

WINDHAM SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
BRATTLEBORO, VERMONT

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MINUTES OF MEETING
APRIL 26, 2007

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Doris Knechtel, Chair, Newfane; Phil Bartlett, Dover; Ronald Wright, Dummerston; Elizabeth Frye, Guilford, Tony Gordon and Stillman Vonderhorst, Marlboro; Dan Toomey, Putney; James Damato, Readsboro; Richard Jackson and Irvin Stowell, Townshend; Twyla Wallace, Wardsboro; and Merrill Mundell, Wilmington.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Brattleboro; Brookline; Traci Fletcher, Dover; Lester Dunklee, Dummerston; Richard Holden, Guilford; Mitchell Green and Clifton Inman, Halifax; Brian Chapin, Jamaica; Neal J. Carter, Newfane; David Hannum, Putney; Priscilla Margola, Readsboro; Celie Ives and Albert Dupell, Stratton; Vernon; Karl Twitchell, Whitingham; Tom Consoline, Wilmington; and David Glabach and John Spencer, Winhall.

WSWMD STAFF PRESENT:

George Murray, Executive Director; Joseph F. Kowalski, Operations Manager; Cindy Sterling, Program Coordinator; and Kathleen S. Harrison, District Clerk.

OTHERS:

Dora Boublis, Brattleboro; Michelle Cherrier, Dummerston and Amy Kleppner, Wardsboro.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Doris A. Knechtel, Chair.

1.) Introduction of New Supervisors:

Ms. Knechtel introduced the following newly appointed supervisor present: Twyla Wallace, of Wardsboro, replacing Amy Kleppner.

2.) Election of Officers:

Motion was made by Mr. Damato and seconded by Mr. Mundell to reelect:

**Doris Knechtel, Newfane, Chairperson; and
Richard Jackson, Townshend, Vice-Chairperson;**

and passed unanimously.

3.) Reorganization:

• **Designation of Meeting, Place, Date and Time:** Ms. Knechtel stated that as part of its organization meeting the Board of Supervisors needs to set its designated

meeting time and place. Ms. Knechtel commented that the Board of Supervisors, in the past, has been meeting on the second Thursday of the months of April, June, September, November and December, at 7:00 p.m. at the District office.

Motion was made by Mr. Damato, seconded by Mr. Jackson, and passed unanimously that the Board of Supervisors continue to meet on the second Thursday of the aforementioned months, at 7:00 p.m. at the District office.

- **Official Newspaper: Motion was made by Mr. Bartlett, seconded by Mr. Jackson, and passed unanimously that the Board of Supervisors designate the Brattleboro Reformer and the Deerfield Valley News as its official newspapers.**

- **Committee Status:** Ms. Knechtel listed the following standing Committees and members:

 - Executive Committee: Ms. Knechtel, Mr. Jackson, and Chairperson of the Finance Committee, as well as two additional Supervisors to be appointed by the Chairperson of the Board of Supervisors.

 - Finance Committee: Ms. Frye; Mr. Damato; and Mr. Jackson. Mr. Gordon volunteered to become a committee member.

 - Nominating Committee: Mr. Mundell. Ms. Knechtel invited any interested Supervisors to contact her or Mr. Mundell.

Ms. Knechtel reminded the Supervisors that the Finance Committee meets four times a year, at 6:00 p.m. prior to the Board meeting, to review the quarterly reports. She invited all interested Supervisors to attend.

- **Appointment of Treasurer:** Mr. Murray informed the Supervisors that Mr. Grandmaison has stated that he will be unable to act as Treasurer of the District for the long term. He continued that Paul is concerned about liability insurance as the Treasurer. Even though VLCT covers both elected and appointed officials under their liability insurance they have informed him since he keeps the books and is the Treasurer they will not cover him acting in the capacity of Treasurer. Mr. Grandmaison will act as Treasurer for the short-term he strongly recommends that the District look for a treasurer for the long term. Mr. Murray stated that the treasurer position basically entails signature and oversight.

