

HCA Committee -Open House

Six residents attended.

-Pam would like to see monies received from Casella managed by a third party not the Town

-she believes that all the monies from Casella should be for the residents toward taxes with a notation on the tax bill that the money comes from Casella

we can negotiate not just the money that they give us but also ask for example a recreation center, or something for seniors- if there is a surplus over and above the taxes that the monies would go to something, ie. Senior meals and wheels, welfare, for the town

Gordon Jobe- thanked the committee, would like a performance bond in place if something goes wrong, and paying for a quality assurance agency

Paul states that our point of view so far is fact-finding and gathering information, we've looked at other agreements, past performance, the agreement that Casella has put forth, we haven't started to form what the agreement will look like-

Pam expressed concern that we haven't already started the negotiations. Was explained that where there isn't even a permit, the committee felt that we had time and wanted to make sure we had as much public input as possible. She disagreed about the timing.

Explained that the process is the committee will have an attorney, that the information gathered will be given to the attorney, and the attorney will work on drafting an agreement, there will be negotiations back and forth with Casella, and a tentative agreement formed which will be presented at Town meeting for the people to vote

Pam stated that we should send out the survey in a flyer with a self-addressed stamped envelope to all residents to get more input. She also stated the committee should go out to the transfer station. Others expressed postcard that was sent wasn't sufficient and many people didn't know about today's session. Again insistence made about sending self-addressed stamped envelope in with a letter rather than a postcard. Explained that is a selectboard decision as no funding was allocated to the HCA committee.

Kris Ennis stated her personal opinion is that all the safety aspects, protecting the water systems, properties around the landfill, then she worries that using all the money such that taxes are completely covered, that then there won't be money in the future.

Consensus is that there should be some of the money invested for the town for the future.

Representation made is that federal and state cover the regulations to manage the landfill and this facility is being built from the ground up so that there shouldn't be issues.

Paul explained that in reviewing other agreements, the common theme is that there are protections in place for every town.

Insistence that the committee personally take a tour of the landfill in Bethlehem to learn about the process that they use. Paul committed to going for a tour. Pam specifically asked Jo Beth if she would take a tour and Jo Beth said if her schedule frees up but did not commit.

Explained that we have reviewed numerous HCAs – specifically Coventry, Purrington (sp), one from Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Hardwick

Further discussion had about the need for more people to have input and opinion expressed that Saturdays aren't available time for everyone to make it to a meeting. Committee offered to have second open house session in the evening which scheduled for October 23 at 6:30 pm

One gentleman stated that he wants to see the payment from Casella have an escalation clause to stay in line with the cost of living. Expressed he thought the survey was very one-sided – committee explained it was no-sided as the committee is neither for or against the landfill – the contents were strictly items that were in other agreements, in current agreement or were found during investigation stage of committee's efforts to provide information to the Town and determine what if any of those items the residents desired to be in Dalton host community agreement. Also expressed that he believes the residents from Dalton should visit Coventry and its operation as the town has benefitted from the landfill, the roads are paved, there is a fund to help the residents, scholarship funds.

Pam stated she wanted the committee to get more information on the Casella recycling system they have in place and include that for Dalton

Public Session adjourned at 12:01 pm