

# Southern Windsor/Windham Counties Solid Waste Management District



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Board of Supervisors  
Annual District Meeting  
Thursday, April 23, 2015  
Springfield Select Board Hall, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Springfield, Vermont

## MINUTES

At 6:05 p.m., Joe Fromberger, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order. The roll was called and the following supervisors were present: Joe Fromberger, Andover; Wayne Wheelock, Baltimore; Richard Svec, Cavendish; Derek Suursoo, Chester; Cynthia Gibbs, Grafton; Frank Heald, Ludlow; Jim Peplau, Reading; Gary DeRosia, Rockingham; Chip Stearns, alternate, Rockingham; Forrest Randall, Springfield; Jim Mullen, Weathersfield; and Tom Kenyon, West Windsor. A quorum was established with eleven of thirteen towns represented.

Also present: Bob Forguites, District Treasurer; Tom Kennedy, District Manager; Mary T. O'Brien, District Clerk; Ham Gillett, District Outreach Coordinator; Matt Priestly, ALVA Waste; Joe Ruggiero and his brother of Ruggiero Trash Removal.

### 1. Discussion with Vermont Agency of Natural Resources Secretary, Deb Markowitz, on Solid Waste Issues

T. Kennedy introduced D. Markowitz and her staff member, Josh Kelly. D. Markowitz noted that she's already visited most of the solid waste districts in Vermont. Each of them focuses on something different. She wants to understand the unique challenges and opportunities districts face with Act 148 Universal Recycling. Discussion ensued. C. Gibbs asked why the State of Vermont doesn't open a recycling plant – they're needed and would provide jobs. J. Peplau described his pet peeve that there is no incinerator. He would also like to see a state-of-the-art nuclear facility at the Vermont Yankee nuclear site. J. Mullen suggested that other towns be allowed to use the "balkanized transfer stations." He cited the fact that Weathersfield now says that anyone can use its transfer station but if they are not residents of Weathersfield or West Windsor, they have to pay double. J. Mullen also suggested that the hours and days of operation of the transfer stations in the District be coordinated so that between them, some place is open every day of the week.

H. Gillett noted that there is no composting facility in the District currently. M. Priestly said that this region of the state does not have a recycling facility. He's hauling recycling and hour and a half away. D. Markowitz said that the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) does recognize that some parts of the state need infrastructure. She said that ANR is going to be rolling out a marketing plan for Act 148 soon. Carl Mitchell will be auditing haulers for compliance with variable rate pricing. D. Markowitz said that implementation and education are the first priorities, putting systems in place for convenient service, only then will enforcement be emphasized. This is a big systems change.

T. Kenyon asked about West Windsor and how they're going to do organics. H. Gillett noted that Master Composters are required to do a certain number of volunteer hours; perhaps the District could ask them to help educate the public about composting. D. Markowitz stated that there is a regional and a national

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conversation about packaging and extended producer responsibility (EPR). T. Kennedy thanked D. Markowitz and J. Kelly for meeting with the Board.

2. At 7:00 p.m., J. Fromberger opened the public hearing on the FY16 work plan and budget and asked for public comments. None were proffered. At 7:01 p.m., J. Fromberger closed the public hearing.
3. At 7:01 p.m., J. Fromberger opened the public hearing on the variable rate pricing ordinance. T. Kennedy explained the ordinance. Once the District adopts it, there is a sixty-day period during which the towns can comment on it before the ordinance goes into effect. R. Svec asked if there had been any public outreach. T. Kennedy replied that the hearing had been warned in the newspaper. At 7:04 p.m., J. Fromberger closed the public hearing.
4. Roll Call – conducted at beginning of meeting.
5. D. Suursoo made a motion to accept the minutes of the January 22, 2015 District meeting as presented. J. Peplau seconded the motion. No comments. All voted in favor. The minutes were approved.
6. Acceptance of Treasurer's Report – B. Forguites noted that everyone had received copies of the financials through March 2015. We're currently 75% through the fiscal year and the District's income is at 74.4% of the budgeted amount and expenses are at 67.1%. We'd budgeted to be about \$14,000 short but the way that we're running, we'll probably even out at the end of the fiscal year, without having to dip into District funds to balance. J. Peplau made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. R. Svec seconded the motion. All voted in favor. T. Kennedy noted that the tonnage report for July 2013 through March of 2014 was 17,786 tons vs. 17,000 tons for that same period a year later.
7. Election of Officers and Executive Committee Representatives  
  
