# RUTLAND COUNTY SOLID WASTE DISTRICT FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2016

# RUTLAND COUNTY SOLID WASTE DISTRICT

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### O'BRIEN SHORTLE REYNOLDS & SABOTKA, PC

Certified Public Accountants

### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Board of Supervisors
Rutland County Solid Waste District
Rutland, Vermont

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities and the business-type activities of the Rutland County Solid Waste District, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2016, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

# Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

### **Opinions**

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities and the business-type activities of the Rutland County Solid Waste District, as of December 31, 2016, and the respective changes in financial position and, where applicable, cash flows thereof for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

### Other Matters

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis and budgetary comparison information be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

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Lic. No. 92-0000260

Rutland, Vermont September 27, 2017

# Rutland County Solid Waste District Financial Management Discussion & Analysis For the Year Ending December 31, 2016

The Discussion and analysis of the financial performance of the Rutland County Solid Waste District ("the District") provides an overall review of the District's financial activities for the year ended December 31, 2016. The purpose of this discussion and analysis is to look at the District's financial performance as a whole in a way that readers can understand and review the overall general operations of the District.

# **FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS**

Key financial highlights for 2016 are as follows:

- ☐ The fund balance ending December 31, 2016 was \$367,348 compared to \$367,000 at the end of the previous year.
- Net assets for all governmental activities decreased by \$4,717 from \$391,095 to \$386,378.
- □ Net assets from Business Type Activities decreased by \$57,148 from \$1,646,255 to \$1,589,107.
- The overall change in net assets increased from \$2,514,850 to \$2,387,575; a decrease of \$127,275 from the previous year. This is due to the changes in reporting methods in meeting GASB 34 a requirement for all funds. These changes are in part the result of including the inventory of assets from the general office operations instead of only the Material Recovery Facility.

# USING THIS ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

This annual report consists of a series of financial statements and notes to those statements. The basic financial statements of the District include both government-wide statements and fund financial statements.

The Statement of Net Assets and Statement of Activities—also referred to as the "government-wide" financial statements—provide information about the activities of the whole District, presenting both an aggregate view of the District's finances and a long-term view of those assets. These statements distinguish between the governmental and business-type activities of the District.

Major fund financial statements provide the next level of detail about the District's funds. The fund financial statements report on the operating results and financial position of the District's most significant funds in more detail than the government-wide statements. There are two fund categories that are listed—the governmental fund or "General Fund" and the proprietary fund also known as the Material Recovery Facility Fund (MRF).

For the District, the governmental fund presents the revenue and expenditures associated with all the programs offered by the District. The proprietary fund is limited to the general operations and

debt service associated with the MRF. The government-wide and proprietary fund financial statements are reported using the accrual basis of accounting. Governmental funds are reported using the modified accrual basis of accounting.

### REPORTING THE DISTRICT AS A WHOLE

### Statement of Net Assets and Statement of Activities

While this document contains information about the funds used by the District to provide services to our citizens, the view of the District as a whole looks at all financial transactions and gives the reader an idea on how things are. These statements include all assets and liabilities using the accrual basis of accounting, similar to the accounting used by private sector companies. This basis of accounting accounts for all of the current year's revenues and expenses regardless of when the cash is received or paid.

These two statements report the District's net assets and the change in those assets. This change in net assets is important because it tells the reader whether, for the District as a whole, the financial position of the District has improved or diminished. However, in evaluating the overall position of the District, non-financial information such as changes in the condition of the District's capital assets will also need to be evaluated.

In the Statement of Net Assets and the Statement of Activities, the District is divided into two kinds of activities:

- Governmental Activities— For the Rutland County Solid Waste District, governmental activities generally are financed by grants and in whole or in part by fees charged to external parties.
- Business-Type Activities—For the Rutland County Solid Waste District, business-type activities are solely tied into the costs associated with general operations of and formerly debt service for bonds and notes from the original purchase of the Material Recovery Facility.

### Changes in Net Assets

For 2016 the Statement of Activities shows that net assets of the District's governmental activities decreased from \$58,890 to a negative (\$4,717).

### REPORTING THE DISTRICT'S MOST SIGNIFICANT FUNDS

### **Fund Financial Statements**

A fund is a grouping of related accounts that is used to maintain control over resources that have been segregated for specific activities or objects. The District, like other state and local governments, uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements. All of the funds of the District can be divided into two categories: governmental funds and proprietary funds. Fund financial reports provide detailed information about the District's major funds. In the case of the District, the governmental fund is the General Fund and the proprietary fund is the Materials Recycling Fund.

Governmental Funds: Governmental funds are used to account for essentially the same functions reported as governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements. This is used to account for all the financial resources of the District.

Because the focus of governmental funds is more than that of the government-wide financial statements, it is useful to compare the information presented for governmental fund with similar information presented for governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements. By doing so, readers may better understand the long-term impact of the government's near-term financing decisions. Both the governmental fund balance sheet and the governmental fund statement of revenues, expenditures and changes in fund balances provide a reconciliation to facilitate this comparison between governmental funds and governmental activities.

Proprietary Funds: The District maintains one type of proprietary fund—the Material Recovery Facility Fund. This represents funds associated primarily with the debt associated for the purchase of Old Vicon plant in 1994 as a Material Recovery Facility. The fund accounts for activities similar to those found in a private sector where the determination of net income is necessary or useful to sound financial administration.

Notes to the Financial Statements: The notes provide additional information that is essential to a full understanding of the data provided in the governmental-wide and fund financial statements. The notes to the financial statements begin on page 11 of the audit report.

# **GOVERNMENT-WIDE FINANCIAL ANALYSIS**

As noted earlier, net assets may serve over time as a useful indicator of a government's financial position. In the case of the District, assets exceeded liabilities by \$1,975,485 as of December 31, 2016.