Motion was made by Mr. Mundell and seconded by Mr. Toomey to reappoint Mr. Grandmaison as Treasurer for the short-term while a search is being conducted for a person to fulfill the capacity of Treasurer for the long-term, and passed unanimously.

- **Annual Renewal of DSM Contract:** Mr. Murray stated that DSM's fee for management service is currently \$545.00 per day. Mr. Murray stated he is proposing a 3 % increase bringing it to \$560.00 per day, effective July 1, 2006.

Motion was made by Mr. Damato that the Board of Supervisors renew its contract with DSM for management services at \$560.00 per day, seconded by Mr. Toomey, and passed unanimously.

4.) Approval of December 14, 2006 Minutes:

Motion was made by Mr. Damato, seconded by Mr. Mundell, and passed with one abstention, to approve the Minutes of December 14, 2006 meeting.

**5.) Treasurer's Report:
None.**

6.) Finance Committee Report:

Mr. Wright stated that there was a September 30, 2006 statement in everyone's packet which appeared to be a redraft. Mr. Grandmaison can explain that at the next meeting. It may have to come up for reapproval at that time. Finance Committee reviewed and approved the Financial Statements for the quarter ending December 31, 2006.

Mr. Wright then referred the Committee to page 5 of the Financial Statements for the period ending December 31, 2006 and commented that the District is doing better than expected with budget. He continued that the Board had set aside \$50,000 coming out of surplus funds for this fiscal year budget and there is still a good sum on hand to apply to the second half of the year. Mr. Murray stated that revenues from paper and cardboard have jumped to \$170 per ton. However, prices have softened a bit but still remain well over \$100 per ton. He also noted that prices for aluminum and steel have increased from what they were in the early fall. Mr. Murray concluded that in his opinion that revenues will be very good over the next six months

On page 6 and 7, Mr. Wright commented that the year to date budget is somewhat seasonally adjusted. Mr. Grandmaison takes his financial services, the audit, some of the tipping fees, the oil, and hazmat, and adjusts those budget numbers quarterly so it might not be half of the year budget numbers it may be something else.

Mr. Wright concluded that generally speaking everything is in good shape.

Motion was made by Mr. Damato, seconded by Mr. Mundell, to approve the Financial Statements for the Quarter Ending December 31, 2006, and passed unanimously.

Check Register for the months of October, November, and December 2006:

Mr. Murray reviewed with the Supervisors the Check Registers for the months of October, November and December 2006. Mr. Murray stated that the check in the amount of \$11,700 payable to the Stedman Machine Company was for the glass crusher. The side plates of the case had to be replaced because of wear that we did not see that occurred underneath some of the interior wear plates. Mr. Murray noted that other than

the motor the Stedman glass crusher has been rebuilt. Stedman technicians were here to look at it and said that it will be another 14 to 15 years before that machine will need any major repairs.

Motion was made by Mr. Damato, seconded by Mr. Gordon, and passed unanimously to approve the Check Registers for the months of October, November and December 2006.

Mr. Wright stated that there was little he could tell about 2009, they will have to wait for a new Finance Chairman as well as a new Treasurer, however they will find out that the surplus is gone. Mr. Murray has set aside a \$107,000 for the truck and he is going to add about \$95,000 to that by refinancing the truck at 2%. He pointed out that the days of assessment support are over and the towns will be looking at least a \$350,000 assessment for 2009.

7.) MRF Co. Operations:

Mr. Kowalski reported to the Board that the MRF has had a good winter with a mild beginning and an even flow throughout with volumes depending upon good weather versus bad weather.

Scale House: The new scale was installed this past winter. On behalf of himself and the Board, Mr. Kowalski thanked Stretch Vonderhorst for his donated time and effort he put in with extending the scale house out to the new scale. Mr. Kowalski stated that Mr. Vonderhorst was supported by District staff as well as Community Service assistance, so he had quite a change of hands and a variety of people to work with.

