

**Town of New Salem
Board of Health
Minutes for December 5, 2023
Meeting Held virtually via Zoom**

Zoom Meeting ID: 847-0616-5172

Attendance: Jenny Potee, Chair, Patrick Temple, Lynn Layton, member(s), Board of Health;

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm

Review of Transfer Station Attendant Applications & Scheduling of Interviews

Jake reported that to date there have been only two candidates, Tim Beyerl and Carl Seppala. Unfortunately, Carl pulled out of consideration after realizing a number of conflicts in personal commitments to his grandchildren. The main focus for this meeting is to determine dates and times to offer Tim for interview as well as for any other potential candidates who may apply after this meeting. Jenny noted she recently covered at the Transfer Station to help fill a gap. She's talked to several people including Andy Ohlson. Andy expressed interest in applying and may do so at a future time. Lynn suggested we continue to accept applications on a rolling basis. Jake noted he did the job notice under that assumption. Lynn submitted the idea of interviewing Tim and leaving room to see if Andy applies in the meantime. Jenny expressed the view that it is important we also consider a person's ability to work with present employees. She then elaborated on a number of areas that will require cooperative work between the Transfer Station Attendants. It was then agreed to ask Tim if he could interview at the Board's next regular meeting scheduled for December 12. Patrick also agreed to get the contact information for Andy. It was then noted we really need more substitutes. We used to have two, but one really can't help anymore and the other can take every shift. It was suggested by Jenny that Carl might be a good candidate for a substitute. Discussion concluded on this topic with Patrick agreeing to collect some keys from the attendant who recently parted ways with the Board of Health.

Unanticipated Items

➤ *Swift River Fifth Grade Fundraiser*

Jenny noted some updates that were unanticipated. Swift River's Fifth Grade has provided the barrels for their donation drive. These barrels are large, provided by loan from Gelinas. Jenny noted that given the size of the barrels they were carefully placed due to considerations such as weather.

➤ *Need for Two Attendants & Training*

Jenny stressed the point that we really must have two attendants. It's very busy from 12 pm on and extremely busy from 2 to about 3:50 pm when the station closes. Jenny also noted some training one of our 3 attendants attended. Sadly, the other attendant couldn't make it and obviously we have one position vacant.

➤ *Two Incidents at the Transfer Station Relating to Closing*

Jenny then elaborated on an incident of a resident coming late to the Transfer Station. Speeds were excessive to enter the station and within it. Which was then coupled with a lack of urgency in disposal of items. She stressed that residents must understand that they need to arrive earlier and not arrive such that they prevent the station for following its normal hours. Further unsafe speeds within the Transfer Station are of concern. She then elaborated on another interaction with a late resident who was there to recycle cardboard. She also stressed to this resident the need to be timelier and this person agreed to do so in the future. Jenny then outlined a plan to discuss with the Police Chief of having a police patrol go through the Transfer Station towards closing to help with these kinds of situations. It appears with the resident who arrived speeding that this person is a repeat offender. Lynn agreed that asking the Police, at least through the holidays, to patrol would be helpful. She noted there does appear to be an issue as she has experienced it working the Transfer Station in the past with people arriving late. She suggested that after the holidays an officer could come through once a month at random. Jenny then briefly turned to the appearance of the station being much improved in appearance with some cleanup completed. Patrick noted he is willing to also help, he just works every other Saturday. As to the time of closing, he noted his own experience as a small business owner with this issue and suggested we might want to consider changing our closing time. That said, he expressed

the most concern regarding the unsafe speeds. Having someone speeding through a closing gate is concerning not to mention within the Transfer Station where there is the potential that other persons could be harmed. Lynn concurred submitting that if the gate is closing than residents shouldn't be trying to race the gate. This poses a danger.

➤ *Transfer Station Stickers*

We have the 2024 stickers. Unfortunately, they got delivered to a former Board of Health Clerk's home. Thankfully this person got them to Jenny. Now that we have them, we will need to turn toward the sale and enforcement of the stickers as the year changes. This will include the need to promote and sell them. Jake agreed to help get news of the stickers out via the *New Salem News*.

➤ *Transfer Station Trash Compactor Smell*

Jenny noted that Franklin County Solid Waste let her know that they noticed when picking up that there was an odor with the compactor. Lynn asked a few questions about the type of smell. Jenny responded one of the attendants has also noticed a smell and reported it as smelling like burning oil. Lynn then recalled there was a prior issue with the compactor which Jenny also recalled. That resulted in some repair at the time. Patrick suggested some kind of servicing be done. Jenny agreed to ask FCSW about it as well as the attendants.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn at 7:30 pm was made by Jenny and seconded by Lynn. The motion passed without objection.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jake K. Voelker, JD
Interim Board of Health Clerk