

Courier
3/11/98

Bethlehem shoots down zoning changes, 464-375

By REBECCA A. BROWN
COURIER STAFF

BETHLEHEM—The answer is "NO." For the second year in a row, voters defeated zoning changes that would have opened the door to landfill expansion.

In the races for four seats on the newly expanded selectboard, Norman Brown was the top vote getter for a three-year term, followed by John Wedick.

They will be joined by David Wood and Brad Presby, who each won one-year terms. Ray Bushway is the only hold over on the board, which went from three to five seats.

(Continued from One)

In the race for road agent, incumbent George Tucker handily beat Walter (Wally) Hodge.

Voters also rejected a zoning amendment prohibiting the spreading or stockpiling of sewage sludge, 537-268.

The voting on the landfill was complicated by two competing amendments, both of which called on the landfill operator to pay a fee to lower the town's tax bill, and both of which were considered illegal by municipal attorneys.

The amendment considered to have the best chance of passing was sponsored by the landfill operator, North Country Envi-

ronmental Services. Article 3 on the ballot, it lost by a margin of 89 votes, 464-375. The margin was somewhat slimmer than last year, when the difference was 122 votes out of 724 cast. On a percentage basis, 55 percent opposed the zoning change this year, compared to 58 percent last year. The second, "alternative" amendment, Article 4, lost by a count of 604-195.

Bob Watts, the landfill manager said after the vote that while he was disappointed to lose, "it was great working with people in the town on both sides of the issues. Personally, I found it very intense and interesting."

While spokespeople for Ca-

sella Waste Management, the parent company of the landfill, were not reachable after the voting results late last night, they indicated previously that the company would make one more attempt to win a vote in favor of expansion next year.

"Last year, people just voted against the landfill," David Wood commented. "This year, they wanted to know what you are for. It's an opportunity now for the community to come together to strategize to move forward without the landfill. We have a year now to examine the different options to put the town on a forward path."

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Zoning conflict one of many in dump history

By REBECCA A. BROWN
COURIER STAFF

BETHLEHEM—Both zoning amendments calling for property tax reduction in exchange for allowing landfill expansion would lose in court, says a lawyer hired by the planning board.

A lawyer for the landfill strongly disagrees.

This conflict is just one more element in the ongoing and contentious struggle over the future of the Trudeau Road landfill. In two weeks, the expansion question is once more before voters.

This year, landfill operator North Country Environmental Services raised the stakes in the debate by offering to pay 10 percent of residents' property taxes (which fund schools, the town, and county government). NCES says this is only an opening bid; the final payment could be higher, depending on negotiations with the town.

A competing zoning amendment calls for the landfill owner to assume about half the property tax by paying 61 percent of the school budgets.

NCES says if this amendment passes, it will shut down operations as soon as it can.

Both amendments combine revenue raising and land use planning, and that is what rankles some who are familiar with zoning law.

The promised payments "are merely a naked inducement to the voters to adopt the amendment," Laconia attorney Timothy Bates states in a letter to the board.

As such, the amendments clearly fail the state Supreme Court's dictum that there must be a "rational nexus," i.e., a reasonable connection, between the cost of development to a town and fees required from the developer, Bates reasons.

BETHLEHEM—It all started 22 years and one million tons ago. The Trudeau Road landfill has grown from a 400 x 400-foot refuse dump in an abandoned gravel pit to a 22-acre, \$4.5 million a year business.

Now, as it has been at various times throughout its history, the landfill faces its future. Zoning law in Bethlehem prohibits its expansion. Landfill management says the facility has only about two years of capacity remaining.

On March 10, Bethlehem voters could open the door to future expansion by approving changes to the zoning law. Or, as they have done each time the issue has been put to a town-wide test, they could say no.

The history of the landfill is full of

1976: Harold Brown, a Bethlehem contractor, receives a variance from the zoning board (ZBA) for a 400 x 400-foot, 3.82-acre "land fill dump."

