

TOWN OF LLOYD TOWN BOARD

SPECIAL MEETING

AUGUST 6, 2014

Present: Supervisor Paul Hansut Also present: Richard Klotz, Highway Superintendent
 Councilmember Kevin Brennie Rosaria Peplow, Town Clerk
 Councilmember Michael Guerriero Kate Jonietz, Secretary
 Councilmember Michael Horodyski
 Councilmember Jeffrey Paladino

Absent: None

5:00 PM – Supervisor opened the meeting for information on the future of the Transfer Station and asked that those present sign the sheet with name and address. He explained that this meeting is live streamed so that people at home can watch it. The meeting will be shown three times on Channel 22. He said that he was glad to see new faces and thanked them for joining the meeting so that they can share their comments. Comments will be recorded.

The Town was notified in the early part of this year that there would be changes in fees with Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency and the contract with UCRRA will expire December 31, 2014. UCRRA has asked the Town to sign a 10-year agreement.

Richard Klotz, Highway Superintendent and his assistant, Denise Rhoades, are here; the Superintendent administers the Transfer Station for the Town of Lloyd. Tim Rose, Director of UCRRA, is also here to answer questions.

The Town Board here tonight to listen to the concerns of the public. He said that he spoke to an Ulster County Legislator who is happy that Lloyd is holding this informational meeting. Some Ulster County towns are not doing so and their boards will make this decision about the transfer station. He likes to hear what people have to say on issues. A decision will be made in the next month or so. The Town has been advised by UCRRA that the decision does not have to be made by January 1; the new fees will start in the end of July. However, the 2015 budget does have to be prepared by next month and those numbers will have to be included in the budget.

He would like those who make a comment to stand and state their name.

Superintendent said that the Transfer Station is now about \$13,000 in deficit. In 2011 the deficit was \$47,000; 2012 and 2013, the deficit was less. The permits are running almost 50/50 between free seniors permits and paid permits; total permits to date are 690 and 356 paid \$20 and 344 were free.

Denise Rhoades explained that there are two part time employees and the payroll is about \$27,000. The two free Saturdays cost about \$14,000. The total receipts on the two days of the free weekends were \$326 one weekend and the \$199 the next weekend. Payroll was doubled during that time with the addition of men from the Highway Department due to the need to facilitate traffic and aid residents. UCRRA empties the containers and delivers empty containers. The rate change for Ulster County Resource Recovery goes into effect next year; however, there are other issues concerning the Transfer Station, such as the road maintenance.

Superintendent agreed and said that no money has been put back into the Transfer Station; the road is starting to get rough, it will have to be repaved and some of the retaining walls are starting to deteriorate. There is no money in the budget to do this work. They looked into covering the containers to save on weight and that would cost \$90,000. Some things that can be done would be to raise the prices on what is brought to the Transfer Station to help with the costs or a scale could be installed. The scale would be an investment but what is brought to the Transfer Station is weighed and paid. Presently, someone could pay \$4.00 for a bag and it could weigh 200-pounds; UCRRA charges the Town by the ton.

Guerriero asked what other towns in the area are doing.

Denise Rhoades replied that they charge more.

Superintendent asked Tim Rose if he has heard from other towns and how they are handling the situation.

Tim Rose, UCRRA, said that there will be a rate change that will start next year in the end of July. Currently, the towns are paying \$93.00 per ton; the private sector is paying \$103.00 per ton. The board wants to treat everyone equally. Roughly two-thirds of that \$103.00 per ton tipping fee is trucking and disposal to get from the UCRRA to Syracuse. He does not know what the tipping fee will be as they are going out for bid now for final disposal. The bid is for the trucking and what landfill is going to get it; there will be an answer in about three weeks. The tipping fee is going to be raised in January. The other two charges: the pull charge which is \$42.00 per ton now will be raised to \$62.00 per ton and a box rental fee of \$85.00 per month will take effect July 1st.

Supervisor explained that the Town does not presently pay for the containers at the Transfer Station; starting July, 2015 there will be an \$85.00 fee per container per month charge. There are seven containers at the Transfer Station now. Part of the reason for the additional charges is that the UCRRA equipment is aging and needs to be replaced.

