



**TOWN COUNCIL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
SPECIAL HYBRID MEETING
APRIL 4, 2023
APPROVED MINUTES**

1) CALL TO ORDER

Deputy Mayor Rampulla Bress called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

Present: Mayor Donald Trinks (arrived late), Deputy Mayor Lisa Rampulla Bress, Councilor Nuchette Black-Burke, Councilor James Dobler, Councilor Ronald Eleveld, Councilor Kristin Gluck Hoffman (arrived late), Councilor Kenneth Smith, Councilor Ojala Naeem and Councilor Len Walker

2) BOARD OF EDUCATION

Board of Education (BOE) President, David Furie; BOE Director of Business Services and Human Resources, Danielle Batchelder; Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Terrell Hill and Finance Chair and Vice President, Leonard Lockhart were present. Danielle Batchelder presented the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2024.

Ms. Batchelder stated that there was a BOE budget increase of 4.84% or \$3,699,575 over the FY 2022-2023? budget.

The major drivers of the 4.84% increase are increases in the six bargaining unit contracts at \$1,865,200, the employee benefits (health, dental, life & disability, 401 employer match and FICA/Med) at \$598,103 and an increase in Special Education tuition of \$1,194,246. The additional increases to the budget are \$459,051 for technology equipment and software as well as an increase in utility and supply costs totaling \$442,450.

We anticipate a reduction in the salary account by \$300,000 as we anticipate staff retirements for June 2023. This figure is based on discussions with staff and historical experience.

Additional staffing for FY 23/24 is as follows:

- 1.0 FTE – Math Intervention – Oliver Ellsworth
- 0.5 FTE – ELL Teacher – Oliver Ellsworth
- 0.5 FTE – ELL Teacher – Poquonock
- 1.0 FTE – Math Interventionist – Poquonock
- 1.0 FTE – Special Ed Teacher – Sage Park
- 1.0 FTE – Social Worker – District wide
- 1.0 FTE – Special Ed/Alternative Ed Teacher – SPARK
- 1.0 FTE – Math Teacher – SPARK
- 1.0 FTE – PE/Health Teacher – 0.8 FTE Clover & 0.2 FTE SPARK



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- 4.0 FTE – Tutors – 1.0 FTE at OE, Poquonock, Clover and JFK
- 2.0 FTE – Tutors – Sage Park
- 1.0 FTE – ELL Tutor – Clover
- 1.0 FTE – SEL Specialist – Oliver Ellsworth
- 1.0 FTE – SEL Specialist – Poquonock
- 1.0 FTE – SEL Specialist – JFK
- 2.0 FTE – SEL Specialist – Clover
- 2.0 FTE – SEL Specialist – Sage Park
- 1.0 FTE – Nurse – Floating – District Wide
- 1.0 FTE – Adult Ed Program Assistant – Adult Ed
- 0.5 FTE – Mentoring Coordinator – OFCP
- 1.0 FTE – Custodian – Sage Park

There are a total of 25.5 positions.

Mayor Trinks asked if the ARP ESSER funds would fully cover all 25 FTE positions. Ms. Batchelder and Dr. Hill both said yes.

Mayor Trinks asked if all of these positions are filled. Dr. Hill said yes.

Councilor Dobler asked how it was going with DATTCO. Ms. Batchelder stated that it is going better. Councilor Dobler asked if they were comfortable with where it is right now and Ms. Batchelder responded they are.

Councilor Dobler asked when the rate would be locked in for fuel and diesel. Ms. Batchelder said they share services with the town and she believed we purchased fuel around Christmas time. Town Manager Souza added that diesel is received through the Capital Region Council of Governments cooperative purchasing effort and is usually bid around the first part of the year for the July contract period. He stated that electricity is locked-in in October. There is a three-year lock-in period starting in October of 2023.

Councilor Dobler stated that there are a lot of buildings that are getting security cameras and he asked if there was a plan to have a certain percentage of the schools covered. Ms. Batchelder replied that they have had consultants review the buildings over the past two years to look for blind spots and places that weren't covered. They have purchased cameras as funds are available.