The District uses these capital assets to provide services to citizens; consequently, these assets are not available for future spending. Although the District's investment in its capital assets is reported net of related debt, it should be noted that the resources needed to repay this debt must be provided from other sources, since the capital assets themselves cannot be used to liquidate these liabilities.

### Governmental Activities

Total assets of the District equal \$2,387,575 and of that \$1,850,668 is considered capital related. Total liabilities of the District equal \$412,090 and of that \$178,670 is considered long-term liabilities. Total net assets of the District are \$1,814,938. The net assets consists of \$904,710 invested in capital assets net of debt, \$907,072 restricted capital, and an unrestricted capital deficit of \$222,675.

Total revenues of the District General Fund were \$1,606,927 compared to \$1,568,663 of total expenses. With a fund transfer to the Proprietary Fund of (\$37,916) the net change in fund balances was \$348.00.

The District administrative activities and programs relate to the governing body and staff in performance of their primary duties and subsidiary activities. These activities directly support other programs of the District and service its citizens.

Administration: As noted below, the surcharge of the district is the primary revenue source for the operations associated with the overall administrative work for the District. In 2016 this amounted to \$652,508.76 The District had raised the surcharge tonnage rate by \$1/ton to \$17.97. The District discontinued the C & D Program in October of 2013; therefore any material coming in from any storm damage. The volume dropped into 2016 as well. The trash tonnage is still low compared to a high in 2007/2008 but seems to have stabilized over the past few years. The expenditures of the department are for salaries and benefits for the District Manager, Waste Reduction Program Coordinator, Treasurer and Office Manager and the normal expenditures for general office operations.

Construction & Demolition: The District has accepted construction and demolition materials as part of its waste reduction program. As much as possible and as time and finances permit, the construction and demolition material is ground on site and sent to a landfill as ground cover. Construction and demolition also includes the acceptance of clean wood that is ultimately ground and used for various markets including fuel, compost and ground cover. In October 2013, the District discontinued accepting construction and demolition material for grinding on a temporary basis. This was due in part because of the enormous amount of contamination received in the material and that additional clean up of the site needed to be done. Construction and demolition material was accepted, as is, for immediate removal as trash for hauling. In 2014 The Vermont Legislature passed S.208 which included a goal of a pilot program statewide on Construction & Demolition Programs. As a result of this the District started collecting the material sometime in in 2015 based on various options for disposal and/or recycling and continued to do so for 2016.

### **Grants**

The District continues to pursue and acquire grants provided by the state and federal governments. Depending on the timing of the grant, whether or not it might be a fiscal year vs. our calendar year budget has an effect on occasions as to when reimbursements from the grants are received, therefore it is possible to receive revenue into the next calendar year budget. In 2016, the District received \$12,203 in grant monies. The grant money received was associated with the Administrative Department, District's Household Hazardous Waste Program, and Recycling Program. The grant amount is prorated by the state based on the population served by the District. The monies are used for public outreach programs and for assistance in disposal costs

Waste Disposal: During 2016, residents and businesses in our member municipalities disposed of approximately 36,310.96 tons of municipal solid waste. The tonnage rate was slightly less than 2014 (see notes on Construction & Demolition). The cost of disposal, handling and transportation from the District Transfer Station at Gleason Road to the landfill was \$81.77 per ton. State taxes,

District surcharge and the Rutland City Host Community Fee changed by a \$1/ton to a total of \$24.97, for a final disposal cost of \$106.74 per ton up which was the same from the previous year.

The District's surcharge rate for 2016 changed to \$17.97 a ton. This is the first increase since 1999. This surcharge accounts for approximately 35% to 40% of the revenue received for the general fund and in 2016 brought in \$652,509. This revenue also funds the operations of general administration. The District has been able to keep the surcharge rate but may have to re-evaluate this in the near future based on how much the tonnage has decreased since 2008.

Transfer Station Fees: The transfer station fees are made up of several components including cost of the disposal of municipal solid waste, transfer station scale fee, permit sticker fees, sale of metal, tire disposal fees and a host community fee. Due to the down turn in the economy, the District Board agreed to raise several of the fees over the past few years. In 2016 the general tipping fee was raised from remained at \$145/ton and the non-district residents and non-permit holders rate remained at \$170/ton. In 2016 the District budgeted revenue at \$738,000 and received \$742,775 This category will need to be re-evaluated in the future to see if certain fees need to be adjusted.

Household Hazardous Waste: Rutland County Solid Waste District operates an extensive Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) program for district residents. The program operates year-round from the Gleason Road facility, and scheduled collections at twenty town transfer stations through the spring, summer and fall. The HHW program collects and safely disposes of dozens of hazardous, flammable and toxic materials, anti-freeze, pesticides, used motor oil, asbestos, fluorescent bulbs, computers and electronics.

Since July of 2014 the District started accepting latex paint as per the new Paint Care Recycling Program. Several local paint stores and hardware stores started accepting it as well. Residents and limited amounts from Commercial Painters can drop off latex and oil based paints off for free. The Paint Care Program is funded by a tax on the purchase of any new paint. The District saves some labor time since we no longer have to batch the paint and not pay for the disposal.

This program is funded by in part by the District surcharge; fees charged to residents and businesses for the disposal of the materials, fees collected for servicing non-district Towns that do not offer these types of programs and with the assistance of a grant from the State.

