

MINUTES
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
RUTLAND COUNTY SOLID WASTE DISTRICT
BUSINESS MEETING
January 15, 2018

APPROVED
4-4-18

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Brandon	Gabe McGuigan	Poultney	
Castleton	Tim Gilbert	Proctor	John Jozwiak
Clarendon	Alf Strom-Olsen	Rutland City	Bob Tanner
Danby	Steve Haines		Mike Bookman
Hubbardton			
Ira	Larry Taggart	Killington	
Mendon		Wallingford	
Mt. Holly	Clint Wooley	West Rutland	Sean Barrows
Pittsford			

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jim O’Gorman, RCSWD Manager	Deane Wilson, RCSWD
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At 6:30 Mr. Taggart stated that a quorum was present.

1. SET AGENDA

Mr. Taggart asked if there were any changes to the agenda. None presented.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES DECEMBER 6, 2017

Mr. Gilbert moved to accept the December minutes. Mr. Tanner provided the second. Mr. Taggart asked that a clarification be made to the conversation on the draft 2018 budget. Mr. O’Gorman stated that a 5% COLA was in the budget but Mr. O’Gorman stated that a 3% was actually suggested with the remaining 2% available for adjustment during the course of the year. Mr. Gilbert moved to accept the minutes with the correction. Mr. Tanner provided the second. The motion passed unanimously.

3. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS NOVEMBER 2017

Mr. O’Gorman handed out his managers’ report. Tonnage was 500 over budget, resulting in greater revenue. Revenue met expectations for all other departments. Markets for all commodities have softened. Discussion followed on China driving the recycling market. Mr. Tanner moved to accept the financials. Mr. Jozwiak provided the second. The motion passed unanimously.

4. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

No public in attendance

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. Approval of FY2018 Budget

Mr. O’Gorman stated that there hadn’t been any changes to the budget since it was introduced. A meeting was available on December 28th for public review; no one showed. Mr. O’Gorman stated that the budget had also been sent to all the District towns for review. Discussion followed on specific line items referencing the excavator replacement and the cost to finish the mrf scale. Mr. O’Gorman stated that both items were referenced, the excavator in the capital equipment fund and the mrf project in the capital improvement fund. Mr. O’Gorman indicated that there was conversation with Casella to contribute \$10,000 towards the anticipated \$20,000 paving cost with the MRF scale.

Mr. Tanner moved to accept the budget. Mr. Jozwiak provided the second. Mr. Taggart asked if there were any additional comments. Mr. Strom-Olsen asked if the budget was net 0 after revenue and expenses were tallied? And if there were a contingency plan if expenses outpaced revenue? Mr. O’Gorman stated that the District surcharge is basically a tax on trash and there is the ability to adjust that if needed. The one unknown revenue/expense program in the budget was the food waste budget. Mr. Barrows asked if there were any discussion on raising the surcharge this year. Mr. O’Gorman stated that there wasn’t any plan to raise the surcharge.

Mr. Taggart asked if there were any further conversation and if not could there be a vote on the proposed budget. At 6:55 the board voted unanimously to pass the 2018 proposed budget.

B. Proposed changes to ACT 148 VSWDMA Position Paper

Mr. O’Gorman included in the board packet the VSWDMA position page on ACT148. Discussion followed on recent legislation S.285 and S.267 that has been proposed by Senator Rogers. Mr. O’Gorman stated that the proposed legislation asked for expanded bottle bill, to keep the 2020 ban on all organics to the landfill but to exempt food waste and yard waste until that year. Mr. Strom-Olsen asked if Mr. O’Gorman had any recommendations on the proposed legislation and Mr. O’Gorman stated that the mandatory recycling and PAYT were worth continuing with but that the proposed food waste timeline was problematic. Discussion followed on the organics recycling cost and requirements. Mr. McGuigan suggested that the rules would probably adapt as events unfolded, that a lot of the discussion now was to encourage ACT148. Mr. Barrows stated that he would like to see requirements on recycling glass be relaxed. It is such a difficult and expensive material to recycle and because of its inert nature, it shouldn’t be banned from the landfill.

