



Town of Mendon
Board of Health
Minutes for
January 6, 2021

Andy Fiske, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Present: Alan Greenberg -Vice Chairman Tom Fichtner - BOH Member, Missy Kakela-Boisvert, Sr. Administrative Assistant to BOH, Todd Cluxton of Sharp Compliance

Location – Join Microsoft Teams Meeting

No one for Simple Recycling attended the meeting.

Sharp Compliance – Andy explained that in the town’s contract with the current trash hauler they give us some many sharp containers. And through that contract the town uses Sharp Compliance for the sharp containers. It has been very well received by the residents of town. Currently we use the 1-quart containers. The board is looking into doing this on their own since we are limited to how many containers we receive via our contract. Todd did send Missy an email with pricing and container sizes. Andy is concerned about the amount of container that the boh would have to order. Todd explained that container size and the number of containers can be customized to the needs of the town. He explained that the company has been in business for over 25 years. He would recommend the 1-gallon container. There are many different options. Things can be set up where the community has visibility of everything that has been returned. The date and way the product has been destroyed. This way you have proof of destruction.

Andy asked for his knowledge and for his fellow board members and Missy how are the needle destroyed? Todd said that is a great question, the company prides itself in the fact that they repurpose everything. They are a zero-landfill organization. For example, these sharps container would come back to our facility, we receive them, scan the waste manifest that the customer filled out. The documentation is instantly uploaded to the system. The container is weighed and dated. Then it is moved into an autoclave where they render everything neutral. Then it is moved into a recycling program. Where they repurpose the plastics, the metals everything like that. One use is it’s converted into electricity another plant might convert the plastics into a car bumper. Don’t forget it’s all been treated and everything has been rendered neutral. It is a wonderful program from a standpoint that once we get it and treat it, we don’t turn it to a landfill. Andy was very excited about the whole process. He asked how are the needle rendered neutral and safe when it comes to communicable disease? Todd said when we receive the material it is placed into an autoclave which is high pressure and steam. You wouldn’t even basically notice that the items had been steamed. But we have that autoclave process where they are rendered neutral. Once all the infectious waste has been rendered neutral, that is when it’s taken out and be shredded so it can be a manageable material. Then it goes off to different areas whether it rendering things like plastics

Andy asked if Tom had any questions for Todd. Tom said it sounds like a great opportunity to partner. He knows when talking to Missy the need is there beyond what we currently have

contractually with Harvey. So, he sees the opportunity, one question he would put out there is there any thought possibly to a variant for what we currently do with regards to a central depository? The reason he asks is he noticed a larger container option like a 20 or 30-gallon containers, he didn't know if that was something we want to consider or just keep the program at the level it's at now. Todd said the board would have a couple of options. It may be past and future options. Some organizations take advantage of the larger systems like the 30-gallon container. Any resident can have any kind sharps container from any brand maker. It just goes inside that 30-gallon container and it can be rearranged to maximize the fit. Those systems hold over 50 pounds. That option gives you a chance to get existing sharps containers that someone may have that is not available. Residents can just put any sharps container in a box and mail it to them. Now it can go into one of those systems. Whenever it fills up it can be sent back for treatment. There are no monthly fees. You would order and pay whatever you need when you need it. No additional fees until something is needed down the road. No monthly, quarterly or yearly fee for doing business with Sharps Compliance. You just need to find what system works for you and order it. Both Andy and Tom liked that.

Andy asked how does the 30-gallon containers get transported from Massachusetts to your facility. Todd told him that UPS is the transport for that. Sharps are actually classified as used medical devices and not regulated as medical waste. Therefore, UPS can transport used medical devices. Some state has stricter regulations, the only one that does is Florida. They consider everything regulated waste then we would recommend someone use the postal service. Because UPS would not be an option. For home users we might recommend USPS United State Postal Service. They can have it picked up at their home in the mailbox. But also, we have pick up built in so it doesn't matter. They will come to the person's house it does not matter what system it used, we just need to be contacted either by the resident directly or by the office. The pick-up is free, they schedule it we would not encourage anyone to schedule a pick up. Because the UPS or USPS they will charge the person doing it. But Sharps Compliance has it built in. They would have that pick up scheduled and it can be the next day. Andy asked if that was at every residence individually? Todd said yes. It's priority mail. So, with the United States Postal Service their coming to anybody's home. They just need to be notified of when and where and they will be there. Andy asked what size container that can be done with? Todd said anywhere from the 1-quart to 3-gallons. Any combination in-between. The larger ones would not work that way. It's no different than having a package being picked up at the office.

Todd explained that these containers have to be packed in a certain way. The company goes through a rigorous testing process every two years with USPS. Not a lot of organization what to do that one it's costly and it's a third party that takes every one of their products that the USPS will transport. They will simulate weather conditions, fill the container to capacity drop it on different access points to see if it will fail, puncture test just to make sure it can't be punctured during travel on route to protecting their employees. The postal service recertifies for another 2 years. Other organizations will not do this because of the cost and they don't want to bring their products up to a higher standard.

