

## **Transfer Station Finances July 2018-December 2018**

NRRA billing records and official town records of transfer station income were used to calculate the net income or loss in various areas for the Sanbornton transfer station. This is for the first half of the current fiscal year covering July 2018 to December 2018.

During the October 3, 2018 meeting of the Board of Selectmen, it was stated that the station was in the black for Demo (C&D) and a price increase was unwarranted. Therefore the Board reversed their previous decision to increase Demo fees because, as stated by a member of the board, the station is “not allowed to make a profit.” Since the board is applying this rule to individual areas instead of the station as a whole, we are therefore looking at each income and expense category to determine if the town is overcharging its residents. As shown in the chart, the town overcharges for Demo (17.72%), MSW (18.45%), tires (36.94%), and electronics (98.51%).

It should be noted that these results are for only 6 months and a more accurate picture will require a longer period of evaluation. For example, the overcharge for electronics may be because items have not as yet been sent for recycling and therefore the expense is not as yet determined.

Copies of the NRRA and town income records are available to anyone wishing to check these results.

### **Glass Disposal Costs vs. Tons Per Load**

The town recently entered into an agreement with a contractor for the disposal of glass. The town typically collects around 50 tons of glass per year in single stream recycling and it is costing roughly \$7000, plus trucking, to dispose of in the single stream process. The added trucking costs cannot be determined at this time because single stream hauls occur when the canister is full, and since glass is a higher density material than cardboard, paper, aluminum, and plastic it isn't known what volume glass occupies in each load. Over time the impact of glass removal on trucking costs may be determined when we learn a) the tonnage of each single stream haul compared to before glass removal, and b) how much glass is actually collected separately. At present this collection process is slow because the town's residents are not yet all aware of this new plan.

The agreement calls for rental of a 15 yard canister for \$30/month, a haul charge for each full canister of \$480, and a processing fee for grinding the glass of \$35 per ton. A much higher fee will be assessed if the load is contaminated with non glass material.

In order to determine potential savings to the town for glass separation some simple

calculations were made as shown in the chart. Each load must contain at least 5 tons of glass before any savings are realized, and at 5 tons the savings per 5 ton load is a mere \$35. It is not known how many tons of glass the 15 yard canister will hold, but obviously the more the better. At 15 tons the savings should be slightly over \$1000 off of the aforementioned \$7000 annual cost for glass, plus the as yet unknown savings in single stream trucking.

We will continue to examine this issue as time passes and will report updates as they are determined.