Councilor Dobler looked to page 39, under "salaries", and stated that it looked like we are in contract negotiations with three of the bargaining units. He asked if the WEA and Windsor School Administrators contracts are already settled. Ms. Batchelder said yes they are. Councilor Dobler asked if it was just a matter of dealing with the other three groups. Ms. Batchelder said yes. The certified staff were bound by state statutes, so those were settled back at the start of this school year.



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Councilor Naeem asked for clarity from Dr. Hill on going from a 6.22% potential increase to 4.84%. She asked if there were any areas where Dr. Hill saw significant decreases. Dr. Hill replied that technology took the biggest hit in the budget. Ms. Batchelder explained that another one of their biggest reductions in the budget was bussing. COVID allowed them to make some changes and through the years the trend has been that parents bring their kids to school much more than in the past. Prior to this year, they would always budget 100% of the buses and last year was the first year they did not spend all of the money because they could not find drivers. With the driver shortage, they were able to look at different ways of doing services and picking students up. They put more monitors on buses to help so they could get more kids on the buses and they were able to decrease their budget by a little over \$400,000.

Mr. Furie added that they have seen close to an 8% inflation increase for the past year, yet the major maintenance line is staying the same. He stated that they can't buy as much or do as much major maintenance with the same amount of money as last year because of the costs. While there are no decreases in funds, there will be a decrease in what can be done.

Councilor Black-Burke asked if the decrease in technology will leave a gap in the future and she wanted to be sure they were thinking ahead. Dr. Hill responded that he thought in education as a whole that we have become overly comfortable with technology. He said that in the next year there will be some blackout dates where there will be no computers used. He believes technology is a great tool but wants to ensure there is engagement and interaction between students and teachers and to ensure that the students are thinking. He briefly discussed his process for determining how he budgeted for technology costs.

Councilor Black-Burke stated that she appreciated what Dr. Hill shared.

Councilor Naeem stated that it sounded like a significant amount in the technology budget that wasn't being funded were to do with upgrades and replenishment of devices. She asked if there were other technological elements that we have and that we should be thinking about in the future. Ms. Batchelder stated that companies would only support an iPad or a Google Chromebook for four years. She said that they would not use an unsupported device for state testing but that they could still use them in the classroom. She discussed that they have also been evaluating software costs. Dr. Hill wanted to be clear that they are not eliminating technology but that they are striving for a better balance when it comes to screen time.

Ms. Batchelder added that there was a huge savings this year because students in grades K-5 were not taking their devices home any longer. They had fewer devices to replace and were able to save some money.

Councilor Walker asked about the requirements for certificates of residency for children in Windsor, how many are there and what is the cost to the Windsor tax payers and to the budget. He also commended Superintendent Dr. Hill for standing up against students being disruptive in the classroom and for standing up against "sagging" in the schools. Councilor Walker asked Dr. Hill to speak about these issues. Dr. Hill said that there are students attending the school with



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certificates of residency but he said he would have to get back to the Council on the number of students in the schools and the cost. Dr. Hill briefly discussed how they ensure students are Windsor residents or have a certificate of residency. He said there is no appreciable number of students who are coming to our public schools with or without a certificate of residency that are causing a fiscal issue. Dr. Hill said they will continue to address the clothing issue and encouraged parents to be aware of how their child is dressing. He said that they will handle this together with the parents.

Deputy Rampulla Bress asked how often they renew their contracts for utilities and if they have the same opportunities that residents do to choose a supplier for electricity. Ms. Batchelder said that it is all done through the town and the school pays the town. Town Manager Souza said that for electricity, they have had a third party supplier for the better part of 12 or 13 years. He said the rate is usually locked-in for a 24-36 month period. Unfortunately with water, there is only one supplier and thankfully they are holding their numbers for this year relatively low. He acknowledged that costs from the MDC have been escalating over the years.

Deputy Mayor Rampulla Bress agreed with decreasing screen time. She believed that the majority of parents will agree with them, but it will be a transition for students.

Councilor Gluck Hoffman asked if they were decreasing software licenses. Dr. Hill said yes. When they are getting rid of a particular software, no one is using it. Councilor Hoffman asked what software was being removed. Dr. Hill and Ms. Batchelder didn't want to disclose which ones as they hadn't had a final discussion with staff.

Councilor Gluck Hoffman asked if any of the software programs that were being removed would be replaced with better or more efficient software for the team. Dr. Hill responded that most of it would not be replaced but he is always looking for programs that can make them more efficient or that can serve multiple functions. They are also planning some trainings to help better utilize the programs that they do have.

Councilor Gluck Hoffman commended Dr. Hill on enforcing the dress code.

Councilor Eleveld commented on the increased cost of health insurance at almost a half a million dollars. Ms. Batchelder responded that they were over \$1.7 million in claims last year versus prior years. They believed a lot was due to COVID-19, but it shocked them. She said that they are trending this year like they used to but now they are in the hole. They have to keep that fund at a certain percentage and need to put more money into their insurance fund moving forward to protect them from a loss like they've had last year.

Councilor Eleveld said he heard that many of the claims were not related to the disease but that the testing aspect got very expensive. He also spoke about the budget for special education and remembered at one time that the Roger Walcott School was looked at as a special education hub. He asked if something of that nature was being looked at as an option to help cut down the costs. Dr. Hill said he didn't have details, but yes.



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Councilor Eleveld asked if the staffing reductions were coming through attrition. Ms. Batchelder said yes. Councilor Eleveld presumed they calculated in the budget the cost deferential from retiring staff versus new hires. Ms. Batchelder said yes.

Councilor Eleveld looked to appendix F, on page 50, and asked what “GF” meant. Ms. Batchelder said it stood for general fund.

Councilor Eleveld asked about the ROTC program and if it was in good shape. Dr. Hill shared that he is a veteran and supports the program. He said that it is doing well but according to the national program, a school of their size should be larger. He encouraged students to join and discussed the program’s benefits.

Councilor Eleveld asked how many students are participating and Ms. Batchelder replied about 65.

Councilor Eleveld asked if we are still not paying for students to go to the Hartford magnet schools. Ms. Batchelder said yes that’s correct.

Councilor Eleveld stated that looking at the numbers, it looked like the CREC schools have doubled in price. Ms. Batchelder said that’s correct.

Councilor Eleveld believed Mr. Lockhart was a representative on CREC and asked him if he’d like to speak about the increases. Mr. Lockhart said that he believed CREC provides a good education and that they have been advising all the districts for some time that there was going to start charging full cost. Windsor has been proactive over the past five years by attracting students back into the district and when they come back, it cuts costs. Mr. Lockhart said that Windsor is actually competing with CREC, but families have a right to choose where their children go to school. The BOE has a responsibility to fully fund the students from our district who choose to go to other districts. The BOE has to do a good job so that no one will look at another school unless we can’t offer it.

Councilor Eleveld commented that everyone could agree that the amount being asked for is more than what we would like it to be, however, it is justifiable. He did not see any reason to make any changes to the BOE budget. He understood that all of the school’s budget increases are due to inflationary pressures and items out of their direct control.

Dr. Hill followed up and reported that Ms. Batchelder found that there are 76 students in the Air Force ROTC program. Mr. Lockhart added that they have been actively recruiting 8th graders as well.

Councilor Gluck Hoffman asked if they had ever thought about bringing ROTC graduates back so students can see where they are now and the progression. Dr. Hill said he would look into that and thought it was a great idea.



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Councilor Smith said he supported the budget as presented. He asked how many special education students there are and asked when the town's obligation ends. Dr. Hill said there is not a clear ending. They will have planning and placement team (PPT) meetings where they'll decide what the plan is for the student after graduation, what their needs are and look at their individual education plan (IEP). He said they just changed the law so some kids will be with them until the age of 23. They won't be at the high school but at L.P. Wilson. Councilor Smith asked if that fell under the responsibility of the Board of Education. Dr. Hill said yes.

Mr. Furie said there is a heavy emphasis on life skills, jobs and working in the community. He said it is a fairly intense monitoring to make sure that those students have opportunities that we want everyone to have.

Councilor Smith asked if there was a desire to get off the alliance list or are they content being on the list because of the funding it provides. Dr. Hill said that he wants to get off the list but acknowledged that his team doesn't agree with him. He doesn't like the designation and believes it brings a negative connotation. The State had a great plan to get schools into this, but no exit plan and most people don't want to get out of it because of the money. Windsor receives about \$580,000. He has staff members looking into big grants, not from the Federal government, but from large foundations. He has not yet figured out how to get the money so they could be taken off the list.