The Household Hazardous Waste program has been historically budgeted with a deficit and is done so in part based on how the revenue stream is set up and with the philosophy of encouraging residents and businesses properly dispose of their HHW

Recycling: The District owns a Material Recovery Facility (MRF), on Green Hills Lane in Rutland City that is leased by Casella Waste Management for their operations. The MRF accepts seventeen recyclable commodities from transfer stations, commercial haulers and large generators for processing and sale for re-use. These materials include, tin and aluminum cans, clear plastic bottles, opaque bottles, junk mail, magazines, newspapers, cardboard, boxboard, printer's waste, glass and #1Pete. Residents receive some of these materials directly at the transfer station; some are picked up by the District or Casella at various town transfer stations. Casella Waste Management is

responsible for the processing of the material and for finding a market for the sale of the various materials. Depending on the market, the revenues can be substantial. In November 2011, Casella had installed and was up and running with new equipment in order to switch over to single-stream recycling. In 2015 the facility received approximately 35,000 tons of recyclables.

The Recycling program also receives revenue from the District's backyard compost program – the sale of compost bins to residents to encourage this activity- and a yard waste program that the district runs out of the transfer station. The District accepts brush and leaves throughout the year and then periodically has this material ground on site to make various grades of mulch.

Other Programs: The District also offers other waste management, education and reduction programs. Some of the examples are as follows:

Food Waste Program - The history of the District's food waste program operated in cooperation with the Rutland County Natural Resource Conservation District. The original program started in 1997 and was discontinued October of 2004 due to several factors including the fact that the farmer the District was working with decided he did not wish to continue with the program. At the time that the program was discontinued there were mainly three large customers that contributed to the program: Price Chopper and Hannaford's in Rutland and Black River Product of Ludlow, VT. Each of the businesses paid a \$75 a ton fee for the removal of food waste. The purpose of the program is to divert the amount of food waste from normal msw trash and convert it for a more ecologically sound product. This saves the contributing participants from the higher cost of disposal. The District was able to find another farmer interested in the program in 2007, and received the necessary permitting to do so with the hopes of starting the program up again for 2008. In 2008 Hannaford's opened their new store and agreed to participate in the food waste program. Hannaford's has a 40 yard box on site that is then pulled once a week by a private hauler to the Fiske farm in Danby, VT. Unfortunately, the Fiske farm decided to end their participation in the program in late 2012. As a result the food waste has been sent to Foster's Brothers in Middlebury, VT.

With the changes made with ACT 148, the District Transfer Station will have to start collecting food waste starting July 1, 2017. The issues associated with what the costs will be for hauling still need to be worked out. Casella Waste Management is currently working on a digester that would turn the food waste to slurry and shipped out to a farm in Bridport. The tank is estimated at 5,000 gallons and Casella would pick up material from their customers only. This is one option. The second option is for the District to work with TAM out of Bennington. They have a composting facility in Bennington and are trying to expand their services in the Rutland area. Unfortunately, there are no other locations in Rutland County at this time.

• Merry Mulch Program The District is continuing with its "Merry Mulch" program in collecting and processing over 1,200 Christmas trees annually. The District accepts Christmas trees for free for a period of two to three weeks after the holidays. The material is ground for fuel for the McNeil Energy Plant in Burlington.

- Clean sheetrock Program The district also received a grant in 2002 from the Agency of Natural Resources to offer a "clean sheetrock" waste drywall program for contractors and homeowners. The material is currently collected at the District's transfer station and sent to New Hampshire for recycling. The grant helped to subsidize the cost of the program for only charging \$45 a ton for the material. The grant for this program was only available as "seed' money in order to get the program going. In 2004 the district raised the rate to \$65 a ton when the grant money was no longer available. That price remained the same in through to 2011but unfortunately the program was discontinued in 2011after the recycling firm in New Hampshire discontinued its acceptance of the material. The District is still looking at other options as this time. In 2014 Based on the passage of \$.208 by the Vermont Legislature, the State wants Districts to set up pilot programs for accepting construction & demolition and clean sheetrock over the next few years.
- Concrete / Asphalt Recycling Program This program began in 1996-97 on private property adjacent to the MRF. Concrete and asphalt from various road and construction projects were brought into the storage area at a cost of \$17 a ton in 2003. The material would be crushed between ¾ inch and 1 1/2 inch material and resold. In the fall of 2003, due to logistical problems associated with the initial set up of the program, the District stopped accepting concrete and asphalt. The District decided that it would discontinue the program and clean up the existing site as per an original agreement with the property owner and schedule to be off the site by November 2005. During 2005, the District spent over \$62,000 for the clean up of the existing property and brought the property back to a useable grade level. The District completed this work and discontinued the use of the property in November as promised. The District did offer a monetary amount for settlement for this program with the property owner.

The District is accepting small quantities of concrete from residents at the Gleason Road Transfer Station and will be shipping that material to Markowski's in Brandon for processing.

General Fund - Net Results - Total revenues from the general fund was \$1,606,927 -- \$18,973 less than anticipated.

# **Business-Type Activities**

The District's Business-Type Activities is limited to the essential costs associated with general operations of the Material Recovery Facility (MRF) that was purchased by the District in 1994 through bonds and state grants. In 2001 the District amended its original agreement with Casella Waste Management with Casella leasing the MRF and assuming full responsibility for its operation with the District still having ownership. Operating revenues are based on a twenty-year pre-paid lease agreement between the District and Casella and the yearly-accumulated depreciation of the Property and the Plant over 40 years and the equipment over a 5 to 10 year period.

For 2016 the revenue for the pre-paid lease agreement was \$45,543 The Operating Expenses of depreciation, amortization, insurance and misc. equated to \$93,347 for an operating loss of (\$47,804). Once the transfer from the general fund of \$37,916 occurred a net loss of (\$9,880) resulted. By adding this amount to the depreciation on grant funded fixed assets of (\$36,619) a total

decrease in net assets is obtained at (\$46,499). The net result amounts to a decrease in accumulated the net assets from \$1,635,606 to \$1,589,107.

