

**NORTHEAST KINGDOM WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING**

February 9, 2021

Meeting held remotely via ZOOM

The meeting was called to order @ 6:05 p.m. by Nick Rivers; Chair

Present: Nick Rivers (Albany, Irasburg); Paulette Routhier (Bloomfield, Brunswick); Bruce Rumball (Brighton); Lila Stevens (Brownington); Pat Austin (Charleston); Fran Batchelder & Irene Dagesse (Derby); Kirwin Flanders (East Haven); Jack Sumberg (Glover); Tim Dailey Sr. (Groton); Joe Noble (Holland, Morgan); Rebecca Hill-Larsen (Kirby); Steve Gray (Lyndon); John Narowski (Newbury); Steve Barrup (Newport Town); Gina Vigneault (Norton, UTGs); Gene Perkins (Ryegate); Emily Cayer (Stannard); Elizabeth Hubbard (Sutton); Gaston Bathalon (Troy, Jay); Richard Stodola (Waterford); Yves Daigle (Westfield); and Miriam Simonds (Westmore)

Absent: Barnet, Cabot, Concord, Corinth, Danville, Granby, Greensboro, Guildhall, Jay, Lunenburg, Newark, Maidstone, Marshfield, Peacham, Sheffield, Topsham, Victory, Wheelock

Staff present- Paul Tomasi, Executive Director

Updates to the Agenda – none

Approval of Minutes- Moved to approve minutes of January 12, 2021, 2nd. Minutes approved. Paul asked if any Board members knew if we had a video recording of the meeting if we needed to produce written minutes. Gina V. (Norton) said as Town Clerk she has been advised to do both.

2021 Proposed Budget – Paul explained to the Board that although there were some areas for savings in the 2021 proposed budget, there were also areas that had increased. Therefore, Paul does not recommend any changes to the proposed 2021 budget. The budget the Board will consider at their March meeting is the same budget they presented to the Towns in December of 2020. Pat A. (Charleston) asked whether or not we had legal fees in our 2021 budget to cover the cost of the law suit regarding property taxes and the Town of Lyndon. Paul explained that the lawsuit was the next step in appealing our property tax dispute with the town and there were some funds for legal fees in the 2021 proposed budget.

Pay-Off Truck Loan - \$16,277.08 – Motion to pay off truck loan in the amount of \$16,277.08 from the Capital Improvement Fund, (CIF) 2nd. Paul explained the reason for paying the truck loan and transferring the line of credit. Question was raised regarding the funds used to pay off the line of credit at the end of 2021. Paul explained that the money would come from the Capital Improvement Fund as we borrowed against the CIF. Motion approved.

ANR Infrastructure Grant – Paul explained that the VT ANR announced the availability of approximately \$900,000 for infrastructure grants. This money is not to be confused with the \$250,000 we received from ANR for improving the organics processing capacity in the NEK. Paul explained that he would like the District to purchase another vehicle because we've been down one vehicle for the better part of a year. Paul said he is also trying to pursue additional funding to off-set more of the costs

of a new vehicle. If successful, Paul would like to purchase a new vehicle before the end of 2021.
Motion to pursue ANR infrastructure grant, 2nd, approved.

Updates:

Financial – Paul reviewed the monthly budget comparison for the month ending January 31, 2021. Paul mentioned that cardboard prices has seen a slow, but steady increase over the past several months. Scrap metal prices have also been increasing recently. A question was raised regarding the truck repair line item in the budget comparison. Paul explained that ~\$5,700 of this was because of the lift gate that was purchased in 2020, but not paid until 2021. A question was also raised regarding plastic bags. Paul informed the Board that we have not been able to ship plastic film and this would likely be the case until snow melts sometime this Spring. The bank transition should be complete by noon tomorrow.

Operational - Paul updated the Board on the practices of NEK Community Compost. After Paul obtained information following the last meeting, it appeared as if they were hauling all of their organic material to a permitted facility. Although their amount of material has declined, Paul thought this was due primarily to a loss of market share and increased competition.

Question was raised regarding our organics infrastructure grant process and whether or not we had received any proposals. Paul stated that we had not received any proposals, but we have heard from several entities regarding their interest in submitting proposals.

Question was raised regarding the ANR Infrastructure grant and the timing of its release. Paul said he would pass this along to ANR.

CSWD Glass Settlement/SEP – Paul reviewed the notes on this subject. Paul informed the Board that there was a 30-day period for CSWD to propose a SEP and that they had provided a lengthy list of proposals, most of which were rejected by the AG's office. Paul informed the Board that the District Manager's Association recommended that the SEP be used to supplement existing grant programs. Paul was unclear of when the 30-day period for SEP proposals expired.

Other Business – The 2020 Annual Report should be completed by the end of the week. There is some interest among Board members to pursue a charter change regarding the budget vote. It was pointed out that the last effort to pursue this was defeated by one vote.

Paul mentioned the USDA grant and the awarding of an AmeriCorps VISTA position to help establish a gleaning program in our region.

Question was raised regarding acceptable plastics. Plastic lids that screw on are prohibited, but larger plastic lids that snap into place (i.e., Butter or yoghurt) are acceptable.

Motion to adjourn @ 6:48pm

Respectfully submitted, Paul Tomasi

Note: There is an audio/video recording of the February 9, 2021 meeting. It is available upon request.