

**NORTHEAST KINGDOM WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
Tuesday, October 8, 2024 at 6:30PM via ZOOM
In-Person Location - 52 Middle St, Lyndonville, VT 05851**

The Board meeting was called to order @ 6:41 p.m. by Nicholas Rivers, Board Chair

Present: Nicholas Rivers (Albany); William Douglas (Barnet) Paulette Routhier (Bloomfield, Brunswick, Maidstone); Bruce Rumball (Brighton); Robert Sandberg (Corinth); Walter McNeil Jr. (Danville); Fran Batchelder (Derby); Kirwin Flanders (East Haven); Ken Johnston (Greensboro); Dustin Sanville (Irasburg); David Sanders (Jay); Steve Gray (Lyndon); Steve Barrup (Newport Town); Gina Vigneault (Norton), Jack Smith (Sheffield & Wheelock); Emily Cayer (Stannard); Dianna Simpson (Sutton); Anne Quirion (Troy); Richard Stodola (Waterford); and Miriam Simmonds (Westmore)

Absent: Brownington, Charleston, Cabot, Concord, Glover, Granby, Groton, Guildhall, Holland, Kirby, Lunenburg, Marshfield, Morgan, Newark, Newbury, Peacham, Ryegate, Topsham, Victory, Westfield

Staff present- Paul Tomasi, Executive Director

Visitors –Shannon Choquette, minutes clerk. Paul Hayes, press (Cal-Rec)

Updates to Agenda – none

Approval of Minutes – Motion to approve the minutes of September 10, 2024, meeting as written. Motion 2nd. Motion approved.

Truck Lease – Paul received one proposal from one vendor and has information about one other vendor that leases trucks. Paul will contact them in the coming week, then needs to get one additional proposal.

2020 Mack Truck Final Payment – Motion to pay final payment of \$13,694.33 for 2020 Mack truck, to be paid out of the capital improvement fund. Motion 2nd. Motion approved.

2025 Draft Budget – Budget was drafted with executive committee. Board has until December 15, 2024, to pass the budget and forward to member towns. District needs to hold public meetings on the draft, so ideally budget would be passed in November so that public meetings will be held shortly thereafter. If no comments are received, the draft will be sent to towns for inclusion in annual reports and town budgets by mid-December.

Current draft budget does not increase the per capita charge, and maintains it at its current rate. The per capita charge was established years ago to pay for the baler and has since been dedicated to health insurance. In a few weeks the district should know how many employees will be using the insurance benefit. Proposed hauling charges for transfer stations were increased from \$49 to \$55 and schools from \$33 to \$37. Proposed surcharge on MSW increased by \$2.75 per ton to \$29.50. This may be lowered as surcharges are paid for the remainder of 2024. The average

MSW tonnage generated in the area for which the district receives a surcharge is approximately 20,000 tons per year. The draft budget also includes funds allocated to legal fees for a search for an executive director. It was suggested this should be moved to its own line item. The draft budget includes funds for an additional employee. Another large change is leasing a truck instead of owning outright, and it is expected that there will be no expenses incurred for truck insurance reimbursements, such as there was this year. There is also no current line item for funds for truck repair because the truck lease line item includes the funds for truck repair. It was noted that this should be separated as there will be truck repairs for the owned truck. The Mack truck has not needed many repairs in recent past. A question was raised about the value of the Mack truck and if selling the owned truck and replacing it with a lease vehicle would be beneficial, as leased vehicles have no repair costs. Paul will investigate this. The Mack truck was purchased by a grant so there may be a stipulation that the truck is not sold for a certain amount of time. It was noted that a small proportion of the budget comes from commodities sold by the district, roughly 20%. Commodity values are at the mercy of the markets which makes it difficult to budget from year to year. A question was raised about additional sorting for higher commodity values, however that requires additional storage capacity.

Paul noted that there is the opportunity to lower the surcharge mid-year, any year, even once the budget is finalized. The Board has the authority to adjust the surcharge rate as it sees fit.

The Board will be including the budget discussion and vote on November's agenda. It was proposed that one of the budget's public meetings takes place during the November board meeting.

Updates-

Programs- Weekly updates – most weeks, we ask facilities to turn in a weekly pick-up list. There may be some materials that the district has limited space to store at facility. If something is left at a town's facility, it may be that there is no space in Lyndonville. Facilities should still list these items each week, even if not picked up. With e-waste, if the facility has more than one full box, District will try to remove one for additional space.

Executive Director Search – Paul reached out to VLCT and will have a further update next meeting.

Motion to adjourn, 2nd, approved @ 8:01pm.

Respectfully submitted, Shannon Choquette