### ECONOMIC FACTORS AND NEXT YEAR'S BUDGET AND RATES

- The District's outlook for 2018 remains, again, very conservative. The start of the recession from October 2008 forward has had a significant impact on not only the tonnage rates of trash but also for recyclables and the sale of same. During portions of 2010 and 2011 the revenues for recyclables have been increasing steadily in part due to demand but by early 2012 had fallen significantly. There was a hail storm in 2014 that had caused major damage to a great number of houses and the repairs being done have continued into 2015.
- In November of 2011, Casella Waste Management completed its' conversion of the MRF to a facility that could handle single stream recycling similar to what has been implemented in Chittenden County. The thought is that by allowed residents to co-mingle their recyclables instead of sorting them out would increase recycling rates. Statistics have shown that recycling rates can increase up to 30% once this type of system has been installed. On the down side, the revenue received by and the increase of the proposed processing rate will have an effect as to the popularity of converting of the system. Unfortunately, starting in October of 2014, the market values of commodities have plummeted and have continued through mid- 2015 (as of this writing). Towns' that have switched over to Zero-Sort have seen were they may have paid into the system roughly \$1 to \$3/ton based on the market are now paying \$30 plus a ton.
- ACT 148. In July 2012, the Vermont Legislature passed Act 148. This legislation put forth a gradual process to improve the recycling rates statewide. The State originally had a goal of reaching a 50% recycling rate statewide by 2005. However, the actual recycling rate has remained at approximately 32% to 36% for over the past ten years. Act 148 will make recycling mandatory starting in 2015; bans yard waste from landfills in 2016 and eventually all food waste by 2020. The state estimates that 30% of material going to the landfill is food waste alone. In the case of especially banning food waste that will definitely affect trash tonnage levels and the revenue received by the District from the trash surcharge.
- In 2015, the District raised its' surcharge rate by \$1/ton to \$17.97. This was the first change since 1999. Review of the rates and other charges and fees will be an ongoing process with the anticipation of less revenue from trash tonnage if the new ACT 148 programs work.
- As of the results of ACT 148, in 2015 and 2016 the District has had to add additional staff to meet the standards set forth in the Solid Waste Implementation Plan. This has been accomplished with the use of interns from Green Mountain College. The District has expanded the hours of operation of the Recycling Facility at Gleason Road and will need to expand some hours for the Household Hazardous Waste Depot. Also, based on the requirements for education and outreach the District may also have to seek additional help as well.
- CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AT MRF Due to the requirements of the VT Department
  of Agriculture, the District was required to install a new truck scale at the MRF. The old
  scale was built in the late 1980s when tractor trailer trucks were 48' long. Since that time
  they have increased in length to 53' long. The State of Vermont does not allow for split

- weighing a truck that cannot fit on the scale. As a result, the District installed a new above ground Fairbanks scale. Construction began in late fall 2014 with the scale operational in late January of 2015.
- CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AT GLEAON ROAD The scales at the Gleason Road
  facility are in the process of potential structural failure and for the same reasons listed above
  need to be replaced. This work will be problematic since the logistics for this site are full of
  various problems. This is especially true when we will still need to operate while
  construction is going on.

# RUTLAND COUNTY SOLID WASTE DISTRICT STATEMENT OF NET POSITION DECEMBER 31, 2016

		 vernmental Activities		siness-Type Activities		Total
<u>Assets</u>						
Cash Accounts Receivable Grants Receivable Property, Plant, and Equipment	Note 2	\$ 408,091 119,871 5,789	\$	3,156 - -	\$	411,247 119,871 5,789
Net of Accumulated Depreciation	Note 4	38,886		1,811,782		1,850,668
Total Assets		\$ 572,637	\$	1,814,938	\$	2,387,575
Liabilities and Net Assets						
Liabilities:						
Accounts Payable		\$ 45,060	\$	-	\$	45,060
Accrued Employee Pension Plan		4,627		_		4,627
Accrued Expenses		911		-		911
Accrued Vacation		19,856		-		19,856
Deferred Revenue	Note 6	115,805		-		115,805
Prepaid MRF Lease - Current	Note 3	-		47,161		47,161
Prepaid MRF Lease - Non-Current	Note 3		-	178,670	-	178,670
Total Liabilities		186,259		225,831		412,090
Net Assets:						
Invested in Capital Assets, Net of Related Debt		38,886		904,710		943,596
Restricted	Note 5	_		907,072		907,072
Unrestricted		 347,492		(222,675)		124,817
Total Net Assets		 386,378		1,589,107		1,975,485
Total Liabilities and Net Assets		\$ 572,637	\$	1,814,938	\$	2,387,575

# RUTLAND COUNTY SOLID WASTE DISTRICT STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016

		Program	n Revenues		renues and n Net Assets	
	Expenses	Charges for Services	Grants	Governmental Activities	Business-Type Activities	Total
Functions/Programs						
Governmental Activities:						
Administration	\$ 434,964	\$ 694,249	\$ -	\$ 259,285	\$ -	\$ 259,285
Transfer Station	731,925	745,980		14.055	•	14.055
Hazardous Household Waste	212,663	42,779	11,496	(158,388)	_	(158,388)
Recycling	127,382	70,110	707	(56,565)		(56,565)
Construction and Demolition Debris	52,775	41,606		(11,169)	_	(11,169)
Food Waste	3,781	~	_	(3,781)	-	
Depreciation	10,238	_	_	(10,238)	-	(3,781)
•	10,200			(10,230)		(10,238)
<b>5</b>	1,573,728	1,594,724	12,203	33,199		33,199
Business-Type Activities:						
Material Recovery Facility	93,347	45,543			(47,804)	(47,804)
Total Primary						
Government	1,667,075	1,640,267	12,203	33,199	(47,804)	(14,605)
General Revenues and Expenses:						
Interest Income						
Depreciation on Fixed Assets				-	8	8
Acquired by Government Grants						
Transfers - Note 10				-	(36,619)	(36,619)
Hansiers - Note to				(37,916)	37,916	
Total General Revenues						
and Transfers				(37,916)	1,305	(36,611)
Change in Net Assets				(4,717)	(46,499)	(51,216)
Net Assets, January 1, 2016				391,095	1,635,606	2,026,701
Net Assets, December 31, 2016				\$ 386,378	\$ 1,589,107	\$ 1,975,485

