

**Special Board of Public Works Meeting
Meeting Minutes
August 15, 2019**

A special meeting of the Board of Public Works was held on Thursday, August 15, 2019, at 1:00 p.m. in the Auditorium at City Hall, 229 Main Street, Nashua, NH 03060.

Mayor Donchess, Chair, declared the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and called the roll.

Members Present:

Mayor James Donchess, Chair
Commissioner Tracy Pappas
Commissioner Kevin S. Moriarty
Commissioner G. Frank Teas

Members not Present:

Commissioner Joel Ackerman, Vice Chair

Also Present:

Ms. Lisa Fauteux, Director, Division of Public Works
Alderman Shoshanna Kelly
Mr. Jeff Lafleur, Superintendent of Solid Waste
Ms. Sally Hyland, Recycling Coordinator
Alderman Ernest Jette, Aldermanic Liaison

MOTION: Commissioner Moriarty made a motion to approve the agenda as presented.

MOTION CARRIED: Unanimously

Public Comment - There was no public comment.

Engineering Department

A. Non-Public Session

MOTION: Commissioner Moriarty moved by roll call that the Board of Public Works go into non-public session pursuant to RSA:91-A (3) §IIB, the hiring of any person as a public employee.

A Viva Voce Roll Call was taken, which resulted as follows:

Yea: Mayor Donchess, Commissioner Moriarty, 4
Commissioner Pappas & Commissioner Teas

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED: Unanimously

MOTION: Commissioner Moriarty moved by roll call to seal the minutes of the Board of Public Works non-public session of August 15, 2019, until such time as the majority of the Board votes that the purpose of the confidentiality would no longer be served.

A Viva Voce Roll Call was taken, which resulted as follows:

Yea: Mayor Donchess, Commissioner Moriarty, 4
Commissioner Pappas & Commissioner Teas

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED: Unanimously

B. Elimination of an Assistant Construction Engineer Position and the Creation of a Senior Staff Engineer

MOTION: Commissioner Pappas to eliminate an Assistant Construction Engineer position and to create a Senior Staff Engineer position.

MOTION CARRIED: Unanimously

Board of Public Works Discussion Items

A. Recycling Update

Mr. Jeff Lafleur, Superintendent of Solid Waste

You can see from the handout that it's doing a little bit of fluctuating going up and down. May was \$77.11 per ton, June was \$78.50 per ton and in July it went down to \$77.73 per ton. It shows the hauling cost for July at \$7,425 and the tonnage cost was \$32,477.14. The total spent for the calendar year is \$253,884. The market is staying in the \$78 to \$80 range.

Commissioner Pappas

How much did we budget for?

Mr. Lafleur

\$400,000 but that was from July.

Alderman Jette

Can we figure out what the hauling cost is per ton?

Mr. Lafleur

It's a flat rate, sir. It's \$275 per load.

Alderman Jette

So the charge per ton is what they are charging us to recycle stuff but we are paying the hauling cost on top of that.

Mr. Jeff Lafleur

Yes, sir.

Alderman Jette

I was wondering whether anyone has figured out what the per ton charge ends up being when you consider the hauling cost on top of the charge.

Mr. Lafleur

We averaged it out at about \$100 per ton.

Mayor Donchess

The tipping fee plus the hauling averages approximately \$100 per ton.

B. Food Composting

Alderwoman Shoshanna Kelly

I am here to talk about food composting. I am on the Energy Environment as a liaison and we have been talking about ways that we can reduce because I know that recycling has been a big issue for not only our city but many cities and towns. I have done a bunch of research and found other cities who have done this including Cambridge and they reduced the amount of waste going into their landfill by 10% and they have an approximate 50% participation rate. I pitched the idea and chatted with Director Fauteux and we talked about ways we might be able to pilot the program. I think we have to start moving people from thinking of recycling as their first way of helping the environment and the climate crisis as it is getting very costly and not making the waste in the first place would be much better. We talked about piloting a food composting program in a small neighborhood where there is not a lot of infrastructure cost involved might be a good start.

Mr. Jeff Lafleur

Actually, Commissioner Pappas had a bunch of questions that we responded to and we did a lot of research on this. We went to Cambridge about two weeks ago and was told that one of their biggest concerns was the odor on the street side. There were a lot of complaints from the residents just from the containers themselves on collection day.

Commissioner Pappas

What do you mean by containers?

Mr. Lafleur

They use a small 35-gallon toter which is curbside.

Director Fauteux

Do they have a private hauler pick it up?

