Minutes Board of Supervisors September 3, 2014

The Board of Supervisors of the Northwest Vermont Solid Waste Management District held its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday September 03, 2014 at the District Offices, 158 Morse Drive Georgia, VT at 6:45 PM.

Chairman Bill Rowe called the meeting to order at 6:42 PM.

Supervisors Present:

David Clark, Fletcher
Mary Robinson, Richford
Barry Kade, Montgomery
W.G. Cioffi, City of St. Albans
Jaime Tibbits, Fairfield
Luke Choiniere, Highgate

Al Voegele, St. Albans Town James Lintereur, Bakersfield Chris Leach, Swanton Bill Rowe, So. Hero Vincent Hickey, Berkshire Paul Lambert, Georgia

Supervisors Absent:

Terry Anderson, Isle La Motte David Jacobs, No. Hero Pierre Letourneau, Enosburg Steve Aubin, Alburgh John Lawrence, Grand Isle Dave Supernault, Sheldon

Others Present:

John Leddy, Executive Director

Monthly B.O.S. Agenda

1) Minutes of the Board meeting of August 6, 2014. Mr. Rowe called for a motion to approve the minutes as written. Mr. Lintereur moved to accept the minutes as written, Mr. Cioffi seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed without opposition.

2) Old Business:

a) Executive Director's Report:

Mr. Leddy reported that in recent news, last Tuesday, the Town of Franklin voted to join The District. They have an appeal period of 30 days. Mr. Cioffi asked if they would be buying into the Sheldon property and Mr. Leddy confirmed this. A brief discussion ensued.

Mr. Leddy informed the board that we are in the process of having our web site re-designed. Open meeting law conformity was discussed in regards to minutes. An outline without details to be updated with details later is a possibility to ensure that the minutes are up on the web site within 5 days. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Leddy reported that Aaron Shepard our Programs Coordinator has started making calls to schools to discuss recycling and composting. The response was great and they will be going out to Franklin East Supervisory Union (Enosburg, Richford, etc.) to an administrative level meeting to discuss the new law and composting. He stated there are a number of schools directly interested. Mr. Leddy said that some are exploring an on-site composting program in which The District will assist with and others are exploring compost pick up options. Composting systems were discussed.

Mr. Leddy also told the board that he visited Richard Hudak recently and discussed with him the compost possibilities for his site. Richard uses most of the compost for his own use but does sell some in bulk not bagged. Mr. Rowe asked if any of the commercial haulers were picking up compost at this point. Mr. Leddy said that Casella's was currently picking up from some businesses in our area, Myers has a truck capable of handling food scraps which they are utilizing in the Burlington Area, and Gauthier's is picking up in the Burlington Area as well.

Brush collection and chipping/shredding was discussed along with the costs associated with such.

Mr. Lintereur asked about staffing and if we were adequately staffed at this time. Mr. Leddy said that we have been looking at adding staff both for immediate needs and looking ahead 5 years. Discussion ensued.

b) Finance Report:

Mr. Leddy in lieu of Ms. Bolster's absence reported that the audit was complete and went smoothly.

AR issues with Duffy's and Burn's continue. Mr. Leddy said that Ms. Bolster has been investigating liens and we will continue investigating the process. Mr. Kade stated that he felt that we should give them 30 days to clear their account and inform them that if we do not receive the funds to do this we will be filing an action. Notification to insurance companies was discussed and could be an effective tool in these situations.

Mr. Leddy said that as we are still in the early stages of the Fiscal Year there is not much to report. The board reviewed the reports and had a couple of questions which Mr. Leddy answered.

3) New Business:

a) Discussion and Possible Vote: District Site User Fee and Disposal Fees.

Mr. Leddy directed the board to three handouts, a. Pricing Structure Proposal, b. Fee Schedule, c. Letter from State outlining the state's position on charges. The board read through Mr. Leddy's Proposal's to adjust to the state's requirement. Discussion's ensued. Mr. Leddy's options: 1. Raise all bag prices By \$1.00, 2. Adjust medium and large bag prices (30 gal from \$3.00 to \$4.00, and the 45 gal bag from \$4.00 to \$7.00), 3. Variation of Price increase and an addition of another bag size. 4. Keep the user fee and challenge the states ruling. Discussions of all stated and other options ensued as well as the board's philosophy of District fees. The goal is to make fee's equitable. The board asked what percentage of residents self-haul as opposed to using haulers. Mr. Leddy responded that 10% on average self-haul.

Vote: Mr. Clark made a motion to retain the \$1.00 user fee for trash disposal only (any waste designated for landfill) and re-phrase the user fee description on anything applicable. Mr. Lintereur seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

It was discussed that the issue of bag fee's be brought up at the next meeting for further discussion.

b) Discussion: Collection Event Season and Schedule Overview

Mr. Leddy directed the board to the Collection 2014 sheet included in the Board packet. He reported the success of the HHW program this summer. Over 300 households have utilized our collections so far. He anticipates an upswing towards the end of the season as history has shown. The paint program providing for free disposal has increased the volume of paint. A note mentioned of interest: Even dried latex paint can be recycled. Mr. Leddy noted the change in our collection events to just include HHW not the bulky items that we have collected at our events in the past, now focusing on collection of these types of items at our drop off sites. Though some have shown displeasure at this new set up, The District through study Shows that this way of collecting is much more efficient and effective, is more convenient for the masses and is safer. Most residents have stated they like having on-going close opportunities for bulky disposal better than relying on the one day collection event. Sheldon, Swanton and Isle La Motte have voiced displeasure with losing the bulky part of our collections, both residents and officials. Mr. Leddy states that it is his opinion the positive outweighs the negative in this change. Discussion ensued. This plan will continue next year and we will continue to develop our drop off sites in order to be able to collect more material there. Mr. Rowe commented on an earlier statement from Mr. Leddy who said "we are holding a special collection each Saturday at our drop off sites", stating that this is the appropriate way to phrase this in future correspondence. This shows what the residents have gained not what they have lost.

c) Discussion: October Retreat Scheduling

The board proposed having this on a weekday rather than on a Saturday. Wednesday October 15 was the agreed upon date. 4PM agreed upon start time. Real food to be served due to the length of the meeting.

4) Other Business:

- a) Schedule Committee Meetings for the coming month: None.
- **b)** Mr. Clark asked about the certification of the Fletcher site and the discussion with a concerned neighbor who lives next door to the site. He had concerns about leaking boxes and odor. Mr. Leddy said that The District will be talking with the homeowner next week to address any concerns he may still have. Mr. Clark offered his assistance if needed.
- **5) Public Comment:** None.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM