

HARDWICK SELECTBOARD MEETING

307 Main Street
Gilbertville, MA 01031
July 18, 2023

Attendees: H. Robert Ruggles (HRR), Chair; Kelly Kemp (KK), Vice Chair; Eric Vollheim (EV), Clerk; Nicole Parker (NP), Town Administrator; Brian Oliver (BO), VP Casella.

HRR recused himself from the Casella presentation because of potential conflicts until he received ethical clarification thus turning over the proceedings to EV.

Meeting was called to order on July 18, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

Casella Presentation

Brian Oliver, VP of Casella, introduced Tracy Markham, Environmental Compliance Manager, Dan and Darrell also involved in project and made a short presentation from Casella, a resource management company. Proposed:

- Reopen existing Hardwick facility in conjunction with adjacent David G. Roach & Sons gravel pit. No hazardous waste allowed.
- Smaller in size than what was contemplated 20 years ago. Approximately 48 acres.
- Hours of operation: Monday – Friday, 7 AM – 4 PM, Saturday 7 AM – 11:30 AM.
- Will abide by regulations (local and state) for truck routes with approximately 50 trucks/day avoiding the center of the Town of Hardwick.
- Accepting approximately 350,000 tons/year of MSW and C&D material averaging approximately 11,500 tons/day.

Note: EV requested the definitions of MSW and C&D materials.

BO stated the following:

- MSW stands for *municipal solid waste* (household waste);
- C&D stands for *construction and demolition* debris (e.g. tearing down a building, remodeling a home, etc.).

- Site map was displayed outlining Hardwick facility design displaying the existing landfill property, existing landfill primitive waste (closed landfill) and landfill expansion area based inside the gravel pit totaling approximately 48 acres.
- Odor management infrastructure.
- Negotiate a leachate agreement with the Town to take leachate from landfill to the Gilbertville Wastewater Treatment Plant thus creating additional revenue of approximately \$500,000/year.
- Explore potential renewable energy resource by capturing methane gas.
- Project will be subject to review and permitting processes.
- Numerous local and state approvals are required.
- Host Community Agreement needed between Town of Hardwick and Casella for life of the landfill (approximately 12-13 years).
 - Propose Host Fee Payment of \$6.00/ton to Hardwick (350,000 tons/year is approximately \$2.1MM/year.
 - Approximately \$500,000/year in leachate delivery payments (peak generation) to Gilbertville facility. Total would be approximately \$2.6MM/year.

- Revenue sharing with the Town for any renewable constructed energy project associated with the landfill project could be discussed at length at a later date.
- David G. Roach & Sons will be involved in landfill operations. Benefit of a local presence.
- Casella to develop odor and nuisance control plans with Town of Hardwick.
- Develop a Town Landfill Oversight Program
 - Ability for Town to have a landfill monitor, an engineering resource, 3rd party personnel (DEP trained and certified) and managed by the Town for use in monitoring and assisting with the engineering.
- Project Timeline:
 - July 2023: Selectboard presentation
 - Fall 2023: Town Meeting
 - November 2023 – November 2026: Project permitting – construction (approximate)
 - November 2026 – September 2027: Project construction
 - December 2027: Project permitting – authorization to operate
 - January 2028: Facility operational
- Voting Initiatives:
 - Relocation or termination of Patrill Hollow Road
 - Bylaw amendment increasing maximum allowable structure height to 850 ft. (currently 630 ft.)
 - Rezoning of landfill property to industrial
 - Zoning amendment permitting landfill use in industrial district

EV stated, speaking for the Board, the Board had not received any of the aforementioned information prior to meeting. He thanked BO (Casella) for presentation.

Motion

KK made a motion acknowledging receipt of the proposal.

EV seconded.

Motion passed (2:0).

NP requested a copy of the Casella Power Point presentation and, with permission from the Board, put it on the Town's website. EV and HRR approved.

HRR questioned BO (Casella) whether they would be putting out a public presentation/hearing in the near future so people could ask questions. BO (Casella) agreed there would definitely need to be informational meetings with the residents.

Motion

HRR made a motion to adjourn.

EV seconded.

Motion passed (3:0).

Meeting was adjourned 7:00 p.m.