

Public Works Directors Association Meeting
Wednesday, September 10th, 2008
9:00-11:00 a.m.
GPCOG Conference Room

Present: Erik Street, Chair, (Yarmouth); Shawn Bennett (Pownal); Tom Eldridge (Westbrook); Roger Mosley (Standish); Mike Shaw (Scarborough).

Staff and Guests: Carol MacKenzie (GPCOG), Sue McIntyre (GPCOG).

1. **Welcome and Introductions** – Erik Street - Chairman
Erik Street called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. and welcomed those present.
2. **Acceptance of Minutes from June 11th, 2008 Meeting** Tabled until later or next meeting. No quorum
3. **Roundtable Discussion** – Trash disposal; trash pick-up policies/programs/ recycling policies/programs
The group shared the different policies in their respective towns that pertained to trash disposal as well as recycling.

Westbrook:

- At the moment, construction material, demolition material, as well as bulk waste items are the responsibility of the resident.
- A new agreement with Casella was recently approved by the City Council. It includes residential drop-off for the community, a curbside collection program for recyclables, and C & D recycling and processing with all environmental standards.
- Tax bills for Westbrook residents provide for the collection and disposal of trash.
- Westbrook residents are not interested in a pay-per-bag system.
- Westbrook offers a free universal waste drop-off program.
- Trash disposal service is provided for up to 9-unit apartment buildings. They do not collect trash from condos.
- Westbrook has about 5200 stops but service many more. They have a five-day collection service.

Pownal:

- Pownal provides curbside trash collection and also provides silver bullets.
- No more than four trash cans can be put on the roadside for collection and cannot exceed 40 pounds. Each additional bag or container above the four that are allowed must have a tag. Tags cost \$2.00 each.
- Residents can bring junk metal to the town transfer station.
- Rubbish pick-up is the only service that residents get for their tax dollars.
- Pownal is considering going to curbside recyclables.

Yarmouth:

- Yarmouth currently has no curbside pick-up service. They have a pay-per-bag system.
- A single sort recycling system is in the works with Ecomaine their regional waste disposal and recycling service provider. It will be a voluntary program and residents will still be able to use plastic bags or trash cans.
- Recycling totes are now available at a cost of \$4.00 each which is paid through a punch ticket system. Residents are charged accordingly when they bring items to the transfer station.
- Recycling totes have an 18-gallon capacity.
- Ecomaine also provides a composting and demolition process.
- Bulky items will have to be addressed.
- Silver bullets are also provided.
- Many residents like the social atmosphere that the transfer station provides.
- Schools in Yarmouth have their own silver bullet and follow their own recycling/trash disposal program. The Yarmouth Middle School has begun their own school garden program and is growing vegetables for the school lunch program. There are three composting bins on site.
- With regards to universal waste products, this year Yarmouth residents could bring in five (5) gallons or ten (10) pounds of material. If they went over that amount they had to pay for it. It has worked well and was successful. They did this twice a year.

- Falmouth has done hazard waste with Yarmouth. Falmouth residents drop it off free and then Yarmouth sends them a bill.

Standish:

- Standish does not provide for curbside pick-up but residents may contract with private companies.
- There is no tax subsidy provided for trash pick-up.
- Standish has tried using the silver bullets and they are located at the transfer station.
- They have a cardboard compactor that has been working well but it is in the way of vehicles coming in and out of the transfer station. They will try to move it somewhere else.
- Standish is in the process of gathering information on other options for recycling and trash disposal.
- With regards to universal waste products, Standish has worked with Clean Harbors. Standish advertises to the public "first come/first served". This service is provided twice a year and has worked well for them.
- They do not take computers and/or television sets because they don't have a building to store these items.
- Standish has been able to see a solid waste decline over the last five years. They are also a member of Ecomaine and are now in the process of renegotiating contracts.
- Standish provides services to 3200 households.

