

Southern Windsor/Windham Counties Solid Waste Management District



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Board of Supervisors Annual District Meeting Thursday, January 25, 2018 Springfield Select Board Hall, 3rd Floor, Springfield, Vermont

Meeting Minutes

Forrest Randall, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

1. Changes to the agenda - none

2. Roll Call

Board supervisors present included: Forrest Randall, Springfield; Derek Suursoo, Chester; Cynthia Gibbs, Grafton; Wayne Wheelock, Baltimore; Frank Heald, Ludlow; John Denner, (alternate) Ludlow; Bruce McEnaney, Cavendish; Joe Fromberger, Andover; and Gary DeRosia, Rockingham.

Others present included: Tom Kennedy, District Manager; Bob Forguites, District Treasurer; Mary T. O'Brien, Recycling Coordinator; Matt Priestly, ALVA Waste; and Jim Toher, Casella Waste.

A quorum was achieved with eight towns represented.

3. Approve minutes of October 26, 2017 meeting

G. DeRosia made a motion to accept the minutes of the October 26, 2017 meeting. D. Suursoo seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

4. Acceptance of Treasurer's Report

Bob Forguites said the budget was running about where it should be – nothing outstanding as a problem. Payments were made to towns so everything now on the balance sheet belongs to the District. J. Fromberger asked if the account had been closed to which B. Forguites replied

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that the sweep account had not yet been set up. D. Suursoo made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. B. McEnaney seconded. No discussion. All voted in favor.

a) Discussion and acceptance of the FY17 audit

B. Forguites directed the Supervisors to look at the three-page stapled report in the audit. There were no material adjustments or disagreements with management, therefore, it was a clean audit. B. McEnaney made a motion to receive the audit. D. Suursoo seconded the motion. No discussion. All voted in favor.

5. Discussion of increasing the tipping fee surcharge to \$9.00/ton effective July 1, 2018

T. Kennedy spoke about the Executive Committee's concern with cash flow. Tonnage has been flat or decreasing. Any increase has usually been from knocking down buildings. With the payments to towns, the District won't receive ~\$7,000.00 in interest annually. The meeting's agenda was e-mailed out to all the haulers so that they would know about the proposed increase in the tipping fee from \$7 to \$9/ton. J. Fromberger made a motion to have the Board adopt the Executive Committee's recommendation to increase the tipping fee surcharge to \$9.00 per ton effective July 1, 2018. B. McEnaney seconded the motion.

M. Priestly noted that the last fee increase was about four years ago when the fee went from \$5 to \$7/ton. T. Kennedy explained that the State is trying to get away from having trash fees included with the taxes. The State wants trash disposal costs to be more transparent to encourage residents to generate less trash. M. Priestly recommended increasing the fee by \$1 and to revisit the issue next year. G. DeRosia stated that the Executive Committee had discussed that possibility but didn't want to have to come back every year to the haulers. B. Forguites said that any excess would go into the Fund Balance and be used as needed to extend the period until the Board needed to ask the haulers for a higher fee.

M. Priestly wanted the fee increase to be set aside in a separate account and used to offset expenses. B. Forguites said that if it was set aside then it would be in reserve and the District would be back to where the District has been. It's a good practice to have ninety days' cash for operations. Expenses are about \$25,000 per month. F. Heald said that the District's budget operates in the negative. Actual cash is in the Fund Balance. The District needs to have a positive cash flow to operate properly. F. Heald stated that \$2 is a nominal increase. J. Fromberger noted that the fact that it took four years to propose an increase shows prudence on the part of those who develop the budget.

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J. Toher speculated about whether or not the District is capturing all the revenue that needs to be captured. Are all the haulers who are collecting in the District actually paying the District surcharge fee? T. Kennedy said that the trouble is often “pickup truck haulers” who aren’t registered. Technically, an EPA demolition permit is needed when a building is taken down. Some towns do require a demolition permit. A public hearing will be held if the Board approves the motion. If no amendment is offered at the public hearing, then the increase will become effective July 1, 2018. There is a notice period of sixty days so that the haulers know about the increase.

A vote was taken: J. Fromberger, B. McEnaney, C. Gibbs, F. Heald, G. DeRosia, and F. Randall voted “Yes.” W. Wheelock and D. Suursoo abstained. The motion passed with 21 votes; 20 votes were needed for it to pass. Therefore, the motion passed.

6. Discussion of solid waste issues in the 2018 legislature:

- H.560 – Funding for household hazardous waste disposal
- S.285 – Proposed changes to Vermont’s waste management laws
- S.287 – Proposed additional changes to the Act 148 Universal Recycling Law

T. Kennedy stated that H.560 could take five to ten years to pass and become law. It certainly won’t happen this year. Manufacturers will fight its passage. S.285 and S.287 have been combined. T. Kennedy explained the proposed changes to solid waste laws, including to Act 148 Universal Recycling.

7. Old Business – None

8. New Business – None

9. Adjourn

At 7:03 p.m., J. Fromberger made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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Respectfully submitted,

Mary T. O'Brien
District Clerk

The next quarterly District meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 26, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.
at the same location.