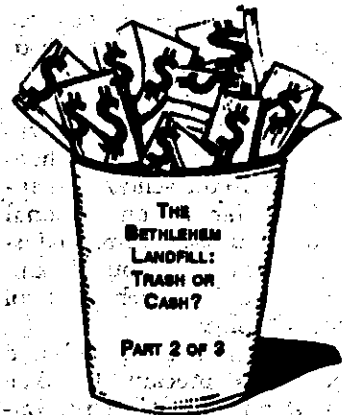
Summer 1983: Dan Tucker, owner of adjacent land, discovers that a "previously clear stream has become a flow of ugly gook." The "gook" gains notoriety and public awareness of the landfill grows.

July 1985: Sanco applies to the zoning board for a special exception for a double-lined, 14-acre expansion landfill.

November 1985: The ZBA reverses its decision. It files the landfill to junk yards, which are allowed special exceptions.

The citizens' group AWARE is formed.

March 1987: At town meeting, voters approve a zoning amendment stating future landfills must be town-owned.



the twists and turns, a result of the collision of politics, personalities, and the legal system. The select board, zoning board, planning board, courts, the state Dept. of Environmental Services, the citizens' group AWARE, the landfill's several owners, and the general voting public have all been players in this long tale.

A chronology of highlights along the way, compiled with old news stories, legal documents, and personal accounts, may help explain how the landfill got from there to here.

1983: Roy Sanborn, a Bethlehem-based waste hauling service operator, forms Sanco and purchases the landfill and five adjoining acres from Brown.

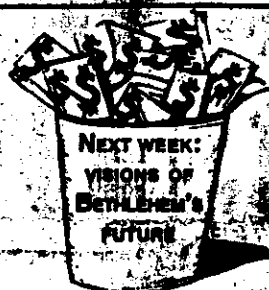
Sanco acquires the remainder of the 125-acre site from Brown.

September 1985: After four public hearings, the ZBA rejects the permit, declaring that there is no provision in town zoning for landfills. Sanco appeals.

January 1986: The ZBA issues the special exception permit, along with 23 conditions under which the landfill must operate. Among the conditions are periodic ground water testing, a host community agreement providing payment to the town for each ton disposed, and a landfill closure fund.

While waiting for state permits on the 14-acre expansion, Sanco gets state approval for a 1.3-acre interim addition. A local permit is not sought.

June 1987: Sanco receives state permits for an 18-acre landfill. Construction begins. The operations exceeds \$1 million in revenues. Sanco does not apply to the ZBA for an 18-acre permit.



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These payments, usually called "impact fees," may be assessed by towns on new commercial or residential developments. For example, the developer of a subdivision may be charged a fee covering the extra cost to the town of providing water and sewer or police protection.

But these amendments to the zoning laws in Bethlehem are not impact fees, Bates argues. They are extortion.

"There is absolutely no rational nexus between the annual payments required to reduce the town's tax rate . . . and the needs created by, and special benefits that will be conferred by the town upon, the expansion of the landfill," Bates writes.

The landfill's attorney says Bates is all wrong. It can't be extortion, Amy Fracassini reasons, if the landfill is a willing participant and even made the offer of payment. Indeed, she suggests in a letter to Bates, for the right to operate, landfill owners have paid the town under a host community agreement since 1986. If today's amendments are illegal, might not the host community agreement be as well? Should Bethlehem refund the money?

Where this legal road will go no one knows. But one Bethlehem resident with long personal experience at the landfill thinks the debate overlooks the basic purpose of zoning.

"Zoning establishes a covenant between the community as a whole and individual landowners," Frank Hagan says. "It involves trust and understanding. If it can be changed because someone buys it out, where does that leave us?"

Hagan, his wife, and infant son moved to Muchmore Road in 1980. There, they had the distinction of being the closest residence to the landfill.

(Continued on Nine)

October, 1987: AWARE challenges the 1.3 acre interim site, claiming it is not allowed under the 1976 variance. The ZBA agrees. Sanco appeals to Superior Court.

