

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

March 8, 2022

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, Chair

Present: Nick Rivers (Albany & Irasburg); Paulette Routhier (Bloomfield, Brunswick); Bruce Rumball-Petre (Brighton); Irene Dagesse (Derby); Kirwin Flanders (East Haven); Jack Sumberg (Glover); Timothy Dailey, Sr. (Groton); Joe Noble (Holland & Morgan); Hilary DeCarlo (Kirby); Steve Gray and Marcus Berry (Lyndon); Jan Clausing (Newark in person); John Narowski (Newbury); Steve Barrup (Newport Town); Gina Vigneault (Norton & UTGs); Gene Perkins, (Ryegate); Jack Smith (Sheffield & Wheelock in person); Emily Cayer (Stannard); Elizabeth Hubbard (Sutton); Megan Clark (Topsham); Gaston Bathalon (Troy); Richard Stodola (Waterford); and Miriam Simonds (Westmore).

Absent: Barnet, Brownington, Charleston, Corinth, Cabot, Concord, Danville, Granby, Greensboro, Guildhall, Jay, Lunenburg, Maidstone, Marshfield, Peacham, and Victory.

Staff present- Paul Tomasi, Executive Director

Visitors – Amy Ash -Nixon, Caledonian-Record

Updates to the Agenda – None.

Approval of Minutes- Moved to approve minutes of February 8, 2022, 2nd, approved.

2022 Budget Vote – Paul informed the Board that nothing had changed regarding the budget since the Board had approved it in the fall of 2021. An additional public hearing on the 2022 proposed budget was held on Thursday, February 24, 2022. There were no participants and no comments (written and/or oral) were received. A motion was made and 2nd to approve the 2022 budget in the amount of \$846,615.50. There was a question regarding the amount spent on legal fees in 2021. Paul stated that legal fees were high in 2021 because of the on-going property tax dispute with the Town of Lyndon. The motion passed by a voice vote; however, Paul suggested a roll-call vote be taken because of the change in how the budget was adopted and that's how it was done last year. The roll-call vote was 27-1 in favor of passing the 2021 budget. The lone negative vote was from Steve Gray of Lyndon.

2021 Surplus – Paul briefed the Board on the available surplus from 2021. The District ended 2021 with a surplus of approximately \$74,000. Preliminary results from our 2021 audit indicate a surplus of just over \$73,000. The list of potential spending of the surplus uses the lower figure as a guide. Question: How much does paying the baler off early save? Answer: Approximately \$1,000. Information was provided for the disability and life insurance benefits and the upgrades to the phone system. Question: Is disability & life insurance available to all employees or just full-time employees? Answer: Only employees who work an average of 30 hours or more per week are eligible, so basically full-time employees. Question: What type of phone system do we currently have? Answer: We currently have a premise-based system, which means the hardware resides at our location (as opposed to a cloud-based

system where the hardware is located off-site). Paul mentioned that after allocating the 2021 surplus, the District would still have \$37,000 in the Capital Improvement Fund (CIF), and we've been contributing \$2,650 towards the CIF on a monthly basis and will continue to do so. There was some discussion about budgeting for increased fuel costs. Paul said that increased fuel costs usually lead to increases in commodity prices, which in the past have more than offset the increase in fuel. So, we would expect the increased revenue from the sale of recyclables to cover the increased costs in fuel. The possibility of upgrading computers and upgrading technology for conducting hybrid meetings was also discussed. Paul felt the District was a year away from considering computer upgrades, which he estimated at approximately \$5,000 - \$6,000. It was noted that the upgrades to the phones included all new hardware and phones with an additional monthly fee of \$67 for 5 years. The monthly fee is to cover software and trouble-shooting services, which we currently do not have. Driveway repair was also mentioned. Paul explained to the Board that he did not have enough information to bring a meaningful cost estimate to the Board at this time. The District may consider repairing the worst areas, which may save money and spread costs out over time. The standardization of locks at facilities was also discussed. Paul explained that this could be done with budgeted funds and was estimated to cost approximately \$900. Paul reviewed all of the items that were listed on the spreadsheet titled, "2021 Surplus Allocation". A motion was made and 2nd to approve the allocation of the 2021 surplus in the amount of \$70,698.00. The motion passed.

Updates –

Financial – Paul informed the Board that the District has begun 2022 in a strong financial position. Plastic and mixed paper prices are up slightly compared to last month. Paul is hopeful we will be able to market our last remaining load of plastic film once the snow melts. The District will consider re-establishing the collection of plastic film in early 2023. The District is still looking into Styrofoam recycling and will schedule a presentation for the April 2022 Board meeting.

Organics Grant – The District has processed the first request for payment. Contracts are in place with Black Dirt Farm (Stannard) and Tamarlane Farm (Lyndon). All contracts should be in place prior to the April 2022 Board meeting. Question: Does the District have money in our account to pay the grantees? Answer: The District requests money from VT ANR and then passes it through to the grantees once we receive it from the State.

Other Business – Question: What are people supposed to do with old clothing that cannot be worn anymore? Answer: Local garages and mechanics will accept cotton clothing to use as rags. Someone suggested reaching out to animal shelters to see if they might use old clothing for bedding. Paul suggested using on-line forums like Front Porch Forum. Question: Is the District sewer line fixed? Answer: The line was frozen and has been cleared; however, during the clean-out process, a significant amount of hose was lost in the line. Therefore, we are only using the bathroom for liquid wastes and hand washing. The Town of Lyndon has graciously allowed us access to the Public Safety Building bathrooms until the weather warms up and the lost hose can be retrieved. Question: Why doesn't the District do a better job of keeping the driveway salted and sanded? Answer: Not all of the driveway is owned by the District and the District does most of the snow removal and salting/sanding in-house. We have a contractor come in when we feel the condition warrant. The District will be more mindful and try and keep the area in better condition.

Motion to adjourn, 2nd, approved @ 7:22pm

Respectfully submitted, Paul Tomasi

There is a video/audio recording of the March 8, 2022 meeting. It is available upon request.