

1 **Solid Waste Committee Meeting**

2 **Monday, January 27th, 2025, 3:30 PM**

3 **DRAFT**

4 **Members Present:** Rich Marcou (*Chair*), LeeAnn Mackay, Kent Ruesswick (*BOS rep*) Stephen  
5 Rasche, Roy Plisko, Elle Bezanson, Greg Heath, Kim Scamman

6 **Agenda:**

7 **1. Call to Order:**

8 Rich called the meeting to order at 3:27pm.

9 **2. Accept Previous Minutes:**

10 Rich made a motion to postpone approval of January 20, 2025, minutes to a future  
11 meeting, Kent seconded. No further discussion, all voted in favor.

12 **3. New Business:**

13 **Petition Articles:**

14 The committee is moving forward to the public budget hearing on February 3,  
15 2025.

16 Ken Folsom advised that the Board of Selectmen would not release the funds  
17 without information about the “scope and purpose” on their use. Further data needs to be  
18 done by an engineer. Kim has reached out to two engineering companies and Rich has  
19 reached out to one as well. The proposals should be received by Friday.

20 The proposal plans are to look at the current site, plans to move the salt shed up to  
21 the municipal complex, and provide this expenditure to the town for review.

22 Most recently, Aris engineers who did the water testing said they could do it for  
23 around \$5000.00 and would get that proposal back to Rich by last Friday but they did not  
24 get back to him as of yet. Kim spoke with Barton and Loguidice out of New York, that  
25 has an engineer that works out of Northwood NH, they are interested, are major solid  
26 waste players, and promised a letter either Friday or Today.

27 Rich can go to the February 3 public hearing on the budget with the Warrant  
28 Article and ask for it to be added to the warrants and have it be presented to the town at  
29 the town meeting but would also like to be prepared with a Petition Article.

30 LeeAnn feels like we are being driven in a different direction that is so opposed to  
31 everything that has been discussed for the lasts 6-8 months. She agrees with Rich having  
32 to do the political hurdles, what she disagrees with is spending money and time on things  
33 that is opposed to everything we determined we wanted to do eight months ago. We are  
34 back to the same reason we are objecting to what Steve wanted to do. The solution is to  
35 move the transfer station and why are we spending money to solve problems that are  
36 going to be solved when the transfer station is moved.

37 Roy approved of how far the investigation has gone and the current testing has  
38 been carried out, water testing, etc. He asked how far the land goes behind the storage  
39 station, and if we could push things back further, how much space, is it suitable or not?  
40 Rich passed out a map, from the water testing, and footprint with the landfill with the  
41 current location of the salt shed. Kim mentioned that it is a very tight site for this type of  
42 facility.

43 Rich added that it is our intention to get this quote for the building from the  
44 engineers, to get a new storage shed priced out, calling Loudon to consider partnering,

45 getting quotes for town-wide trash pick-up, and delineate all the options so the town can  
46 decide.

47 LeeAnn stated that we are paying to show the town we are doing due diligence  
48 because we have done a lot of the legwork already, she does not feel like paying for an  
49 engineer just to satisfy appearances.

50 Stephen disagreed and felt that if you want to spend all that money on a new  
51 transfer station, you must be able to tell the town specifics of spending and the only  
52 major thing we can't do now is have storage space so we can deal with recyclables. So, if  
53 we can do these things on the existing site, he does not see the purpose of going to a new  
54 site because what else would you want to do other than that?

55 Rich mentioned composting. LeeAnn continued, putting in a new compactor,  
56 adding any kind of things to stop idling cars from going through the building, which she  
57 feels is more harmful at this point than the truck that is parked outside. She noted that we  
58 don't know about air testing and that needs to be looked into and many more issues that  
59 we can't even do because we have been told "No" by Ken and DES. She agreed that  
60 having some of the hard numbers from experts will be vital to make a case for what we  
61 need.

