

Tuesday, October 15, 2024 6:30 PM
Regular Session
Dalton Select Board Meeting

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm by Eric. Select Board members Jo Beth Dudley, Thomas Dubreuil (Tom), and Eric Moore were physically present. Town Admin, Jeanette Charon present and note taking.

Public attendees: Pam Kathan, Kevin Whittum, Sr., Michael Ryan, Warren Green, Jen Green, Kris Ennis, Paul Deveno, Mandy Deveno, Allen Rexford, Michael Trudeau, Diane Lyon, and videographer Emily Thompson as well as others who chose not to sign in and could not be identified.

The Select Board signed AP and payroll checks.

Jo Beth motioned to approve the September 16, 2024 meeting minutes. Eric provided a second with Tom abstaining.

Jo Beth motioned for approval on September 16, 2024 nonpublic meeting minutes 1, 2, 3 and 4. Eric provided a second for nonpublic minutes 1, 2, and 3. with approval via roll call vote. Jo Beth motioned to approve the meeting minutes from nonpublic #4. No response from either Tom or Eric.

September 30, 2024 meeting minutes were sent the morning of October 15, 2024 and had not been reviewed yet by all board members.

The Board executed one (1) Land Use Change Tax warrant.

The Board executed one (1) Application for Current Use.

Jeanette presented the Board with the MS-1 for review and execution. Jo Beth motioned with a second by Eric. Tom abstained.

Jeanette provided the proposal from Eckman Engineering for the rebuilding of Smith Road. Jo Beth motioned for approval. Eric provided a second with approval via roll call.

A request for Board permission was received by the Coos Quilters for a raffle for October 2025. The Board approved and executed the request (Motion by Eric, seconded by Jo Beth, approval via roll call.)

Jeanette provided a quote from FW Webb for purchasing the replacement boiler for the Highway Garage. Adam has an installer but the town needed to purchase the equipment separately. The price was approved by the Board via Jo Beth's motion. Eric provided a second with approval via roll call vote.

The Solar Grant has been preliminarily awarded. Jo Beth motioned to approve the grant with a second provided by Eric. Tom voted nay.

The Town received a donation from DirtDaze for \$500 to assist with flood repairs. Jo Beth motioned to accept the donation. Eric provided a second with approval via roll call.

Jeanette asked for follow up per Henry's (CPCNH) request for a public hearing. Jo Beth thinks another such meeting should be scheduled, but the Dalton committee should meet first. Eric asked if a committee was already formed. Jo Beth stated yes and the names of those members was provided: Jeanette Charon, Cathleen Fountain, Jo Beth Dudley, and Gal Potashnik. She extended an invite to him for the committee. He declined. An invitation was also extended to Tom. He also declined, for now, but

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stated he may come to a meeting to listen. Jeanette will reach out to the committee members to see when a meeting can be scheduled to accommodate all members.

Eric spoke with Casella and received a letter stating they would reimburse the town up to \$25,000 for legal fees expended in conjunction with the Host Community Agreement. Jo Beth asked why the letter wasn't sent to the Board. Eric stated he said he was going to get it at the last meeting. Eric motioned to send both agreements to legal. Jo Beth voiced confirm over the dollar amount since Coventry recommended Dalton get a financial planner, which would be in addition to legal, assessor, etc. Jeanette mentioned the need of a public hearing to accept the unanticipated funds, required for >\$10K. Tom stated they're paying for the legal, not giving us \$10,000. If we don't move forward, then we will never know what to do. Jo Beth asks for the letter to be sent to legal separately to confirm it is sufficient to insure we will be reimbursed. Tom motions to send the letter to legal. The meeting will be an ongoing thing. Eric provided a second. Jo Beth voted nay, stating she believes it is still too early in the permitting process to have legal involved.

