

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

**October 10, 2023**

**Meeting held via ZOOM and in-person at the NEKWMD Office,  
224 Church St. Lyndonville, VT 05851**

The Board meeting was called to order @ 6:36 p.m. by Nick Rivers, Board Chair

**Present:** Nick Rivers (Albany); Paulette Routhier (Bloomfield, Brunswick, Maidstone); Bruce Rumball-Petre (Brighton); Lila Stevens (Brownington); Robert Sandberg (Corinth); Walter McNeil Jr. (Danville); Irene Dagesse (Derby); Kirwin Flanders (East Haven); Ken Johnston (Greensboro); Tim Dailey Sr. (Groton); Dustin Sanville (Irasburg – In-person); Dave Sanders (Jay); Steve Gray (Lyndon); Jan Clausing (Newark – In-person); John Narowski (Newbury); Steve Barrup (Newport Town); Gina Vigneault (Norton, UTG); Gene Perkins (Ryegate in person); Jack Smith (Sheffield & Wheelock in person); Emily Cayer (Stannard); Elizabeth Hubbard (Sutton); Anne Quirion (Troy); and Richard Stodola (Waterford)

**Absent:** Barnet, Cabot, Charleston, Concord, Glover, Granby, Guildhall, Holland, Kirby, Lunenburg, Marshfield, Morgan, Peacham, Topsham, Victory, Westfield, and Westmore

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

**Visitors** –Shannon Choquette, minutes clerk; Paul Hayes, Caledonian-Record Newspaper

**Updates to the Agenda** – none

**Approval of Minutes** – Motion to accept minutes of September 12, 2023, as printed. Motion to approve. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion approved.

**2024 Proposed Budget** – Proposed 2024 budget is \$947,429. This budget includes slight increase in per capita assessment. Surcharge will increase to from \$25.99 to \$26.75. No changes to tire fees or stop fees.

Question: For Liability and Casualty – that would cover accidents? Is this a high enough value?  
Answer: This is a guess as rates have not been released. This number is currently a placeholder.

Question: Does this leave the budget needing \$12,000 to cover the health insurance cost?  
Answer: No. This is why we are raising per capita, because eventually the entire per capita income will be used to offset insurance premium. In future years, the board will have to determine whether to increase health insurance premium in budget or pass on increase to employees.

Question: Health insurance – how much is this actually going to cost the District?

Answer: Still looking into this, but the plan is to have the District pay \$72,000 and employees pay the difference, so the number of the proposed budget is firm. It could be less than this amount if not all employees take health insurance, but we will not know this until the program begins.

Question: Why was the Mac truck loan payment not shown not in expenses?

Answer: These funds are being drawn from the capital improvement fund. Money going into this fund is already shown as an expense.

Question: What do the other waste districts do with surcharges?

Answer: Many waste districts spend money on shipping recyclables and trash. Many use funds for outreach and education. There are also other sources of income such as per capita fees. Other districts also offer very different services in their regions, often not as expansive as services offered in NEKWMD.

Question: How many brokers do we have and how are they paid?

Answer: We work with one broker who gets best deal for us. Most brokers take a commission of a certain fee per ton (for example, \$5 per ton) for payment.

Discussions: Overtime. The waste district could lower overtime wages if they did not send trucks or employees to bulky events. We could also save money by not providing as many HHW events. The NEKWMD hauls material for residents from bulky events and can act as an authority at these events. The district also provides HHW events to ensure residents are not over 20 miles from an event. These services are important to ensure residents properly dispose of materials. Most overtime incurred happens on holiday weeks and during the busy summer months.

Personal Equipment – Suggestion that employees should be wearing yellow safety vests. Paul will look into this.

Recommendation for compost expenses – the private sector could take over this service. Currently, the private sector does control this contract and the district puts this out to bid to make sure this is the best price for towns. Because we bill towns for this expense, it is a wash. Some towns also do this on their own. If the private sector is willing to do it, the district is willing to support towns in using other private services.

Sale of recyclables – current proposed income from sale of recyclables may be a little high. District may be lucky to hit \$50,000, while this is forecasted at much higher. Markets may trend positively, there is some hope as cardboard is slightly increasing in value. However, baler issues have increased hauling expenses instead of adding revenue from sale of recyclables.

Surcharge – District raised this last year, suggestion to not raise this price again as it could cause other prices to increase. Truck repair has been underbudgeted for past years, prompting this increase. This surcharge is less than \$0.40 per bag. Surcharge is right around the average of other surcharges across the state.

Please note that the 2023 proposed budget is not on the website.

Motion to appropriate \$947,429 for 2024 budget. Motion 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion approved.  
Public meeting will be held in November or December.

## **Updates –**

**Compliance-** No complaint from neighbors regarding Bloom Farm since early September.

**Administrative Rules Update** – Executive Committee reviewed the Administrative Rules. Paul needs to make changes and contact the League of Cities and Towns. He is roughly half way through this process and hopes to complete it by the end of the year or early next year.

**Financial** – District is in the black and anticipates a small surplus at the end of the year, which is currently at \$16,000. We did see an increase in surcharge revenues which appeared in September reporting. Miscellaneous expenses – earlier in the year had to purchase e-waste gaylord boxes which district was reimbursed for. The income (reimbursement) is included in the e-waste revenues.

**Future In-Person Meetings** – Survey was distributed to gauge interest. There is a desire to meet in person a few times a year. Please turn in the survey if you have not already (if interested in in person) and will get back next month.

**Grants-** Funding for densifier is coming soon. Paul spoke with USDA about funds for a new truck which a grant can be submitted for this in December.

**Programs** – Foam is going well. We received pricing to ship which will be close to 0.37 per pound. Outreach coordinator is visiting facilities with battery incident kits. E-waste issues will be resolved soon. District will resume limited collection this week from towns. Baler issues are continuing. Shipping light loads of cardboard less than 40,000lbs. District is penalized if loads do not meet minimum tonnage. Bales are not consistent and are 1/3 lighter than previously.

Paul informed board on intention of retirement in the next few years. He wants to make sure the board has time to undertake a hiring process.

Motion to adjourn, 2<sup>nd</sup>, approved @ 7:34 pm

Respectfully submitted, Shannon Choquette