Mr. Lafleur

They have a third-party hauler pick it up.

My biggest concern with food composting at the landfill would be the odor problem. We already have odors with just our normal composting; the yard waste decomposition. If we were to bring in food composting then it would create a completely different odor if it's not managed properly and it takes a lot to manage it. I went to a food composting school in 2012 in Maine and every one of the sites that we went to if it wasn't an in-vessel site then there were odors coming from it.

Alderman Jette

What is an in-vessel site?

Mr. Lafleur

It's like the egg at the wastewater treatment plant except it's a different design.

The odor would be my biggest concern. The EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) has said 15.1% of MSW (Municipal Solid Waste) is food waste. There is a lot of food waste but we have to watch out for our residents that live near the landfill who worry about the odors.

Alderwoman Kelly

What was Cambridge's response to the odor?

Mr. Lafleur

They have two trucks that haul it and they bring it somewhere else where they turn it into sludge and then to a wastewater treatment facility but they spend \$60 per ton to do their food waste composting.

Alderwoman Kelly

It's still cheaper than recycling is currently. That's interesting.

Mr. Lafleur

I would encourage the pilot program to start with residents doing backyard composting. The Garden Club sells composting bins every spring.

Mayor Donchess

Did they say how much they spend on this for pick-up and disposal?

Ms. Sally Hyland, Recycling Coordinator

They spend \$60 per ton and they collect 2,000 tons at this point in time.

Director Fauteux

What is the cost of collections, did they tell you that information?

Ms. Hyland

They did not say what that was but they do provide carts plus containers for inside of the house and bags.

Mayor Donchess

What is the \$60 for, is it their tipping fee?

Ms. Hyland

I think it's everything because they send it to several different places.

Mayor Donchess

That covers the trucks, the labor and everything else.

Ms. Hyland

I think so, yes.

Director Fauteux

You said Cambridge picks up themselves, is that right?

Ms. Hyland

Yes, they bought two 25-yard packers and they have three people per truck picking up at the curb once per week. They accept all foods and all of the schools are picked up. Their tipping fees are \$100 per ton for trash and \$60 per ton for compost. For them, it's a reduction in cost from trash.

Commissioner Pappas

Do they have their own landfill?

Ms. Hyland

No, they transfer it out.

Commissioner Pappas

But it's not just the food composting they transfer out of town.

Mr. Lafleur

Trash is \$100 per ton to ship out because they don't have a landfill.

Mayor Donchess

So the \$60 is the tipping fee and not the pick-up cost?

Ms. Hyland

Probably.

Commissioner Pappas

I think the landfill is very valuable to us and when I was first on the Board we were getting very large numbers of complaints about smells and we still get them and we've gone through some hiccups but I think we've been able to manage our wells very good and it's helped tremendously. I think if we did it we would have to remember that we keep the stuff in-house in town and that would be one of my concerns for the neighbors of the landfill.

Director Fauteux

That's a good point Commissioner Pappas because we've had challenges with every time we turn the soft yard waste, just the grass and we end up getting complaints. Unfortunately, years ago, the city allowed residents to pelt in very close proximity to the landfill so it's difficult. I wouldn't recommend that we add processing food waste unless...there are trailers and different types of technology where it's all enclosed and there are no odors but I don't know how expensive it is. You would not want to try to just mix it without some sort of containment because there would be significant odors.

Commissioner Pappas

Those containers, I don't know we could get those as a city and say, for example, I was one that believed the city should provide the recycling totes but enough people have purchased the well spent \$60 for the totes and I have enjoyed mine. People that I know who compost do have those self-contained containers that the Garden Club sells. I am wondering if we have

enough interested volunteers...if we might be able to purchase those self-contained compost containers for people who are willing to purchase them.

Alderwoman Kelly

So the cost wouldn't go to the city, it would go to people who want to compost.

Commissioner Pappas

I don't know what percentage of citizens have purchased their trash cart.

Mr. Lafleur

How many does the Garden Club sell to you?

Ms. Hyland

We have sold over 9,000 trash carts. In terms of the composting bins, this is what it looks like. [Ms. Hyland provided the Board with a handout] Over 20 years we have sold over 1,000 of the bins and we work with the Garden Club on that. If you anticipate that a conservative number of 400 pounds per year per compost bin then it would save about 3,000 tons which would be diverted from the landfill. That doesn't include meat. Food waste can be put in there along with some yard waste.

Mayor Donchess

How much waste has Cambridge diverted as a result of recycling?