April, 1989: DES approves a 7.6 acre expansion.

1991: Landfill revenues exceed \$4 million.

Consumat Sanco and the ZBA negotiate to resolve the contested 1.3 acre site and limit future expansion in exchange for a local permit for the 7.6 acre site.

March, 1992: At town meeting, by a 144-63 margin, voters clarify the 1987 zoning amendment to prohibit expansion of existing landfills.

January, 1993: The ZBA determines the original permit covers 14 acres, not 18. Operations in excess of this violate the special exception. The ZBA asks the select board to enforce its ruling.

July, 1993: The closure trust fund is transferred from the town to the state. Casella Waste Management, now managing the site under contract, adds \$900,000 to the account.

October, 1993: After the select board fails to act, the ZBA files for a restraining order on landfill operations in Superior Court.

April, 1994: Superior Court denies the ZBA's restraining order. It rules that enforcement power is with the select board. It does not rule on the issue of the permitted size of the landfill.

March, 1997: At town meeting, an amendment sponsored by Casella to allow landfill expansion is defeated, 423-301.

January, 1998: On the advice of legal counsel, the planning board rejects two petitioned zoning amendments.

Lawyers for the board claim both amendments would be deemed unconstitutional because they mix revenue raising provisions into zoning law. The two amendments will appear on the ballot.

October, 1988: Superior Court remands the case back to the ZBA.

September: Consumat Systems of Richmond, Va. acquires Sanco and forms Consumat Sanco, a wholly-owned subsidiary. The acquisition, plus funding for future capital expenditures, is provided by a \$9.5 million revenue bond.

February, 1992: AWARE challenges the ZBA-Consumat agreement in Superior Court, claiming it had been illegally excluded from the negotiations.

April, 1992: Superior Court agrees with AWARE. It returns to the ZBA the question of whether the original variance covers the expanded landfill.

April, 1993: The landfill closure fund is found to be \$700,000 short of its state-mandated \$1.8 million. According to federal filings, Consumat Systems is nearly insolvent. Consumat Sanco brings suit in Superior Court, seeking to overturn the ZBA's decision on the 14-acre permit.

September, 1993: Consumat Sanco begins dumping on the disputed four acres.

March, 1994: At town meeting, voters reject by a 94-55 margin a proposal to renegotiate the host community agreement and allow the 7.6 acre expansion.

July, 1994: Casella Waste Management purchases Consumat Sanco.

October, 1997: Casella Waste Systems, Inc. goes public. In its initial public offering, the firm nets over \$50 million.

November: At a cost of \$2 million, stage I of the dump is capped and a gas extraction system installed. Casella tells DES that the state-of-the-art cap will prevent leachate breakouts which have been implicated in tainted detention ponds.

March, 1998: Voters go the polls again to vote on the zoning amendments. Result???

Vote down illegal amendments

The presence and operation of the landfill in Bethlehem is and has been the subject of discussion and debate. Neighbors talk about it informally, proponents argue their case in public forums as well as in the newspapers, newsletters and direct mail.

Most recently the Bethlehem Planning Board held a meeting at which two different proposed amendments to the zoning ordinance, which would change the regulation of landfill operation, were considered. In preparation for this meeting, the planning board sought legal advice from counsel retained by the town. That opinion held that neither of the two proposed amendments was legal. Voters should be so advised.

The board also received legal arguments from a lawyer retained by North Country Environmental Services (NCES), the operators of the landfill. These letters suggested that the amendment favored by NCES was OK—it's only illegal if it

were so judged in a lawsuit.

The board voted 5-0 not to recommend that voters approve one proposed amendment, and 4-1 not to recommend that voters approve the other amendment (the idea that it's not illegal unless it goes to court appealed to one member).

Since that meeting there has been a flurry of information in the newspapers and Bethlehem mailboxes.

