

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

October 11, 2022

Meeting held remotely via ZOOM and

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

The Board meeting was called to order @ 6:37 p.m. by Nick Rivers, Chair

Present: Nick Rivers (Albany); Paulette Routhier (Bloomfield, Brunswick, Maidstone); Bruce Rumball-Petre (Brighton); Lila Stevens (Brownington – dropped call), Bob Sandberg (Corinth), Walter McNeil Jr. (Danville); Irene Dagesse (Derby); Fran Batchelder (Derby), Kirwin Flanders (East Haven), Brian Carroll (Glover); Ken Johnston (Greensboro); Tim Dailey Sr. (Groton); Dustin Sanville (Irasburg in person), Dave Sanders (Jay); Hilary DeCarlo (Kirby), Steve Gray (Lyndon); Bobbi Brimblecombe (Marshfield), Jan Clausing (Newark – in person); John Narowski (Newbury); Steve Barrup (Newport Town); Gina Vigneault (Norton & UTGs), Gene Perkins (Ryegate – in person); Jack Smith (Sheffield & Wheelock in person); Emily Cayer (Stannard); Elizabeth Hubbard (Sutton); Sue & Calvin Altland (Topsham); Gaston Bathalon (Troy); Richard Stodola (Waterford); Jacques Couture (Westfield), and Miriam Simonds (Westmore)

Absent: Barnet, Brownington, Charleston, Cabot, Concord, Granby, Guildhall, Holland, Lunenburg, Morgan, Peacham, and Victory

Staff present- Paul Tomasi, Executive Director

Visitors – Amy Ash -Nixon, Caledonian-Record; Eliza Perreault & Sam Carter, Cloud’s Path Farm

Updates to the Agenda – Move Cloud’s Path up to beginning to get them on first.

Approval of Minutes – Motion & 2nd to approve the minutes of September 13, 2022. There were 2 typographical errors in the Charter Amendment section. The word ‘approved’ should be ‘approve’, and the word ‘sue’ should be ‘sure’. It was also pointed out that Calvin Altland (Topsham) was present. Motion approved.

Organic’s Grant – Cloud’s Path Farm updated the Board on the compost contamination issue. They said that things were going well, but PLU stickers were still an issue. They are also finding isolated instances of plastic contamination where it appears a user does not unwrap prepackaged meat and throws it away with other plastic bags.

There seems to be a disagreement on the timing of the release of certain documents pertaining to the organics grant. After several minutes of debate, it was decided that the Executive Director and Cloud’s Path would meet outside of a Board meeting to attempt to get back on track. There was some discussion about having Cloud’s Path put on next month’s agenda, but several Board members expressed the opinion that whatever the issues are, they should be decided outside of a Board meeting. The Executive Director shall report back to the Board following a meeting with Clouds Path.

Charter Amendment Process – Question: Should there be a roll call vote? Answer: Yes. There was a motion to approve the Charter Amendment, 2nd. Question: In 2016, 32 votes were needed to pass the amendment, why are only 30 required this time? Answer: The Charter requires a 2/3rds vote by the Supervisors. Some towns have not appointed a Supervisor, so the number needed to pass a Charter amendment can vary from year to year. Question: Why are nearly a third of all Supervisors not present for this meeting? Answer: Not sure; however, many towns not represented typically do not attend meetings. Paul explained that he actually visited a few towns who had an interest in the topic, but did not send anyone to the meeting. There was a motion and 2nd to table the vote on the Charter Amendment until the December 2022 (it was pointed out that the November meeting was the same day as the election so our attendance may be lower). Kirwin Flanders (East Haven) joined the meeting at approximately 1905 hrs. The motion and 2nd to table the discussion until December were withdrawn. A roll call vote was taken. The vote was 28 in favor of the Charter Amendment and 4 opposed. The motion was defeated. 30 affirmative votes were needed. The Charter Amendment article will be placed on the December 2022 meeting agenda. Question: Is absentee voting allowed? Answer: No, our Charter does not allow for it. Question: Will we keep voting until we get an affirmative vote? Answer: No; however, since the vote was so close and a number of Supervisors were not present, the vote should be conducted when more members are present.

Baler Loan Payment – Motion & 2nd to make the final baler loan payment in the amount of \$39,056.17. Approved.

Mack Truck Payment – Motion and 2nd to make the first of 3 payments for the Mack truck in the amount of \$13,694.33. Approved

2023 Draft Budget – 2023 draft budget is an increase of approximately 3% compared to the 2022. Motion and 2nd to approve 2023 draft budget in the amount of \$857,338. Several lines appearing in the 2022 portion of the budget worksheet were not actually part of the 2022 budget – the lines pertaining to ‘surplus funds’ and ‘life & disability’. These monies were spent in 2022, but were not budgeted because we can’t budget for a surplus. Question: Why has the ‘audit’ line item been increased in the 2023 draft budget? Answer: No hauler audits were conducted in 2022 because of turn-over in the actual auditor. The new auditor hopes to begin auditing for us later this year and next. Question: Why the increase in ‘telephone/office’? Answer: This is due to the information technology (IT) upgrades. There was some discussion regarding wages, overtime, and benefits. Paul explained the need for the District to be competitive in the local labor market if we want to attract and maintain employees. Question: Why are ‘truck repairs’ budgeted so low for 2023? Answer: Some of the repairs were preventative in 2022, and we are hopeful that repairs in 2023 will be lower. Question: Why did the surcharge increase? Answer: The budget needed to be balanced somehow. If recycling markets were stronger, we would have been able to balance the budget that way, but markets are not looking good as we approach 2023. Motion approved.

Information Technology Upgrades – Since the Board approved the 2023 budget, these costs are already approved by default (included in the 2023 draft budget). No vote required.

Organics Grant Update – Question: Can we withdraw Cloud’s Path Farm’s approval? Answer: Maybe they should be given a deadline for signing the grant agreement. The NEKWMD Board of Supervisors needs to finalize the grant budget, which includes a mobile screener. The mobile screener (Tamarlane Farm) was recommended by VT DEC so that it could be used by other composters in the area. Tamarlane’s original ask was for \$31,500, but switching from a stationery screener to a mobile screener raised the project cost to \$60,000. \$245,856.57 of the \$250,000 grant amount has been allocated to the 4

projects. There is approximately \$4,100 remaining to be allocated, which the Board can allocate at some point before the end of the grant. Motion and 2nd to approve the allocation of \$245,856.57 for the organics grant. Question: What happens if Cloud's Path Farm does not move forward with their project? Answer: The Board will be able to reallocate funds as long as there is time to do so.

Updates –

Expanded Polystyrene Recycling – The District is hoping to be able to add more location to accept Expanded Polystyrene Foam in the near future. Towns will be added as we are able to accommodate them.

Financial – The District is still running in the black despite the dramatic drop in commodity prices. Cardboard has lost two-thirds of its value in the past 2 months. 2023 may not be a good year for commodity prices.

Line of Credit – Although this was not on the agenda, Paul raised the issue of renewing the \$40,000 line of credit the District has had for the past few years. It was suggested this item be considered at the next Board meeting. Question: Do we use the same bank each year for this, or do we put it out to bid? Answer: We have typically used the same bank, but we switched banks within the last couple of years and this was one of the reasons for choosing Passumpsic Savings Bank.

Other Business - Question: Anything to update on textile recycling? Answer: Shannon is still working on setting this up.

Motion to adjourn, 2nd, approved @ 8:27pm

Respectfully submitted, Paul Tomasi

There is a video/audio recording of the October 11, 2022 meeting. It is available upon request.