Ms. Hyland

They told us they had 12,000 tons of trash per year and 9,000 tons per year for recycling which is picked up by a private hauler. The composting is 2,000 tons per year but they are not fully citywide at this time.

Mayor Donchess

What is our total pick-up for trash?

Mr. Lafleur

Last year we collected 20,650 tons curbside and the residential drop off was 3,636. Residential trash all together was 23,636.

Director Fauteux

That's not a completely accurate number because you are not including commercial trash which also comes from residential units. The total MSW that comes into the landfill is what?

Mr. Lafleur

Last year it was 1,500...

Mayor Donchess

But our pick-up is basically 20,000 and we are getting 5,000 tons of recycling. So basically, we have a 25% recycling rate.

Director Fauteux

That's only what we pick up. There's a lot of commercial waste coming in from condo's.

Mayor Donchess

I'm just saying in terms of what we are picking up, we pick up 25,000 tons of which 5,000 is recycling.

Director Fauteux

Not really.

Mr. Lafleur

The 5,000 tons of recycling include condo's.

Mayor Donchess

How many tons do you think you pick up that is recycling at curbside?

Ms. Hyland

Probably 3,500 tons.

Mayor Donchess

So we have an approximate 15% or 17% recycling rate.

Mr. Lafleur

Obviously, if we gave out the carts we could probably bump that up to 25% but with the way the recycling markets are now, it doesn't make sense.

Ms. Hyland

We've got a high percentage of recycling carts, about 9,000 and approximately 24,000 households. It's a good percentage

Alderwoman Kelly

With regard to the smell, my own personal research has been that some of it is education. We can talk to people about how to make their own bins not smell and put things in there to help. I have looked into the shelters that were discussed which is an option but I also think we can consider what Cambridge is doing where they have a private partnership for where the waste goes, whether that is a farm or something else in the area that can process the compost for us. I'm not sure if Justin had some ideas on that. I do hear that and I understand it. I don't want to make the problem worse for anyone at the landfill.

Mr. Justin Munroe

I work for an organization called Grow Nashua. We work in the community to build urban growing spaces within both the community and the schools to help people have a spot where they can grow their own food. All of the people that we serve are families and going to the schools that we work in which are Title I schools where kids have on average 70% - 80% free and reduced lunches. (Inaudible) as a means of building in some sustainability to our business. We looked at the need for compost for our gardens. There are a lot of private organizations that run compost services. AgraCycle went out and started last year, we've done little marketing, it's mostly word of mouth. Our own capacity from what our non-profit does in the community; we do a lot of outreach. A lot of our programming is hands-on and it's growing at a fast pace. We are trying to (Inaudible) with our outreach program because that what we do for Nashua and as a result, the compost business has been something that we've allowed to grow with just referrals; we haven't pushed to market it. We have converted about 40,000 pounds of food base over the past year from about 70 households and 5 businesses. As I said, we haven't done a lot of marketing and that's the pace that we can maintain based on equipment and staffing. We started with just one customer but now we are at those numbers.

Mayor Donchess

What's the method of pick-up, how do you do it?

Mr. Munroe

We use a pick-up truck. I heard the comment that the customers in Cambridge were complaining of the smell and that's because that 32-gallon is way too much. Some of our best composting customers are only doing 5 to 10 gallons. Maybe some of the commercial ones can handle that but you really need to be swapping things out at a residential site. People aren't going to clean their own buckets, that's what we do. The only job the households have is to collect their food scraps from the kitchen and put them in a 5-gallon bucket outside and then we come once per week and pick up the bucket and put a fresh liner in.

Mayor Donchess

What do you think a 5-gallon bucket weighs?

Mr. Munroe

About 30 pounds.

Alderwoman Kelly

Where do you compost it?

Mr. Munroe

We partner with (Inaudible) cycle. Composting is a science and requires some weekly...

Mr. Lafleur

We had a contract with them, they were delivering wood ash at one point to us.

Mr. Munroe

It's out of Ipswich, MA.

Mr. Munroe

The other advantage of partnering with them is that New Hampshire has laws against meat and dairy.

Mayor Donchess

With the current recycling, people throw out all kinds of stuff.

Mr. Munroe

Sure and that breaks the machine but it doesn't break the law. New Hampshire is the only state in New England that has not caught up with legislation that says...because it is a science and it is cooking all of that micro material. All of those microbes are eating all of that food waste that you put in there so it has to hit certain temperatures and (Inaudible) certain pathogens.