Tom provided a written response from Nate Midolo, town legal, regarding the appeal filed with the state by the Dalton Conservation Commission in regards to the Shoreland Permit issued to Casella for the proposed Granite State landfill project. *Email is attached to minutes.* Jeanette asked for a copy so she could follow along; Eric gave her his copy. Tom read the email out loud. The attorney did not believe the action and spending was allowable without Select Board approval. Jo Beth asked for clarification regarding the case law cited by the attorney, as it referred to a land use board appeal, which is different than a regulatory agency. Jo Beth stated that sending the appeal is allowable for the Commission and that it costs the town nothing to do so. She noted that we have not seen any invoice related to this action. She voiced the importance of speaking to legal as a Board and not individually. Jo Beth is concerned about the "additional issues" mentioned by the attorney and asked Tom about those issues. Tom stated those issues will come out in time and then continues to state he did his research and isn't doing things on his own. He goes back to the legal opinion of the appeal filed by the DCC. Jo Beth's understanding of the basis of the appeal is because Dalton was not copied on the application for the Shoreland Permit. Tom stated that the shoreland is in Bethlehem, not Dalton. Jo Beth reminds him that it is related to a project in Dalton (the GSL). Tom talks briefly about the RSA he read in the past meeting regarding financial burdens that could fall upon the shoulders of the town, but does not have the documentation. Tom motions to vote to void the appeal recently submitted and continue speaking with legal regarding the issue to see what should be done. Jo Beth states that he has it reversed and that a conversation with legal should happen prior to any action, if needed. Pam Kathan speaks and states the three selectmen should meet with legal and have it out with him. Tom wants a meeting set up for the board members and legal only. Jeanette asked why she was being excluded from this process. After receiving no response, she continued to ask why. Tom stated it was ok for her to not be involved in something. Jeanette asked why again with responses from Pam Kathan and Mike Ryan stating that Jeanette is not a Select Board member. Jeanette let them know she was not asking them and asked the Board why again. Jo Beth explained why Jeanette should be involved in the meeting since she does follow-up, and verifies the invoices; there is no reason to exclude her. Tom stated the meeting could be set up and the decision could be made later. Jeanette asked again if she was going to get an answer and Tom stated, "no". Jo Beth confirmed Jeanette would send the letter and setup the meeting for the Board members and the Town Administrator; Tom stated that was fine and he would let it slide this

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time. Tom asked if it was better on the phone or on Zoom, since Jo Beth had done this before. Jo Beth stated Zoom was fine, so there could be a face to face, since they hadn't met the legal counsel before, or at least she hadn't. Jeanette asked what Tom was letting slide and no response was provided. Tom asked for a second on his motion. Eric provided the second with Jo Beth voting nay.

Tom called Carberry to get some information from them regarding solid waste disposal. He asked about the mattresses we have at the transfer station claiming Carberry charges for them, but they let us slide when it's only a couple. Additionally, they charge \$130/ton for asbestos related materials. Tom stated the tipping fee is going up over \$80/ton. Jeanette asked for the numbers in writing. Tom didn't have anything in writing. Casella has quoted us \$55/ton for solid waste plus a cost for recycling. Recycling costs us because we gather it and then have to pay Kyle to take it to Littleton. Since Jo Beth mentioned concerns about recycling in the past. Since Casella currently quotes less for municipal solid waste, Tom motions to move the town's disposal of same to Casella in Bethlehem and when we get the host agreement from Casella, it isn't going to cost the town anything. With the disaster and everything, we should be saving money to make everything work. Jo Beth agrees on saving the town money, however she stated that it is a short-sighted decision and read aloud excerpts of the article regarding the rationale for Littleton's decision to move from NCES in Bethlehem to Carberry for their solid waste disposal (article attached). Casella's application for permits hasn't been accepted by the state yet so there is a good chance that Dalton's landfill may not even be open when NCES closes. Tom stated that he thinks it's important to save money now so he motioned to make the switch now. Tom also stated he called Beattie stating that the rate they charge will increase. He is willing to take the chance on Casella now. Casella stated they would accept our recycling with our municipal waste. Jo Beth asked why we would do that. Jeanette stated it's because Casella charges an extra \$23/ton for solid waste than recycling so it would benefit them. Jo Beth stated that other towns are making sure they have a place for their waste disposal when NCES closes, thus hedging their bets to be safe in case the GSL is delayed. Jo Beth stated that in a year or more, if we see the GSL project is moving forward, the Board can reconsider and make the change. Doing so now would be irresponsible. Tom states it is all hearsay and that people and towns are just bashing Mr. Casella. Jo Beth states this is about being pragmatic for the town and ensuring the town has a place to send their trash. Bethlehem is closing and when that happens, Carberry may not be able to accept us. Paul Devino asked about our locked in contract with Carberry. Jeanette stated there is no locking in. Dalton can make a move at any time. Paul states it's safer to stay with Carberry because we know they will be able to service us. Tom stated that with what he has found out on his own, PFAS is not created by Casella, we created it, and Casella is creating a system so run-off can go into tankers to take it away and they're trying to separate that. Mandy Deveno asks for Tom's research, and she appreciates his opinion. If Casella is the best option for the future, then we can make that change later. Right now, we don't have an option and as a town, trying to project and save money in the long run, we need to not be short minded with Casella at the moment. Casella coming to Dalton is up to the state. Right now, Carberry appears to be the better option for Dalton. Tom stated that he doesn't have information in writing because he went one-on-one with people. Mandy states that his consistency on doing things one-on-one without providing information to others is getting disturbing for him as a selectman. She is losing confidence in his ability to serve as a selectman. Jen Green adds that she hears everything Tom has said, and it is important. She echoes Mandy that gathering information that it is prudent to have it verified and put in writing so due diligence can be