Mr. Lockhart added that he also believed it has a negative connotation but that it has protected them from state budget cuts and it has at times been weaponized during elections. He believed that an alliance district should be able to earn their way off of that designation with no loss of funding. He said schools on the list are seen as problem schools and that is not true for Windsor.

Dr. Hill said that other districts are de-incentivized to get off the list because they receive millions of dollars and it is a benefit to them. He said from the beginning he did not like being a part of that group and didn't like any kind of negative connotation. He feels like he has the collective intellect and skills set in the district to get their kids to move.

Councilor Smith shared that in the 1960's, the Windsor schools were competitive with West Hartford and Avon. He couldn't believe that we are at the bottom of 169 towns based on what he's seen within the fire department and within the community. Dr. Hill said they are working on it and hopes to find a way to get off the list.

Councilor Eleveld asked Mr. Lockhart if they are still doing CBTA events. Mr. Lockhart said that they are. Councilor Eleveld thought Councilmembers would be interested in attending future events. He said these events were put on by students with mental and physical handicaps. Mr. Lockhart said he will be sure the Council receives an invitation next time.

Dr. Hill followed up from Councilor Smith's question that there are 740 special education students. Councilor Smith was very surprised by that number.



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Councilor Gluck Hoffman clarified that the number includes a wide range of services. She requested that it might be helpful to have a breakdown of the different levels included for the Council next year.

Councilor Black-Burke said that as a district it is our responsibility to educate every child.

Mr. Lockhart commented that special education is not just for the kids that are struggling but also includes our gifted students. Unfortunately, special education always has a negative connotation.

Councilor Walker thanked everyone from the BOE, Dr. Hill and Ms. Batchelder for their work.

Mayor Trinks said that the BOE is scheduled to come back on April 17 but with the presentation tonight, he did not see the need for them to come back before the Council. No one from the Council objected. Mayor Trinks thanked them for their work.

3) REVENUES

Deputy Mayor Rampulla Bress announced that this agenda item had been moved.

4) PUBLIC WORKS

Bob Jarvis, Director of Public Works; Jessie English, Public Works Operations Manager; Gary Dowgewicz, Assistant Buildings and Facilities Manager and Suzanne Choate, Town Engineer were present. Mr. Jarvis presented the proposed FY 24 budget for the Public Works fund as follows:

FY 2023 BUDGET AND ESTIMATE

- The FY 2023 General Fund expenditures are expected to be under budget by approximately \$102,000 (or 1.4%). This is primarily due to savings in Personal Services. We had position vacancies, employees receiving workman's compensation, retirements and hiring of new employees, all of which contributed to the Personal Services savings.
- In FY 2023 we performed or oversaw – the surface restoration to almost 7 miles of roads, sweeping of about 160 miles of town roads, repairs and replacements to over 120 catch basins, and the improvements to the Sage Park athletic fields.
- With the guidance of the Public Building Commission, we directed the construction of the L.P. Wilson Social Services Relocation Project. We also oversaw the ongoing HVAC Efficiency project at the Sage Park School and the commencement of the Goslee Pool Renovation Project.

FY 2024 BUDGET

- The FY 2024 General Fund budget reflects an increase of approximately \$351,000, or 4.4%, when compared to the FY2022 budget. This is mostly due to increases in Energy



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and Utility costs and increases in Personal Services, due primarily to the addition of a full-time Maintainer in Public Works.

In FY 2024 we anticipate:

- Completing construction of the first phase of the International Drive Road Rehabilitation project, which is yet another project funded through the State-funded, Local Transportation Capital Improvement Grant Program.
- And, we look forward to the completion of the Baker Hollow Road Improvement project.
- We will be working with the Public Building Commission and the board of Education to continue the HVAC improvements at Sage Park Middle School, the L.P. Wilson Community Center and also the 330 Windsor Avenue Community Center.

Deputy Mayor Rampulla Bress congratulated Mr. Jarvis on his retirement and welcomed Ms. Choate to the town.