Mayor Donchess

So under current law, if someone throws meat in the compost bin and you pick it up, who is violating the law you or them?

Mr. Munroe

Neither because it's leaving New Hampshire.

Mayor Donchess

But what if it were in New Hampshire, who would be violating the law, the person who does it or the person who picks it up?

Mr. Munroe

It has nothing to do with who does it, it's the person who composts it.

Mayor Donchess

What's the penalty for that?

Mr. Munroe

I don't know, that's why the partnership with the Massachusetts hauler is critical for this.

Mayor Donchess

What do you pay them?

Mr. Munroe

It's a similar hauling fee plus poundage.

Director Fauteux

So if we had one of these self-contained units, scraps are still not allowed in New Hampshire.

Mr. Munroe

We could also make an effort to change the legislation.

Alderwoman Kelly

I agree everybody should be doing it. I can't believe you've done 40,000 over a year, that's incredible. One of the things with the education and what we had originally talked about with the pilot was to just keep that out. I worry about critters at the curbside depending on how long people leave it there. I would love to get to the point where we can compost everything but I think starting without it might make sense.

Director Fauteux

How do you educate residents enough not to do that? If people are putting their food scraps into the bucket, how are you going to police that and make sure they are not putting in chicken or whatever?

Mr. Munroe

We have been fortunate thus far...this is a paid service so people who are doing this see the value in what we are doing and the importance of what we are doing.

Mayor Donchess

How much do they pay you?

Mr. Munroe

Right now most customers are \$25.00 per month and that's weekly pick-up.

Mayor Donchess

And does that cover all of your costs?

Mr. Munroe

Yes.

Mayor Donchess

Who is the worker that is picking it up, is it a volunteer?

Mr. Munroe

No, it's a paid employee. Grow Nashua's program is ultimately to employ our families that we serve. We would like to employ our low-income families. It just requires dedication to the job and a license. It does not require a lot of English speaking skills so it would work well for people who are not totally proficient in English. Part of our mission is to actually provide economic uplift for the people we serve. (Inaudible)

Commissioner Moriarty

Do you get any grant money?

Mr. Munroe

For the compost, no we do not. We get grants for our other programming but not for compost.

Mayor Donchess

So you have 70 families?

Mr. Munroe

Yes.

Mayor Donchess

So in a way you are paying approximately \$1 per pound. You charge \$25.00, you pick-up maybe 25 pounds at \$1 per pound from pick-up to disposal.

Alderman Jette

I am one of his customers. We don't keep the bucket outside; we keep it right in our kitchen. We are afraid of critters coming along so we keep it in the kitchen and we never have an odor problem. During the summer months with ears of corn, we fill it up pretty much to the top. They come by on Monday morning and pick it up.

Mayor Donchess

Did you do it through the winter as well?

Alderman Jette

Yes.

Mayor Donchess

Do you put meat in there or just vegetables?

Alderman Jette

No, we don't put in meat.

Mr. Munroe

If you put meat in it creates an additional smell and it becomes interesting to critters.

Everyone puts their bins in different places, some are in the house, some are in the garage and some are next to the garage. We've had very little critter activity but squirrels are the worst. We've never had a tipped bucket.

Mayor Donchess

Did you pay for the pick-up truck out of this program?

Mr. Munroe

That's where I think a partnership on this could be helpful. We don't have the capital to invest. We are fortunate right now where our employee has his own pick-up truck but to serve our ultimate goal of employing the people we are looking to employ we would (Inaudible) if we were the ones providing the truck. If we were to multiply this work times 5 days per week then that might only require one pick-up truck shared between one or two employees.

Mayor Donchess

So the cost you are charging does not cover the cost of the equipment, meaning the pick-up truck?

Mr. Munroe

It does not include the pick-up truck. We are paying the employee enough to cover for the use of their truck. It's still not an ideal situation from a business point because you also have a weak link in that if the employee left so did the truck.

Mayor Donchess

How often does this employee work, one day per week?

Mr. Munroe

Yes.

Alderwoman Kelly

So if the employee worked five days per week it would be 350 houses potentially.

Mayor Donchess

Does it take him all day?

Mr. Munroe

Yes, but the houses are scattered around.

Mayor Donchess

If you had more stops it would be more efficient.

Alderwoman Kelly

Do you guys get bags of compost back from AgraCycle?

Mr. Munroe

Yes.

Alderwoman Kelly

How often?

Mr. Munroe

As needed. We either get it for free or purchase them from them. We offer the compost back to our customers.

Alderman Jette

We did get compost for what we pay, whatever that is, and it was beautiful.