Enough! I shall vote "No" on both amendments. Let the town government take a few months to study (perhaps jointly at some point) what happens to solid waste disposed in Bethlehem, Littleton and other neighboring communities using the Bethlehem landfill if NCES closes its facility when current capacity is reached.

Let the voters learn all of the facts and alternatives with the associated advantages and disadvantages of their vote. Another round of proposals will no doubt be coming for consider-

ation next year. Hopefully, they will be formed in a manner that is legal.

For what it is worth, the New Hampshire Legislature requires periodic reports from the Department of Environmental Services on the status of solid waste disposal. In the most current report, "Solid Waste Report to the Legislature," DES notes: "...The North Country Environmental Services (NCES) Landfill in Bethlehem will probably reach capacity about 2000... If the NCES landfill is not replaced, most of the New Hampshire waste currently disposed of in NCES will probably be directed to the Turnkey Landfill in Rochester." (p. 1-16)

So there is time to study the problem, define the alternative solutions and then let the voters decide. Vote "No" on both amendments and then insist that the Board of Selectmen and the planning board make this question a major priority in 1998.

Len Reed
Bethlehem

Viewpoint

EDITORIAL

If not here, where?

On the outskirts of the sprawling, smog-smudged city of Manila, capital of the Philippines, there is a mountain of a dump. In fact, the locals call it Smoky Mountain.

Smoky Mountain smolders and fumes every minute of every day and it just keeps getting bigger. It is so big that people live on it—the impoverished people who day after day sift through the trash in the hope of finding sustenance. They build their houses from the tin, chipped cement blocks, rotting boards and soiled plastics that others throw away. A de facto town has emerged on that dump. It has its own government, its own gangs and graft and even its own law enforcement, such as it is. Outsiders, especially if they happen to look foreign, are apt to be stoned.

It would be hard to find recycling more basic than that—a human community rooted in waste. Bethlehem is not Smoky Mountain, not by a long shot, but Smoky Mountain comes to mind as the seemingly endless political debate about the Trudeau Road landfill unfolds.

Apparently, there have been exaggerations on both sides of the argument. The landfill is probably not as dangerous nor as safe as the opposing sides would have us believe. But, for the people who live around it, the dump is certainly obnoxious. That point is hard to dispute. No doubt Bethlehem would be better off without the landfill, no matter how much money North Country Environmental Services pumps into the community.

That said, a far larger question emerges: If not here, where? We have become a throwaway society. Everything from nuclear plants to disposable cameras to the way we package our food

creates waste. We create more waste than any other civilization in history. So what do we do with it?

Sometimes it seems that our whole mentality is rooted in waste, even our relationships. We end a marriage or a love affair by "dumping" somebody. A common slang term for killing someone is to "waste" him. There is big money in waste. Even opponents of the Casella operation in Bethlehem have purchased the company's stock.

Dumps much like Smoky Mountain are everywhere in the Third World. A lot of that trash comes from the United States. Boatloads of it are dumped on people so impoverished they have neither the means nor the will to oppose being "trashed" by the great white giant to the north.

In our own country, we usually build our incinerators and other refuse Minotaurs in poor, usually minority neighborhoods where the political clout is minimal. Bethlehem is not that kind of neighborhood. The opposition there is strong. But don't those opposed to the expansion of the landfill have the obligation to ask that larger question? If not here, where? More than 40 New Hampshire towns truck their trash to Bethlehem. Over the years, following a long trail of circumstance, Bethlehem has become a microcosm of the worldwide problem of waste. So the larger question remains and it is our responsibility as the North Country community to ask it: If not here, where?

The answer may lie in nothing less than a radical change in lifestyle. Recycling is only a start. It will take much more to keep our civilization from becoming a gargantuan Smoky Mountain—a human community rooted in waste.

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2-25-98

The Casella record

Keeping the dump in Bethlehem will not reduce taxes. Saying that it will is a cynical hoax.