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done. She reminds Tom that he is supposed to represent the town and her, so personal opinions need to be set aside so that we are looking at what's good for the town versus personal opinions. That is the job of a selectperson; to represent a whole town and not just yourself. She confirms that she respects his opinion. Tom asked if Jen went to Casella's open house. She has attended and spoken to people at Casella and she thinks Tom is taking it personal; he states he is not; she states this has nothing to do with Casella but it has to do with what's best for the town right now. Right now, we don't have a landfill and we don't have a permitting process that is finished. What we are talking about here it projecting out into the future. If Casella has integrity and is of community, then when the permitting process is finished, they will offer the same host agreement they want to sign now. Pam Kathan states that by the time Casella finishes their permitting, they don't have to give Dalton a Host Community Agreement. Jen interrupts and states that they are saying they have integrity and are community minded; Pam states that Casella has given Dalton 6 years to get this shit together and they've not; talk about dragging feet. She states Jen does not have the best interest of the town. Jeanette suggests perhaps this goes to town meeting much like the \$5 fee for road maintenance that has been pushed to town meeting since it will affect all residents; so that the town can speak and give their opinion. Pam Kathan asks why do we have a Select Board if everything has to go to town meeting. Jeanette replies that it is about the town. Pam states that they were elected to run the town, not Jeanette. Jeanette confirms she does not run the town, despite what Pam thinks. Mike Ryan says to take a vote. Paul Deveno states these comments about the Board are important, especially when it comes to normal business. This, to him, seems like it is outside normal business; that is what warrants more than a decision of the Board. Tom asked about our previous business with Casella. Jo Beth explained how the change took place a few years ago to move to Carberry. It was a cost savings at that time, but more so it was done to secure the town had a place to send their trash when Bethlehem closed. Diane Lyon asked about the conflict with Casella and how zoning came about, etc. She asked if the zoning was about Casella. Jo Beth doesn't recall the dates, but the change was to ensure Dalton had a place to send their trash after Bethlehem closed and was independent of zoning. Staying with Carberry now doesn't mean a change can't be made at a later date. Tom motions to move solid waste disposal to Bethlehem. Eric provides a second with Jo Beth voting nay. She thinks the action is irresponsible.

Jeanette asked if she is supposed to contact Casella and Carberry now to cancel their attendance at a meeting to answer Tom's questions regarding solid waste disposal as agreed upon two weeks ago. Tom states that Jeanette should call them or he can; Jeanette replies that she will. Jo Beth states it just doesn't make sense to change from Carberry back to NCES. Tom stated that it's apples to apples if they come in. She continues stating that the Board recommended doing it in writing but Tom didn't want that – and that's why they were being invited to come in. She wishes her fellow Board Members would listen to the people's comments and look at the long-term situation for the town. It has nothing to do with whether we like Casella or don't. It has to do with timing. What happens if Bethlehem closes and GSL isn't ready? Then we have no where to take our trash – then what do we do? Pam Kathan states that the last change for town landfill wasn't done in town meeting, the board made that decision. Jo Beth isn't saying it should be done in town meeting, she's talking to her fellow board members.