Truck: Mr. Kowalski informed the Board that the 2007 Sterling Truck has arrived and to date has been successful.

Chesterfield Truck Accident: Mr. Kowalski related to the Board the accident which took place in front of the District facility on April 12, 2007. The vehicle involved was the Town of Chesterfield's recycling truck. Since this incident the District has been providing an arrangement with the Town to transport their recyclables for the cost of the pulls. At this time the Chesterfield Select board has not decided whether they are going to replace their truck or continue their current arrangement with the District.

Generators: A few days after the truck accident Mr. Kowalski received a call from a District employee that the generators were on fire. The District does not own the generators but owns the collection system that feeds the generators. Two of the generators were completely fried, the third generator that was in the process of being repaired wasn't on line yet so they just fired that generator up today. As a result, we have not been able to properly ventilate the landfill. What we have done, with the State's knowledge, is to pull all the caps on the wells and naturally aspirated the landfill for that period of time.

Newfane Box: A couple of weeks later, again while Mr. Kowalski was away, a couple of young fellows torched the Newfane recycling box. The box is currently at Osgood's, in Claremont, New Hampshire, being restored. Fortunately, we had spare boxes to put into use from West Brattleboro.

Tonnage: Mr. Kowalski commented that the tonnage has been down some due to the elimination of the West Brattleboro site. It's obvious if the convenience of recycling has been removed people have no intention of wanting to inconvenience themselves for the sake of recycling. Mr. Kowalski stated that he would be happy to work with both the Select board and residents of West Brattleboro to relocate a satellite recycling site. Further discussion ensued among the Supervisors regarding District satellite recycling stations.

Town of Guilford: On behalf of the Town of Guilford, Ms. Frye stated that it was an embarrassment for the town to be mentioned in the *Talking Trash* without being informed ahead of time. Approximately 90 needles had been found in the Guilford box in January of this year resulting in the Town being named a "Bad Site." Ms. Sterling apologized for not going through the protocol of notifying the town. She commented that this has never been an issue before. Mr. Kowalski pointed out that the District has a free needle collection program which is being advertised as well as people being informed by their doctors that there are proper ways of disposing sharps without carelessly throwing them into the recycling. Mr. Murray commented that there has been talk in-house that there has not been much contact recently with District Select boards and it is his intent to see that this starts happening again. Ms. Frye stressed that the Supervisors from the towns be invited as well.

MRF Staff: Mr. Kowalski reported to the Board that he has two employees out on short term sick leave. He commented that in the past he has contracted with Labor Ready in Greenfield, Massachusetts, and will do the same this time.

8.) Program Coordinator's Report:

Ms. Sterling gave the following report:

Compost Bins: Ms. Sterling stated that compost bins have been ordered and may be arriving on or before the week of May 19th. She commented that this year gift certificates will be available for those people who wish to give a compost bin for Mother's Day. Several advertisements have already been issued.

Special Collections: Ms. Sterling stated that she has scheduled several rural haz-mat collections throughout the District in May, June and July. She distributed flyers to the Supervisors. C&D recycling is also part of the grant. Ms. Sterling noted that she is trying to reach homeowners who are doing remodeling as well as contractors. Mr. Fay has undertaken the job of going to construction sites to give them options for recycling, etc. And, John Fay and Cindy will be a presence representing the District at the Brattleboro Home Show this coming weekend.

PSAs: Ms. Sterling set up her recent PSAs for viewing by the Board of Supervisors. These PSAs will be aired regularly on Brattleboro Public Television as well as other stations throughout the State.

Discussion ensued concerning commercial recycling. Mr. Murray stated that the recycling programs in the District was set up for residents and not the commercial sector, and as a result we have drop-off sites around the District which are very difficult for businesses to access although many have found a way. Mr. Murray has been talking to Peter Gaskell, at Triple T, on how to deal with commercial recycling. They talked about targeting one or two businesses and having them combine all their paper and cardboard and bringing it here just to see what it looks like. If that worked then it could be expanded to other businesses.

