

**Minutes
Board of Supervisors
September 11, 2013**

The Board of Supervisors of the Northwest Vermont Solid Waste Management District held its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday September 11th, 2013 in the Board Room at the NWSWD Offices, 158 Morse Drive, Georgia.

Board Chair Bill Rowe called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Supervisors Present:

David Clark, Fletcher
W.G. Cioffi, City of St. Albans
Bill Rowe, So. Hero
Mary Robinson, Richford
Chris Leach, Swanton

James Lintereur, Bakersfield
Al Voegele, St. Albans Town
Dave Supernault, Sheldon
Doug Medor, Alburg – via phone

Supervisors Absent:

David Jacobs, No. Hero
Paul Lambert, Georgia
Terry Anderson, Isle La Motte
Barry Kade, Montgomery

Pierre Letourneau, Enosburg
Vacant, Berkshire
Vacant, Grand Isle
Vacant, Fairfield

Others Present:

John Leddy, Executive Director
Pam Bolster, Business Manager

1) Minutes of the Board meeting of August 14, 2013. Mr. Supernault made a motion to approve the minutes as written, Mr. Clark seconded the motion. It passed without opposition.

2) Old Business

a) Executive Director's Report.

Mr. Leddy explained that he had been invited to another Highgate Select board meeting on September 5, 2013 and attended along with Mr. Rowe. He stated that they had some new select board members and that Buzz Surillo from the State Solid Waste Dept. was in attendance along with Dave Allen from Casella's. He said that they had some good questions, some involving Act 148, its implementation and what it would mean for them. Mr. Leddy stressed to them the planning requirements of Act 148 which being a member of the District would relieve them of having to meet those requirements. They had two requests that they asked be presented to the board. 1. Based on their statement that they have hosted the Highgate Transfer Station since its inception, they felt that they would like us to waive or give

them a reduction of their buy-in costs to the District. Mr. Rowe felt that they were looking for a waiver which is approximately 9K. A conversation ensued with some opinions being that this should not be a consideration for them buying into "The District" infrastructure.

2. A benefit that Highgate sees in joining The District is resident access to our hazardous waste facility. They asked to begin a dialog of whether we would be able to site a permanent facility at the highgate transfer station. Mr. Leddy felt that this would be a good discussion but feels like we can meet their needs in other ways, either rolling collections there or by helping to organize the collection of certain materials not subject to Recra requirements.

Instructions on a response and a possible vote for this will be brought up under new business.

Mr. Leddy continued with state e-waste news which has been operating for the last 2 years. He stated that the contractor for the last two years, in July had been tentatively granted the state contract for the next program year beginning Oct. 1, and were in negotiations with the contractor. On August 20th we were informed that the state had suspended negotiations with the contractor and moved on to the second contractor's bid proposal which is Casella's, awarding the contract to them. Mr. Leddy said that today an email from Casella's was received notifying everyone that they were the new state contractor. To make it more interesting Good Point, the old contractor, submitted a state opt out plan which is allowed under the law. They have the backing of some large manufacturers. The plan has not been approved but if it is, The District could continue to utilize that plan. Mr. Leddy stated he saw advantages for staying with Good Point but he has not seen enough detail from Casella's at this point. He did state that Casella's pricing structure shows that non-covered electronics would not be subject to disposal fees. We currently pay .15 cents per pound on all non-covered product. A discussion regarding the electronics program ensued. Mr. Voegele asked if The District made any money off of this endeavor. Mr. Leddy stated that it was probably a break even situation but a much better situation financially than before this program existed. He stated that he would forward the contracts to the board once received. Mr. Voegele asked if the state made any money off of this. Mr. Leddy said that they receive an administrative fee. In terms of what is provided to us or toward this program from the state, Mr. Leddy said that they produce education materials, signage, handle the record keeping etc.

b) Finance Report.