62 LeeAnn voiced concern that if the advice we are getting from professionals solves  
63 the immediate storage solution, where are we getting with the bigger concerns? Rich  
64 responded that it is going to provide hard numbers for the current site, all the recyclables  
65 are currently going into the trash and to solve that issue we are going to have to spend  
66 money on storage. Roy stated that the dump is not allowed to hold anything longer than a  
67 year. Rich said that applies to household waste and it's less than that.

68 Gregs spoke in favor of moving ahead with the wording of the warrant article and  
69 felt that the thought of relocating and the biggest issue of the efficiency of traffic flow  
70 works and that is what we have spent so much time on learning how to make it most  
71 efficient, was the big attraction of starting over elsewhere. Greg said that this proposal is  
72 not fixing problems but gathering data so that decisions can be made, the argument is  
73 always going to be what is the cheapest way to solve the problem. Greg spoke in favor of  
74 moving ahead with this, he does not see it precluding anything that we have talked about.  
75 If we went ahead and built a new facility for storage there and the town built new salt  
76 storage, it would lock us into the facility for a long time, however gathering believable  
77 data can be expensive.

78 LeeAnn's biggest concern is when DES shuts us down, it is going to fall on us a  
79 committee. Rich felt with the tax climate right now, there was push back, taxes are still  
80 going to go up 4.6%, for us to go forward, buying land, building a new facility would  
81 have been flat out voted down. Rich expressed that the pushback was not entirely  
82 unexpected, and they gave us feedback to get your ducks in a row and that is what he is  
83 doing, getting hard numbers, updated numbers for all the options. Rich will need the  
84 Gilford numbers from LeeAnn she researched along with dates of those costs.

85 Kim sees this regardless of what happens, the salt shed needs to be moved and  
86 that is one small step forward in the process at the current site, whether the site is moved  
87 or closed or stayed as is, we will be gathering data while achieving the task.

88 Kent stated that if we are using that site for holding the sand, you will need a  
89 piece of equipment, a loader for both locations, and to keep that in mind. He felt there  
90 was probably enough room if we pushed the building towards the road.

91 Rich, regardless, it is a task we are addressing, and it is the only way forward  
92 without battling the powers that be and undermining any good that we have done. He  
93 received comments that they appreciate all the committee is doing from the budget  
94 committee. Regarding the task at hand, he still does not know if this will get put on the  
95 warrant.

96 Kent felt this is a much better way to study the dump issue and learn what you  
97 need to do, it gets you to the point where the committee can credibly give more data.

98 LeeAnn would like to strike “and suitability” out of the wording. Greg suggested  
99 it should say, “of the current transfer station or the towns future or current needs”. Rich,  
100 you mean the current site is not suitable for upgrades. Roy, feasibility means  
101 affordability, suitability means will the land allow us to do it. Agreement was made on  
102 the wording.

103 Ken Folsom emailed Aries, CC'd Rich and they called Rich. He gave Aries the  
104 scope that the committee is looking for. They said with their past experience at the dump,  
105 knowing the footprint, extent of the landfill and it not being capped, location of the test  
106 wells. The rep did say there was an anomaly with one of the wells. It does not look like it  
107 has spread very far and is not getting worse. Leeann asked to explain further. Rich said  
108 there was a problem with one of the tests wells, not sure of the hydrology and that PFAS,  
109 recently also showed up. Kent said there was a fire up there and some other town arrived  
110 with PFAS in their water which is in fire retardant foam, they spread it around and now it  
111 is showing up in our wells. It is not something that we should see continuously, it is a  
112 one-time thing as he understands. The engineers found this abnormality in one of the  
113 wells, not a concern yet but is something that needs to be watched.

114 Greg felt that this shared news was problematic, without adequate information for  
115 the residents who live closest, what they found and why they are not concerned but just  
116 knowing that it has happened in some way, we may have a significant PR issue to  
117 address. Roy stated that it is a database answer not an antidotal based answer. Greg felt it  
118 was tangential to the point. Kent said Aris engineering pulls water samples off every year,  
119 so things will show up quicker if there is a problem and it is a town budget item.

