

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

January 10, 2023

Meeting held remotely via ZOOM and

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

The Board meeting was called to order @ 6:37 p.m. by Steve Barrup, Executive Committee Member-At-Large

The Public Meeting for the USDA Grant was opened at 6:38pm by Steve Barrup

Present: William Douglas (Barnet); Paulette Routhier (Bloomfield, Brunswick, Maidstone); Bruce Rumball-Petre (Brighton); Lila Stevens (Brownington); Betty Ritter (Cabot); Bob Sanberg (Corinth); Walter McNeil Jr. (Danville); Fran Batchelder & Irene Dagesse (Derby); Kirwin Flanders (East Haven); Brian Carroll (Glover); Ken Johnston (Greensboro); Steve Gray (Lyndon); Jan Clausing (Newark in person); John Narowski (Newbury); Steve Barrup (Newport Town); Gina Vigneault (Norton & UTGs); Jack Smith (Sheffield & Wheelock in person); Emily Cayer (Stannard); Elizabeth Hubbard (Sutton); Sue & Calvin Altland (Topsham); Gaston Bathalon (Troy & Jay); Richard Stodola (Waterford); Jacques Couture & Richard Degre (Westfield), and Miriam Simonds (Westmore)

Absent: Albany, Charleston, Concord, Granby, Groton, Guildhall, Holland, Irasburg, Kirby, Lunenburg, Marshfield, Morgan, Peacham, Ryegate, and Victory

Staff present- Paul Tomasi, Executive Director

Visitors – Amy Ash-Nixon, Caledonian-Record

Updates to the Agenda – none

Public Meeting for USDA Rural Development, Community Facilities Grant – The Public Meeting for the grant was opened at 6:38pm.

Approval of Minutes – Motion & 2nd to approve the minutes of December 13, 2022. Jan Clausing (Newark) indicated that Newark was not mentioned as present or absent. They were, in fact, absent from the December 13, 2022 meeting. It was also noted the minutes of December 13, 2022 indicated approval of the minutes of December 13, 2022. The minutes approved on December 13, 2022 were from the November 8, 2022 meeting. Motion with corrections approved.

2023 Budget Warning – Motion that the Board of Supervisors by electronic signature, approve the budget warning to the towns for the voters to vote by Australian Ballot a budget of \$885,280.00. 2nd. Question: What does electronic signature mean? Answer: Electronic signatures have been used since the pandemic in place of physical signatures. We have used electronic signatures the past 2 years. The motion as it reads authorizes everyone's electronic signature instead of having each Supervisor send us an email saying they authorize the signature of the document electronically. The electronic signature does not give any indication of how anyone voted on the budget. There was some discussion as to

exactly who needs to sign the warning. Paul explained that the motion should be sufficient to cover the requirement. Motion approved.

Foam Densifier Purchase Decision – Following a meeting with USDA regarding the grant application, it was felt that the Board should simply make a motion to continue with the foam collection and processing program. The decision to not specify a particular vendor in the motion is to satisfy requirements in the grant. If we identify a specific vendor at this point in time, we are essentially getting ahead of ourselves as far as the grant goes. Motion & 2nd to continue accepting and processing polystyrene foam. Question: Does this mean we will move forward with adding the collection of foam to other locations? Answer: Yes, we hope to add more in the coming weeks. Paul emphasized that space and other considerations come into play regarding some facilities ability to collect foam. Not all facilities will be part of the foam program, but we will add as many as we can. The Board will not be involved in the decision as to whether or not a particular town will be able to collect the material, it will be up to the towns to decide individually. Question: Do we need a 2nd employee to process the foam? Answer: The processing of the foam does require 2 people – 1 to feed the material into the machine and 1 to form the ingot as it is ejected from the machine. The District will look into ways to improve the process so that only one employee can process the material. Motion was amended to add our intention to purchase the densifier to our plans to continue the program.

USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Grant Application – Motion & 2nd to submit application to USDA Rural Development, Community Facilities grant. Motion Approved.

Loan for Foam Densifier – The Board passed over this item and will consider it at a later date. If we end up needing a loan, Paul will seek rates from other banks.

Updates –

Financial – The District ended the calendar year with a small surplus (\$5,604.53). There has been little to no chatter regarding commodity pricing in the new year. Typically, as gas prices fall, commodity prices follow suit. Question: What happens to the 2022 surplus, is it rolled into the 2023 budget? Answer: No, the Board will eventually decide what to do with the surplus at a later date. That decision is typically made in April or May – similar to last year. With such a small amount, Paul may recommend adding it to the Capital Improvement Fund.

Organics Grant – Eric Paris has received his mobile compost screener. The District has submitted the request for reimbursement to DEC and are awaiting receipt of the funds (\$60,000). The Evaluation Committee will be reconvened prior to the next meeting. Cloud's Path is moving ahead. Recent changes have been sent to them and we are awaiting their response. The Evaluation Committee will be looking at recommending deadlines to the Board as part of the work.

Clothing – No word on when clothing collection will begin.

Other Business –

Paul has reached out to local Representative Katherine Sims, and she has been spearheading our Charter Amendment efforts in the VT Legislature. She has indicated that there may be a chance to get something passed in time for us to avoid the Australian Ballot process this year. I informed her that we would greatly appreciate that, but I'm moving forward as if the Australian Ballot process will be required for

2023. Paul will contact the Secretary of State's office to see what the repercussions of warning a vote are and then not holding it, or nullifying the results.

The public meeting regarding the USDA grant was closed at 7:15pm. There were no comments received.

Motion to adjourn, 2nd, approved @ 7:17pm

Respectfully submitted, Paul Tomasi

There is a video/audio recording of the January 10, 2023 meeting. It is available upon request.