Mayor Donchess

How much did you get back?

Alderman Jette

It was more than one.

Alderwoman Kelly

Is it capped? If you wanted one every week would you have to say no?

Mr. Munroe

There is a cost associated with it so I would have to say no to every week.

Alderwoman Kelly

One of the comments that Director Fauteux had brought up when we originally talked about this was the current composting was just yard waste so you don't get that rich stuff that you can use in your garden type of compost.

[Recorder's Note: Mayor Donchess excused himself from the meeting at 1:55 p.m. and Commissioner Pappas was seated in his place for the remainder of the meeting.]

Alderwoman Kelly

I think the compost could be used better if it were richer. Nobody comes and picks up what we have right now.

Mr. Lafleur

We actually use our compost for our side slopes at our landfill. All of the compost that comes in that's processed we use.

Alderwoman Kelly

But it's not like I can come and take some and put it in my garden.

Mr. Lafleur

No, it's not composted properly enough to do that and that's why we have never given away compost at the landfill. It could still contain whatever chemicals residents might have used. We don't know what's in it and we don't have the manpower to do it.

Ms. Hyland

We would need an additional permit or an adjustment to our permit for food waste. They are working on those regulations at DES (Department of Environmental Services) right now.

Alderwoman Kelly

Is there an additional cost to have that permit if we were going to do food composting?

Ms. Hyland

I'm not sure what the cost of permits is but they are working on two different levels of permits. One with meat and one without meat. Those regulations are in progress.

Director Fauteux

We probably wouldn't need a permit if we were going to go with a third-party contractor who would be picking it up curbside and doing something with it. If we did anything, that's probably more of the route that we would have to go. I don't think it would be cost-effective to buy two additional packers and six additional employees; that would get very costly.

One of the things that we do now, to Commissioner Pappas' point about the backyard compost bins, is its sort of a limited distribution. It's a short window and we don't really promote it all that much. If we sold them year-round and we really promoted composting...the only concern is then where would that go, who would pick it up and where would people bring it. I don't know the answer to that.

Mr. Lafleur

Most people would just use their own.

Alderwoman Kelly

I've had one for about a year and I still haven't figured out how to turn it, it's just full.

Mr. Lafleur

One other thing that I would caution, not that it's that big of an issue but I had the people who are running the gas plant down at the landfill, the EPP come in and they ask me every year what our waste generation...what our models look like so if we were to take out food waste composting we could affect their gas generation. I'm not saying it will or it won't but they are

concerned about what our waste generation looks like. (Inaudible) They make electricity with it.

Alderman Jette

On behalf of Ward 5 residents who live around the landfill, the concern of odor is...the idea of hiring a third-party contractor to come in and take it to Ipswich, for example, sounds like a better option to me. I don't know if there is a way that the city could operate this without an odor. I think you said something to me that odor is a manageable thing.

Mr. Munroe

I think it's a science. AgraCycle has giant machines that manage this and that's their job. It's a specialty and I wouldn't necessarily say that we need to become a specialist because they are the specialists. They can take everything. We offer the service of pick-up but we could use help with is some sort of subsidiary for people who either can't pay for it or don't want to pay for it or some investment in our infrastructure to help us get started. (Inaudible) or even have it be something that sits underneath as an accessory to a city where that truck and employee might be part of the city or something like that.

Alderwoman Kelly

I think the subsidy thing is important. I don't know if this is something that has been talked about at this level but I have always wanted us to be able to subsidize the recycling carts for the same reason. Recycling is in a tough spot right now but if someone wants to recycle I don't feel like money should get in the way and I feel the same way about composting.

I think encouraging and educating and having those composting bins available is great. I think you are going to run into the same problems, especially economically because they are not cheap and also if it's not easy then people won't do it. I think the easiest way for someone to compost will help us reduce our tonnage and will achieve the goal of us really starting to look at what is going on with climate in general. The more we can encourage good habits without it being a complete barrier in terms of time or resources or if people have enough yard room to do it, the better it would be.

Mr. Lafleur

I think the logistics of it is going to be difficult. We went through this with the apartments and the condo associations in trying to set it up with recycling through a third-party and it kind of fell apart because the city didn't want to be a broker in the middle of the collection. If a third-party wanted to go around and do themselves I think it would make sense but if the city got involved there would be all kinds of liabilities and everything. You would have a hauler but then you would have my department taking all of the calls for it and we'd be getting all of the complaints about it too. It would be a lot cleaner if it was...I'm just saying a Pinard taking care of Hudson's waste, if it was Pinard coming in and taking care of the food composting and leaving the city out it, I don't think there would be...correct me if I'm wrong on this but I just feel like it would be a logistical nightmare for the city.