Rose said that there were 20-year agreements but because UCRRA took over the landfills of Lloyd, New Paltz and Ulster, those agreements are a little different. The contract goes further out and the board is willing to let those three towns out of the contract and if the towns would like to hire another company to come in, the board of directors would not object. These agreements were done 22 years ago and a tremendous amount of equipment was purchased at that time which has lasted for 20 years. The contracts are up; in the past couple of years the contracts were extended one year and then 15 months, which is up December 31, 2014. The towns and the UCRRA held up their ends of the bargain, however, now the equipment needs to be replaced. The cost to replace the equipment in the next seven years is \$1.2-million to keep servicing all of the towns. The private sector has a box rental per month; UCRCA structured it that way in order to pay for the equipment and all of the capital that is needed. The calculations came out to be \$85.00 per month per box. The tipping fee goes toward transporting all of the waste from either Ulster or New Paltz to Syracuse, two thirds of the tipping fee, another 20% of the tipping fee is debt service and the remainder is miscellaneous employee salaries, benefits, etc. The pull charge at \$43.00 per pull which is every time a drive goes out and picks up a container and brings it back to the facility it is supposed to cover all the fuel costs, the wear and tear on the trucks but we are continuing to lose money. They looked at the rate structure and isolated the towns to determine how much it costs to service the towns and break even.

Superintendent noted that another problem is getting tougher to find a company to take is the electronics that are being collected.

Rose said that they cannot be thrown in the garbage but the Town is not forced to take them; there are a lot of towns that do not accept electronics at anytime. The towns can suggest that the resident goes to the UCRRA Ulster as there is no facility for electronics at the New Paltz site. UCRRA is also having a problem getting rid of the electronics. Best Buy and Target will take back electronics

Denise Rhoades said that is what residents are told also but there is a 40-yard container at the Transfer Station that is packed full with eight Gaylord boxes. It will take a truck that will carry 22 Gaylord boxes to remove the electronics. They thought about charging for the electronics but were concerned that they will be dumped on the streets. She noted that the Town was initially getting paid for the electronics that were collected but when the electronic company met its tonnage quota with New York State, they cancelled Lloyd and wanted to be paid for taking the electronics.

Rose explained that UCRRA is not part of Ulster County Government, it is public vendor corporation; they are an authority similar to the Thruway Authority and the Bridge Authority. Counties such as Westchester or Orange are actually county departments. All counties are having the same problems with electronics.

Denise Rhoades posed that when UCRRA rates come into full effect, and the amount of garbage remains the same, there will be a \$12,000 increase for the Transfer Station per year or about \$1,000 per month.

Rose encourages all towns to explore all avenues i.e., go out to bid to third-party waste collectors; New Paltz bought their own roll-off truck before any of this occurred and they run the waste back and forth to the UCRRA site in New Paltz so they don't pay the full charge. If the Highway Department could do that, it would be an option. The Supervisor of the Town of Rochester who is also the President of the Supervisors' Association came to the UCRRA Board of Directors and asked them to grant the towns one year, to which the board of directors agreed. They did discuss a 5-year agreement but that did not work as the numbers were just too high. The previous agreement was 20 years and they spread it out to 10 years which are the numbers you saw.

Supervisor asked if the road to the Transfer Station would be the Town's responsibility and Rose confirmed that it would.

Denise Rhoades said that she did not want Rose to think that they believe this to be his fault; there are many variables that raise prices. The Town does not want to make money at the Transfer Station, just break even or not have such a substantial loss. The loss estimate is \$27,000, double last year's loss. There options are installing a scale, raising rates, charge seniors and/or increase the price for residents. She posed that \$50 per year and \$4 for each garbage bag or a private hauler at \$38 per month; for seniors as that \$38 could buy groceries and that is a big concern.

Supervisor said that in 2011, the loss was \$47,000 and at this point is about \$13,000.

The Board agreed that the new management has made a big difference.

Rose commented on a scale for the Transfer Station and said that it is a great idea as everything in the waste industry is charged by weight. UCRRA ships by tractor trailer with about 45 tons of trash to Syracuse and when it arrives, it is weighed and they are charged by weight. Nothing is done by volume. The Town could charge per pound and knowing what UCRRA charges, it would make it easier to balance the budget.

Guerrero agreed that would spread out the cost and everyone would pay their fair share.

Rose added that NYSDEC has a paradigm; it is called, 'pay as you throw'. This means that they find that people who are not necessarily in the environmental movement are still concerned about their wallets and recycle more when they pay as they throw. Recycling is free and if there is less in their bag, it weighs less, therefore, costs less. The question comes up about recycling as a revenue and if that has been calculated into the cost structure. UCRRA gets a lot of recycling from towns. UCRRA runs a dual-stream material and recovery facility which separates the co-mingled from all of the fiber, paper and plastic two or three days a week. They have several problems with calculating the rate to include the revenue. A lot of recycling comes in from other places such as cardboard from furniture stores and auto body shops. It is a commodity and commodities go up and down on a daily basis. UCRRA was operating in the black for the first part of year because the commodities were up but to try to figure that out to lessen the tipping fees would be very difficult.

Supervisor opened the discussion to the public.

Kevin Maloney, Robinson Lane, remarked that people have dumped refuse on the road and he would pick up the trash and take it to the Transfer Station. He asked if he would get charged if he did that again.