J. Fromberger asked B. Forguites to moderate the meeting for the election process. J. Peplau nominated Forrest Randall as Chair. J. Peplau make a motion to close the nominations. D. Suursoo seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the nomination. R. Svec nominated Joe Fromberger as Vice-Chair. There were no other nominations. J. Peplau moved to close the nominations. G. DeRosia seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the nomination. J. Fromberger began moderating the election process. W. Wheelock nominated Gary DeRosia, Derek Suursoo, and Frank Heald as the three representatives to the Executive Committee. There were no other nominations. D. Suursoo made a motion to close the nominations. J. Peplau seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the nomination.  
  
J. Peplau made a motion to appoint Mary O'Brien as District Clerk. R. Svec seconded the motion. All voted in favor. J. Peplau made a motion to appoint Bob Forguites as District Treasurer. R. Svec seconded the motion. All voted in favor.
8. Discussion and Adoption of Variable Rate Pricing Ordinance – T. Kennedy noted that the supervisors had received the draft ordinance at their January meeting. The Executive Committee has worked on it for a couple of months. Haulers will have to certify to the District that they do have a variable rate pricing structure for their customers. Carl Mitchell will check for compliance. T. Kenyon made a motion to adopt the variable rate pricing ordinance as proposed as a District ordinance. F. Randall seconded the motion. All voted in favor.
9. Discussion and Adoption of FY16 Budget and Work Program – T. Kenyon made a motion to adopt the FY16 Budget of \$210,738.00 as presented. J. Peplau seconded the motion. B. Forguites noted that he and T.

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Kennedy had worked on the FY16 Budget and had discussed it with the Executive Committee. He described various aspects of the proposed budget; \$13,888.00 is the figure that will balance income with expenses. Thirty-five thousand dollars is budgeted for household hazardous waste collections. The Executive Committee recommended the adoption of the FY16 Budget as proposed. All voted in favor.

R. Svec made a motion to adopt the FY16 Work Program. J. Peplau seconded the motion. T. Kennedy noted that he'll be meeting with all of the town managers that have a transfer station to discuss the collection of recyclables. He reviewed various aspects of the Work Program. All voted in favor.

10. Discussion and Approval of Solid Waste Contract with Casella Beginning July 1, 2015 F. Randall made a motion to approve a two-year contract with two one-year extensions with Casella beginning July 1, 2015. D. Suursoo seconded the motion. T. Kennedy noted that even after outreach, only Casella bid on providing solid waste services. The proposal includes a 10% increase for municipal solid waste (MSW). T. Kennedy has a list of the pull charges for each transfer station. They vary depending upon whether the material is being trucked to White River Junction, Newport, or Rutland. J. Peplau asked about if they'd thought about a one-year contract. J. Ruggiero said that he'd have bid on the request-for-proposals if it had been broken down by transfer station, rather than presented as a whole package of five transfer stations. F. Heald abstained, R. Svec voted against, all others voted in favor. The motion passed.

11. Old Business: None

12. New Business

1) Feasibility of public/private partnership for establishment of solid waste facilities

T. Kennedy noted that at their last meeting, the Executive Committee had discussed a public/private partnership to address the lack of infrastructure in the District. F. Randall stated that the District is sitting on a pot of money that could be put to work. D. Suursoo noted that this is a major change in philosophy for the Executive Committee.

13. At 8:07 p.m., F. Randall made a motion to adjourn the meeting. R. Svec seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary T. O'Brien  
District Clerk

The next quarterly District meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, July 23, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.**, same location.