# RUTLAND COUNTY SOLID WASTE DISTRICT BALANCE SHEET - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS DECEMBER 31, 2016

			emmental nd Types
Assets		Gen	eral Fund
Cash Accounts Receivable Grants Receivable	Note 2	\$	408,091 119,871 5,789
Total Assets		\$	533,751
Liabilities and Fund Balances			
Liabilities: Accounts Payable Accrued Employee Pension Plan Accrued Expenses Deferred Revenue	Note 6	\$	45,060 4,627 911 115,805
Total Liabilities			166,403
Fund Balances: Fund Balance - Unassigned			367,348
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances		\$	533,751
Amounts reported for Governmental Activities in the Statement of Net Assets are different because:	ents		
Fund Balance for Governmental Funds		\$	367,348
Capital Assets (net of accumulated depreciation) used in Governmental Activities are not financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in the funds.			38,886
Accrued vacation is not due and payable in the current per therefore, it is not reported in the funds.	eriod,		(19,856)
Net Assets of Governmental Activities		\$	386,378

# RUTLAND COUNTY SOLID WASTE DISTRICT STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE BUDGET AND ACTUAL - ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016

	General Fund  Budget	General Fund Actual	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)
Revenues:			
Transfer Station Fees	\$ 738,000	\$ 742,775	\$ 4,775
Surcharge - Waste Haulers	625,000	652,509	27,509
Hazardous Household Waste	35,000	42,779	7,779
Sales of Recycling Materials	40,000	32,930	(7,070)
Grants	35,000	12,203	(22,797)
Construction and Demolition Debris Fees	47,000	41,606	(5,394)
Compost	45,000	37,180	(7,820)
Municipal Transfer Station	7,200	3,205	(3,995)
Miscellaneous	53,700	41,740	(11,960)
Total Revenues	1,625,900	1,606,927	(18,973)
Expenses:			
District Transfer Station	716,060	731,925	(15,865)
General, Administrative, and Central Office	483,914	430,999	52,915
Hazardous Household Waste	168,434	212,663	(44,229)
Recycling	60,835	85,524	(24,689)
Town Services	17,000	13,886	3,114
Compost	45,000	27,972	17,028
Construction and Demolition Debris	59,093	52,775	6,318
Food Waste	3,693	3,781	(88)
Enforcement	9,500	9,138	362
Total Expenses	1,563,529	1,568,663	(5,134)
Net Change in Fund Balances Before Other Financing Uses	62,371	38,264	(24,107)
Other Financing Uses: Fund transfer to Proprietary Fund	(64,100)	(37,916)	26,184
. ,	10 (1100)		20,104
Net Change in Fund Balances	\$ (1,729)	348	\$ 2,077
Fund Balance, January 1, 2016		367,000	
Fund Balance, December 31, 2016		\$ 367,348	

# RUTLAND COUNTY SOLID WASTE DISTRICT RECONCILIATION OF THE STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES OF GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS TO THE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016

Amounts reported for Governmental Activities in the Statement of Activities (Exhibit B) are different because:

Net Change in Fund Balance - Total Government Funds (Exhibit D)	\$	348
Depreciation expense deducted on the Statement of Activities, but not from Governmental Funds, plus amount corrected from prior years flowing through current year	r	(2,340)
Accrued long-term liabilities for vacation pay are expensed as paid in Governmental Funds, but expensed as accrued in the Statement of Activities.  The increase in the expense in the Statement of Activities represents the		
net increase in the accrued expense.	-	(2,725)
Change in Net Assets of Governmental Activities (Exhibit B)	\$	(4,717)

# RUTLAND COUNTY SOLID WASTE DISTRICT STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS - PROPRIETARY FUND DECEMBER 31, 2016

<u>Assets</u>		Material Recovery Facility
Current Assets:		
Cash	Note 2	\$ 3,156
Accounts Receivable	14016 2	φ 3,130 -
Total Current Assets		3,156
Property, Plant, and Equipment Net of		
Accumulated Depreciation	Note 4	1,811,782
Total Assets		\$1,814,938
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current Liabilities:		
Accounts Payable		\$ -
Prepaid MRF Lease- Current		47,161
Total Current Liabilities		47,161
Prepaid MRF Lease- Non-Current	Note 3	178,670
Total Liabilities		225,831
Net Assets:		
Invested in Capital Assets, Net of Related Debt: Unrestricted		***
Restricted	Note 5	904,710
Unrestricted	Note 5	907,072 (222,675)
Total Net Assets		1,589,107
Total Liabilities and Net Assets		\$ 1,814,938

# RUTLAND COUNTY SOLID WASTE DISTRICT STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS - PROPRIETARY FUND FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016

	Material Recovery Facility
Operating Revenues: Lease Income - Casella	\$ 45,543
Operating Expenses: Depreciation Other	59,108 34,239
Total Operating Expenses	93,347
Operating Loss	(47,804)
Non-Operating Income and Expense: Interest Income	8
Non-Operating Income	8
Loss Before Operating Transfers	(47,796)
Transfers from General Fund	37,916
Net Loss	(9,880)
Depreciation on Fixed Assets Acquired by Grants from Government Units	(36,619)
Decrease in Net Assets	(46,499)
Net Assets, January 1, 2016	1,635,606
Net Assets, December 31, 2016	\$ 1,589,107

# RUTLAND COUNTY SOLID WASTE DISTRICT STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS - PROPRIETARY FUND FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016

Cach Floure From Operation Anti-ty-	Material Recovery Facility
Cash Flows From Operating Activities: Cash Paid to Suppliers	\$ (37,749)
Cash Flows From Capital and Related Financing Activities: Interest Earned	8
Net Cash Provided by Capital and Related Financing Activities	88
Cash Flows From Non Capital Financing Activities: Transfers from Other Funds	37,916
Net Decrease in Cash and Equivalents	175
Cash and Equivalents, January 1, 2016	2,981
Cash and Equivalents, December 31, 2016	\$ 3,156
Reconciliation of Operating Loss to Net Cash Used by Operating Activities	
Operating Loss Adjustments to Reconcile Operating Loss to Net Cash Used by Operating Activities:	\$ (47,804)
Depreciation and Amortization	59,108
Decrease in Accounts Payable Increase in Accounts Receivable	(3,838)
Decrease in Prepaid Lease	327 (45,542)
Total Adjustments	10,055
Net Cash Used by Operating Activities	\$ (37,749)

### RUTLAND COUNTY SOLID WASTE DISTRICT NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2016

### Note 1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

### Reporting Entity

Rutland County Solid Waste District (the District) operates as a union municipal district under the authority of the laws of the State of Vermont.

The District was formed April 14, 1980, to manage solid waste for its member municipalities through collection, removal, transportation, disposal, recovery, or recycling. The legal provisions of the District are described in Vermont Statutes Annotated Chapter 121.

The District is governed by a Board of Supervisors composed of three representatives from the City of Rutland and one representative from each of the other member municipalities. Rutland County Solid Waste District, for financial reporting purposes, consists only of the funds and account groups of the District. The District's elected Board of Supervisors has no oversight responsibility for any other governmental entity. Control or dependence on the Board is determined by budget adoptions, designation of management, influence over operations, and accountability for fiscal matters. The District is not includable as a component unit within any other reporting entity.

The District is exempt from federal taxation under Internal Revenue Service Code Section 501(c)(1).

Except where noted, the accounting policies of the Rutland County Solid Waste District conform to GAAP (generally accepted accounting principles), as applicable to governments. The following is a summary of the more significant policies.

### Basis of Presentation

The accounts of the District are organized on the basis of funds, where each fund is a separate entity with its own self-balancing accounts consisting of assets, liabilities, fund equity, revenue and expenditures as appropriate. Resources are accounted for in individual funds, based upon the purpose for which they are to be spent and any restrictions there may be on resource spending.

The basic financial statements of the District include both government-wide statements and fund financial statements. The focus of the government-wide statements is to report the operating results and financial position of the District as a whole and to present a long-term view of the District's finances. The focus of the fund financial statements is a short term view of the operating results and financial position of the most significant funds comprising the District.

Government-Wide Statements: The Statement of Net Assets and the Statement of Activities provide information about the District. These statements include the financial activities of the overall government. Eliminations have been made to minimize double counting activities between funds. These statements distinguish between the governmental and business-type activities of the District. Governmental activities generally are financed by grants and other non-exchange transactions. Business-type activities are financed in whole or in part by fees charged to external parties. The statement of activities presents a comparison between direct expenses and program revenues for each function of the District's governmental activities and for each segment of the District's business-type activities. Direct expenses are those specifically associated with a program or function and, therefore, are clearly identifiable to a particular function. Program revenues include (a) charges paid by the recipients of goods or services offered by the programs and (b) grants and contributions restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular program. Revenues not classified as program revenues are presented as general revenues.

**Fund Financial Statements:** The fund financial statements provide information about the District's funds. Separate statements for each fund category – governmental and proprietary are presented. The emphasis of fund financial statements is on major governmental and enterprise funds, each displayed in a separate column.

Proprietary fund operating revenues, such as charges for services, result from exchange transactions associated with the principal activity of the fund. Exchange transactions are those where each party receives and gives up essentially equal values. Non-operating revenues, such as subsidies and investment earnings, result from non-exchange transactions or ancillary activities.

The District reports on the following major governmental and enterprise funds:

### Governmental Fund Types:

General Fund – General Fund, a governmental fund, is used to account for all financial resources of the District.

### **Proprietary Fund Type:**

Material Recovery Facility - The Material Recovery Facility accounts for activities similar to those found in a private sector, where the determination of net income is necessary or useful for sound financial administration.

### **Budgets**

Budgets are developed using the modified accrual or accrual basis of accounting and are approved by the Board of Supervisors. Any amendments to the budget are also approved by the Board of Supervisors.

In evaluating how to define the District, for financial reporting purposes, management has considered all potential component units. As of December 31, 2016, they were not aware of any that should be disclosed.

### Basis of Accounting

Basis of accounting refers to the point where revenue and expenditures are recognized in the accounts and reported in the financial statements. Basis of accounting relates to the timing of the measurements made, regardless of the measurement focus applied.

The government-wide and proprietary fund financial statements are reported using the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded at the time the liabilities are incurred, regardless of when the related cash flow takes place. Non-exchange transactions, where the District gives (or receives) value without directly receiving (or giving) equal value in exchange, include grants and donations. Grant revenue and donations are recognized in the fiscal year all eligibility requirements have been satisfied.

Governmental funds are reported using the modified accrual basis of accounting. Under this method, revenues are recognized when measurable and available. "Measurable" means the amount of the transaction can be determined and "available" means the amount is collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to be used to pay liabilities of the current period. The District considers all revenues reported in governmental funds to be available if the revenues are collected within sixty days after year-end. Expenditures are recorded when the related fund liability is incurred, except for principal and interest on general long-term debt, where they are recognized as expenditures in governmental funds when paid. Proceeds of general long-term debt and acquisitions under capital leases are reported as other financing sources.

