

Minutes

NWSWD Board of Supervisors Meeting and Organizational Meeting of the Board.

August 12, 2020

The Board of Supervisors of the Northwest Vermont Solid Waste Management District held their regularly scheduled board meeting and its Annual Organizational Meeting on August 12, 2020 via zoom at 6:30 PM.

Chairman Al Voegele called the meeting to order at 6:38 PM.

Supervisors Present:

Danielle Choiniere - Alburgh
David Clark, - Fletcher
Doremus, Mark - Bakersfield
Fegard, Charen - Berkshire
Green, Tim - Richford
Kade, Barry – Montgomery
Kemsley, Mike - Grand Isle

Lambert, Paul – Georgia
Micheli, Carlo - Swanton
Leitz, Tom - St. Albans City
Richards, Jim - No. Hero
St. Francis, April - Highgate
Studebaker, Hugh - Franklin
Tibbits, Jaime - Fairfield
Voegele, Al - St. Albans Town

Supervisors Absent:

Buermann, Bob – So. Hero
Jennifer Bright, Enosburg
Kittel, Jeffrey - Sheldon

Guests:

Others Present:

John Leddy, Executive Director
Pam Bolster, Business Manager

Full Board Meeting

1) Agenda Review-Additions/Deletions: Mr. Kade asked for a discussion about the districts posting policies and for a discussion about the Montgomery site. To be added at the end of the agenda.

2) Vote: Minutes of the June 3, 2020 NWSWD Board Meeting:

Mr. Voegele requested a motion to accept the minutes of June 3, 2020 as presented. Mr. Clark made the motion to accept the minutes as written. Mr. Kade seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed. Abstentions from Mr. Ms. St. Francis, Ms. Fegard, and Mr. Kemsley who were not present at that meeting.

3) Public Comment: None

4) Old Business:

a) Directors Report:

Mr. Leddy noted the HHW collections began again in June. Participation has been average. Customer counts have been up at the Georgia facility as well as customers using other services have increased. It has tapered off slightly in August. He said that there has been positive movement on the redesign of the Georgia facility. The grant was signed in March. He noted the States Grant Funding Plan for Municipal Organizations and carved out pool money for solid waste districts. The St. Albans Site has re-opened effective August 1st, and notifications have been made.

Improvements have been made to the Bakersfield site to change the traffic pattern to allow more users on the site. Montgomery will be discussed under its own agenda item. In composting news, starting July 1st the food scrap ban went into effect. Signups and questions have greatly increased since the second week of June. We picked up 95 customers in three weeks. He requested that at the next meeting he would like the board to seriously discuss the future of our compost route. Where does the board wish to go with this. He noted we are at a point where we will need to make the decision to either expand and invest in personnel, trucks, equipment, efficient collection systems etc. or decide to pass this to the private sector. Some discussion regarding expansion including our current operations and appropriate composting disposal occurred. Mr. Leddy noted that the review of our personnel policies with comments has been completed by Paul, Frank and Collins and the Board directed the administration committee to begin review for presentation to the full board. Mr. Leddy will organize the meeting and send a doodle poll to members for date selection.

b) Finance Report:

Ms. Bolster spoke to the board of the added difficulties to finance and administration in dealing with the new level of composting services invoicing. She discussed briefly, possible options to be considered. Discussion ensued with the board giving some ideas as well. She informed the board of the new ability for District residents to pay their invoiced services bill on-line which has been up and running since May and also of the ability to now offer credit card acceptance at the Georgia drop off site though that has not been put into effect to date. A discussion of the fees to the District associated with these new services occurred. She noted that Delta Dental gave a month's free premiums as corona assistance to their business policy holders. It was applied in July. She noted to the board the progress on the FEMA and State Assistance corona related public assistance applications and current information. She reviewed the June 30, 2020 P&L in brief as not all figures were in but noted the estimation of major entries like PTO accrual of appx. 30k. She reviewed some line items both on the income and expense side such as Trash and Surcharge Income which increased over last year and on the expense side Gross Wage which came in over budget and Disposal Expense. She noted AR areas of concern and discussed a large check returned for NSF from one of the District Haulers, noting that it had been taken care of and the hauler had called to warn ahead of time of the situation. She noted the large compost account increase from Myers. She clarified that there is no surcharge charged on compost collection that our revenue comes from the contracted fees we've negotiated. And lastly noted that the surcharge increase occurs on July 1st and goes from \$23.00 a ton to \$24.00 a ton.

6) Other Business:

a) Montgomery Site Discussion:

Mr. Kade discussed a complaint from a customer who utilizes the Montgomery site that had been previously discussed with Mr. Leddy. The customer was concerned about traffic flow and site operation of how many people can be allowed on the site at one time due to Covid response procedures. Discussions had occurred between the customer, Mr. Kade and the Montgomery Select Board. It had been discussed with Mr. Leddy and Mr. Kade requested information about the implementation of those proposed changes. Mr. Leddy noted that staff had been given instructions regarding the mandatory requirement of mask usage, the provision of masks if necessary to site customers, and the allowance of three rather than two customers on the site at one time. He noted the concerns about our front-line staff enforcement with these difficult situations. Ms. Fegard noted that in a situation where the customer refuses to where a mask or can't wear a mask for health reasons, just the discussion about it in particular in a heated situation puts our employee at risk and suggested a hand out sheet to each customer about proposed solutions – ie: clearing the site so they can still use the site though it was suggested to note how it will affect others using the site – the time of their neighbors. Discussions about ways to ease the wait time and traffic flow ensued including opening on another day if the site is closed on a Saturday due to a holiday as the closure on July 4th this year created an issue.

b) Posting of Board Meeting Information:

Mr. Kade stated that he believes that any documentation provided in a board meeting should also be posted for the public. Discussions occurred as this is not something the District has done in the past. Mr. Leddy stated that he did a little research on-line and a smattering of municipalities do post everything. The decision was to start posting all reports and Mr. Leddy stated that District staff would coordinate to ensure we could post everything on time.

c) Mr. Richards asked for an update on the research Mr. Leddy has done in relation to

d) Mr. Greene discussed the possibility and potential of placing a site in Richford stating he had conversations with the Select Board and they were for this. Mr. Leddy had spoken with the assistant town clerk who was going to get back to him. This topic is on going.

Board Adjourned 8:20PM