Todd will send over pricing for any combination, it doesn't matter. He has communities that do different combinations of containers. Andy asked if it was cheaper to buy larger containers? Todd yes, it is based on volume. He gave an example the 1-quart if someone was buying it

individually the cost is \$32.50. It holds 50 1cc syringes. Basing it on that the 1-gallon is \$49.95 and it holds 210.

Andy asked Alan if he had any questions or concerns. Alan said everything sounds good. It's just a matter of getting together with Missy and try to determine whether the 1-quart or the 1-gallon container based on what our previous usage has risen. He assumes the 1-gallon container will fit in someone's mailbox. The ease of use and ease of shipping it, to the company would be great. If we go to anything bigger it might get a little harder to mail or to have arrangements made to have it picked up. Alan does not feel that we have a secured place at this time for the larger container or someone who wants to take on the responsibility of collecting. Maybe we would look at that in the future. He's very encouraged and appreciates Todd coming on the call tonight.

Andy asked Todd going from the quart to the 1-gallon there is a savings. Does it work the same way going from a 20-gallon to a 30-gallon? Todd said it's a different kind of system based on the needs. What that 30-gallon container is designed to do is to take non-mailable sharp containers and make them mailable. Because the limitations due to the pandemic, the small mail back containers work best. But in better times, the board might think of a sharps collection point. And that's where the 30-gallon containers would be useful.

The company seems workable with what the town needs. Todd pointed out that they are an environmental solutions company, not just medical waste. It's pharmaceutical, hazardous waste they handle many different types. They specialize in the waste streams that are regulated for organizations in compliance, obviously it's in the name of the company.

Andy asked Missy if she had any questions. She asked Todd to explain the take away medication recovery system. Todd said this is an excellent product. This was developed with their med safe unit. What this is designed to do is that these can handle controls 2 – 5 plus any non-controlled medications. The individual falls under household hazardous waste exemption. So, they are allowed to place things in there that a pharmacy or long-term care facility could not. It's a simple envelop. It's not a paper envelop. It's designed to handle liquids everything like that. Everything they do from sharps containers to the envelops has instructions for use. They come in English and Spanish. Places will buy them, they never expire. You can hand them out send them out to people. People place all their meds in there. They have found this to be very helpful with those undergoing cancer treatments. Sometimes they are not near the hospital and medications are changed. So, this allows them to place all of their expired medications or changed meds in the envelop and put it in the mail. It comes back to Sharps Compliance and is placed in their DEA vault. The medication has to be destroyed within 30 days based on the rules from the DEA. When it's received, they scan the barcode, weight it, and date when the item will be destroyed. Those items are incinerated according to the requirements of the DEA.

Andy asked Missy if the police and fire or maybe just police take them. Do you know how they dispose of them? Missy does not know how items are handled or disposed of at the police department. Missy did ask Todd what the cost would be for these envelops. Todd's response was they have different option. Typically, people would buy them in cases of 250 but then they have them in the smallest quantity of 12, 25 or 50 depending on your need. The price point is

low with a higher case count. A case of 250 would be \$1,375.00 and that includes everything, there would be no addition cost or billing. The nice thing is if something is not used, it never expires. So those can be hung onto until a demand is brought up. It can be distributive to whoever may need it. They can use it and send it the envelop back and it's already been paid for. Todd would like to send the board some of these envelops so they can personally use it and see how the process works.

Medication will leach out into water supplies because people throw into the landfills. This program will allow the medication to be incinerated and out of the landfills. It's no different than mailing off a letter. These envelopes have to follow certain requirements and has been available since 2014. This company tested these envelopes in Afghanistan and sent back here just to show how the postal service could carry it from multiple areas.

The board liked both programs and think the medication envelopes will complement the sharps program. It seems to be a very safe and convenient way for the citizens to dispose medications. The board thanked Todd for taking the time to meet with them and look forward working with him and Sharps Compliance.

No one from Simple Recycling attended the meeting. The board is just concerned with some inconstant pick-ups. But overall like the program and think the program is worth it. It's also a no cost to the town. Missy told the board that DEP is looking to make textiles a waste ban item. So, we will need some kind of program in place. Andy asked Missy to explain the term waste ban. DEP has a list of items that cannot be thrown away in landfills or be incarnated at places like Wheelabrator. For example, white goods, tv, microwaves. Alan also said that any items that are taken by Simple Recycling is less tonnage that is brought to Wheelabrator. Which will help save money.

