

Draft minutes, Norwich Solid Waste Committee special meeting 3/17/22

The committee met at 5:37 via Zoom. The quorum comprised Jack Cushman, Andy Scherer and Bonnie Blake. Linda Cook and Neil Fulton attended as members of the public. Town manager and head of DPW were unable to attend.

The committee operates by consensus and did not hold recorded votes.

The committee reviewed the services contract with Casella that was last renewed for one year term in April 2021. The town manager is expected to extend the contract.

The current contract has a rate escalator or inflation clause which states "in no case shall the Fee increase be less than 2.5%" annually. However, this is to be expected to be higher given the general rise in price indexes and in the price of motor fuel specifically.

A copy of the expiring contract is attached to these minutes.

Scherer has spoken to three contractors who offer disposal of compostable food waste and presented a spreadsheet with details of their fees.

The committee noted that there may be an opportunity to switch the contractor for this waste stream either now or in the future, with a potential savings on the order of \$10,000 or about half the current cost.

The committee recommends that the town manager and DPW consider whether it is feasible and advisable to make such a change now, or to include the option in a renewed overall contract, or to plan for such a switch in the future.

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 pm.

Jack Cushman, chair