

#### Transfer station Amendment 10-4-2023 Meeting:

D. Atherton brought to the Board's attention that he has a new contract for Casella's for the transfer station that has not been signed yet. The recycling fees are going through the roof. It is getting more expensive to get rid of recycling than it is trash. In the packet, D. Atherton had provided the new Casella's contract as well as a budget break-down, which shows that we have lost money for several years on the transfer station operation. In 2022, it was approximately \$38,000 and in 2023, it was approximately \$42,000. D. Atherton's goal at Town Fair this year was to find out how other municipalities are handling their transfer stations. Everyone he saw is charging for recycling, approximately \$1.50 a bag. D. Mills asked what the town is currently charging and the answer was zero. The Town of Pittsford has not been charging for recycling. D. Atherton asked if the Board was willing to start a discussion about the feasibility of the Town of Pittsford to actually have someone else run the transfer station. We could likely contract out the services and find someone to run the transfer station the same hours and days we currently do to serve the citizens needs. Right now we are losing at least \$40,000 a year, which is a full time employee's salary. There are a lot of moving parts, but D. Atherton urged the board to consider starting to charge for recycling, proposing \$1 for a kitchen sized bag of recycling and \$1.50 for a contractor size bag of recycling. J. Gagnon inquired to what other towns are doing in the area. D. Atherton replied that many are subbing it out for companies to come in and run the transfer station. There was an article in the Rutland Herald today about Clarendon doing something with theirs. Both A. Malay and D. Atherton stated they had not read the article yet. D. Atherton asked the Board if they would be willing to be open about the possibility of an RFP going out to see what it would entail to have someone else run the transfer station and eliminate this deficit from our budget. M. Winslow stated this is definitely something that should be looked at. A. Malay, D. Mills, and J. Gagnon all agreed this is something that should be considered. D. Mills stated the Town needs to look at all of the options. M. Winslow stated that the transfer station can't be run in the negative. D. Atherton again brought up the idea of the fees per bag for recycling. M. Winslow asked how much it would give us back to go against the negative. D. Atherton stated there is not enough data to give a good answer on that. A. Malay stated that she wanted to be sure that recycling was less a bag than garbage. The board members had a discussion on the cost of trash currently per bag with the punch cards and the fact we are charged by weight by Casella's but charge by the bag for what is brought to the transfer station. D. Atherton stated he talked to a couple of towns in the area that are charging \$1 a bag for the kitchen size and \$1.50 a bag for contractor size for recycling and it seems to be working for them. Board members expressed their concerns that by raising pricing, the Town may see more dumping along roadways, especially Syndicate. A. Malay asked about the cost of doing total garbage and recycling pick-up like Proctor does. D. Atherton stated he would look into the cost for Proctor to do what they are doing. He knows it is expensive, as was agreed by board members. D. Atherton stated that if the recycling is less than garbage fees, people are still likely to recycle to stay away from the higher fees. J. Repetur stated that Gleason Road does not charge for their recycling, so residents would have that option still. M. Winslow stated that whatever was done, the townspeople needed a heads up so that they are aware. It was pointed out that citizens are paying for it either through their taxes or at the transfer station, but by going through the taxes, it is killing the budget. D. Atherton again stated that in order to break even, the transfer station budget would need to bring in at least another \$45,000. D. Atherton again stated he thought it best the Town get out of the trash business. J. Gagnon asked what Brandon did. D. Atherton described how Brandon had a leasing company, which did not work well, but then the town contracted out the transfer station and that has worked very well for them. They have the contract and no costs go through the town at all. It was decided that this will need further discussion and should be added to the next meeting for further discussion and analysis.