

Southern Windsor/Windham Counties Solid Waste Management District



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Board of Supervisors Quarterly Meeting, February 8, 2024, 1:00 p.m. (Held remotely via Zoom.)

Meeting Minutes

At 1:06 p.m., Jeff Mobus, Chair, called the meeting to order.

1. Additions to the Agenda

Tom Kennedy stated that he would like to change the date of the annual meeting in April. J. Mobus suggested that the topic could be discussed under “New Business.” Derek Suursoo made a motion to set the agenda. Bruce McEneny seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

2. Roll Call

Supervisors present via Zoom: Joe Fromberger, (Andover); Bruce McEneny, (Cavendish); Derek Suursoo, (Chester); Scott Pickup (Rockingham); Jeff Mobus (Springfield); and Brandon Gulnick, (Weathersfield and proxy for Reading). Also present via Zoom: Tom Kennedy, District Manager; Mary T. O’Brien, District recycling coordinator; and Kelly Murphy, District treasurer. A quorum was established.

3. Approve Minutes of November 2, 2023

D. Suursoo made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 2, 2023 meeting. B. Gulnick seconded the motion. D. Suursoo noted that Item 4, “Thesh position...” should be corrected to read “The cash position...” J. Fromberger abstained. All others voted in favor. The motion carried.

4. Receive December 2023 Financial Report

T. Kennedy noted highlights of the Financial Report. A new auditing firm still hasn’t delivered the District’s audit. D. Suursoo asked whether the glass collection revenue would level out. T. Kennedy replied that at a previous meeting, the Board voted to not charge participating towns the full cost of glass drop-offs. D. Suursoo asked about the flood removal expense of \$1,300.00. T. Kennedy explained that it was incurred for the July 2023 flood debris from Cavendish which was left roadside. Since it could not be determined who was responsible for the cost of removal, the District decided to pay it. The interest rate for the Certificate of Deposit is 5%.

D. Suursoo made a motion to receive the December 2023 Financial Report. B. McEneny seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

5. HHW Permanent Facility

a. Financials related to the facility

T. Kennedy described the costs over the past year for the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Depot.

b. Changes to the operations

The District will send out a request for proposals (RFP) to contractors to collect and dispose of the HHW brought into the Depot by residents and small businesses. The District will also post an appointment calendar on www.vtsolidwastedistrict.org for signups.

6. Update on Glass Program

a. SMI Organizational Restructuring

T. Kennedy noted that SMI (Strategic Materials, Inc.) had filed for bankruptcy but that the glass recycler was still collecting the District's glass as before.

b. Moving the glass collection to Alva Waste's Facility in February/March 2024

T. Kennedy stated that the permit process for establishing a glass collection site at Alva's transfer station was slow-going. D. Suursoo asked if the District was subsidizing the glass collection program. T. Kennedy said that it was. J. Fromberger said that the District was providing a service to member towns to encourage them to divert and recycle glass. The District does not charge a per ton fee for glass. The current mixed recycling cost is \$100/ton. J. Fromberger encouraged the District to continue to offer glass recycling for free.

D. Suursoo asked if an increase of one dollar to the tipping fee would cover the deficit in the HHW Depot budget and the cost of the glass program. T. Kennedy said that the increase would result in between \$20,000 and \$22,000, which would not cover both deficits.

7. Waste and Recycling Services for Transfer Stations

a. Discussion of Waste Contract and Recommendation from the Executive Committee

T. Kennedy stated that the District is in the second year of its contracts with Casella and Alva Waste. If the District is silent, then after April 15, the contracts will go into a third year. The District will go out to bid in 2025. J. Fromberger made a motion to exercise the one-year option for the hauling contracts. D. Suursoo seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

8. Old Business – none

9. New Business

T. Kennedy stated that neither he nor M. O'Brien could attend the annual meeting on April 25. So, the meeting date was changed to Tuesday, April 23, 2024.

At 1:50 p.m., J. Fromberger made a motion to adjourn the meeting. D. Suursoo seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary T. O'Brien
District Clerk