What an eternally expanding dump will do is increase exponentially the town's exposure and damages liability to lawsuits for cleanup costs, loss of property value, degradation of quality of life, and contamination of the water supply. Twin Mountain has already discussed filing a water-supply lawsuit.

The Casellas, who own the dump called NCES, know how to play shell games. Look at their record.

They were sued by the previous dump owners, Consumat Sanco, who alleged that the Casellas tried to stiff them by not paying the agreed sale price for the dump assets.

They were sued by their former partners who alleged the Casellas and John Bohlig tried to stiff them by removing an asset—namely the cash cow Trudeau Road dump—from the partnership and placing it in a Casella-Bohlig subsidiary. They were fined \$100,000 by the State of Vermont for pollution violations.

They were sued by a county in New York State for violations of local laws.

Just recently they tried to bully the Town of Bethlehem by saying it would have to return 10 years of host fees because the town attorney concluded in a legal opinion that the NCES expansion warrant was illegal and amounted to extortion by tying a permit to a fee. Of course what the Casellas conveniently omitted saying was that if the town had to give back 10 years of "host" fees, the Casellas would have to take back 10 years of poison and trash they've been dumping in our backyard and

put some place else. They could put it in their backyards in Vermont, or in the backyards of their investors in Pittsburgh, New York and worldwide, or in the downstate backyards of the original owners, Roy Sanborn and Barry Hager, or in the Virginia backyard of Consumat.

In October, the Casellas announced to the financial world that they sold stock in their company and raised \$70 million to pay off impatient investors. In December they announced to the financial world that they had bought out nine more trash businesses. In January, they announced to the financial world that they had borrowed \$150 million from international banks to continue their unabated expansion. Good for the Casellas, the free market, and company estimates of \$130 million a year in revenues. Yes, \$130 million a year.

Sounds like we should buy their stock—but not their trash. Does anybody in Bethlehem really think investors will agree to have some of their potential profile used to reduce our taxes? If you answered yes, I have a bridge I'd like to sell you.

Bethlehem doesn't need the Casellas. But the Casellas need a place to dump. According to James Bohlig, if the NCES expansion warrant passes, the Casellas or some new owner will continue to dump on and in Bethlehem for at least 25 years more. The dump has lost four votes in this town but it keeps coming back like Freddy Kruger. The Casellas are trying to pick off those who threatened lawsuits because of devalued property and diminished business by buying a home here or promising a remodeling there. Doughnuts-at-the-dump, \$10 gift certificates, and other token "contributions" are making their way around this little town, while the Casellas save the red carpet treatment for big shot investors who live everywhere but in Bethlehem.

The expansion warrant will drop the value of our homes and businesses to zilch and turn Bethlehem into a ghost town. Please vote "No" on the warrant and turn NCES into a ghost landfill.

Anita Gëلمان
New York

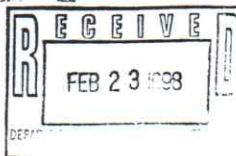
[The writer is a frequent visitor to Bethlehem.]

THE COURIER

Serving the North Country Since 1889

109TH YEAR, 8TH ISSUE

LITTLETON, N.H., WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 18, 1998



Guest column

Bethlehem: Just say no

By JOHN HAMRICK

My family moved from Houston, Texas to Bethlehem in July 1996. Quite a few people around town have asked us why we chose Bethlehem. Some have heard the story about how we just happened to be driving through when my wife, Sandra, spotted a dilapidated house, almost invisible from the pines that had overpowered the structure. Sandra, being a true visionary, knew in that split second that that old house was very special.

Driving further down Route 302, we discovered something else—Bethlehem. We could not resist stopping at the elementary school; it looked too much like a post card from the past and, after all, our little girl would be starting kindergarten that next fall. We walked in and were greeted immediately by Mr. Benson, the principal. By the time we finished our tour of the school, we knew we wanted Candace to attend.

