

Notes for March 9, 2021 Meeting

1. Lyndon Property Tax Case – I have invited our legal counsel, Daniel Richardson, to provide the Board with an update of the Town of Lyndon property tax appeal. Because this is a legal matter, it will be discussed in Executive Session.
2. 2021 Draft Budget – We held 2 additional public meetings to receive comments on the 2021 draft budget. The first hearing was Thursday, February 18, 2021 and the second hearing was Thursday, February 25, 2021. Both meetings were held via ZOOM at 6pm. There were no participants/comments at either meeting. The Board of Supervisors needs to take final action on the 2021 budget at the March 9th, 2021 meeting. The budget amount remains unchanged from the last time the Board took action on the budget. A copy of the 2021 budget is enclosed. Please do not confuse the “2021 proposed budget” with the “Budget Comparison NEKWMD as of February 28, 2021”.

We will be looking for a motion to approve the 2021 budget in the amount of \$809,527.

3. NEKWMD Organics Infrastructure Grant – The District established a grant review committee to evaluate and score the proposals we received from the Request for Proposal (RFP) that we issued in January. We received guidance from the VT Agency of Natural Resources on some of the metrics they use to evaluate projects and the system they use to evaluate grant proposals. However, the Agency is not involved in evaluating the proposals.

The proposal evaluation team consists of Paul Tomasi, Executive Director; Shannon Choquette, Outreach Coordinator; Walter McNeil, Vice Chair of the NEKWMD Board of Supervisors; and Terrance Lapointe, formerly of Wiseworm Composting in West Burke, VT.

Shannon, with assistance from ANR, developed an evaluation rubric that was distributed to each member of the evaluation committee. The evaluation committee met via ZOOM with ANR on February 24, 2021 to review the rubric and to try and ensure that we would all be looking at the same things when evaluating the proposals. A total of 5 proposals were received by the RFP due date of March 2, 2021 @ 4pm. Proposals were distributed to the evaluation committee on Wednesday, March 3, 2021. The committee is scheduled to meet Friday, March 5, 2021 to compare notes and clarify any questions so that all are on the same page in terms of evaluating the proposals. The evaluation committee shall make their recommendations for consideration by the full Board at the March 9th Board meeting.

ANR has granted the District an extension until June 1, 2021 to get a contract(s) in place. If the Board needs more time to select a project or projects, a decision can be made at the April 13, 2021 Board of Supervisors meeting.

4. Updates –

Financial - For the month ending February 28, 2021 expenses exceeded revenues by \$19,734.11. For the year, there is a deficit of \$24,064.52. For those astute observers of the monthly budget comparison, you will notice the deficits from January and February do not align with the monthly budget comparisons. This is a result of an error on the January comparison. We failed to report a contribution to the capital equipment fund in the amount of \$2,650. Recycling markets have increased modestly over the last half of 2020 and early in 2021. Cardboard, plastic, and scrap metal are generating revenue at or near their historical averages. Hopefully, this slow increase in commodity prices will continue the rest of 2021.

Operational –

Grants – The District will be submitting an application for the ANR Infrastructure grant for the purpose of purchasing a new truck. We estimate the cost of a new truck to be approximately \$100,000. The grant, if awarded, would offset 40% or \$40,000. I hope to be able to update the Board on this grant at the May 11, 2021 meeting.

CSWD Glass/SEP – I have reached out to ANR regarding the SEP. Their response was they were expecting “to get something in writing this week”. The deadline for the SEP determination is March 4, 2021. I should hopefully be able to provide the Board with an update during the meeting.