120 LeeAnn stated that this is her greatest fear, good with rebuilding, making better  
121 use of the site, the moment that changed was when DES said we can't do anything up  
122 there.

123 Rich reiterated that right now, we need to look at providing storage. Tipping fees  
124 are going up, adding more trash, spending more money, it would make more sense that  
125 we need a place to put the bales because of the need every year to use the space for the  
126 salt shed.

127 Greg felt that they are on the same page, we are talking about what to recommend  
128 to the town relative to using these funds. We need to get the data to move forward to  
129 solve the long-term issues and did not see any objection to that. He suggested moving  
130 forward. Roy was in favor of moving forward on environmental engineering over  
131 structural engineering.

132 Rich asked how the committee feels about waiting to the last minute, hoping that  
133 the selectboard is going to approve the language and let us put it on the warrant and give  
134 us access to approximately \$7000.00.

135 Kent responded that if you prove to the town that the money is going to be spent  
136 on engineering to justify that station staying where it is or moving, you need to do that

137 work this year. You need to demonstrate that it is going to be a study, he felt that it would  
138 be accepted. Greg is in favor except he would like to add the words “to be” after fund  
139 and move the question. Rich is going to give Ken the language in a warrant article and  
140 hopefully they move that and put it on the warrant.

141 Plan B: The committee will solicit 25 signatures and be ready to submit them on  
142 February 4<sup>th</sup> should this fail on February 3<sup>rd</sup>.

143 Roy is in favor of getting access to the funding for suitability, but felt suitability  
144 should be first. Rich felt suitability and feasibility come hand in hand.

145 Greg responded that an engineering firm would be assessing if our goals can be  
146 suitably met and if the answer is no, then all the feasibility questions come into terms of  
147 cost or doing it somewhere else. Kim, regardless of how you say it the engineering firm is  
148 going to do it the way they do.

149 Roy felt that there is no point in putting a new salt shed on the old site if there is  
150 going to be a new site. Rich responded that it is data. He said if we were to stay at the  
151 current location, we need a storage location, and for us to do that we need to provide a  
152 salt shed up at the municipal building.

153 Greg does not think this language is going to solve that, the is about the transfer  
154 station. Tearing it down and building something else there would be covered by this.  
155 LeeAnn asked if this would fall under the road crew umbrella? Roy replied that if the  
156 land is not suitable, it is going to have be moved up there anyway and if we need storage,  
157 it is going to have to be moved up there as well.

158 Stephen, the wording says renovate/expand, not move it. Greg said that you could  
159 interpret that to say that it would cover the cost of moving something there. Kent said the

160 shed would not be moved it would be demolished. Greg shared then you just get a quote  
161 from A and B lumber for a pole barn for the purpose of sand and salt storage, you don't  
162 need an engineering firm to tell you that.

163 Rich is proposing the language to put on a warrant, then give it to Ken to propose  
164 adding it on the warrant at the budget public hearing. If it is accepted then we are done,  
165 if it is not, we have to have a back up and that is the other language and, we need to have  
166 25 signatures by the 4<sup>th</sup>.

167 Kim asked if we have signatures, are we obligated to submit the petition? Rich  
168 said it should be at the committee's discretion. Greg, the intent of the signatures is  
169 accomplished by the selectmen, so he did not see how withholding putting it on the ballot  
170 is anything other than a minor technicality. All were in agreement.

171 Rich will draft up something in paper. The committee suggested Rich email to  
172 committee members, and they will collect signatures. Get 25 signatures within the  
173 committee. Then bring the document with the signatures needed for the next meeting on  
174 the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

175 **Adjournment:**

176 Stephen motioned to adjourn and LeeAnn seconded at 4:23 pm.

177 *Next Meeting: February 3, 2025, 3:30 PM in the Meeting House.*

178 Respectfully submitted,

179 Michelle Hammond

180 Secretary for the Solid Waste Committee