Mr. Murray pointed out that the District has a 30 yard box available to residents for composting and there has been some response from the general public.

Mr. Murray stated that one of the things he is hoping to discuss with the Board this summer, is what are we going to do? For the past fifteen years we have been doing dual-stream which is now becoming a dinosaur. The District really isn't big enough for a single-stream operation. Chittenden is doing a single-stream at possibly \$5.00 per ton for out-of-district single stream. He commented that these are issues that need to be discussed. Mr. Murray feels that there has become a general apathy around the whole District about recycling and Brattleboro is finding that in their decrease in curbside program. Mr. Murray will have videos to view at the June meeting.

USDA Grant: Ms. Sterling informed the Board of Supervisors that the District received word today that it has been awarded an \$119,000 grant starting October 2007 through September 2008. The grant will continue to help with the special rover collections; Talking Trash; all the educational programs that we do; and perhaps pull in more commercial recycling.

Mr. Mundell asked Mr. Murray if there was anything that could be done to breathe some life into the recycling program as well as what can be and cannot be recycled. He commented that items change or what appears to be obviously recyclable is not, than what do you do. Mr. Murray replied that he is trying to develop some graphic ads which are easy to understand rather than more literature to read. Mr. Murray also commented that the National Recycling Council is on a two year campaign to rebrand recycling and to come up with a standard graphical package that can be targeted for recycling.

Discussion ensued concerning the District's plastic recycling program and whether or not it was worth the sort. Mr. Kowalski informed the Board that \$8,400 had been budgeted for residuals for a three month period when in fact the District spent \$9,714 putting us \$1,314 over budget for things that people think are recyclable. Mr. Kowalski stated that the residuals are not just from the plastic recycling program but includes everything that comes into the MRF that cannot be sold.

9.) **DSM Report:**

Notice of Alleged Violation (NOAV): Mr. Murray stated he wanted to discuss the NOAV which was received from the State for the presence of landfill gas on the day we had an explosion in January of 2005, which explosion was reported to the Agency that day or no later than the next day. It was not until August of 2006 that Barb Schwnetter, an enforcement person with Solid Waste, visited and informed Mr. Murray that the District could expect a NOAV. He continued that he is currently in the process of evaluating the whole gas process and the efficiencies of it as well as the need to install a back-up flare to take the place of the generator. An engineer is coming on Tuesday to take a look at the whole system and to make recommendations. Prior to that Joe, Mr. Murray, and staff have been looking at what we can do in the interim and have hooked up the existing landfill flare to some of the other wells down by the railroad tracks. Mr. Murray stated that we are removing more gas than what AMF said was not economically feasible for them to do. The cost will be in the range of \$50, 000 to \$60,000 and will come out of the post closure funds. Mr. Murray stated that he and Mr. Grandmaison have discussed this and it may be an issue of redeeming some of the future bonds.

Mr. Gordon asked what contractual obligations did AMF have to the District. Mr. Murray stated that they have been summoned to court because of the explosion, our insurance company is subrogating to theirs. So it appears we will be finding out what their responsibilities are.

Sharon Cook Matthews: In response to a question regarding Sharon, Mr. Murray informed the Board that Sharon was exonerated in Massachusetts. Her case was thrown out and she has filed a counter suit. Sharon has been here to file an application in an effort to get her old job back.

New Scale: Mr. Murray stated that the new scale is great and he wished he had known then what he now knows! The new scale has been installed higher allowing someone to get on a creeper and literally get underneath it for maintenance. There is a five year maintenance warranty together with an annual inspection.

10.) **Other Business:**

Green-Up Day: Mr. Kowalski reminded the Board of Supervisors that Green-up Day was approaching (May 5th) and if there was any town that had a project they needed District assistance with to let him know as soon as possible. If he doesn't hear from anyone, traditionally his crew works in Brattleboro.

11.) **Adjournment:**

Motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Kathleen S. Harrison
District Clerk