Ms. Bolster stated that July surcharge billing which was the first month that included St. Albans town has been processed and though she could not state how much of an increase in tonnage it was, did state that it was quite substantial. In terms of the overall picture, it is still early in the year but we are as we expect to be at this point of our fiscal year. She reviewed the outstanding AR with emphasis on

the two accounts with continuing problems. Mr. Rowe asked if the outstanding Myers invoice was an issue. Ms. Bolster said that this was a lost check situation, that she had been in contact with Myers about it and it is being researched. She noted that Myers in May starting tipping a portion of their tonnage at Casella's in Highgate. The District was not made aware of this from either Myers or Casella's. It came to Ms. Bolster's attention through an error by Casella's when they sent a weight ticket from Myers to The District in error. In speaking with Casella's Ms. Bolster found that Myers is tipping under Advanced Disposal's account. Advanced Disposal is the recent purchaser of Moretown Landfill, and has an agreement with Myers to dispose trash at Casella's Highgate Facility under Advanced Disposals Account. Upon the realization of the situation by Casella's that they had paid the Myers surcharge in error, they informed the district that they would withhold the amount they paid in error from their District July Invoice. Ms. Bolster stated that in speaking with Advanced Disposal that the agreement they have with Myers is that Myers is responsible for the surcharge on the tonnage disposed of; Advanced Disposal is paying the Casella's tipping charges. As Ms. Bolster had concerns about this situation she will be requesting that Myers sign a letter of understanding that they are responsible for this surcharge even though this tonnage occurs under the Advanced Disposal Account. She noted that the Casella's audit continues and the data collection should wrap up in February and then she will start analyzing the data.

Mr. Rowe questioned the status of Fletcher's P&L which shows a negative net profit and seems to have high personnel costs for the period reported. Mr. Clark and Mr. Lintereur pointed out that that particular period might have had one additional collection for Fletcher. Ms. Bolster said she would look into it.

- c) **Vote:** Shall the Board Accept the FY14 Revised Budget as approved on August 14, 2013?

Mr. Rowe called for a motion. Mr. Lintereur moved to accept the revised FY14 Budget as approved on August 14, 2013. Mr. Supernault seconded the motion. Mr. Rowe asked if there were any discussion and noted that no members of the public attended the public hearing. All were in favor and the motion passed.

- d) Discussion and **Vote:** Shall the Board waive any increase in spousal and family coverage contributions made by District Employees for the first year of the new health care policy?

Mr. Leddy gave a brief recap of the healthcare changes and noted that due to the increase in premium staffs that are covered under the new plan will have a greater contribution by the employee for their spousal/family coverage. Staff with the exception of Mr. Leddy, pay 10% of the premium for 2 person or family coverage, the District pays 90% of this coverage and 100% of the employee's coverage. The

Board made a suggestion that we consider waiving the additional premium from staff for the first year of this new plan. The increases range depending on coverage from \$379.00 for 2 person coverage to \$466.00 for family coverage. The District does not have anyone covered under the single plan. Ms. Bolster wanted to note that at this time there are still some snags that could affect pricing of this plan as well as the date that this will go live. A discussion ensued. As there could be some changes a motion was made by Mr. Cioffi to table this discussion and vote until the next meeting. Mr. Clark seconded the motion and it passed without opposition.

3) New Business.

- a) Discussion and **Vote:** Highgate Requests that if they join The District we give Consideration to the following two points: 1. That The District Waive the buy-in costs to The District; and 2. That The District consider a permanent hazardous waste facility at the Highgate Transfer Station. A discussion ensued with the results being that we indicate what our typical entrance requirements are and that the board is not interested in deviating from this policy. As well to address the hazardous waste request by stating that while we are not entertaining a permanent facility in Highgate we will look at providing more convenient hazardous waste services for people in that area as well as people in the islands. Mr. Voegele wanted to note that it should be mentioned in this letter that this has been discussed with the board and this is the board's consensus. Mr. Clark made a motion that Mr. Leddy write a letter expressing the will of the board as discussed at this meeting. Mr. Lintereur seconded this motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

4) Other Business.

- a) Schedule Committee Meetings for the coming month: None.
- b) Board Retreat Discussion: Ms. Bolster asked the board to review their schedules in the attempt to come up with a date for a board retreat to take place on a Saturday in either September or October. A decision was made to handle this via email. Mr. Clark suggested that we designate an hour during this retreat to our regular monthly board meeting. Ms. Bolster asked for suggestions for a location for the retreat. Suggestions given included, Peoples Trust, Northwest Hospital and La Quinta Inn and Suites in St. Albans.

5) Public Comment. None.

6) Adjourn. 8:15 PM