

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

January 12, 2021

Meeting held remotely via ZOOM

The meeting was called to order @ 6:02 p.m. by Nick Rivers; Chair

Present: Nick Rivers (Albany, Irasburg); Bill Douglas (Barnet); Paulette Routhier (Bloomfield, Brunswick); Bruce Rumball (Brighton); Pat Austin (Charleston); Walter McNeil (Danville); Fran Batchelder & Irene Dagesse (Derby); Kirwin Flanders (East Haven); Jack Sumberg (Glover); Ken Johnston (Greensboro); Tim Dailey Sr. (Groton); Joe Noble (Holland); Rebecca Hill-Larsen (Kirby); Steve Gray (Lyndon); Amy Pear (Maidstone); Jan Clausing (Newark); John Narowski & Claude Phipps (Newbury); Steve Barrup (Newport Town); Gene Perkins (Ryegate); Jack Smith (Sheffield & Wheelock); Tom Gilbert & Emily Cayer (Stannard); Elizabeth Hubbard (Sutton); Megan Clark (Topsham); Gaston Bathalon (Troy); Richard Stodola (Waterford); and Miriam Simonds (Westmore)

Absent: Brownington, Cabot, Concord, Corinth, Granby, Guildhall, Jay, Lunenburg, Marshfield, Morgan, Norton, Peacham, UTGs, Victory, Westfield

Staff present- Paul Tomasi, Executive Director

Legal Counsel – Ron Shems (Tarrant, Gillies, Richardson, Shems – Attorneys at Law)

Updates to the Agenda – none

Motion was made to go into Executive Session for discussion with attorney Ron Shems regarding the Vermont Attorney General's (AG) ruling on Chittenden Solid Waste District's (CSWD) management of glass – 2nd, motion approved. The Board entered Executive Session @ 6:11pm. The Board came out of Executive Session @ 6:59pm.

A motion was made to have the NEKWMD draft a letter in opposition to the terms of the settlement against CSWD by the AG's office, and that monies from any Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) should not be used in any way that would benefit the defendant. - 2nd, Discussion – The letter should state that while CSWD is not to benefit from the SEP, they have the responsibility to actually propose the SEP. The NEKWMD feels that we, along with other Waste Districts, should have input in the SEP process – identification and approval. The letter should go to VT Digger, the AG's office, and the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (ANR). The original motion was rescinded. A motion was made and 2nd to direct the Executive Director to send a letter in response to the settlement that reflects the Board's discussion with approval from the Executive Committee prior to sending. Motion approved.

Approval of Minutes- Moved to approve minutes of December 8, 2020, 2nd. Under "other business" Steve "Gary" should be Steve "Gray". Minutes were approved as amended.

2021 Proposed Budget – Paul explained the reasons for pursuing the legislative initiative that would allow the Board to approve the 2021 budget. At least 3 towns have already indicated they intend to move their Town Meeting Day (TMD). There was some discussion to amend our charter to make the

process of allowing the Board to approve the budget permanent. Selectboards should be made aware and may direct their supervisors on how to vote.

Motion to move the Annual Meeting of the NEKWMD from the first Tuesday in March (03/02/21) to the 2nd Tuesday in March (03/09/21), 2nd. The motion was amended to include 2 public hearings for further input on the 2021 budget – Thursday, February 18, 2021 and Thursday, February 25, 2021. The motion, as amended, was approved.

Motion to allow the NEKWMD Board of Supervisors the authority to approve the 2021 budget in accordance with H48 upon its passage and signature into law. 2nd. Motion approved.

Solid Waste Implementation Plan (SWIP) Approval – Paul explained how similar the 2020 SWIP is to the 2015 version. There was some discussion regarding the requirement to collect sheet-rock and shingles and whether or not collection of both materials was required under the 2020 plan. Paul explained that one of the materials is included, but he could not remember which one it was. There was a suggestion to include a statement on page 16 to read, “based on market conditions” as a reference to agricultural film. Motion was made to approve the 2020 SWIP, 2nd, motion approved.

Organics Grant – Request for Proposal (RFP) – Paul explained the RFP had been vetted through ANR. Motion, 2nd to approve the release of the RFP. Discussion – Should the Board request and extension of the grant period from ANR? The item will be placed on the February 2021 agenda. Paul will also ask ANR to comment informally on such a request. A typographical error was found on page 7 and corrected – the word “begin” was inserted. There was some discussion regarding the inclusion of “organics transfer station” in the RFP. The NEKWMD Board has the final say on what project(s) is/are selected. It was decided to leave the language in since that language was taken directly from the letter we received from ANR. Motion approved.

Updates: Paul informed the Board that we ended the year 2020 with a deficit of approximately \$8,000. Paul updated the Board regarding recycling markets - modest increase in cardboard and scrap metal entering 2021. The transition from Community Bank to Passumpsic Savings Bank is complete. The baler loan interest rate has been lowered from 3.39% to 2.5%. This lowering of the interest rate is expected to save approximately \$2,000 annually over the remaining term of the loan.

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. The permitted facility, however, indicated in an email earlier that day that NEKCC’s tonnage had dropped off dramatically over the last 4 months. Paul will look to see if other haulers are showing an increase in organics tonnage as it is thought that NEKCC might be losing customers.

Walter McNeil indicated that any savings the District might realize as a result of the 2021 budget should be placed in the Capital Improvement Fund as per the Danville Selectboard.

The District is still stockpiling plastic film. We may be able to move some of the material soon as the facility in northern New Hampshire has begun accepting small amounts of material.

Other Business- none

Motion to adjourn @ ~8:21pm

Respectfully submitted, Paul Tomasi

Note: There is an audio/video recording of the January 12, 2021 meeting. It is available upon request.