer Station and brings his trash there and has a long driveway so he would be someone who would benefit the least with this kind of arrangement financially and convenience-wise. He mentioned that he started looking at the numbers with Adam Bliss, Josh Olins and Kate Rosenfeld a year or so ago. He was not fond of an idea like this but when he saw the numbers and cost comparisons, it really changed his mind and thought they should move forward with bringing some of the discussion to the Council. The reason had nothing to do with Wentworth's hauling which is vastly more affordable than the two options in town. When you look at the monthly costs, \$15 per month for a Wentworth customer and \$50-\$60 for a Pine Tree customer. Those were reported back to him and he doesn't know how dead on accurate those are but those are the ranges we are talking about. When we look at what other towns do with their curbside recycling and trash pick-up, they are doing it for comparable or maybe lower rates than what Wentworth charges. Clearly Wentworth has good service as people have attested here and is in the right price range. That makes sense. It is a winning business model but why would someone pay 3 to 4 times as much to go with what we are hearing from people, maybe the satisfaction level is less. There were a couple of comments tonight that pointed in that direction. Pretty much the answer they came to was that people either can't bring their own trash and recycling and want curbside and they want recycling pick-up as well. They want the convenience of having both at the same time. If anybody using Pine Tree's service can prove us wrong, please let us know. The specific issue never was, and is not still, that there is any lack of service or price unfairness with Wentworth's customers but that is what attracted everyone's attention to it at this point and Dan's attention as well. After listening to the conversation tonight, we may have misnamed the problem and the problem may not be replacing garbage collection meaning MSW trash collection with a single hauler because we have two options for that already. Perhaps what we should look at and we haven't done is providing an option for universal throughout town recycling pick-up. We have not run those numbers. Just imagine a scenario where we either contract or however we do it, he does not want to bring it in-house but we can use it as a cost comparison. You could have a single purpose truck, hopefully contracted to provide universal around town recycling pick-up and take away the drive that people feel they have to pay \$50-\$60 a month to get both of them and then they could contract with the trash hauler of their choosing. That is an option they have not floated or investigated financially but he feels it would provide an avenue that would not let us pick sides on trash haulers.

Councilor Tracy feels Mr. Joseph hit the nail on the head. She thinks the difficulty is we are trying to solve one problem and we are creating another problem. She would be interested in that analysis. The difficulty with that is that you don't have a decrease. When you were looking at the first analysis, you had an increase in taxes associated with the town-wide service but you had a decrease in your bill because you were no longer paying a private hauler. Talking about a recycling only service is conceptually cleaner. It

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doesn't have the value of taking down your private side bill. Only Casella or Pine Tree people are paying for recycling right now but that is only 30% of the town. With that being said, she feels it makes sense to look at that service. In the vein of offsetting costs, if the goal is to get convenient recycling and if it comes curbside throughout town, arguably we can get rid of the silver bullets which wasn't mentioned earlier. One of the issues is contamination and the other issue is that they get filled up with uncompacted recycling and it is inefficient and a waste of money. While it is convenient, it doesn't make sense both environmentally or from a space perspective. The increase in cost from curbside recycling could be potentially offset by reducing some of the costs associated with hauling silver bullets from West Street five times a week and from the Hunter Road site.

Mr. Joseph noted that maybe it is closer and a better solution than what we have right now. It costs a little bit more and is more convenient for our residents that won't have to go to the silver bullets.

Chair Egan reflected that he would like to hear from his fellow Councilors. The overwhelming compelling theme of the comments he received in the past week, which is over 200 if he adds e-mails, phone calls and text messages, has been that many of those over 200 residents that contacted him like having a private business which they can do business with and are resistant to a required or mandatory curbside. It is largely influenced by the reaction to what was miscommunicated about what we may or may not be doing this evening. That is still a compelling argument that many residents do not want the town getting involved in trash and we haven't spoken about it this evening but it is part of our Charter that the town does not get into the trash business. He is mindful of not stepping in that hole and feels we have a long way to go before we were to propose any town-required or town-mandated curbside service whether it is recycling or trash or both. He feels there is a wide gap in understanding about what we are trying to do and what the town is interested in doing.

Councilor Lawrence feels the issue is recycling not trash pick-up. He got a million calls and most all of them were from Danny's customers. They all want choice and feel that as soon as you lose choice, you start creating a monopoly and that creates all sorts of problems. They like Danny's service. He asked residents if they recycle and most of them do and go to the Transfer Station. 40% of the town is recycling and he asked what we are doing to get the message out. He suggested putting up a recycle rate similar to what is done for fundraising. He also suggested extending the hours at the Transfer Station for the rest of the summer. He and his wife can only get there on Saturdays. If we increase the hours at the Transfer Station, perhaps we might get more recycling. He feels Freeport in general is mindful of recycling and keeping the environment clean.

Councilor Reighley grew up with the philosophy in government that services are provided when there isn't an adequate means of doing the same thing privately. Government services were added and taxes went up along with it. We have the private means and if it is being adequately met, and he believes that it is, it is the desire of the Sustainability Committee to increase our recycling materials. It is a desire and is not a lacking of what we are doing right now. He believes the education piece is something we can get involved in to get more people be a part of this. He knows that last year Ecomaine did a lot of advertising on local television stations during the morning news cycle so it was very prevalent. It is a case of giving the chance for recycling, where we have a private hauler in Pine Tree and the contamination rate is 25% and that is still us as the people putting the things in the "proper containers" that are not getting it right. It is not Pine Tree, it is the consumer that really doesn't care so the contamination rate goes higher. It would probably continue on if we were doing curbside pick-up. He thinks education is one piece. Another component that was brought up by Sustainability was in composting. We already have composting to garden available to us to pick up our compost and bring it back. We have already had a program where we had discounted composting containers that you could pick up from the Transfer Station. He is

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confident we still have a few of them available for purchase. There are a lot of things we can do and we don't necessarily have to have get involved in the town being the recyclable unit.

Councilor Whitney apologized to the people she was not able to get back to. In her time on the Council she never received the volume of passion that we have received on this subject. She was able to talk to a lot of people and asked them if we removed Danny from the equation, because most of them are customers of his, would this still be something they were concerned with or is it their relationship with him. They all agreed that even if you removed him, they want to make their own choices and that is what they love about Freeport. A lot of them are older and made the point that it is hard for them to get their containers out to the curb. She feels increasing the hours at the Transfer Station and opening up the "gift shop" would help. That is what she has been hearing and is grateful to have heard from so many people.

Councilor Piltch feels Freeport is really lucky to have Danny Wentworth and his service. It sounds like a lot of people are speaking out in favor of him for good reasons. Not a lot of towns have that option. He doesn't think anyone has spoken in favor of getting rid of Danny Wentworth. He has not heard anyone on the Council or the Sustainability Board say we should get rid of Danny Wentworth. He feels it is nice to have that kind of consensus and direction going forward. He noted that nobody spoke in favor of Casella. His hunch is that there are a lot of reluctant customers of Casella because they offer curbside recycling. He mentioned that was the case for him at his previous house in Freeport. They wanted to have curbside recycling for the convenience of it and that was the only option so they went with it even though it was 2-3 times the cost of Danny's service. He feels there is an unspoken sentiment here that might be worth reaching out to all the folks who are using Pine Tree but reluctantly so and getting their feedback. He pointed out that the Town through a line item in its budget is paying for all of the waste that we send to Ecomaine, regardless of who brings it there. We all share in that cost and it is in our charter. (Chair Egan noted that was correct). Anything we divert from that stream, composting, reduction overall comes out of our budget. Anything we divert to recycling is half of the cost of the waste we send over so town-wide it is in our best interest to try to reduce the amount of solid waste we send to Ecomaine. Curbside recycling appears to be a way we might be able to increase that and if we can do that, in conjunction with keeping the service we have from Danny and any other options that want to come to town and get licensed to do so, it sounds like something we should pursue. He feels it has been brought up before and is something he would like to see the town do.

Councilor Horne noted he agreed with a lot of what Councilor Piltch said and like everybody else, he got plenty of e-mails and calls from constituents that love Danny's service. His mother is one of them. He feels we have to make sure that the service Danny provides is preserved. It comes down to recycling. What is bothering him is since the silver bullet was pulled out of South Freeport Village, to have curbside recycling in this town, it costs a fortune. It is hundreds of dollars and it really does force our townspeople into these other recycling activities. He applauds our townspeople for doing as well as they do. It is an inconvenience. People's garages fill up with this stuff and so there is a service that is not getting performed right now. To pick up on Councilor Reighley's point, at some point if the service is not being provided, we need to pick up on that. He would favor a private solution to this. For the trash for sure. He would be open to a public recycling solution potentially. Education works in helping people understand what they should recycle and what they shouldn't. Another thing that works pretty well is market forces. If it costs you more to throw something away than it does to recycle it, it forces the consumer in some ways to do their best to reduce what they are generating from waste. The education piece helps but just having a market force or invisible hand helping people say, I can recycle that because if I put it in here, I will have to go buy more bags. He likes the elegance of that and is why so many surrounding communities all over the country favor some kind of mechanism which unleashes the market forces. He is open to some kind of a hybrid mix. He wants to see Danny's service survive. He feels it would be fantastic if a Wentworth operation or other small haulers can be enticed to do rubbish and recycling

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services. He feels we should examine rfps and sit down with Danny and ask what it would take, what do the numbers look like for him. He feels we should do all those things. Everyone he has talked to on this issue, once they realized we were not trying to run Danny out of business, want to do the right thing and want to recycle as much as they can. Those are his thoughts.

Councilor Lawrence noted that we do have a service and it is called the Transfer Station. It is inconvenient but now we are talking about making it convenient. Buying bags is not really a market force. It is government saying “hey, you have to pay for this to get it out of here.” He has heartburn with some of those things because it is government forcing people to do something that they don’t necessarily want to do. He doesn’t think it is the case here. We need to make it personal for everybody. He likes to use a carrot, not a stick. If we can make it educational and show people what it does for us. Right now, we don’t. He was surprised that most of the callers called because Danny sent out his note. It was not on anybody’s radar. Even though we were not trying to put him out of business, that was a potential and mentioned in the memo. If we can make it personal and show people “hey, if we do this, this is what can happen,” he thinks we will get more participation.

Councilor Reighley mentioned that one of the things we can do is we “know there may be a need” and if there is a need at this time where people are underemployed, there is a business opportunity to be creative. Perhaps that is something we need to do to see how it goes even if a private person picked up all the recycling and took it to the Transfer Station, could the Transfer Station handle it? Do we regulate the costs that way? Danny has a fee structure that someone else could do the same thing on a fee structure per stop and may be viable to those people out there that use the bigger carrier that provides both. Maybe we need to entertain bids on this.

Chair Egan thanked everyone. He suggested that perhaps he could work with the Vice Chair, the Manager and the Town Engineer to come up with a more extensive rather than less extensive list of potential pathways or avenues that we may address this issue so that we can then get some consensus from the Council to direct back to the Sustainability Board to research. That is our committee that will dig up the data and find out more information about the items we are talking about this evening. Before we can give them some direction on more information and analysis with the Town Engineer as well. He thinks the Council has heard a lot of different scenarios tonight and a number of different carrots and a number of different sticks about what we can do about trash hauling. Overriding all of that is the language that is in our Town Charter now which we all have to be mindful of as well. If that is acceptable, by our next meeting we could circulate for another Other Business item a list of however many it might come up to and we can then rank in terms of what we would like to learn more about. Trying to distill this down he is interested in really hearing more about how we can get the public involved in this issue and have some more information across the community so that it doesn’t have to rely on a particular vendor putting a note in his customer’s service package so we can have a dialogue about this and involve a lot of different perspectives and start moving towards the goals that we articulated at the beginning. Councilors agreed that it would work for discussion at the next meeting. Chair Egan advised that they would review the notes from this evening and review the Minutes and he, the Vice Chair, Mr. Joseph and Mr. Bliss will work together and come up with a list that captures the various electives that we have available to us.

2. Discuss options for approvals for amendments to RSU5 facilities that may or may not need to be adjusted as the schools figure out how to reopen in the middle of a public health pandemic.

Chair Egan mentioned that they had expressed some communication to the Facilities Director of the RSU and asked Mr. Joseph if anything came forward that needs Council action or discussion this evening. Mr. Joseph explained that they have had conversations with Dennis. There is nothing that needs action but

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there is probably some awareness that should be put out there. He and the Town Planner met with Dennis this afternoon and he definitely, as everyone in the School District is trying to figure out what they are going to do with facilities and trying to come up with alternative work arounds to make space work. They are doing a good job but part of the issue is they have space concerns in individual schools so they are looking at some outdoor options, moving things around, making changes outside of buildings, things like that so that may involve some portable classrooms at some of the facilities. They are going to put one at Morse Street which will be moved from where it was approved by the Project Review Board. Dennis is just trying to make things happen and come up with solutions.

Mr. Joseph communicated to the Superintendent's office that we are trying to stay out of the way. They will need to make exterior changes to buildings which falls under our Zoning regulations. They will have to get those approved. They don't fall into any of our timelines and we don't fall into any of their timelines. It is a 20-day best case approval scenario for a minor change to a building. He is confident that no one wants to stand there in the way of the schools opening back up and say you can't do that because it is a Zoning violation. You were going to put it over here and now it is going over there. They have communicated that to them but he wanted to make the Council aware that we are probably going to tell them if they need to make changes at their building, do it. The only thing we would probably draw the line on obviously is a life safety concern such as fire, health, etc. Obviously, if it needs to be sprinkled at capacity, or anything like that we could not approve it, we would have to take action but the school would never do anything like that. Our plan now is to say, go ahead and do it and get an after-the-fact permit. This is vastly different from what we would ever tell any commercial, residential or any other government group. Because of the time crunch with the schools, this is where he and the Town Planner are falling on this. He wanted to float this out to the Council. This is consistent with the direction we had with businesses at the start of the pandemic. He feels it is consistent with what he heard from the Council but wanted to make sure before they step outside of the established standards, that it is okay with the Council for them to be doing it with the goal of getting the schools open on September 8th. Chair Egan believes that the context of any of these suggestions were for outdoor, largely temporary installations to accommodate flexing of populations in and out of the school buildings so it is not like allowing someone to have a permit after the fact to add a wing onto their building. We are not talking about those kinds of changes and he feels it works fine.

Councilor Tracy pointed out that consistently the Council has looked at how can we support the community and appropriately how can we support the schools in an unprecedented emergency pandemic. She has participated in the RSU5 Board meetings as an observer and the overwhelming parent community has said please bring the children back to school. There are certainly safety concerns and that is part of getting the kids outside in outdoor spaces so they can have the requisite spacing to reduce any transmission of respiratory droplets, etc. It is a critical family issue in this community for working parents many of whom are working full time because they are essential workers and have jobs that are back to work full time. The children get out of the home and go back to school. It is not even addressing the quality of their education because many parents are not qualified to teach their children but teachers are and we need their help to teach our kids in person. Anything we can do to facilitate that movement really supports the working parent/child generation of our community which is a huge cross section of our community right now. She fully supports anything we can do and will make herself available for any emergency action at any time.

Councilor Horne agreed with everything Councilor Tracy just said and loves that Caroline and Peter have great common sense in these things and trusts their judgment in the signals they are sending. This is even more important than what was done for the business community. Mr. Joseph pointed out that he predicted this is what everybody would feel but had to say it publicly and noted there are people still in the audience.

COUNCIL MEETING #18-20
AUGUST 18, 2020

MOVED AND SECONDED: To adjourn at 9:01 p.m. (Reighley & Lawrence) **ROLL**
CALL VOTE: (7 Ayes)

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Coffin, Council Secretary