Councilor Black-Burke congratulated Mr. Jarvis on his retirement. She shared concerns about medians and wanted to ensure that there is enough money in the budget to keep all medians in town maintained equitably. Town Manager Souza responded that there is a state funded project to replace the medians on Route 159 from 218 to the city line where there will be significant change in appearance to the Wilson corridor. He stated that part of the replacement will include new trees, planting beds and also refreshment of what is there. Staff is also working with the Wilson Deerfield Advisory Committee to add additional plantings. He stated it is a little bit of a challenge in this section as there is not as much right-of-way as there is in town center but they have identified a number of locations where planters will be added in late spring and early summer. He stated they also had a conversation with CREC to re-establish the planting bed in front of Roger Wolcott School at the corner of east Walcott and Windsor Avenue, so there are a variety of activities going on. Some funds will be used from the FY 23 budget. There will be a regular schedule to maintain the medians once the repairs have been done. This spring in the Wilson area, the sidewalks will be swept as the medians will be under repair. He stated that there are a variety of efforts at the State level and in the town's budget through the Department of Public Works.

Councilor Black-Burke summarized that the medians would be pulled up, re-done, planters will be added and they will be maintained. Town Manager Souza said, yes and the town will have the responsibility to maintain them. He wanted to note that the town has been maintaining the medians from Windsor center to the Hartford line for the last 40 years and the condition of those medians is not because of the lack of effort by our town staff. He said with some advocacy from a variety of people, the State will be putting in over two million dollars into this project.

Councilor Eleveld asked about the increase to personal services by \$400,000 and if it was because of contractual increases and the additional person they are looking to hire. Mr. Jarvis replied that the line item includes both.



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Councilor Eleveld noted increases to energy and utility costs by \$150,000 but understood that was out of our control. One item that caused him some concern was the average number of days to close SeeClickFix complaints regarding pothole and pavement issues. In FY 22, the target was eight days, in FY 23, it was 10 days and in FY 24, the target is nine days and he asked why the target isn't going back to the eight days. Mr. Jarvis said that their response time would be nine days and that they wouldn't want to see anything greater than that. He said they expect the actual response time to be less than nine days.

Councilor Eleveld noted that there has been a savings by Public Works going out to bid for paving instead of using the State bidding process and commended them for diligently attempting to keep costs down.

Councilor Smith noted the increased costs of utilities across the board and he asked Town Manager Souza what can be done to get a better price on utilities. Town Manager Souza stated that it is a challenge in this environment and that we are using a third party supplier. He briefly discussed what has been done in the past from purchasing to attempts to lower the town's usage and consumption. He mentioned possibly entering into a contract for virtual net metering, which would allow us to meet two objectives – to save costs in the long run on a per kilowatt hour through a power purchase agreement and to meet our goal of sustainability and adding sustainable energy to our portfolio. He said the most immediate issue is to use the town's purchasing power to be able to lock in prices over the course of the next 36 months.

Councilor Smith asked what is the need to add the extra position. Mr. Jarvis listed the several different developments where Public Works has taken over the infrastructure. He also stated that the amount of street lights they maintain has increased by 266 and the sidewalks' square footage has increased by 30,000. He said they have seen a significant increase in the amount of infrastructure that the town must maintain going forward.

Town Manager Souza commented that they have added seasonal and part-time positions to help but that it has been challenging. He said a full-time position brings more stability and efficiency than having to bring in seasonal workers every 120 days or so.

There were no further questions and Mayor Trinks thanked everyone for their work.

5) LANDFILL ENTERPRISE FUND

Mark Goossens, Solid Waste Manager presented the proposed FY 24 budget for the Landfill Enterprise Fund.

Revenues for the Enterprise Fund no longer include tipping fees for solid waste disposed at the Landfill. There are now two primary sources of revenue funds. One source is from interest earnings on the "fund balance" of the Enterprise Fund. Interest rates rebounded in FY23, resulting in approximately \$300,000 from this revenue source.



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The other primary source is from reimbursements for the closure and capping work at the site, from a State Grant that has been designated for this purpose. Reimbursement for FY23 is projected to be approximately \$260,000, and the total of reimbursements received by the end of FY23 are expected to be approximately \$1.6 Million.

Reimbursement for FY 24 is projected to be approximately \$300,000 which will nearly deplete the \$2 Million total grant.