Superintendent said that there are three or four places around the Town that are used for dumping and added that he passed the Transfer Station yesterday and the gates were closed; however, there was garbage outside the gates.

Denise Rhoades told him to call and the Highway Department men will come out to pick it up.

Bob Ingram, Perkinsville Road, referred to a scale and noted that demolition and debris would be hard to weigh unless the vehicle could be weighed in and again on the way out; the C&D is banned but you see it all of the time. Someone is needed to watch what people are throwing away.

Superintendent said that one dumpster is set up now for all of the wood, including wooden furniture, which helps.

Denise Rhoades felt that it should be stopped at the entrance to determine debris is acceptable or not.

Ingram feels that it is convenient and is quite cheap; they get a senior citizen sticker, most seniors are in distress but thinks that half price for seniors would be more than fair.

James DiStasi, Grand Street, asked why hold free days if the Transfer Station is in deficit.

Superintendent answered that residents want it since it has always been.

DiStasi said that there are now a lot of landscapers, bringing in brush and asked if they have to pay for that.

Superintendent confirmed that they have to pay for brush and asked John DiValentino, Transfer Station Attendant, if the brush is from landscapers or residents.

DiValentino answered that homeowners do bring three or four bags of brush; it is set up as a pickup load, small pick up load, small trailer and it averages out.

DiStasi said that a garbage hauler comes once a week and there is only one bag.

Supervisor called the haulers to see if they would come to his mother's on a bi-monthly or monthly basis as she does not generate much garbage. The comment of the hauler was that they are paying so much to UCRRA that they cannot afford to do that. He has found that home pickup on a monthly rate is between \$25 and \$35.

Yvonne Maloney, Robinson Lane, feels that everyone paying by weight is reasonable.

Superintendent said that he has been looking at prices of scales and they are between \$50,000 and \$60,000.

Sal Sorbello said that the scale would last for many, many years; he does cleanup in the area and he goes to New Paltz 90% of the time because Highland does not really want him to go up there with trailers.

Rose said that the New Paltz scale was put in about two years ago and it was \$225,000, it can accommodate tractor trailers.

Supervisor cautioned to keep in mind that there is a 2% property tax cap and this year it is going to be 1.45%.

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Rafael Diaz, Hawleys Corners Road, asked Tim Rose if Lloyd residents can go directly to the Ulster County facility in New Paltz and what proof is needed.

Rose said that they do not ask for any proof; \$20 minimum and \$103.00 a ton, plus a fuel surcharge depending every month according to diesel fuel prices. The \$20 minimum comes out to 388#; if you have 388# or more, it is worth going to New Paltz.

Diaz would like to know what other towns are doing as there might be something Lloyd has not considered.

Rose said that Woodstock, Saugerties and Shandaken share one transfer station. Many years ago when the solid waste plan was written, they had to figure out what all of the towns were going to do. The Town of Kingston is unique with 300 houses in the whole town. They go out to contract with one hauler and they provide services for every town resident; it works for them because it is so small. He said that the RRA is the planning unit in DEC's eyes in writing a solid waste management plan; that plan was up several years ago. They wrote a draft plan for the DEC to review and once comments get back, it has to be revised and sent out for the public. The DEC has had the plan in their hands for two and a half years and he has not received comments back on it as yet. He would like to hear comments when it is released for the public,

Paladino asked how many tons have been received at the Transfer Station.

Denise Rhoades replied that the total tons of solid waste disposed and not recycled for the year of 2013 would have been 440 tons.

Paladino said this is a big fee and a concern is the containers are uncovered; the water weight is assumed to be 20% to 30% of the cost.

Rose replied that was valid; on days that it rains, the weights are higher. Some transfer stations have roofs.

Superintendent asked if UCRRA has a compactor.

Rose responded that it did not; however, they have supplied the Towns of Rochester, Warwarsing and Saugerties with compactors.

Denise Rhoades asked why those towns got compactors.

Rose did not have an answer as to why they received them, as that was before his time with the RRCA. It cost the agency about \$35,000 to put in a compactor. As safety inspector found that everything was topnotch except for the roll off boxes and a lot of them were removed from service. In the last couple of years it has been hard for him to go to the board and ask for new boxes when they are not sure that the towns are going to stay with the agency. The boxes cost between \$5,000 and \$7,000, depending on the size and if it is closed or open.

Mark Reynolds, reporter, asked if the boxes could be retrofitted with a drainage system to allow the water to run out.

Rose said no because the DEC doesn't want that water leaching onto the road. It was not uncommon in the old days for haulers to get under the packers and drill holes in them and let the water drain as they drove.

Supervisor asked if there is any way to get closed containers to solve the water problem, something that could be closed when the transfer station is closed and reopened.