### Measurement Focus

The accounting and financial reporting treatment applied to a fund is determined by its measurement focus. Government-wide and proprietary fund financial statements are reported using the economic resources measurement focus. This means all assets and liabilities associated with the operation of these funds (whether current or noncurrent) are included on the balance sheet (or statement of net assets). Fund equity (i.e., net total assets) is segregated into investment in capital assets, net of related debt, restricted net assets and unrestricted net assets. Operating statements present increases (i.e., revenues) and decreases (i.e., expenses) in net total assets.

Governmental fund financial statements are reported using the current financial resources measurement focus. This means only current assets and current liabilities are generally reported on their balance sheets. The fund balance is reported in classifications that comprise a hierarchy based on the extent to which the District is bound to honor constraints on the specific purposes for which amounts in those funds can be spent. The classifications of fund balance are Nonspendable, Restricted, Committed, Assigned, and Unassigned. Nonspendable and Restricted fund balances represent the restricted classifications and Committed, Assigned, and Unassigned represent the unrestricted classifications.

Nonspendable fund balance includes amounts that cannot be spent because either 1) it is not in a spendable form, such as inventory or prepaid items, or 2) legally or contractually required to be maintained intact. Restricted fund balance is externally (outside the District) enforceable limitations imposed by creditors, grantors, contributors, laws and regulations of other governments, or laws through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation. Committed fund balance is self-imposed limitations imposed at the highest level of decision making authority, namely the Board of Directors. The Board of Supervisors approval is required to commit resources or to rescind the commitment.

Assigned fund balance represents limitations imposed by management. Assigned fund balance requests are submitted to the District Manager for approval/non-approval. Unassigned fund balance represents the residual net resources in excess of the other classifications. The General Fund is the only fund that can report a positive unassigned fund balance and any governmental fund can report a negative unassigned fund balance.

When both restricted and unrestricted resources are available for specific expenditures, restricted resources are considered spent before unrestricted resources. Within unrestricted resources, committed and assigned are considered spent (if available) before unassigned amounts.

Operating statements of these funds present increases (i.e., revenues and other financing sources) and decreases (i.e., expenditures and other financing uses) in net current assets. Accordingly, they are said to present a summary of sources and uses of available spending resources during a specific time period.

### Concentration of Risk

The District receives a significant portion of its revenues from tipping surcharges from one hauler (see Note 3). Additionally, the District receives revenues from the State of Vermont as capital improvement grants.

### Credit Risk

The District grants credit to customers consisting primarily of municipalities and haulers. A substantial portion of the haulers' ability to honor their obligations may be dependent upon the waste management economy in New England. The District does not require collateral for its receivables.

### **Use of Estimates**

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with United States generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions affecting certain reported amounts and disclosures. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates

### Cash and Cash Equivalents

The District considers all highly liquid investments with an original maturity of three months or less to be cash equivalents.

### Accounts Receivable

Accounts receivable are shown net of an allowance for doubtful accounts of zero at December 31, 2016. Accounts receivable are substantially all due from municipalities and local haulers.

### Capital Assets

Capital assets are reported at actual cost. Contributed assets are recorded at their estimated fair value at the time received. Major outlays for capital assets and improvements are capitalized as constructed. The cost of normal maintenance and repairs not adding to the value of the asset or materially extending the assets' lives are not capitalized.

Capital assets reported in the government-wide and proprietary fund financial statements are depreciated in order to charge the cost of these assets to expense over their estimated service lives, using the straight-line method of calculating depreciation. Capitalization thresholds (the dollar values above which asset acquisitions are added to the capital asset accounts) and estimated useful lives of capital assets are as follows:

Lite	Threshold
40 years	\$ 1,000 \$ 500
	Life 40 years 5-10 years

### **Fund Balances**

Fund balances are classified based on any restrictions placed on those balances or any tentative plans management may have made for those balances. Reservations of fund balances represent amounts that cannot be appropriated or are legally restricted for a specific purpose by a grant, contract, or other binding agreement. Designations of fund balances represent tentative management plans that are subject to change. Undesignated funds are available for future appropriations.

### Tipping/Surcharge Tax

The District General Fund assesses a tax to residents, businesses and municipalities based on the weight of solid waste generated.

### Capitalization of Interest Costs

The District capitalizes interest costs incurred during construction. During 2016, no such interest costs were incurred.

### Compensated Absences

It is the District's policy to permit employees to accumulate earned but unused vacation and sick time. Unused vacation time must be used within the next succeeding fiscal year, and is paid to the employee upon termination of their employment if they have been employed by the District for at least six months. The accrual for unused vacation time, based on current pay rates, is recorded in the government-wide financial statements. Payments for unused vacation time are recorded as expenditures in the year they are paid. No liability is recorded for earned but unused sick time because it is not a vested benefit.

### Date of Management's Review

Subsequent events were evaluated through September 27, 2017, which is the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

# Note 2 Cash and Investments

There are three categories of credit risk applicable to the District's bank balance:

- FDIC insured or collateralized with securities held by the District or by the District's agent in the District's name.
- 2. Collateralized with securities held by the pledging financial institution's trust department or agent in the District's name.
- 3. Uncollateralized/uninsured.

Balances held in each category as of December 31, 2016, are as follows:

	Carrying Amount	(	Bank Balance
General Funds Accounts MRF Accounts	\$ 408,091 3,156	\$	435,461 6,583
Total Cash	\$ 411,247	\$	442,044

The FDIC insures accounts to \$250,000 per financial institution. The District held its cash accounts in two financial institutions during the year. At year end all of the District's cash accounts were fully insured.

