

**NORTHEAST KINGDOM WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
Tuesday, September 10, 2024 at 6:30PM via ZOOM
In-Person Location – District Office 224 Church Street, Lyndonville, VT 05851**

The Board meeting was called to order @ 6:39 p.m. by Nicholas Rivers, Board Chair

Present: Nicholas Rivers (Albany); William Douglas (Barnet) Paulette Routhier (Bloomfield, Brunswick, Maidstone); Bruce Rumball (Brighton); Betty Ritter (Cabot); Robert Sandberg (Corinth); Walter McNeil Jr. (Danville); Irene Dagesse (Derby); Kirwin Flanders (East Haven); Ken Johnston (Greensboro); Mike Nahmias (Groton); Dustin Sanville (Irasburg); Steve Gray (Lyndon); Jan Clausing (Newark); John Narowski (Newbury); Steve Barrup (Newport Town); Jack Smith (Sheffield & Wheelock, in person); Emily Cayer (Stannard); Dianna Simpson (Sutton); Barb Noaln (UTG); Richard Stodola (Waterford); Jacques Couture (Westfield, logged off before end of meeting); and Miriam Simmonds (Westmore)

Absent: Brownington, Charleston, Concord, Glover, Granby, Guildhall, Holland, Jay, Kirby, Lunenburg, Marshfield, Morgan, Norton, Peacham, Ryegate, Topsham, Troy, Victory, Waterford

Staff present- Paul Tomasi, Executive Director

Visitors –Shannon Choquette, minutes clerk.

Updates to Agenda – none

Approval of Minutes – Motion to approve the minutes of June 11, 2024, meeting as written. Motion 2nd. Motion approved.

Truck Lease – Paul would like to lease a truck from Ryder. The District has been renting, at a weekly rate, a box truck for the majority of 2024 to date. During the first part of the year, it was paid through an insurance claim. It took 6 months to get the truck back, and after getting it back, we've continued to have to rent a vehicle because of issues with other vehicles. Repairs on the truck have cost over \$14,000, after insurance. The total insurance claim of the truck was close to \$20,000. Paul asked Ryder to give pricing for a lease. Right now, we pay anywhere between \$900 and \$975/week for a rental, which varies due to milage. The pricing Paul received for a 3-year lease for a model-year 2019 was \$1,775/month. To lease a 2022 truck at a 5-year lease, it would be \$1,875/month. A lease would include regularly scheduled preventative maintenance, all major and minor repairs, all routine service visits, tires, towing, roadside repairs replacement vehicles, registration costs, and state and federal inspections. The District must cover insurance. Annual mileage is around 30,000 miles per year. Paul's current plan is to lease a truck immediately, and in next year's budget, budget for leasing two vehicles. At that point, the 2020 Mack truck would be owned outright, however it is currently at the shop for air pressure issues. This would replace the 2017 International (which cannot be inspected), and the 2012 Freightliner. With the amount of repairs needed, there may not be any trade in value for the truck.

A question was raised about Supervisors assisting with getting additional bids, and Paul will share the specs of the vehicle for Supervisors to do so if they wish. Paul would like to discuss this again by the October board meeting.

A question was raised about how lease compares to owning a vehicle? A new truck costs about \$100,000-\$120,000. This does not include upkeep and maintenance.

Motion to allow the District to lease at least one truck from Ryder immediately and look into leasing an additional truck next year. Motion 2nd. Motion approved.

Updates-

Financial and Budget- Overall, the District is working with a surplus of \$29,323. Recycling markets are currently looking good. Our broker is continuing to look for the best price for all materials. Aluminum is currently \$0.55 per pound, and we recently made a shipment.

Questions:

In the third pay period, if employees are calling out, why does it appear as though they are getting paid?

This is due to sick time and personal time.

It appears some employees have opted out on insurance, is this true?

Yes, and someone who was enrolled has quit.

In 2023, the district took in approximately \$49,763 in per capita funds. Today, \$23,400 has been spent., and \$22,179 is remaining. Where is the \$4,228.21 that is not accounted for? Paul will look into this and get back to the Board at the October meeting.

The trash removal bill was higher than previous. What may have caused this?

Paul will need to look into this. It could have been due to a bill coming later, resulting in two payments being made in one month. The additional cost could be due to waste from HHW events.

A question was raised about what happens to plastic recycling, and if it is stored at storage facilities rather than being recycled? This was a national news story.

This story highlights some of the complexity of plastic recycling. In general, national news stories do not show the realities of recycling in Vermont. All of the plastic's accepted by the district (#1, #2, #5) have viable markets in mechanical recycling in the US.

Programs –

A question was raised about foam and the lack of collection currently. Should we contact the maker of the machine to see if there is an add-on device so it can be only one staff person? Or could there be a staff person hired to handle foam only? Or could Supervisors come and help? There is an overwhelming amount of foam and the current backlog is one which is difficult to manage. The machine does take two staff to run, and there is currently no addition to the machine that would allow less staff people. We are considering closing at noon on Saturday, and still working until 3, to allow a few hours to manage foam each week. There could be an

additional hire considered, and supervisors can come to Lyndonville and help if they wish. Anyone interested in helping can contact Paul.

There are no current updates on bale wrap recycling, and given the current issues with processing foam, the District is not looking to add another collection program at this time.

Executive Director Search – Paul has not been able to focus much on search. The HHW season is winding down, so Paul hopes to be able to reach out to the League of cities and towns soon to get the process initiated. Paul's projected end date would be September 28, 2025.

Next month, the supervisors meeting will be in person after the FoamCycle open house on October 8.

The Executive Committee will be meeting on September 24 at 5pm to discuss drafting the budget to present to the board at the October meeting.

Motion to adjourn, 2nd, approved @ 7:56pm.

Respectfully submitted, Shannon Choquette