

# Notes for March – 2020

## No March Meetings – Annual Meeting April 14, 2020

**Hauler Exemption for the Collection of Recycling** – I am working with the VT Agency of Natural Resources on the language for the letter to send to the haulers. The letter should be ready to go out within the next couple of days. I am asking haulers to respond by April 1, 2020 if they want us to pursue the exemption to haul recyclables in our new Solid Waste Implementation Plan (SWIP).

**Financial Update** – For the month ending February 29, 2020 expenses exceeded revenues by \$5,339.17. As mentioned in last month's notes, our broker has indicated we will see an increase of \$15/ton in March for cardboard! This is a 40% increase – from \$37.50 to 52.50. We have also seen an increase in plastic pricing from \$0.01 to \$0.025/lb (\$20/ton to \$50/ton). Based on a few recent articles I've read; it looks like China has relaxed some tariffs and restrictions on incoming recyclables. Our 2020 budget passed by a wide margin. We are waiting to hear back from the Town of Brighton, but the current tally is approximately 7,500 in favor and 2000 opposed.

**Regional Impact Fee** – Nick Rivers and I will be meeting with Casella on March 19, 2020 to begin this discussion.

**Host Town Agreement** – I am still waiting for our legal counsel to prepare a response to the Town of Lyndon's letter dated December 17, 2019.

We did receive a letter from the Town of Lyndon date February 24, 2020. This letter included a form from the Vermont Tax Department – Form PVR-317. This form is used for determining whether or not a property qualifies for an exemption from property taxes. We will be working with our legal counsel to complete this form.

**Legislative Update** – There has been very little activity regarding solid waste issues in the 2020 legislative session. *S.227 - An act relating to the provision of personal care products by lodging establishments*, seems to be evolving into somewhat of an omnibus solid waste bill. The Senate Natural Resources & Energy committee took testimony last week on the State's preparedness for the upcoming landfill ban on food residuals. I did submit a letter to the committee (attached) discussing our lack of infrastructure to be able to accommodate commercially generated food residuals. The committee plans to take additional testimony after the town meeting week recess. I hope to be able to appear in person before the committee to explain our position.

The House Agriculture and Forestry committee has had several bills introduced that deal with the regulation of food residuals – H489, H731, & H830, but I don't think they've taken testimony on any of these bills. Cross-over is expected to occur at the end of next week (the term used to describe bills going from the House to the Senate and vice versa).