

Minutes  
Board of Supervisors  
March 7, 2012

The Board of Supervisors of the Northwest Vermont Solid Waste District held its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, March 7, 2011 at the District Office, 158 Morse Drive in Georgia, VT.

**Supervisors Present**

Bill Rowe, South Hero – Chair  
Jim Lintereur, Bakersfield  
Barry Kade, Montgomery  
Dave Clark, Fletcher

Joyce Tuck, Isle la Motte  
Bill Cioffi, St. Albans City  
Paul Lambert, Georgia – via conference phone

**Supervisors Absent**

Chris Leach, Swanton  
Dave Supernault, Sheldon  
Gary Lockerby, Alburgh  
Pierre Letourneau, Enosburg  
Dave Jacobs, North Hero

Richford - Vacant  
Berkshire – Vacant  
Fairfield - Vacant  
Grand Isle - Vacant

**Others Present**

John Leddy, Executive Director

Pam Bolster, Business Manager

**Speakers**

Randy Clark, Clark's Truck Center – Jericho  
Jason Hibbard, Milton Caterpillar - Milton

**7:00 PM – Board Meeting**

The Board Chair Bill Rowe called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.

1. **VOTE: Mr. Rowe called for a motion to approve the Minutes of the NWSWD Board meeting of February 1, 2012. Mr. Kade motioned to approve the February 1, 2012 meeting minutes as written. Mr. Lintereur seconded the motion. Mr. Rowe asked for comments. There were none. All were in favor of approving the minutes as written. Mr. Cioffi abstained as he was not in attendance.**
2. Old Business. The board elected to move directly to new business to accommodate the guest speakers on tonight's agenda. The group will return to old business once the presentations are complete.
3. New Business.
  - a. New Truck Purchase Vendor Presentation & Board Discussion: Mr. Leddy introduced the guest speakers and directed the board to the handout that he had prepared for comparison purposes, of the trucks being considered. The fact that the operations/finance committee had previously met regarding this purchase was stated and that the committee had chosen by vote, three top choices from the five being considered. Top choices were in order of preference of the committee member vote, Caterpillar, International, then Freightliner.

Randy Clark with Clark's Trucking Center began his representation of the International Truck that is being considered by NWSWD. He gave the company history citing 85 years in business which was started by his grandfather. He noted that this truck is very similar to common roll offs. He reviewed warrantee information stating that the transmission warrantee ends at 5 years as well as the towing. He stated that their company is very

heavily municipally orientated, gave some recommendations of haulers who use this truck and as well confirmed for the board that the prices listed on the handout include the hoist. A brief discussion of cable hoist vs. hook hoist ensued. Mr. Kade questioned the definition of "engine" in relation to the warrantee. Mr. Clark said that censors, wire harnesses, compresses etc. are covered under the definition of "engine". It is a 475 horse power engine. The truck has an Allyson transmission and some discussion ensued regarding the fact that for some transmission repairs Clark's does need to call in an Allyson technician.

Jason Hibbard with Milton Caterpillar then took the floor. He explained that Caterpillar is relatively new to the truck business, within the last six years. He stated that this was a joint venture with Navistar. Concerns of the newness of this truck drove the discussion. He said that Cat is running their own transmission which is a smaller version of the transmission run in their 25-30 ton haul trucks. It is an automatic transmission tried and true with excellent history. He stated that it will haul up to 100 thousand lbs. It has a 475 horse engine which was designed by Cat and Navistar. The body, he stated has been redesigned with 5 pc hood and a three piece grill for cost effective repairs. Inside the cab the redesigns encompass gauge placement, improved dash layout and storage. The rest of the truck is pretty standard to other trucks.

Mr. Rowe asked each guest to state why NWSWD should buy their truck.

Mr. Hibbard of Cat stated that though new, Cat stands by their product and will throughout the ownership of the truck. He dwelled on the strong customer service of Milton Cat and said "You are not just buying a truck but buying a relationship!"

Mr. Clark stated the strong history of their sales of International Trucks, their excellent customer service, and the strong technicians on staff for repairs. He gave examples of municipalities that are running this same truck and stated that Fairfield is purchasing their second of this type and that St. Albans just bought this truck.

A thank you was made to each guest, who departed, and the discussion continued.

The board asked Shane Morris, the NWSWD driver, to give his opinion. Mr. Morris stated the great visibility of the Caterpillar truck which by consensus is the first choice. He was impressed with the 5 pc. Hood, wider steps, the inside switchers being all within arm's reach. He was additionally impressed with the gauge placement and noted that the International gauge placement is difficult for the driver as you cannot see all gauges. He stated that the Cat is much more driver friendly. Additional attributes to the Cat include, low cab noise, transmission has canister filter for ease of fluid changes and all hoses and wiring is color coded for ease of tracing problems. He was as well impressed with the tighter turn radius of the Cat. Mr. Rowe asked Mr. Morris what his second choice would be. Mr. Morris responded that though International and Freightliner were close it would be the International. Ms. Tuck asked him to relate his conversations with other owners of the Cat truck. Mr. Morris said he spoke with the previous owner of Harvest Equipment who purchased one of the first Cat's in this area. He stated that he had had a few minor issues with the truck but had no loss of work due to these issues and that Cat service was quick and efficient in diagnosing and repairing the problems. Mr. Morris also spoke with Jeff Tatro who was very happy with the truck and said it is like riding in your car. He as well attested to the excellent service of Milton Cat.