Jo Beth motions to rescind Tom's motion and vote to stay with Carberry until they determine what's going to happen with GSL. Tom asked if Jeanette talked to them and they agreed to come in. Jeanette confirmed she reached out. Carberry wanted to talk about why we were asking them to come and

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Casella stated they would come on November 11th. That is actually a holiday, so Jeanette is going to ask for a different date. We could also send the questions and Casella is happy to answer them as well. Kris Ennis urges the select board to have solid numbers from both sides prior to making this decision. She appreciates Tom's phone calls, but this needs to be in writing. Tom asks when our next meeting is. October 28th is the next meeting. Eric asks for any more public comment. Tom asks for a moment. Paul mentions that he is not for or against Casella. How it lands is how it lands. He is against this motion to move to Bethlehem because it puts the town in jeopardy. We are talking 2 years or 50 years. Tom replies that the attacks that come down on Casella make Mr. Casella look bad. The problem is that there have been many times a group has come in to attack us, you're working under pressure trying to figure out what's right and what's wrong. We don't work together since I've been on this board. He tells Jo Beth that if she wants things to calm down that they need to start looking at things together and act as a Board that was elected by the town without constant interruptions. He's not saying that Jeanette's opinion doesn't mean anything because it does, but when they ask for it. It's ok to not agree. Jo Beth states there are things that need to be discussed and he just moves forward without regard to her requests or opinion. Jeanette states that she gets completely left out. Tom states that no matter what he says, he's wrong. Jeanette confirms that she has reached out to both him and Eric multiple times. They don't respond. Jeanette states that it is her job to ensure facts are being delivered during our meetings. Her opinion does not require a request. It's her responsibility to make sure our town is run like a business and based on fact. We all want what's best for the town, but it needs to be done in the appropriate time, with appropriate information. Jeanette asks why we would send items to the attorney when the Board hasn't even read through and discussed them yet. Tom states it's for direction. Pam asks why we were still there. Mandy stated that during the September 30th meeting, both companies were supposed to be invited here and that's what she was expecting. Pam states that things changed. Mandy states that she would like to see the numbers. She would like to see solid numbers, as the constituents deserve.

Kris Ennis asks for point of order. She reminds Eric that he is supposed to be running the ^{meeting}running. Pam tells Kris to stop harassing the selectmen.

Tom asks Jeanette again if she has them lined up. Jeanette responds. Tom asks if they can both come the same day; back-to-back. Jeanette stated she proposed that before and he shot her down. He doesn't want them in the same room at the same time. Jeanette reminds him they're all adults and we have it in writing, they're just answering his questions.

Tom seconds Jo Beth's motion to rescind the change to Bethlehem for Dalton's solid waste. Approval via roll call vote. Tom thanks the audience for their comments and continues stating that he is not a politician and that when he says something, he doesn't lie. He makes mistakes, as we all do, but he does not lie and doesn't mislead the public.

Mike Ryan asks about the meeting between the companies and whether or not it's just to talk about pricing. He asks why we can't just get a written proposal. Tom stated we can do that but it has to be itemized. He wants to know how long they'll be open, etc. Mike believes there is no questions whether or not Casella will come here. If they abide by the laws, they're in. We want the best price. Jo Beth states there are good deals that are financial and nonfinancial. Since Carberry has a cap each year, we need to make sure we have a place to take our trash when Bethlehem closes. Mike asks if we can stop

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our contract at Carberry at any time. Jo Beth stated yes. Mike asks if we can stay there until Casella opens in Dalton, right? Everyone answers 'yes'. Tom states that he is honoring talking with the companies like he agreed to last week.

Eric motioned to enter nonpublic at 8:30pm. Jo Beth provided a second with approval via roll call.

Jo Beth motioned to return to public session at 8:46pm. Eric provided a second with approval via roll call.

Jo Beth motioned to seal nonpublic minutes #1,2 and 3. Eric provided a second with approval via roll call.

Eric motioned to adjourn the meeting. Jo Beth provided a second. Approval via roll call vote.

Minutes Respectfully submitted by Jeanette Charon.

Minutes Approved On: 10/20/24 (date)

Jo Beth Dudley

Jo Beth Dudley

abstained

Thomas Dubreuil

Eric Moore

Eric Moore

RE: Town of Dalton Conservation Commission Questions

From Nathan C. Midolo <nmidolo@uptonhatfield.com>

Date Fri 10/11/2024 1:50 PM

To Thomas Dubreuil <tdubreuil@townofdaltonnh.gov>

Cc Jo Beth Dudley <jbdudley@townofdaltonnh.gov>; E Moore <Emoore@townofdaltonnh.gov>

Hi Tom,

Thanks for the call today. After we spoke, I remembered that I believe we spoke last week about getting some more specifics as to what the DCC specifically wants to do and the issues surrounding it. Based on my memory the real issue was less of an "appeal" issue and there were more questions about the DCC's role and how much autonomy it could function separate from the selectboard. With that said, here are some further thoughts.