Director Fauteux

We could certainly reach out to haulers who are picking up compost in other communities how that works.

Commissioner Pappas

I had no idea that you guys hit that many households. For the record, most years when we've had extra money in the budget I've said why don't we put in \$30.00 per recycling cart so people don't have to pay the full price.

I am wondering if there is something in between...it sounds like you are telling me that the compost bins are cumbersome.

Aldерwoman Kelly

Not necessarily. Justin was saying that the ones in Cambridge sound like they are too big for what we are expecting. I think when I came forward with this idea I was really hoping that there might be a way where we don't have to invest a ton in infrastructure. We talked about putting in the yard waste bags and things like that. Hiring someone and getting a truck...obviously, I am not advocating to put more work or more budget at the landfill. I just know that statistically, food waste can be almost half of what you are throwing into your trash and how do we address that. I don't care how that's done if it's a private partnership and we figure out something that works really well but it's open to everybody, great. If it's a private/public partnership where we are helping in some capacity, fine. I think the ultimate goal is how do we get people on that mindset of reducing what they put in their trashcan because as much as we do have a landfill, it is going to continue to get full and it's not sustainable to continue producing waste at the rate we are at.

Commissioner Pappas

I think it's great that you've already reached that many households to participate. I do think having the city as a middle man would be kind of tough. Just a couple of ideas also in terms of living in close quarters in a neighborhood, if there were some other containers that people might buy that are more secure than a bucket because I will say there have been complaints in certain neighborhoods that when someone composts they do find extra critters. When you live in close quarters in the city and you have neighbors...if we wanted to look at something like this, one of my thoughts would be to have as much of a critter-proof container that you can get.

Mr. Lafleur

Are you talking about to haul it away or compost on-site?

Commissioner Pappas

Both.

Mr. Lafleur

You need oxygen to compost so if you were to seal it off it would turn air aerobic too quick and it wouldn't compost properly.

Alderwoman Kelly

Given the conversation, it seems like us doing the compost doesn't make sense. There are people who are experts in this who have facilities where it won't make our landfill smell more. I think what I've come to in the past twenty minutes is that it makes the most sense to do it with some sort of partner.

Director Fauteux

Justin, you have been fairly successful on a small scale. What is preventing you from growing, is it just capital at this point?

Mr. Munroe

Yes, it's a big jump to go from being a person who is fortunate enough to have an employee with a pick-up and buying a bucket at a time to do this versus great we now have 90,000. Even two vehicles that we can rely on is just a jump. If we were to buy two trucks and hire a couple of people we would need more people composting so it's like a "chicken and egg" situation. We've been able to grow at the pace we wanted to grow up until this point but now we need an injection of capital.

Director Fauteux

I'm not a CDBG expert by any stretch of the imagination and I don't know if you are, Alderwoman Kelly or not but given that you are helping folks in low-income neighborhoods and you are also employing them, I wonder if that might be a candidate for CDBG funds and therefore give you some additional capital to be able to grow the business. It was just a thought.

Commissioner Pappas

I have been a believer that we replace our trucks too often and I don't know if we had a truck that was in pretty decent shape that we were going to get rid of anyway.

Alderwoman Kelly

We just approved six or seven last night. The comment last night was we are going to try to hang on to some of the trucks as long as we can.

Mr. Munroe

Right now we would only need it once per week.

Director Fauteux

But if you had it five times per week you could provide more service.

Mr. Munroe

I'm just saying if there was a truck that happened to be able to be free one day a week we could start a Tuesday pick-up route.

Commissioner Pappas

I'm just talking if we are done with the truck then we are done with the truck and if you only use it one day per week then it should last you all the longer.

One of the things I think would be important to address would be to get a container that is not going to attract critters. Growing up we didn't have a garbage disposal and my mother didn't want to deal with critters in the garbage so we'd save coffee cans and she'd stuff everything in the freezer.

Mr. Munroe

A lot of people are familiar with that practice. It has been lost for a generation but seniors on a limited budget would do it if we could subsidize it.

Alderwoman Kelly

So that's part two, you are talking about capital investment in order to serve but also how do we make sure that it is accessible to everybody.

Mr. Munroe

I still think there are a lot of people who would be willing to pay for the service so they could help sustain the growth. A lot of times what happens is you have a person who is composting and someone will say "what is that green bucket" and they will reply we compost. Then they will ask what it means.