Missy brought up somethings for the board to think about in the future. Mike did drop off some sharp containers to her yesterday. Those who participate in recycling but do not pay a trash bill. He is recommending the board do away with that. The way the current contract is currently written, we have not experienced some of the expenses other towns have with regards to recycling. An example recycling disposal is \$100.00 per ton, trash is just under \$70.00 per ton. Those who pay the trash bill is paying for those who recycling for free. Free recycling is going way. There was a time the town would have a 60 – 40 splits with Republic Service and make more the \$10,000.00 in a year with paper rebate. That is all gone. Free recycling is no longer and Mike strongly suggests you do away with it. Tom believes it's key to know how many residents just put out recycling and not trash. There might be a need to change the routes. Fridays have always been heavy day especially on paper days. With new subdivisions Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays are starting to become problems. Thursday is the lightest day of the week. So, there might be discussions with Mike in the future about configuring the routes. Tom asked if there was a need for a second truck. Mike did not say anything about that. Missy asked if they wanted to have Mike come to a meeting or they might want to reach out to Mike individually. These are just things that might be coming up.

Extending the contract with EL Harvey would be a topic for another meeting with Mike.

The board should be meeting January 20th and asked Missy to invite Mike to that meeting.

The board went over the budget that Missy will be submitting. There's the typical increase for trash collection (EL Harvey) and trash disposal (Wheelabrator and Household Hazardous Waste). There is a big increase from the VNA. Missy requested the dollar amount from Michelle McGovern and was give the amount of \$17,500.00. This is a substantial increase.

Missy requested Tom F for some help writing the town report. There needs to be something written with regards to the COVID-19 pandemic and letting residents know how, what and who has been doing for 2020. Tom said he would help her.

The board then talked about the additional money that the VNA is requesting for work done with the COVID-19 pandemic. Missy reminded the board that right before Christmas we received the addendum to the VNA contract. Missy reached out to Town Administrator Kim Newman about the issue. Kim told Missy that the VNA is all set for now. She asked them to send a more detailed invoice in order to receive additional money. She is still waiting. Andy asked if there was wording in their contract that allows them to hit us with additional billing. Missy was told the scope of work is beyond what is in the contract. Andy said that is where Cindy would come in. Alan specifically remembers hearing from the VNA years ago that this was like an insurance policy. And brought up Tom F questioning years ago what exactly the boh was getting for x number of dollars. Alan also remembers being told it might not be dollar to dollar but if anything were to happen, we were covered. But what we had was an insurance policy. If there was some kind of outbreak, we would be covered. Similar to what we have going on now may be not so extensive. So, he is not happy about the additional money request. They were making money off the services they were providing. Andy said he is starting to remember the conversation as Alan is talking. Tom F said Alan nailed that is what he said had been presented. He felt that over the years, the VNA has done better financially with the contract. As opposed to suffering a financial lose or breaking even based on what they were providing. Tom said Alan was right it was like an insurance policy. So that is Tom's mind set with them. Now we go into 2020, he gets it was a different year. Tom said Missy had brought up a good point with him earlier today. She brought up a great point, this contract that we are currently in started right in the middle of this pandemic. It was already well underway and yet there was no request or discussion of needing any increase in the contract to support any services. He's puzzled that this did not come up six months ago. Tom feels that they are feeling some finical pain and that's fine but don't pass that down to us if you have not managed your business the way you should have. He see's Alan's point and he also understands the viewpoint the VNA might have. He would agree that it is out of the scope of services. He's just surprise we didn't see and increase before this, when the contract was up in July. He's irritated that it's coming so late in the game as far as the addendum is concerned. The contract for the next go around will be a different discussion. Tom also took issue with the cover letter that was sent by Salmon VNA. First the phrasing in the first paragraph "our contract has been long standing goodwill faith on Salmon's part". Tom question's their meaning of goodwill faith. It's a contract for services rendered. He believed the boh worked in goodwill faith too. In the second paragraph they talk about ensuring the Salmon can meet the growing needs of the town during the public health crisis. He wants defined what the growing needs specifically for Mendon, not what you had to do for other towns in the area, to justify the increase that they are talking about. (Salmon VNA is billing all the towns they service

\$3,500.00 each regardless of size or scope of work during the pandemic). Mendon fair rather well than other towns. And finally, the last paragraph they are requesting the town consider their request by using the CARES Act relief fund. Tom questioned about using CARES Act funds. Missy told Tom that Salmon know that towns received money and so should be able to pay this request. The board as a whole do not agree with the addendum as written and that this is a money grab. The board is not happy with the new contract amount that the VNA gave Missy of \$17,500.00. The board wants to look into other options other than using Salmon VNA out of Milford. Andy wants a meeting with the VNA along with Town Administrator Kim Newman and possibly town counsel. This would be the only time on the agenda.

Next meeting will be January 7th at 5:00 p.m. to interview for a temporary food inspector.

Alan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tom seconds the motion. All members agreed. Meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Approved November 9, 2021