

Transfer Station Fee Changes

Municipal governments raise money to provide services through a few different means. The main avenue is through property taxes and those revenues are primarily used to pay for collective services like education, public buildings, and roads that most people agree should be provided at a shared cost to residents. Other revenue sources are specific to the individual user or service being provided and include registration, license, and permit fees (like we pay to keep our dogs legal), access fees (like we pay for a spot at the beach), and disposal fees (like we pay to drop a couch off at the transfer station), among many others. In general these revenue sources are referred to as user fees.

Best practice dictates that user fees should cover the cost of providing the service, and maybe a little extra, to ensure that it isn't being paid for by the taxpayers at large. You wouldn't want to pay to register your neighbor's new car for example. After reviewing several years of data the Town of Readfield has identified a user fee that is falling short in this area, and so a fee adjustment and additional review and research are being pursued to address the problem.

In essence, we've all been paying a little bit of the cost when our neighbor puts on a new roof or remodels their kitchen because the fees for disposing of demolition debris and shingles have gotten out of sync and are about half of what they should be. This is one reason why it's good to periodically review fee schedules, which was recently done by the Solid Waste and Recycling Committee. In February the Select Board also reviewed the Transfer Station fee schedule and voted to raise demolition debris and shingle disposal fees to bring them back in line with the cost of providing those services. This means that your neighbor, and not you, will be paying for their new roof. Another issue is that although we try, we can't always keep demolition debris and shingles from other towns (Wayne excepted of course) from coming into the transfer Station on occasion. If our fees are not set appropriately we're actually paying some of the cost for residents of other communities to dump their waste here.

Nobody likes to see a fee increase but I hope this explanation provides some insight into why it is necessary in this case. The fee increase will take effect on April 3rd and the new fee schedule for the Transfer Station is available on the Town website, at the Town Office, and at the Transfer Station. Please remember to see an attendant before dropping off any waste and make sure you get a receipt!

Thank you, and be well,



Eric Dyer, Transfer Station Manager