**NORTHEAST KINGDOM WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING**

**June 13, 2023**

**Meeting held remotely via ZOOM and**

**The District Office at 224 Church Street, Lyndonville, VT 05851**

The Board meeting was called to order @ 6:38 p.m. by Nick Rivers, Board Chair

**Present**: Nick Rivers (Albany); Paulette Routhier (Bloomfield, Brunswick, Maidstone); Bruce Rumball-Petre (Brighton); Betty Ritter (Cabot); Walter McNeil Jr. (Danville); Irene Dagesse (Derby); Brian Carroll (Glover); Ken Johnston (Greensboro); Dustin Sanville (Irasburg); Dave Sanders (Jay); Steve Gray (Lyndon); Bobbi Brimblecombe (Marshfield), Jan Clausing (Newark); Steve Barrup (Newport Town); Gina Vigneault (Norton & UTGs); Jack Smith (Sheffield & Wheelock in person); Emily Cayer (Stannard); Karen & Calvin Altland (Topsham); Gaston Bathalon (Troy); Richard Stodola (Waterford); Jacques Couture (Westfield); and Miriam Simonds (Westmore)

**Absen**t: Barnet, Brownington, Charleston, Concord, Corinth, East Haven, Granby, Groton, Guildhall, Holland, Kirby, Lunenburg, Morgan, Newbury, Peacham, Ryegate, Sutton, and Victory

**Staff present**- Paul Tomasi, Executive Director

**Visitors** – Amy Ash-Nixon (Caledonian-Record)

**Updates to the Agenda** – Add Legislative Updates to Updates

**Approval of Minutes** **–**Under Annual Meeting at the very end, ‘in’ website should be changed to ‘on’ website. Motion & 2nd to approve the minutes of April 11, 2023. Motion approved.

**Per Capita Assessment Discussion** – Paul explained to the Board that the ‘per capita assessment’ was intended to help offset the costs of reintroducing employer sponsored health insurance in 2023. We were unable to find a plan prior to the beginning of 2023 and are hoping to be able to put something in place for the beginning of 2024. Paul provided the Board with several alternatives regarding the 2023 per capita assessment. These were as follows: (1) eliminate it for 2023, (2) reduce it for 2023, (3) keep it intact as proposed and bill towns for the full amount ($1.06/person). After some discussion, it was felt that maintaining the status quo (billing towns for the $1.06/person) made the most sense. Therefore, no action was needed by the Board.

**Should We Be Picking Up Organics at Schools?** – Paul informed the Board that we collect organics from fewer schools than we have in the past. Our historic position on providing services to schools has been if they are close to the recycling center and the private sector isn’t willing to provide the service, we will step-in. The District currently services 9 out of approximately 25 schools in the District. There were no strong opinions among the Board that any changes were necessary at this time.

**Minutes Clerk Proposal** – Former Outreach Coordinator, Shannon Choquette, has offered to resurrect the role of paid minutes clerk. This has been a paid position in the past, but has not been active since prior to the pandemic. There was some discussion about Shannon working for the VT DEC and whether or not that created any issues around taking minutes. Those who expressed an opinion did not have any issues with that. Motion and 2nd to have Paul hire a minute’s clerk. Motion approved.

**4-Day Work Week Discussion –** Paul expressed his desire to not discuss this issue at this time. He cited recent personnel leaving the organization as a reason to not move this forward.

**Updates –**

**Personnel –** Two employees recently resigned from the District. We are in the process of looking for replacements. The Outreach Coordinator position has been filled by Corey Raynor of St. Johnsbury. Corey Raymond is slowly working his way back into the office. Michelle Trottier is still out.

**July Meeting –** Motion & 2nd to hold July 2023 meeting in-person at the Lyndon Public Safety Building. After further discussion the motion was amended &2nd to hold the August 8, 2023 meeting in-person. The reason for changing the date was due to a number of July vacations. An Executive Committee meeting will also be planned for August 8th, 2023.

**Administrative Rules** - Paul will provide the Executive Committee with copies of the draft as provided by the Vermont League of Cities & Towns. Paul will distribute those items to Executive Committee prior to the August 8th meeting.

**Compliance –** Update on NEK Community Compost/Blume Farm. Jurisdictional issues were still being discussed at the State level. The VT Department of Ag issued a letter yesterday (June 12, 2023) stating the site on Crawford Hill Road in Charleston, VT did not meet the definition of a farm**.** Therefore, Dept of Ag will not assume jurisdiction over the site; however, VT DEC will. This will require Blume Farm to register with VT DEC, which I don’t believe they have done. Blume Farm has indicated they have been hauling their organics to Eric Paris’ farm in Lyndonville. This has been confirmed. What has not been able to be confirmed is whether or not they have been hauling all of their wastes to the Paris Farm. Paul visited the site approximately 2 months ago and has received feedback from neighbors. Paul expressed a desire to revisit the site before the end of June.

**2022 Surplus** – Paul would like to use the 2022 surplus to repair some of the bad areas in and around the scrap metal area, and also on computer related IT upgrades. Details to be presented at the next meeting. Paul thought the 2022 surplus was approximately $5,200.

**Grants** – The District is still waiting on a decision from the USDA regarding the grant for the purchase of the foam densifier. A decision is expected any day. They have informed us that we have submitted everything necessary for the grant. Question: When can other towns expect to begin collection polystyrene? Answer: Towns that have space have mostly been added to the program. If your town does not currently collect foam, space is probably the reason why. We have been awarded a grant in the amount of $12,000 from the Town of Lyndon’s ARPA grant program to help pay for the foam densifier. If towns think they have the space to collect foam, they should reach out to the District.

**Legislative Updates –** The Governor just signed H67 into law. This will establish an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program for Household Hazardous Wastes (HHW). This should help defray some of our HHW costs as if has done with e-wastes, paint, and a few other products. H158 proposes to expand the types of containers collected under the bottle bill.

Question: When do the per capita assessment bills go out to the Towns? Answer: Usually June 1, with a due date of October 1.

Question: How much money is in the capital improvement fund? Answer: As of May 31, $46,028.46. We did borrow against it for operating expenses in the amount of $20,000

Question: Any word on the grant through Senator Sanders’s office? Answer: Not yet.

**Other Business –** None

Motion to adjourn, 2nd, approved @ 8:07pm

Respectfully submitted, Paul Tomasi

There is a video/audio recording of the June 13, 2023 meeting. It is available upon request.