### Note 3 Concentration of Services

Since July 24, 2001, Casella Waste Management has not been considered a related party. At that time, the District and Casella amended the original agreement stating Casella shall assume full responsibility for the operation of the facility. The new twenty year prepaid lease agreement states Casella will incur all operational and occupancy costs associated with the facility and the District will occupy and maintain the existing administrative space, be responsible for the debt service and only costs associated with scales, leased equipment and property taxes, if any.

### Note 3 Concentration of Services – (Continued)

Terms specify the prepaid rent is equal to the net non-current payables due to Casella as of July 24, 2001. This amount is included in deferred revenue of the Proprietary Fund and will be recognized as rental income on a discounted basis assuming an average inflation rate of 3.5% over the term of the lease. Rental income for the next five years and in aggregate is:

2017	\$	47,161
2018		48,839
2019		50,575
2020		52,375
2021		26,881
	\$ 2	225,831

A new contract was approved during the fiscal year ending 2017 with Casella whereby their commercial lease was renewed for a term of ten additional years, from September 5, 2021 through September 4, 2031, for \$5,091 per month. This would increase the amount in 2021 to approximately \$57,701.

### Note 4 Property, Plant and Equipment

The following is a summary of the general fund and proprietary fund fixed assets and bond costs:

		January 1, 2016	 Net Additions	De	ecember 31, 2016
General Fund Fixed Assets:					
Equipment Less Accumulated Depreciation	\$	1,022,151 (974,409)	\$ 1,382 (10,238)	\$	1,023,533 (984,647)
Net	\$	47,742	\$ (8,856)	\$	38,886
Proprietary Fund Fixed Assets:					
Facility	\$	3,775,188	\$ -	\$	3,775,188
Equipment		183,550	-		183,550
Furniture and Fixtures	-	8,700	 -	_	8,700
		3,967,438	-		3,967,438
Less Accumulated Depreciation		(2,059,929)	 (95,727)	_	(2,155,656)
Net	\$	1,907,509	\$ (95,727)	\$	1,811,782

# Note 4 Property, Plant and Equipment - (Continued)

Depreciation expense for the year ended December 31, 2016, was \$10,238 for the governmental-activity fund and \$59,108 for the business-type activity fund. Depreciation on those assets acquired with restricted net assets was \$36,619.

# Note 5 Restricted - Proprietary Fund

The balance sheet account Net Assets-Restricted represents financial contributions from governmental units. The contributed capital for the year ended December 31, 2016, is as follows:

Net Assets- Restricted at December 31, 2016	\$	907,072
Less: Depreciation on Items Purchased Net Assets- Restricted	_	(36,619)
Net Assets- Restricted at January 1, 2016	\$	943,691

### Note 6 Operating Lease - District as Lessor

The District entered into a long-term lease agreement with Casella commencing January 1, 2001, and ending December 31, 2025. The District leases premises located off Gleason Road in Rutland, Vermont from the City of Rutland. The District then subleases this property to Casella. Under the terms of the sublease, Casella prepaid the \$250,000 rent for the entire term. This amount is included in deferred revenue of the General Fund and will be recognized as rental income on a discounted basis assuming an average inflation rate of 3.5% over the term of the lease.

Rental income for the next five years and in the aggregate is:

2017	\$ 11,143
2018	11,540
2019	11,950
2020	12,375
2021	12,275
Thereafter	56,522
	\$ 115,805

### Note 7 Retirement Plan

The District administers the Rutland County Solid Waste District Retirement Plan, a defined contribution plan. The Plan was established January 1, 1995, by a vote of the Board of Supervisors. The Plan requires the District to contribute 5% of eligible employee compensation. Employee contributions are not permitted. During 2016, the District's retirement expense under this plan was \$20,575. Total payroll for all employees for the year was \$448,109. The payroll eligible for the retirement plan was \$377,318. Vesting is 100% after one year. The employees must work more than 1,000 hours to qualify for a contribution on their behalf.

### Note 8 Risk Management

The District is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. The District maintains commercial insurance coverage covering each of those risks of loss. Management believes such coverage is sufficient to preclude any significant uninsured losses to the District. Settled claims have not exceeded this commercial coverage in any of the past three fiscal years.

### Note 9 Contingencies

The District's operations are subject to Federal and State provisions regulating the discharge of materials into the environment. Compliance with those provisions has not had, nor does the District expect such compliance to have, any material effect upon the financial condition of the District. Management believes its current practices and procedures for the control and disposition of such wastes comply with applicable federal and state requirements.

### Note 10 Other Required Disclosures

The Governmental Fund within the General Fund has an unrestricted fund balance of \$347,492 at December 31, 2016.

The Proprietary Fund has a retained deficit of \$222,675 at December 31, 2016.

The General Fund transferred \$37,916 in 2016 to the Proprietary Fund to pay for general operating expenses incurred during the year.

### Note 11 Deferred Compensation

During 2016, four employees had income deferred to an investment account, under Internal Revenue Code Section 457. The plan assets remain the property of the employer until paid into the selected fund, subject only to claims of the employer's general creditors. The District has the responsibility to use the plan assets for no other purpose.

# Note 12 Reconciliation of Expenditures Per Budget and Actual Schedule to Expenses Per Government Wide Statement of Activities

Total expenditures per Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Fund Balance Budget and Actual - General Fund

\$ 1,568,663

Depreciation recognized in government wide financial statements not included in the Budget and Actual Statement, plus amount corrected from prior year flowing through current year

2,341

Vacation pay expensed as paid in government wide financial statements, but expensed as accrued in the Statement of Activities

2.724

Total expenditures per Statement of Activities

\$ 1,573,728