A discussion of engine sizes and the importance of such as well as a further discussion of the warranty ensued with some discussion of financing as well. In conclusion the board asked us to look into the platinum warranty with Cat and to follow their guideline of not financing for longer than the extended warrantee.

- b. **New Truck Purchase Vote.** Mr. Rowe called for a motion to approve the purchase of a new Truck. Mr. Kade motioned to allow the District to purchase the Caterpillar truck with a total sales price not to exceed 140K including the warranty decided upon. Mr. Lintereur seconded the motion. Mr. Rowe asked for a show of hands. All were in favor (Mr. Lambert via phone noted his approval vote) and the motion was passed.

## 2. Old Business Resumed.

- a. Director's Report. Mr. Leddy began by saying that on March 24<sup>th</sup> we will be opening our Georgia Drop Off Site. He said as well that it is possible down the line, depending on usage; we may open Wednesday evenings from 3-7PM.

Mr. Leddy said that on March 9, 2012 there will be a composting event at BFA, a celebration of the compost program, hosted by High fields. Ben & Jerry's will be there scooping ice cream and they will show "Dirt" The Movie, as well as other compost education events.

He noted for the board that the Bakersfield Drop Off Site now has a cash register and our attendant at the site (Dave Flanders) was given some training and ran the register at the site. Mr. Lintereur said that he visited the site that day and suggested that cones be put up to help direct traffic.

Mr. Leddy stated that he had heard from the Richford Representative Jim Tomlinson who said he has had to resign his appointment on the NWSWD Board due to other obligations. The board, after a brief discussion, asked Mr. Leddy to obtain a formal letter of resignation and as well to send a letter to the town of Richford asking them to appoint a new representative. They as well would like us to plan a function thanking Mr. Tomlinson for his years of service.

Mr. Rowe asked about the new battery recycling program and whether it is for any kind of batteries. Mr. Leddy said that yes and all are free with the exception of a small charge for Alkaline Batteries. It was asked if we were recycling Alkaline batteries just to recapture material as they are stated safe for the landfill. Mr. Leddy responded yes.

- b. Finance Report. Ms. Bolster directed the Board's attention to the Profit and Loss statement, specifically to the miscellaneous income line, explaining that the 5K shown there is due to an invoice created to accept payments from the Corcoran Chapter 11 Bankruptcy Reorganization. This happened a few years ago. Corcoran's had brokered some commodities for The District and was not able to pay. Ms. Bolster stated that there had been no invoices created by The District in relation to this and the information about how much they owed had to be pieced together, however she was able to come up with this 5K figure and has sent a letter to the Corcoran's asking for verification of what was settled on for payment through this restructuring. A check from the Corcoran attorney for \$111.00 is what prompted this research. Ms. Bolster stated that the P&L looks good, all is on target. Ms. Bolster states that receipts for the month look good. Our two problem accounts have made some headway on their past due amounts. Payments for the month noted included a payment for the installation of ventilation in the warehouse to reduce dust and add fresh air as well as adding a fresh air intake for the offices. Ms. Bolster asked the board to note that she has created a detailed P&L for each Drop Off site to enable all to see exactly what the income and expenses are for each. It includes the tipping though does not include driving time or truck costs. The board reviewed each and determined that even if we were to take out those expenses, it appears the sites are turning a profit. Ms. Bolster clarified that all sites are with the exception of Bakersfield and Fletcher. She noted that she would still continue to do quarterly comparisons to previous years in regards to the Drop Off Sites.

4. Other Business.

- a. Committee Reports. Information has already been given to the board on the Operations Committee Meeting that met to discuss the purchase of the new truck. The Administration Committee's last meeting was in November. Ms. Bolster reminded the committee that they had finished reviewing the Charter and had begun working on updating the ordinances for illegal dumping and burning. She reminded the board that they met with Mr. Domina, The District Enforcement Officer, to hear his opinion as to what should be done to update these ordinances. The Administration Committee agreed to meet and an email will be sent to try to agree upon a date for the meeting.
- b. Mr. Rowe asked the board if there was any other business. Mrs. Tuck asked for the floor. She stated that as of March 8, 2012 she will no longer be the representative from Isle La Motte for The District. She has been able to conquer some health issues and this has allowed her to go back to work. She believes that there is a replacement lined up but that it is not confirmed at this point. The board asked if there were any way she would consider taking a leave of absence but her new obligations will not allow the time necessary to fulfill her role effectively.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.