Rose said that they have portholes in them and designed for small co-mingled trash; he has not seen the type of thing that Hansut described. There are tarps on the trucks.

Denise Rhoades suggested something that rolled from one end of the container to the other to seal it.

Rose is not aware of such a thing but said that would be a good idea and the employees could probably do something like that.

Superintendent said that he did think of that but then, asked where the water would go when the tarp was pulled across.

Paladino suggested putting up some sort of pavilion and get a return on the investment.

Denise Rhoades said that they budget \$53,000 for UCRRA.

Rose suggesting checking for grants opportunities with NYSDEC. If the towns decide to sign on, UCRRA intends to buy 30 closed-top boxes. DEC was willing to give a 50% reimbursement on the cost of those boxes because the closed top boxes are for recycling. They have already included that in the cost of the towns, the turnaround on the money wouldn't be for three to five years. They will not give any grant money for open top as they are for Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) and C&D.

DiValentino said if these boxes are used the 32-gallon bags will fit but not mattresses or furniture which now go into the dumpsters. People come in with loose trash, not in bags. A lot of what come into the Transfer Station now will have to be eliminated and those people sent to New Paltz, These are factors in the decision.

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Rose cautioned that these containers are purchased under a NYSDEC grant for recycling only and can't be retrofitted for other trash.

Denise Rhoades said that she looked into the available grants and none of them fit the Transfer Station.

Paladino asked if it would negate the cost if the town purchased their own containers.

Rose replied that results in a lot of dead runs; trucking is doubled. If the towns got together and purchased the containers as a group, it might work.

Franco Zani asked what the tipping fee was at Syracuse and if shared service with Dutchess County has been considered.

Rose answered that the tipping fee is \$27.50 and trucking is about \$20 per ton, total T&D is a little over \$60 per ton. Dutchess County is at about 90% capacity, he has 120,000 tons that he needs to get rid of and their permit per year is 164,000. Dutchess is around \$82 a ton.

Supervisor asked when a contract would be available.

Rose did not have an answer for that. The numbers assume that all of the towns are going to sign up; if all of the towns don't sign on, the numbers could go up. However, they will not have to spend as much on capital; there are 24 municipalities in the county and 18 transfer stations. The rental fee may go down but the pull charges may go up.

Diaz said that this impacts about 20% of the population of Lloyd and this is an amenity; 50% of the permits are seniors. He suggested charging seniors \$10 and the bags \$5, which will help with the deficit.

Frank Cavaleri suggested saving \$17,000 by eliminating the free dump days and opening the Transfer Station two days instead of three.

Supervisor said they did discuss closing Wednesdays but it seemed as if the seniors were using Wednesdays and the same amount of trash will be received, the only difference being that people would not be paid to be there on Wednesday. He feels that the consensus is that the residents would like the Town Board to look at the option of keeping the Transfer Station open. He asked if the seniors would pay as much as \$25 and those present felt that would be all right.

Guerriero commented that the way that Superintendent and Denise Rhoades have been running the Transfer Station the cost has come down; if the cost to the consumer could be increased annually there will be less of a deficit.

DiStasi would like to keep the seniors free.

Supervisor said that Marlborough charges \$25 for seniors and \$50 for non-seniors.

DiStasi said that there are upstate facilities that are state of the art at no cost to the residents.

Rose said that the reason that they do not pay anything is that it is in Delaware County and the only solid waste system that is supported by their 1% sales tax. It is a zero tipping fee for everybody. That machine cost \$25-million.

Rosalie Peplow said last year 9,117 bag tickets were sold, if that was increased \$1 per bag that would be another \$10,000 a year.

Supervisor commented that the road has to be improved and there are a lot of costs, the deficit will be \$30,000 or \$40,000 next year.

Diaz reiterated that this is an amenity and asked how much can the Town absorb, suggesting \$20,000 or \$25,000.

Supervisor said that the towns with whom he has spoken are thinking about closing their transfer stations.

Rose said that it cost UCRRA to service the towns, they made \$28 every time they picked up a box in Ulster and lost \$254 every time they picked up a box in Hardenburgh. They looked at the cost of going to each town and the cost of the towns collectively. That is how they came up with these numbers to break even.

Supervisor said that to move forward this will have to be run as a business and not as a service to the Town, what it will cost and can we afford it.

Audience member asked if the Town of Lloyd absorbs the deficit every year and Supervisor confirmed that the Town does.

Superintendent added that the costs at the Transfer Station have been going down in part due to the great work of the attendants, John DiValentino and Howard Geffner.

Rose agreed that the Lloyd Transfer Station is very well run.

Supervisor thanked everyone for attending and summed up that the Town Board will be working on this over the next several months but no decision has been made.

MOTION made by Horodyski, seconded by Guerriero, to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Rosaria Schiavone Peplow
Town Clerk