It looks like the 1987 warrant article used standard language creating the DCC "in accordance with RSA 36-A." I don't see any evidence that the Town has adopted the optional "expenditure" powers under RSA 36-A:4-a for the DCC. With that framework in mind, the DCC must execute its powers and responsibilities "subject to the approval of the local governing body." RSA 36-A:4, I. Is there currently a disagreement whether the DCC should move forward with the NHDES appeal? Under the RSAs, my read is the DCC would be permitted to file an appeal if approved by the Selectboard, but if the Selectboard does not want to file an appeal the DCC needs to defer to the Selectboard's decision.

A similar question came up in *Hooksett Conservation Commission v. Hooksett Board of Adjustment*, 149 N.H. 63 (2003). In that case, the Hooksett CC filed an appeal of an administrative decision to the Town's ZBA as permitted by law. When the ZBA denied the CC appeal, the CC tried to appeal to ZBA's decision to the Superior Court. The NH Supreme Court ultimately held the CC did not have independent standing to file an appeal from the ZBA, stating "any duty the commission has to protect Hooksett's natural resources and watersheds provides it the authority to appeal only the code enforcement officer's decision to the ZBA . . ." The court clarified the commission was subject to the approval of the Selectboard, and "if municipal boards were permitted to appeal in every such instance, the prompt and orderly review of land use applications . . . would essentially grind to a halt."

I think the specific answer to your question is no, the DCC does not have authority to file appeals without the consent or authority of the Selectboard. Regarding expenditures, unless the DCC has adopted the optional provisions under RSA 36-A:4-a, I similarly believe there is no authority for the DCC to independently appropriate money for its use outside the municipal budgeting process. Of course, the DCC can engage in expenditures or purchases that the Selectboard has approved and have been appropriated through the annual meeting process.

Let me know any further questions or thoughts on this. My understanding is there are more issues regarding the DCC than just this appeal/permit question.

Thanks,

-Nate



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Littleton Seeking To Shift To Carberry Landfill

Manager: Casella Proposed Taking Over The Littleton Transfer Station

Robert Blechl rblechl@caledonian-record.com Staff Writer

Jul 29, 2024



With the future of the proposed new landfill in Dalton uncertain, Littleton Transfer Station manager Steve Bean proposed to the Select Board on Monday that the town switch from the NCES landfill in Bethlehem to the Mt. Carberry landfill near Berlin. (Photo by Robert Blechl)

LITTLETON — With the uncertain fate of a proposed landfill in Dalton, Littleton is preparing to pivot to the Mt. Carberry landfill near Berlin.

Steve Bean, the Littleton Transfer Station manager, proposed to the select board on Monday.

“There are too many unknowns right now,” he said.



Bean's proposal comes after several local towns switched from Casella Waste Systems' commercial landfill in Bethlehem to the municipally owned Mt. Carberry landfill run by the Androscoggin Valley Regional Refuse Disposal District. The NCES landfill in Bethlehem is projected to reach capacity and close in January 2027.

Casella is proposing a new commercial landfill in Dalton.

"We do have some time, but I'm not sure it's wise to use it," said Bean. "Before, I was hoping to stay with Casella until we found out what was going on with Dalton, but that keeps dragging on and dragging on and dragging on. What I'm concerned about is all these other towns are going to jump ship and go to Carberry and maybe there won't be room for us."

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services is the authority considering the Casella permits.

"So what the town of Littleton needs to do is decide what we're going to do next," said Bean. He sees Carberry as the best option, even with a cost increase.

"I've run the numbers and they're really not that much different," he said. "With the trash we generated in 2023, the extra cost would have been a total of about \$17,000, and that's tipping fees and transportation. It is an increase, but it's not crazy."

Normandeau Trucking, based in Northumberland and owned by Barry Normandeau, would provide the transportation, for which Bean said Littleton could purchase or lease two containers, at about \$4,500 each, with an empty container transported to the Littleton Transfer Station and swapped out with the full container, which would then be trucked to Carberry.

The town of Littleton sells its recyclables for revenue.

The refuse to Carberry would be household trash and construction and demolition debris.

Currently, with Casella, Littleton pays a tipping fee of \$80 per ton, plus an additional transportation fee of \$548 for each load or trip, with the total varying by the tonnage, said Bean.