Scarborough:

- Scarborough has realized some good numbers in their trash/recycling program.
- They currently have an automated arm – trash pick-up program in conjunction with a single sort system.
- Scarborough provides the trash carts. Carts are assigned to the property not the person. If you move, the carts stay with the property and the resident will be issued a new set.
- When the decision was made to go to the automated arm system, bids went out for both a semi-automated system as well as a fully automated system to companies such as BBI, Pine Tree Waste Services, Herrick, as well as others.
- One cart is a 64-gallon container for trash while the other is a 64-gallon container for recyclables; this is for an average family size of two adults and two children. If a resident needs a larger container due to a larger family, they can call the department and someone will go on site to justify the need first.
- They service five (5) apartment units and less. – No commercial trash pick-up.
- Scarborough purchased the carts with a 10-year warranty. If the carts are damaged, they replace them. But, if the homeowner backs up over it, then the homeowner is responsible for the replacement fee. The 64-gallon carts cost about \$46.00 each. This includes the cost of the cart, assembly instructions and delivery.
- Residents living on a private road are provided with a cart but must bring the cart to the end of the public road. Another option for those living on a private road includes contracting with a company such as Pine Tree Waste.
- Whatever trash that comes out of Scarborough the town pays the tipping fee.
- Anything that comes out of Scarborough whether it is trash, recyclables or hazard waste has to go through Ecomaine.
- Scarborough has six silver bullets in six locations.
- They have not seen much tonnage drop-off.
- They still service condos and small businesses in terms of recyclables.
- They do not service condo associations but will provide them with supply carts, etc. The Associations then have the option to contract with Pine Tree Waste Services for trash pick-up.
- Scarborough's School Department handles their own trash disposal but Scarborough pays for it.
- Scarborough has one truck. It is a 60/40 split and they do a one-day collection. They can do about 1300 a day.

Discussions took place on trash pick-up and recycling methods of other towns such as Gorham, South Portland and Saco. It was noted that South Portland has rubbish collection that is provided by Pine Tree Waste with the new trash removal trucks that have the articulating arm. They can do 7 or 8 tons of rubbish and 4 tons of recyclables. Other topics discussed included the pros and cons of a fully or semi-automated arm trash pick-up system for both trash disposal and recyclables, as well as the pros and cons of container vs. paper bag system. With reference to winter, Mike noted that the automated arm pick-up is no different than regular pick-up methods. Once the truck crew accrued experience with the automated arm system, they continue to find it easy to use. Scarborough had initially looked at the pay-per-bag program but many residents felt that trash pick-up should be a free service and is included in the tax payment. However, the group agreed that more and more residents are becoming more conscientious and aware of the benefits of recycling especially to the environment. It was also

pointed out that firemen can no longer hang off fire trucks anymore and it probably will not be much longer before the same happens with trash disposal trucks. Other options will need to be considered. With reference to private roads, most towns will allow residents to contract with private contractors for trash pick-up.

4. Announcements

- No bids going out at the moment.
- Cost of asphalt has dropped slightly
- MaineDOT now has an automated fuel system for diesel that is located at their fuel depot that is now available to towns. They will issue a sort of “credit card” and assign it to trucks. You can fuel up at the fuel depot even there is no one there.
- MMA has a new insurance program that addresses contaminated wells. There are different fee structures such as, \$15.00 per lane mile; \$25.00 for a one time event; or \$100,000 fee for a group of wells.
- APWA’s fall meeting will be held on October 9th, 2008. A supervisory training will also be held on April 23, 2009. Check the APWA website for more information on these events as well as others.

5. Other Business

Topics for the next few months include the discussion of utilities, telephone, cable, gas, CMP, Dig Safe, etc. , as well as storm event scenarios and a meeting at Ecomaine.

6. Next Meeting – October 8th, 2008

It was decided to cancel next month’s meeting due to a conflict with the APWA fall meeting. The next Public Works Directors’ Association meeting will be held on November 12th, 2008.

7. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.