

NORTHEAST KINGDOM WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

November 14, 2017

The meeting was called to order @ 7:00 p.m. by Joel Cope; Chair

Present: Paulette Routhier (Bloomfield, Brunswick, Maidstone); Joel Cope (Brighton); Lila Stevens (Brownington); Pat Austin (Charleston); David Isles (Concord); Bob Sanberg (Corinth); Walter McNeil (Danville); Irene Degesse & Lois Major (Derby); Kirwin Flanders (East Haven); Jack Sumberg (Glover); Ken Johnston (Greensboro); Dave Sanders (Jay); Rebecca Hill Larson (Kirby); Libre Drouin, Derek Blankenship & Steve Gray (Lyndon); Jan Clausing (Newark); Steve Barrup (Newport Town); John Narowski (Newbury); Gina Vineault -via phone (Norton & UTGs); Gene Perkins (Ryegate); Jack Smith (Sheffield, Wheelock); Elizabeth Hubbard (Sutton); Peter Keene (Topsham); Gaston Bathalon (Troy); Heather Burt (Waterford); Yves Daigle (Westfield); Miriam Simonds (Westmore)

Absent: Albany, Barnet, Cabot, Granby, Groton, Guildhall, Holland, Irasburg, Lunenburg, Marshfield, Morgan, Peacham, Stannard, Victory

Staff present- Paul Tomasi

Public Hearing for Proposed 2018 Budget opened by Joel @ 7:01 p.m.

Updates to Agenda- Steve Gray would like to revisit having the District employees invited to a meeting, or hosting a meet & greet with them. He also brought up the fact we have 2 open spaces on the Executive Board and should we think about filling them?

Pat Austin would like to add to agenda item 5 (Organics) and discuss taking action on the proposed organics ban and the District surcharge rate.

Approval of Minutes- Moved to approve minutes of October 10, 2017 with notice and correction of a grammatical error in last sentence of last paragraph. 2nd. *Motion Approved.*

Outreach to Local Legislators- Paul and Peter Keene met with Representative Chip Conquest. Paul feels it was a positive meeting; they shared the talking points Paul distributed last meeting. One request from Mr. Conquest was to see if we could come up with something expressing what the financial burden(s) would be incurred because of Act 148.

Organics Infrastructure Information/Discussion- Paul shared a draft of a study the Chittenden Solid Waste District did about composting organics. Pat Austin gave us his brief summary and some opinions about the feasibility of financing and maintaining the collection of organics in the NEK.

It appeared to be the general feeling that the collection of organics will not be viable in this area.

Paul stated he has spoken with 3 persons that may be interested in accepting food waste. Though he also stated if we were having this same discussion a yr. from now it would be time to consider action on the organics ban.

His concern on eliminating the ban on organics is there would then be no incentive for further development of the infrastructure.

*P. Austin Moved to recommend removal, of 2020 Ban on Organics, to drafted legislation. 2nd.

Right now there is proposed language to exempt haulers from requirements for collection of organics.

Discussion seemed to mirror Paul's concern(s). It was suggested if we keep our eye on the ban and act closer to the date of the ban if necessary, people will be forced to think about this issue and what to do with this material.

Yeah, Nay vote too close, a show of hands
Motion Defeated.

Financial Update- The District is currently doing well financially. There was a dramatic drop in some commodities from September to October but seemed to level out by November. Though our bottom line looks good Paul says don't spend it just yet as our Capitol Improvement Fund has not been replenished from our borrow last year.

Also, at a recent inspection Paul was informed that any transfer station(s) with full certification is required to have a "closure fund" Paul is estimating the cost of this for the Lyndonville station would be around \$21,000.

Jack asked if we are at the point where we need to budget for any new machinery. Paul says not yet, but probably soon.

Other Business- Hauler Surcharge.

* P. Austin Moved to reduce surcharge by \$1 bringing it down to \$23.25. 2nd. *Motion Defeated.*

Paul suggested we wait until our audit is completed so we can be sure of our surplus. The Board is able to adjust the surcharge at any time.

Steve Gray would like us to re-visit the idea of inviting the employees of the Lyndonville transfer station to a meeting. He and Paul seem to be getting conflicting interest from the staff, if this event does happen Paul would like to see it happen closer to spring and Daylight Savings for better visibility and more comfortable temperatures, more of an Open House feel.

The question of adding members to the EB will be added to next meeting.

Motion to adjourn @ 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Libre Drouin, Clerk