Normandeau attended the meeting and said Littleton is currently billed a number of fees, but there is only one fee at Carberry, regardless of what Littleton would bring in.

"Currently, Casella has two different rates, one for trash and one for C&D," said Bean.

Carberry, rather, has one rate so there are options to mix trash and demolition if the town's compactor goes down, said Normandeau.

"Casella can't do that," he said "Carberry can. It's a whole different beast up there."

Carberry hasn't raised its rates in five or six years, and when it bills, the bill does not contain "all these buried items" and is instead one number, said Normandeau.

Normandeau, who has been the longest Carberry hauler, now at 35 years, said Carberry has a cap on how much waste it takes annually.

"They are a municipal, not a commercial, entity," he said. "Sometimes they go 10 years and not even raise their rates. Usually, it's very incremental. It's not onerous. The thing is they run with a cap of how much tonnage they can take. And right now, they're looking at the foreseeable future and you need to act on this very soon because once they hit the cap they can't take you."

In response to a question asked by Littleton Selectman Roger Emerson about longevity, Normandeau said Carberry has capacity for at least another 50 years.

"It's not like anything you've ever seen," he said. "This place has paved roads. It's like a landfill on steroids. It sits on two to four feet of impermeable clay ... If you had a nuclear hit there, it would leak but wouldn't go anywhere. All landfills leak at some point."

Select Board members Linda MacNeil and Kerri Harrington agreed with his comment that landfills will leak.

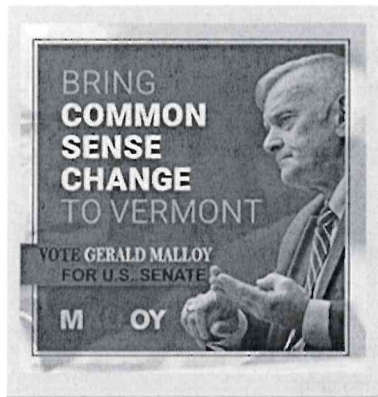
"It's extremely well-run," said Normandeau. "Right now, roughly 87 to 88 percent of the trash at this end of the state I haul there, and there's a reason."

Unlike commercial landfills, Carberry is headed up by a group of towns and doesn't have to run by the same rules, he said.

"It doesn't run where it's trying to make money," said Normandeau. "It's trying to run where it can cover its costs and be able to do things correctly without cutting themselves down to do it. There's nothing ever done incorrectly up there. It was engineered by a paper mill at the time, James River. They over-engineer everything."

In addition, only a certified hauler can haul to Carberry, he said.

"Casella cannot haul there, Waste Management cannot haul there," said Normandeau. "There's a hard-and-fast rule by the municipalities — 'we don't want the big boys here.' There's a strategy — [the commercial entities] start hauling in waste from everywhere and choke out everybody. So, all of a sudden, your landfill that's right next door is choked out full of waste from a big conglomerate."



In New Hampshire, there are only three public landfills, he said.

"This is the second largest and this is the one that has the largest projected window by far," said Normandeau. "They operate differently. When all the bonds are paid off, they're going to start shrinking that concentric. So if you're in that concentric, you're golden."

But every year, towns looking to join Carberry run up against the cap, he said.

"You need to really look into getting this done pretty quick, even if you don't execute it, because Colebrook had to wait one time," said Normandeau. "They had to wait four or five months to get out of their contract with Casella. Once you get that contract there, it's not like dealing with a commercial entity."

Select board member Linda MacNeil said the best thing in her mind is to go with a different entity so that Littleton is secure.

Bean agreed, and said it's the safest bet.

For three years, people have asked him what the Littleton Transfer Station will do upon NCES's closure.

"We're still waiting for an answer because nothing's moving," he said.

Normandeau added that Carberry has inexpensive asbestos disposal — and is one of only three landfills in the region that can do it — and has services to dispose of wastewater treatment plant sludge and has a very large capacity for sludge.

"You have opportunities to do things over there that you don't currently have," he said.

Gov. Chris Sununu also signed bills to clamp down on PFOAS and PFAS, and they will have a major impact, said Normandeau.

Currently, there's only one facility in the state that neutralizes the chemicals, he said.

"That landfill up there has a very robust system, at least for collecting that stuff," said Normandeau.

Littleton currently has a contract with Casella through the Pemi-Baker Solid Waste District that expires in May 2026, but because it is an extension, only 30 days notice needs to be given to get out of the contract, said Bean.