Expenditures for both fiscal years are primarily related to the closure and capping work at the site. The FY24 proposed budget includes funds for the continued application of additional capping materials and for work designed to improve aesthetic conditions within the adjacent wetlands. The Town continues to work with the CT DEEP to finalize a design of a “modified wetlands”; a less-intrusive approach that utilizes the wetlands natural ability to attenuate and filter out contaminants to improve the aesthetic condition within the wetlands.

This approach is expected to have a much smaller impact to the wetlands than the previously agreed-upon method and to be significantly less costly to the Town. Because of this, Net Operating expenses at the conclusion of FY23 are expected to come in approximately 45% under budget due primarily to savings in the Services line item.

The retained earnings of the Landfill Enterprise Fund will be used to meet costs associated with landfill closure as well as post-closure monitoring, which includes leachate management, methane gas collection system maintenance and repairs, and other long-term obligations.

At the end of FY24, the estimated end-of-year retained earnings balance available for future obligations is estimated to be approximately \$18 million.

Councilor Dobler remembered that there used to be sporadic complaints about a pungent odor and asked if they were still getting complaints. Mr. Goossens said absolutely not. The last complaint he had received was in the fall of 2011.

Town Manager Souza asked Mr. Goossens to explain to the Council what was done to eliminate the odor. Mr. Goossens explained that an odor like rotting eggs was produced when bacteria consumed dry wall. To eliminate the odor, they put in an active gas collection system. Town Manager Souza added that the system is still currently in place and is part of the long-term O&M cost that we'll have to maintain.

Councilor Eleveld said looking in FY 23, we expected to receive \$530,000 in revenue from a DEEP grant but estimated that only \$258,000 will come in. He asked if that was because it was tied to what was actually spent. Mr. Goossens said yes. With the 45% reduction and lack of construction, they didn't have anything to submit for the grant, so the savings has generated a temporary lack of revenues.



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Councilor Eleveld asked if he was expecting the numbers in services to go up this coming year. Mr. Goossens explained that the \$778,000 includes \$400,000 for the wetlands with the new cost so the \$1.1 million has been displaced and moved from this fiscal year and reduced to \$400,000 for next fiscal year.

Councilor Eleveld asked if the wetlands was going to solve the coloring issue. Mr. Goossens replied that it is intended to treat some of it. It has got to do with stabilization and to try to revegetate it in different ways that screen it a bit better. The condition there is aesthetic, it is not a health condition. The intent is to deal with the invasive species in the wetlands and stabilize some of the banks and then let Mother Nature take over.

Councilor Eleveld asked if there was enough in reserves. Mr. Goossens said that there is a 30-year post closure period but there has been talk for decades of the EPA extending that indefinitely. He said the current yearly estimate is \$416,000. He believed we are in a strong position but they just don't know what the future holds with regulation.

Town Manager Souza said that past Town Councils have set them up well and gave credit to Mr. Goossens for running the landfill for the last 20 years. He appreciated the Council's understanding of the long-term stewardship responsibilities we have as a community.

Councilor Eleveld asked if we had received credits for methane. Mr. Goossens said they did it as long as they could. The gas credits had to be within 10 years of the construction of the system and we were able to capture close to \$300,000 worth of credits for simply burning off the landfill gas. He said that gas degrades with time, losing both quality and quantity.

Councilor Eleveld asked if the gas depletes itself as time goes by. Mr. Goossens said yes.

Councilor Walker stated he has always been an advocate for closing the Windsor Landfill but has since changed his thinking. He asked what it would take if the town extended the closing date to allow Windsor residents to use the landfill until the State can figure out what to do with its waste. He said that Windsor taxpayers are currently at the mercy of Windsor Sanitation where every year they increase the cost of disposal of waste with no notice. Town Manager Souza said it would be extremely difficult to extend the life of the landfill, partly from a regulatory perspective and also a practical perspective. He said the landfill was permitted to reach an elevation of 212 feet and we have reached that capacity. We would have to go to the State DEEP and get a revision to that permit and undo our closing and capping plan that has been approved by DEEP. He didn't think that DEEP would allow us to re-open it and even if we were to pursue it, it would be a multi-year process, including significant regulatory review. Town Manager Souza said that he and Mr. Goossens continue to participate in regional conversations about solid waste. He said he would raise Councilor Walker's concerns up with Windsor Sanitation.