We spent the next couple of hours just driving around town, and as we did, without speaking a word to each other, we knew that we had found our new home. We found the nearest real estate office and asked if there was any property in Bethlehem available that met basically one criteria; it had to need a lot of tender loving care, because that is what Sandra likes to do. We never even inquired about the house Sandra had seen on the outskirts of town.

We drove the 2,200 miles back to Houston, dreaming about the day we could return and begin our new lives. A week after we returned, Sandra phoned the real estate office in Littleton out of the blue and asked about the old house we had seen on 302. It was listed just days before. Since it was our dream, it could not have been a coincidence. We

bought the house.

A lot of you know the rest of our tale concerning the house. There are a few other things we would like to relay about our trek from the big city to our new home. In Houston, there is really only one thing that is important, money. From the board rooms where big companies strategize about the billions they can suck out of the ground for huge profits, to the streets where children sell drugs and are brutally slain on a regular basis. Yet, in Bethlehem, we don't lock our doors. In Houston, most are so concerned about driving the latest car and having the nicest house that there is little time left just to be with friends and family. In Bethlehem, most of us are concerned how to keep a roof over our heads, feed our families, and still be able to go skiing, or hiking, or star gazing more often than not.

In Houston, you take your life in your hands simply driving to work. If a crazed motorist does not shoot you, a guy closing a deal on his cellular or a drunk, will certainly run a red light. In Bethlehem, we have one traffic light at the elementary school and another at the fire house.

In Houston, millions of pounds of "clean" waste are dumped into the water and into the air by large chemical and oil companies. It has only been in the past three decades that anyone has even stopped to ask if this was good for the people or not. In Bethlehem, we not only have the chance to ask (we all know the answer anyway), we have a chance to prevent any possibility of severe damage.

In Houston, the children that were exposed to the hazardous material in the 1960s are now suffering from higher instances of just about every malady you

Guest column

(Continued from Four)

can imagine and the money has already been long spent. In Bethlehem, we have the opportunity to ensure our children grow up as healthy as they possibly can. This, ladies and gentlemen, is worth well above 10 percent or even 20 percent or even 100 percent of our tax base in this town. Can anyone honestly think that because they may or may not have children that this does not apply to them?

I know enough of you well enough by now to understand that in lots of cases 10 percent of your tax dollars is quite significant. We have a suspicion that as soon as the improvements are calculated, 10 percent of our taxes will be quite significant as well. Not for one split second would Sandra or I flinch at working a little harder, eating a little less, or doing without, to continue to live in the paradise we have chosen for our family.

In Houston, money, power, politics, kickbacks, fraud, abuse, greed and deceit rule the day. In Bethlehem, I would hate to think the issue surrounding the dump is driven by any of these same attributes.

This is our town, and in the coming years we hope that many people living in Houston and other cities will come to realize that there is something better for themselves and their families. Help those of us who want to keep Bethlehem just the way it is for us, and for our future residents who might just happen to be driving through—vote no. Please vote no.

John Hamrick has settled with his wife Sandra and daughter Candace in Bethlehem.

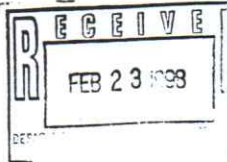
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TOWN: Bethlehem
 PROJECT: NCE'S LF Stage II
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109TH YEAR, 8TH ISSUE

LITTLETON, N.H., WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 18, 1998

Bethlehem landfill issue casts statewide net

By REBECCA A. BROWN
COURIER STAFF



BETHLEHEM—It's not just Bethlehem's problem. The town's upcoming vote on landfill expansion could have regional and statewide implications. The Trudeau Road landfill, the backyard for many Bethlehem residents, is the recipient of garbage from towns and people throughout the state.

On March 10, Bethlehem voters will once again be asked to decide on the future of the land-

fill. Two amendments to the zoning ordinance allow expansion—for a price. The legality and politics of the amendments are being vigorously debated.