Bean said he was asked several questions by Littleton residents, including about buying a roll-out truck so the town can haul its own waste.

But the former town manager recommended that the town not enter the waste hauling business and the equipment would cost \$300,000 and need at least two drivers with CDLs, he said.

He was also asked if Bethlehem could use the Littleton Transfer Station after NCES closes, but said the Littleton station is near capacity, more people would have to be hired, and the Littleton station would become 30 to 40 percent busier, making for a disservice to Littleton residents.

"I don't think it would be a good idea," said Bean.

If Littleton wants to make the switch to Carberry, it can happen quickly, said Normandeau, who added that Franconia wanted it done in 10 days and was able to make it happen.

Emerson suggested that Bean reach out to Carberry about when Littleton can get in and about the numbers, and then the Littleton Select Board can resume the discussion at its next meeting.

"Now is the time to make this switch, even though it's going to cost us a little bit more, so that we're covered down the road and we don't end up in 2027 with no place to haul our trash," said MacNeil.

"If we go to Carberry, it doesn't mean we're locked in for life," said Select Board member Kerri Harrington.

In response to a comment made by resident Rudy Gelsi, Bean confirmed that in the last few months a representative from Casella made a proposal about the company taking over the Littleton Transfer Station.

"He told me he was going to talk to the selectmen about Casella taking over the whole facility in Littleton," said Bean. "Did he have the discussion with you?"

The three Select Board members said no.

"He actually did a site visit," said Bean.

"He can't do it," said MacNeil. "It's a municipal department."

No one from Casella was at the meeting on Monday.

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FEATURED

Littleton Switches Landfills, Trash Hauler

Robert Blechl rblechl@caledonian-record.com Staff Writer
Sep 11, 2024

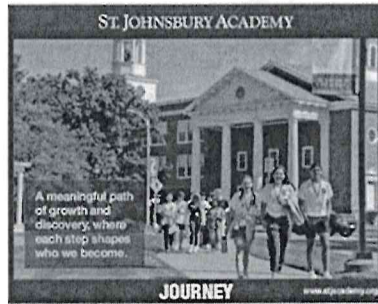


During Monday's Littleton Select Board meeting, transfer station manager Steve Bean made the case to the board to switch from the Casella landfill in Bethlehem to the Mt. Carberry landfill near Berlin, on the rationale that there will be a gap between when the Bethlehem landfill closes and when or if Casella's proposed landfill in Dalton opens. (Photo by Robert Blechl)

LITTLETON — After three decades, the town switched to another landfill and trash hauler.

The change follows concerns about a gap between when the Casella Waste Systems' NCES landfill in Bethlehem closes after 2026 and when or if the company's next proposed commercial landfill in nearby Dalton — which to date has no approved permits, has not begun construction, and faces stiff opposition — will open.

During Monday's Select Board meeting, at the recommendation of Littleton Transfer Station manager Steve Bean, the board voted 3-0 to end its contract with Casella and to enter into a solid waste disposal contract, effective Nov. 1, with the municipally owned Mt. Carberry landfill near Berlin.



They also voted 3-0 to enlist Northumberland-based Normandeu Trucking as the hauler. The five-year contract with Normandeu comes with a 90-day opt-out clause.

"We had an extension with Casella's landfill through May of 2026," said Bean. "Because it's an extension, we only need to give them a 30-day notice. We are not bound to stay through May 2026."

Casella has said that NCES will close in late 2026 or early 2027, said Bean.

At the Littleton board's July 22 meeting, Select Board member Kerri Harrington spoke of the proposed landfill in Dalton and said, "Right now they're predicting, if it happens at all, 2028, '29, if it even happens."

At the July meeting, Bean said the switch to Carberry would cost Littleton an additional \$17,000, mostly in transportation costs due to the greater distance.

In its standard one-year contract with towns, Mt. Carberry, which is owned by the Androscoggin Valley Regional Refuse District, will charge Littleton a tipping fee of \$72 per ton of municipal solid waste, construction and demolition debris, and bulky waste, and would allow the town to deliver up to 1,600 tons annually without further approval.

"Casella actually went up twice on their transportation costs in the last three months," said Bean. "It's around \$570 for transportation and it's between \$80 and \$82 for the tipping fees."

Littleton owns the four containers for each of the three transfer station units, with one container as a backup.