Mr. Goossens agreed with Town Manager Souza and said that the optimum time to reconsider has passed.



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Councilor Walker thanked Town Manager Souza for his response and said he would like to find a way to help residents dispose of their waste.

Councilor Dobler asked if the technology or the costs have gotten to the point where it's worth considering plasma gasification. Town Manager Souza said that he didn't believe that anyone in North America has proven it to be cost efficient.

Mayor Trinks asked what year are we in the process of closing the landfill. Town Manager Souza said the clock hasn't started yet. It does not start until it is certified by DEEP.

Mayor Trinks asked if we are on target with the early estimates for closure costs. Town Manager Souza said, yes we are on target.

Mayor Trinks asked if Bloomfield has any part of the landfill. Town Manager Souza said yes, they retain environmental liability as part of the agreement. Bloomfield residents are also allowed to bring food scraps, yard waste and other materials to the transfer station.

Mayor Trinks asked if they have a similar enterprise fund. Town Manager Souza said they do not to his knowledge.

6) RESIDENT TRANSFER STATION

Mark Goossens, Solid Waste Manager, presented the proposed FY 24 budget for the Resident Transfer Station.

Mr. Goossens stated the FY 24 Transfer Station budget proposes to continue to provide the same services as was provided in FY 23, including the continuation of an Organics Recycling program where residents drop their organic waste materials in a dedicated food scraps container onsite.

Our tonnage intake during this fiscal year continues to drop towards that of pre-pandemic years; we expect to receive approximately 450 tons of municipal solid wastes (or "MSW"), and approximately 950 tons of bulky wastes at year's end. The FY 24 proposed budget carries the same intake tonnage levels as those projected for the end of this fiscal year as activities at the TS seem to be down to, or near, their pre-pandemic levels.

The transfer station operates as a separate, "stand-alone" enterprise fund, with the goal of operating with a positive-fund-balance. Based on current waste stream volumes and the additional expense of the food scraps recycling program, the fund expects to realize a \$14,650 net loss at the conclusion of FY 23 and will not have met that financial goal.

The State of Connecticut remains muddled in a waste disposal crisis; and the Transfer Station Enterprise Fund continues to absorb significant disposal price increases from its various vendors. This condition requires us to propose another set of increases in FY 24 in order to try to maintain a "near-neutral" Net Operating Income at the conclusion of FY 24.



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In our proposed budget, we have recommended that the cost of half-year and full-year permits be raised in FY 23 by \$5 and \$10 respectively. The FY 24 proposed budget also includes price increases of \$10 per ton for both Bulky and Yard wastes to account for increased costs for managing those materials as well.

Councilor Eleveld asked what the fees are currently for permits. Mr. Goossens said the full-year is \$180 and \$95 for the half year.

Councilor Eleveld asked if we are looking to increase those fees. Mr. Goossens replied yes, the proposed full-year permit would become \$190 and the half-year would become \$100.

Councilor Eleveld said he noted there had been a loss in the last few years and asked if the increased adjustment would help. Mr. Goossens said they try to stay near neutral so the residents are paying as little as possible. Town Manager Souza said that they have taken a moderate view with fees, as they understand there are increased costs across many households. He added another factor here is that we had been receiving more money for the sale of recyclable materials and that has changed drastically in the last four years.

Councilor Eleveld stated that he wasn't implying that we should be making a profit but wants to mitigate losses when we can.

Councilor Walker asked what is the difference in price for a resident taking their trash to the landfill versus paying Windsor Sanitation. Mr. Goossens explained that Windsor Sanitation's costs are broken down so that 50% is attributable to collection and 50% is for disposal. The town is at about where they are for disposal with full-year permits.

Councilor Walker wanted to be sure residents knew that it is cheaper for them to bring their trash to the dump, and that the Town of Windsor does not control Windsor Sanitation.

Mayor Trinks thanked Mr. Goossens for his presentation.

7) ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Councilor Hoffman and seconded by Councilor Naeem to adjourn the meeting at 9:18 p.m.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrea D. Marcavitch
Recording Secretary