

Town of Brunswick, Maine

**Finance Committee Meeting
Thursday, June 20, 2019
6:00 – 7:30 PM
85 Union Street – Council Chambers**

Meeting Minutes (approved 7/22/19)

Elected Officials: Christopher Watkinson (chair), Dan Ankeles
John Perreault (absent)

Staff: John Eldridge, Julia Henze

1. Acknowledgement that meeting was properly noticed

JH confirmed that the meeting was properly noticed.

2. Adjustments to agenda / Public comment

No adjustments to the agenda.

No speakers during public comment.

3. Approval of meeting minutes from 5/16/19

DA moved, CW seconded, unanimously approved by those present.

4. Proprietary Funds – Financial review

a. Mere Point Wastewater System

JH provided the committee with a brief history & description of the Mere Point Waste Water Facility and transitioned to an analysis of a historic (and projected) balance sheet and income statements for the fund. In FY2016, the fund incurred significant capital expenditures relating to the repair of a failed leach field system. User fees were adjusted effective October 2016 for the first time since they were established in 1992 but will be reviewed and adjusted on a regular basis going forward.

b. Train Station/Visitors Center

Approximately 10 years ago, the Town began leasing the train station / visitors center space from JHR (before the train was coming to Brunswick). The Town signed an agreement with BDA to manage the Visitors Center. Once the train station platform was built, the Town assumed responsibility to maintain the platform. The Union Street parking area was constructed by the Town in FY12, and began charging parking fees in FY18. TIF Funds have been used to subsidize this proprietary fund for a number of years. The subsidy level had been at \$44k from FY15-FY17 and \$75 for FY18-FY19. Parking fees

from the Union Street parking lot are anticipated to be around \$19.5k which may allow lower Town subsidies in the future.

c. Pay-Per-Bag Program

The Pay-Per-Bag program began in January of 2007 and maintained the same price per bag until the prices were increased for the first time in July of 2018. Before the price adjustment, the program had netted a “profit” of around \$200k per year. After price adjustment, the program’s net income is anticipated to be around \$500k per year going forward. Accumulated fund balance in this proprietary fund is intended to offset upcoming landfill closure and post-closure costs.

d. Graham Road Landfill

After accounting for the increase in Pay-Per-Bag program pricing, the projection shows an anticipated shortfall of \$1MM upon landfill closure. This shortfall includes paying \$7.7MM for landfill closure costs and \$2.185MM for post-closure costs. The Town hopes that the closure and post-closure costs are on the high side and that the shortfall will be less than expected. By closing the landfill, the Town has qualified for 75% reimbursement of closure costs through the State of Maine but that relies on the State’s funding of the program, so the timing is uncertain. The original closure date was April of 2021 but with the brokered waste contract with Pine Tree Waste, the closure date may be moved up due to the increased volume of waste being brought the facility.

5. Curbside Refuse & Recycling Collection - Financial Analysis

The committee reviewed budgeted figures for curbside collections and tax rate impact for those services. Estimates of property taxes for municipal curbside collection ranged from \$43.48 annually to \$460.92 annually based upon the property’s assessed value. Options for independent refuse collection services ranged between \$312 annually to \$662 annually based upon the provider and the level of service requested (number of bags per pickup, weekly vs bi-weekly pickup, etc).

6. Adjourn