Director Fauteux

Much like the recycling carts. It makes it so much easier to recycle.

Commissioner Teas

I think the effort in looking at composting is great. What is the math behind composting? You had 40,000 pounds which are 20 tons in one year. How much savings...say we had 700 homes it would be 200 tons per year?

Mr. Munroe

A round number for easy math is that the average household produces 13 pounds per week.

Ms. Hyland

We have used a conservative number for the composting bins at 400 pounds per year, per bin.

Commissioner Teas

If we were to compost, how much are we saving by not putting it in the landfill? I'm getting at how do we pay for the truck and we trade in trucks and we'd probably have to make up for the difference on the trade but if we are saving money too then I think we can justify it.

Mr. Munroe

Six (Inaudible)

Alderwoman Kelly

And then if you multiply that out towards, for example, 700 households it would work out to almost 500,000 pounds.

Ms. Hyland

A bit less, it's 473,000.

Commissioner Teas

How much does it cost us per pound at the landfill?

Mr. Lafleur

We charge \$80.00 per ton.

Commissioner Moriarty

One concern that I have with the public non-profit partnership is and Director Fauteux, you may remember that we tried to get some volunteers in to do something but I can't remember what it was but the Union was totally against it because they said it was their job. I don't know how that would work. I don't know if it's a legal issue or not.

Director Fauteux

If it's a private service and it's something that we haven't done before I think that would be fine.

Commissioner Pappas

Yes, that and not using city equipment.

Alderman Jette

We've done it before. I remember as a kid the city had a small, white packer truck and we would put out these little galvanized steel buckets of garbage and they would pick it up. I think they brought it to a pig farm.

Commissioner Teas

To put it into perspective, if 500,000 pounds was from 700 households it would be 250 tons at \$80.00 per ton so there would be a \$20,000 savings.

Director Fauteux

How many pounds is that per household?

Commissioner Teas

It's 13 pounds per week which is 676 pounds per year.

Alderwoman Kelly

I don't know if you got updated numbers when you went to Cambridge but what I had seen on-line was a 10% reduction and that was with only half the houses participating. So if we were to reduce our waste by 10% that is still 2,500 tons less going into our landfill.

Mr. Lafleur

We use 80,000 tons and that's pretty conservative for the amount that goes into the landfill per year so we'd save 8,000.

Director Fauteux

No, it would only be residential curbside that you would be picking up and not the commercial so Alderwoman Kelly is correct when she said 2,500 tons.

Commissioner Pappas

I wonder what percentage of houses have garbage disposals.

Director Fauteux

And that's why it makes sense for a company like Justin's who is already in that business to try to grow it and see where it goes. That would be the smart way to go.

Alderwoman Kelly

In general, to get started with composting is fairly easy. We don't put in meat or eggs but any other food waste can go in there.

Director Fauteux

It's about convincing people to do it in the crazy world we live in.

Alderwoman Kelly

That's correct.

Director Fauteux

It sounds like if the city could find your company a truck that might a good way for the city to start helping.

Mr. Munroe

Yes, we have insurance and we have the people to drive them, it's a matter of capital.

Commissioner Moriarty

Have you approached any dealerships?

Mr. Munroe

Right now we are focused on community outreach including school programs and gardens.

We've been around for four years and we've had the compost program for one year and we haven't written any grants for a truck yet. We just not there yet.

Alderwoman Kelly

Do you have any concerns about it growing too quickly?

Mr. Munroe

No, I don't think it will scale quickly but more of one or two people at a time. We are not doing any advertising right now, it's just by word of mouth.

Director Fauteux

I'll speak with the Mayor about it and see where we can go from there. Commissioner Pappas has a good idea about using a leftover truck. I don't know if we have anything in the pipeline, but that doesn't mean if there isn't one at public works that there might be one at the police department or somewhere else. I'll look into that.

There are a few other items on the agenda, do you want me to schedule another meeting or put it on our next agenda?

Commissioner Pappas

I think you should schedule a separate meeting to further discuss recycling. I think they are very important items and don't get their due justice if people are tired at the end of the day.

Director Fauteux

I did want to mention that we are getting intelligence that we are getting materials from outside of Nashua. Jeff and I have put a number of controls in place to prevent that from happening but as we are going to catch people, we need to figure out what the fines and penalties will be.

Commissioner Pappas

Someone told me when people see that there isn't someone right at the gate they saw people with Massachusetts plates...