But there is one area where it's hard to find disagreement: If the landfill closes, waste collection and disposal will be more expensive, not only for Bethlehem citizens, but for many others as well.

Over 40 towns in New Hampshire send municipal solid waste to Trudeau Road, according to owner North Country Environ-

mental Services and the state Dept. of Environmental Services. Some send construction and demolition debris. Others send incinerator ash; some send "special waste" such as petroleum contaminated soil. Waste comes from Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Maine, and New York.

Littleton is one of NCES's larger customers, accounting for nearly six percent of the waste going to Bethlehem (see chart). The town was charged over \$30,000 last year for disposing

nonrecyclable waste collected at the transfer station. But commercial and industrial customers, as well as many residents, send their waste privately. Over seven times more trash is collected privately than by the town.

Transfer Station Manager Tony Ilacqua says he's looking at the Mt. Carberry landfill in Success as an alternative to NCES. Crown Vantage runs the facility and deposits its paper manufacturing waste there. And whether it is Crown's new emphasis on

the bottom line, or its manager's realization that landfill space is an increasingly valuable commodity, Mt. Carberry has raised its rates significantly in the past year.

A year ago, the rate was about \$27 per ton, according to a study made by an advisory committee to the Bethlehem select board. Now, rates are about \$50 per ton, reports Richard Polonsky, a member of that group.

(Continued on 10)

(Continued from One)

Ilacqua points out that Mt. Carberry does not take construction and demolition debris, which constitutes a large portion of any town's waste. This debris includes job site refuse that can't be recycled. But it also includes couches, TVs, old plastic toys and "anything else that doesn't fit in town bags," he says.

Ilacqua figures that Mt. Carberry's tipping fees (the charge to deposit waste) could reach \$65 a ton. Between higher tipping fees and the extra cost of transportation, Littleton's cost of waste disposal could double, he estimates.

Transportation of waste is a major factor, Ilacqua says. Whether factored by the hour or by the mile, it is expensive. And since Bethlehem is so close by, costs will only be higher.

Marghie Seymour, former manager of Littleton's landfill, counts off some of alternatives that may be available to Littleton and other towns that now rely on Bethlehem.

There is an incinerator in Penacook, but it is already operating at full capacity, she says. The Turnkey landfill operated by garbage industry behemoth Waste Management Inc. in Rochester has plenty of capacity, and it takes construction and demolition waste. However, its distance from the North Country could make disposal there extremely expensive.

In Maine, two waste-to-energy plants are seeking trash. But the old "you can't get there from here" problem applies as well. The facilities in Biddeford and near Augusta are difficult, and thus costly, to get to.

Casella Waste Systems, the parent of NCES, operates another landfill in Coventry, Vt. NCES Manager Bob Watts says his firm expects a five-year expansion permit there. But while there is capacity, the facility is already taking up to its permitted disposal amount.

Seymour, for one, doesn't see these issues as necessarily troublesome. "It's a great incentive for recycling," she says. "One reason the recycling rate is low is that there are so many cheap alternatives. But now, towns are just beginning to look at how people providing the trash can really pay for it."

Littleton adopted a pay-per-bag system four years ago. Recyclables are separated out from other household waste, and residents only pay for what they can't recycle. Ilacqua estimates the town earned about \$30,000 by selling recyclables last year. Between selling recyclables and limiting what is sent to Bethlehem, he figures the town will

save at least \$100,000 this year.

According to the most recent DES solid waste report to the state legislature, there are several factors that will accentuate the waste disposal picture in the near future. First, the department itself has mandated that all unlined municipal landfills and small incinerators be closed by the year 2000. It has set the goal that 40 percent of waste be recycled by 2000. Massachusetts also plans to close unlined landfills, and send about one million tons of trash per year elsewhere. Maine adopted a policy to reduce solid waste imports to its state-controlled disposal sites.



PJO
JWB
CIH
PUM
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TOWN: Bethlehem
PROJECT: NCES - Expansion Stage II
DATE/PERMIT/OTHER: