



# Greater Upper Valley Solid Waste Management District

Bridgewater • Hartland • Norwich • Pomfret • Sharon • Strafford • Thetford • Vershire • West Fairlee • Woodstock

PO Box 320, Ascutney, VT 05030 • (802) 674-4474 • [www.guvswd.org](http://www.guvswd.org)

---

[FINAL]

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

June 17, 2020

4:30 PM

Via Zoom

Board members present: Steve Willbanks (Strafford), Mary Gavin (Sharon), Neil Fulton (Norwich), Vern Clifford (Pomfret), Bob Stacey (Hartland), Bill Kerbin (Woodstock), Gene Craft (Vershire), Lynn Bertram (Bridgewater), Mary Gavin (Sharon)

Staff present: Tom Kennedy, Ham Gillett

Meeting convened at 4:32 PM.

### 1. Changes to the Agenda - None

Mary G. moved to approve the agenda. Steve Willbanks seconded the motion. The Chair asked for a roll call vote. Motion was approved.

### 2. Approve Minutes of April 8, 2020

Gene Craft noted that the figure of "\$19,0000" under 7a: Revised Construction Budget should be "\$19,000." Change noted by Tom K. Mary G. moved to approve the minutes with change. Lynn B. seconded. Roll call vote. Motion approved.

### 6. Discussion of Potential Property Lease to VT Pellet Company for Construction of Pellet Plant

Tom K. requested that the order of agenda be changed to accommodate the schedule of Chris Brooks and Tabitha Bowling. No objections. Tom K. introduced both. Chris gave a brief overview of their existing operation in Clarendon, explaining that demand for pellets has exceeded their production capacity. At present they produce 20 tons/year working with 80 logging companies and drawing from a 40-mile radius to Clarendon. They employ 20 mill workers. Estimated revenue is \$3M per year with projection of \$4M by adding N. Hartland operation.

They seek a second location with minimal residential proximity; flat land; and space to expand. Proximity to I-89 and I-91 is desired. They would require 7-8 acres to construct a pellet drying facility with adjacent log yard.

Questions from the board included:

- Impact on Quarry Rd? Paving/widening needed?

June 17, 2020

- What is current truck traffic at Clarendon facility? 7 log trucks in and 2.5 semis out per day.
- Environmental effects? Only output is steam. No oil used. Adherence to particulate level limit.
- Environmental permits needed? Act 250, Air Quality, Water
- Visual buffer required? Already exists
- Extra power needed? Unsure. Discussion with GMP? Not yet.
- Well needed for fire suppression?
- What kind of lease? 10-15 years w/ 2 renewals built in.
- Other structures required?
- Expectations from VPC for GUV?
- Time frame? Ideally operational by end of 2020.
- Employment opportunities?
- Would project be consistent with sustainability clause in GUV charter?

The board thanked Chris and Tabitha. Discussion will follow and board will be in touch.

Neil F. asked for feedback from board members. The general consensus was that discussion should continue but many questions remain including: road issues; building size; overly aggressive time line; examination of charter re. sustainability; GUV expense capacity; review of VPC financials; TK visit to Clarendon facility.

Neil F. advised that GUV would not pay for construction or maintenance of a road, and that Paul Giuliani be consulted before discussions proceed.

#### **4. Update on Construction/Budget for Organics Transfer Station**

Tom K. requested that Engineer, Jason Waysville be allowed speak next. No objections. Jason reported that preparation is being made for placement of the building's upper slab. Building has arrived and has been inspected. Installation is pending Crown Point schedule. Tom K. is hoping for an August 1, 2020 opening.

#### **5. Discussion of Organic Transfer Station Operations and Lease Payment Schedule**

Tom K. requested that Lisa Ransom, Grow Compost, be allowed to speak next. No objection.

- Lisa gave brief history of Grow Compost and its relationship with Agri-Cycle, including the logistics of collecting retail packaged food, delivering to ALVA Waste in Springfield, and hauling by Agri-Cycle their Exeter, ME de-packager.
- COVID-19 caused a 50% drop in March revenue. Recovery is ongoing.
- GC hauls liquids (majority beer). The VTC campus digester has closed. Material is being sent to other on farm digesters but space is being maxed out. GC would like to construct a 22K gallon holding tank at the N. Hartland facility, to be used in conjunction with an Agri-Cycle truck tank.
- GUV is required to construct a double wall tank for food scrap leachate. The contents from this smaller tank would be transferred to the larger tank and then hauled to digesters in MA, ME, and NH.

The board thanked Lisa for her report.

### **3. Receive May 2020 Treasurer's Report**

Tom K. reported that the significant reduction in hours of operation and acceptance of many materials at the Hartford Transfer Station has caused a loss of fees coming to GUV. The Lebanon Landfill accepted GUV residents and businesses when Hartford reduced its hours and materials accepted. Neither facility tracked GUV revenue during this time so GUV will not receive any trash disposal income from that period of time.

Cynthia Porter explained reviewed the GUV P&L Report and explained the new Organics Transfer Station account. Mary G. moved to accept the P&L Report. Steve Willbanks seconded. Roll call. Motion accepted.

### **7. Discussion of Town of Hartford Rejoining GUVSWMD**

Tom K. explained that the transfer station took a \$200K loss during the current fiscal year. Selectboard members want to continue the town-wide curbside contract with Casella. Tom K. believes that this contract is syphoning off significant business and revenue from the transfer station. Tom plans to contact VT DEC regarding assistance in a possible study of the facility. Vern Clifford stated that he has no interest in pursuing a re-entry of Hartford into the GUVSWMD without substantial research. He questioned what the benefits would be for GUV.

### **8. Review and Adopt FY21 Contract and Work Program**

NF requested following changes:

p.2 "meet with Selectboard AND Town Manager

p.4 "work with Grow Compost of VT AND Agri-Cycle"

p.1 Attachment A, last sentence "shall commence on July 1, 2020."

### **9. FY 21 Meeting Schedule**

Steve Willbanks suggested that the January 13, 2021 meeting (Public Hearing on FY22 Budget) be changed to January 5. No objection was voiced by the Board..

### **10. Old Business** - None

### **11. New Business** - None

The next meeting will be on August 19<sup>th</sup>.

Meeting adjourned at 6:28 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Ham Gillett and Tom Kennedy