Mr. Lafleur

That's one of them, the last item on the agenda, the Scale Operator position. We really want to move to get that person full-time.

Commissioner Pappas

I think that's very important.

Director Fauteux

It's not a lot of money.

Commissioner Pappas

I think it's really important for the landfill space.

Mr. Lafleur

The amount of people we are catching and turning away just with the two part-time people will be increased greatly.

Commissioner Pappas

Does this occur mostly on Saturday's or is it more through the week?

Mr. Lafleur

It happens all week. Today I caught two people personally. They say they pick up at a certain residence but we will find two or three boxes with the same address on it that's not in Nashua. Just because they pick up at a residence doesn't mean they didn't move in from there and

that's what I am getting back...push back from the haulers. I'm the bad guy saying your permit is shut off but now I also have to prove that they really did come from that building.

Commissioner Pappas

If landlords do it right...you pay \$50 and you have to say what address it is and then you step on the scale.

Mr. Lafleur

For instance, a landlord comes in with a truckload of trash from his unit, that person may have moved here from Lowell, MA, and their unpacking everything. That landlord brings in their Lowell trash with their delivery receipts on it. I am looking at that saying that is coming from out of Nashua but it really isn't because he's bringing it in from the people who moved into Nashua from Lowell. The issue is how do I prove that.

Director Fauteux

Space is really tightening up and more people will try to break the rules. They are just going to have to provide proof.

Commissioner Pappas

There aren't many landfills around here, right?

Director Fauteux

Right, and it's decreasing more as time goes on. We are going to have to take a really tough stance because we are going to end up filling this landfill with materials from outside of Nashua if we are not careful.

Commissioner Pappas

That's not right.

Director Fauteux

With regard to the penalties to prevent outside materials being put in the landfill, I think we have to be fairly tough because if it's just a slap on the hand they will just keep doing it. We are looking at all loads that aren't trash but we can't possibly pull apart every load so we are spot-checking approximately three loads per day. I would say they lose the permit for three months for the first offense, second offense six months or a year and you lose your permit on the third offense.

Commissioner Pappas

For landlords, sometimes it might be tough if they go through and they do it correctly but you are not quite sure what your property manager is doing. I think there are probably a lot of

landlords who live in Nashua who just use their \$5 permit too. They could get away with that if they have a truck. That's harder to catch.

Director Fauteux

That's true.

Alderman Jette

Is it individual landlords or hauling companies?

Mr. Lafleur

Just the small mom & pop commercial companies.

Director Fauteux

It's the clean-up companies.

Mr. Lafleur

We are spot-checking a lot of the demolition loads; those are the ones who are the hardest to go after because there are no labels or mailing addresses.

Commissioner Pappas

We have discussed just getting rid of C&D altogether.

Mr. Lafleur

I would love that.

Director Fauteux

We are trying to re-write all of the solid waste rules because there is such a mess. It transfers the authority from the Board of Aldermen to the Board of Public Works to set fees for things and I think right now we should just introduce legislation. Alderman Jette, would you be willing to sponsor legislation which would increase the rate of C&D to a minimum of \$200 per ton. That will be a huge deterrent right there.

Commissioner Pappas

Do we have the capacity to check every fourth or fifth truck?

Mr. Lafleur

Yesterday we checked five loads and it's not a problem when everyone's there. We do a minimum of three. We change up who does the checking so the people don't see the same person every time they come to drop off.

Director Fauteux

It's tedious and it's gross.

Alderman Jette

As the word gets out that you are doing that...

Director Fauteux

We've already seen people that we were concerned about coming in less now that we have instituted it.

Commissioner Pappas

We don't want to look anti-business but I think if you really make the rate steep...

Director Fauteux

We have one of those golf cart types of vehicles and I saw one of the scale operators chasing people frequently. To have two full-time people would be a huge benefit.

Commissioner Pappas

It would probably make the job less stressful too.

Mr. Lafleur

Absolutely.

Director Fauteux

Especially now that we have the controls. All of those that come in that are not a packer or an automated trash truck we are checking all of those loads. If we can't see it we are calling out to the operator and that's requiring more time for one of the scale operators to check with the operators out in the landfill. "Somebody said this was MSW, is it really?" If it's half MSW and half C&D then they get charged the C&D rate and not the MSW rate. That also takes more time but we have to put additional controls in place now because of the fact that landfills are closing and people are going to keep trying to find ways around the system.

Adjournment

At 2:20 p.m. Commissioner Pappas made a motion to adjourn the meeting.