For cost-efficiency, Bean recommends that Littleton buy two more containers so there are three backups, with the idea being that that the town will save money by not having Normandeu drive from Littleton to Mt. Carberry and back to Littleton.

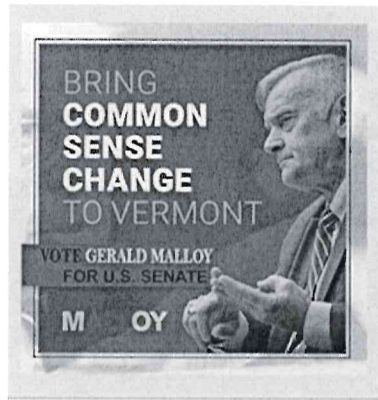
There is a certain hauling rate that is higher if Normandeu comes to Littleton and back versus Normandeu coming to Littleton with an empty container from his place up north, said Bean.

Bean said he is prepared to put the request for two heavy-duty containers, which would cost about \$18,000, on a town meeting warrant article.

"Casella did put in a proposal to just do our hauling," he said. "The price was a little bit less for hauling, but the fact that they've gone up twice in the last three months doesn't give me a warm fuzzy feeling."

Select Board members agreed.

"I appreciate you doing all this work," said Harrington.



"We've been struggling on what to do," said Bean. "Because of the landfill situation, Bethlehem was forced to close. The Dalton landfill, as you've heard tonight [following a presentation by the North Country Alliance for Balanced Change], who knows what's going to happen there. The window is closing between Bethlehem closing and this one opening, if it ever does, so I just think we need to do something sooner than later."

Mt. Carberry also accepts municipal sludge.

Currently, Littleton has a one-year contract with Casella for sludge, said Eric Oliver, interim director of the Littleton Department of Public Works.

A new contract is under review, he said.

"In a year, we can make a better decision after seeing what happens with this," said Oliver. "They are aware that we are looking and they said even if you do go away, things change, they don't know what's going to happen with Dalton, but in the future if you're not happy they'd be more than willing to work with us. They understand."

"It's pragmatic," said Harrington.

"It's a timing thing," said Selectman Roger Emerson.

The board and Bean also discussed implementing dump stickers for vehicles arriving at the Littleton Transfer Station to reduce the number of non-residents using the station to offload their waste.

In the past five years, with COVID-19 and more people in the area, traffic at the transfer station has increased 30 to 40 percent, and not all are coming from Littleton, said Bean.

"If we can control those numbers, that will reduce the trips to Berlin," said Bean.

Littleton resident Pat Kellogg also suggested encouraging more recycling, to which Linda MacNeil, chair of the Select Board, agreed.

Bean said a three-year grant through the Northeast Resource Recovery Association will include education and a study of the contamination in Littleton's current waste stream.

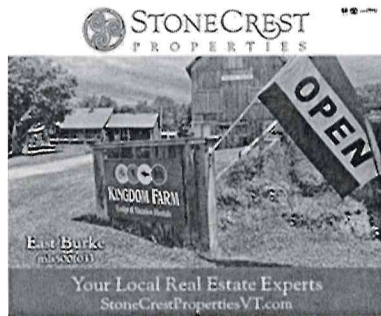
Board members suggested that residents can obtain their dump stickers when they register their car.

In addition to approving the contracts with Carberry and Normandeau, the board gave Bean the go-ahead to come up with a dump sticker proposal to present to the board at a future meeting.

Several weeks ago, MacNeil, Kellogg, and state Rep. Linda MacNeil, D-Littleton, toured both the Carberry and NCES landfills.

MacNeil likewise said Casella representatives understood the town's reasoning to contract with Carberry.

"The one thing at Carberry is they have their own wastewater treatment plant for their leachate," said MacNeil. "They bought the plant from James River, the paper company. They do that all right there. That sort of impressed me. It was eye-opening. It helped me understand the process better and supported my vote tonight as well."



Robert Blechl

A horizontal advertisement for Passumpsic Bank. On the left, a black and white photo shows a person looking through a magnifying glass. To the right of the photo, the text reads 'Fall CD & IRA Special!'. Further right, it says '9-MONTH CD OR IRA:' followed by '4.25% APY'. A button with a right-pointing arrow and the text 'Learn More' is positioned to the right of the interest rate. On the far right is the Passumpsic Bank logo, which consists of a stylized wave symbol above the text 'Passumpsic Bank' and 'Member FDIC' below it.

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