C. Excavator

Mr. Jozwiak said that the current District excavator had neared the end of its useful expectancy. Mr. O’Gorman provided a review of the excavator’s usage. The machine was used 100% of district programs. Mr. Jozwiak stated that a replacement excavator would cost approximately \$25,000. Mr. Strom-Olsen asked if that had been budgeted for in the 2018 budget. Mr. O’Gorman stated that between the capital replacement fund and the equipment fund there was approximately \$50,000 allocated. Discussion followed on the ability to postpone the replacement until next year. Consensus was to discuss replacing the excavator with next year’s budget.

D. Committee to look at future of RCSWD

Mr. O’Gorman stated that he and Mr. Jozwiak had briefly discussed this previously and would bring the subject up at a future date.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Castleton

Mr. O’Gorman stated that he had a discussion with the Chairman of the Selectboard and that a petition had been circulated to renew the effort to have a warning on the ballot for town meeting day to withdraw from the District. Mr. O’Gorman stated that he has provided information on district membership advantages. Discussion followed on the anticipated savings the town might save by not belonging to the District. Comparison was made to SWAC per capita fee and the District’s surcharge and the per capita fee would cost the town more. Residential and commercial service wouldn’t see any significant decrease in fees, Fair Haven which isn’t in the District, businesses pay similar service fees for waste services. Mr. Strom-Olsen asked if Castleton University population was considered in the per-capita rates. Mr. O’Gorman stated that the college population wasn’t included and that they had their own account for services. Mr. Gilbert asked if Hubbardton had been factored into any of the discussion. Currently the town of Hubbardton has an agreement with Castleton to allow Hubbardton residents access to the facility. Mr. O’Gorman provided the obligation Castleton would have to meet in order to withdraw. The District has a prepaid lease for the MRF and transfer station. Castleton’s obligation for those would be \$36,000, but that money would be repaid to the town at the end of the terms. Mr. Gilbert asked if any other districts had the same dilemma of towns withdrawing. Mr. O’Gorman said no. Discussion followed on options to inform the public of the advantages of the District before town meeting day. An article in Front Porch Forum was suggested along with Mr. O’Gorman attending Castleton Selectboard meetings and being available on town meeting day. Mr. Gilbert stated that the District charter says that for a town to withdraw, all obligations must be met and then there is a waiting period of a year. That requirement would mean there wouldn’t be any effect on the 2018 budget.

B. Brandon

Mr. O’Gorman had met with the Brandon Town Manager to discuss the Brandon transfer station operations. The State and some residents had expressed frustration with the current operations. The state did a site visit and requested a change in managing a few of the materials. Mr. O’Gorman offered to assist the operator of the transfer station, Earth Waste Systems, but was informed that the State requested changes had been addressed and the assistance wasn’t needed. Mr. McGuigan asked if the District were able to provide assistance if asked? Mr. O’Gorman said yes, training could be offered for bulb management and electronics collection. Discussion followed on the Brandon TS operations and the relationship between the town and the operator.

C. H.560 HHW bill

Mr. O’Gorman provided information on one of the current bills proposed. H560 was introduced to help offset and cover the cost of managing household hazardous waste. Mr. O’Gorman stated that the bill would require

manufactures to pay for the management HHW. RCSWD spent \$68,000 for the disposal of HHW thru a contract with Clean Harbors last year. Mr. O’Gorman offered to write a letter in support of H560 on behalf of the District.

Mr. Jozwiak asked for clarification on a couple of items. Discussion followed on who was responsible for sanding and plowing the transfer station. Mr. O’Gorman said the District was and a contractor was hired for that service. Mr. Jozwiak asked about an incident a resident had with the scale. Mr. O’Gorman stated that a resident had driven over the end of the scale, damaging a corner. The scale company, the engineer and the drivers insurance have all been notified.

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The board moved to go into executive session at 8:05pm

The board came out of executive session at 8:30 PM.

8. ADJOURN

Next proposed Scheduled Meeting February 7, 2018 if needed Mr. O’Gorman will make the decision based on Castleton’s information on the public warning

Otherwise meeting is proposed for March 7, 2018

Respectfully submitted

Deane Wilson