

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

November 19th, 2015

4:30 PM

Location: Tracy Hall, Norwich, VT

Board members present:

Neil Fulton (*Norwich Rep.*)

Stephen Willbanks (*Strafford Rep.*)

Phil Swanson (*Woodstock Rep.*)

John Timken (*Bridgewater Rep.*)

Vern Clifford (*Pomfret Rep.*)

Ben Bradley (*Thetford Rep.*)

Paul Haskell (*Sharon Rep.*)

Board members absent: *Vershire, West Fairlee*

Staff present: Stephen Lambert (*Admin. Assistant.*), Bryan Tibbals (*Recycling Coordinator Intern*), Tom Kennedy (*GUV District Manager*)

Chair, Neil Fulton, opened the meeting of the Board of Supervisors at 4:40 PM.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 8/27/15:

It was brought to the board's attention by Steve Willbanks that the meeting minutes from June 19, 2015 had not yet been approved and should thus be voted on in addition to the 8/27/15 minutes.

Steve Willbanks made a motion to approve the 6/18/15 as well as the 8/27/15 meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Verne Clifford. All approved, motion carried with no abstentions.

2. FINANCIAL REPORTS:

Tom Kennedy began by stating that the District saw a slight reduction in assets in FY 2015 though ended the year well with a net income of \$104,335.34. Tom then discussed the Profit and Loss budget for July to October 2015, noting that all expenses associated with the Solar Project are an outlier while everything else is fairly typical. There was not much to report for income other than it was tracking well. Tom did also note that Act 148 had kicked in which may have an effect on future trends. There is currently no depreciation in municipal solid waste though there is a significant reduction in recyclables, likely due to the economy. There was not much to report on the balance sheet as it is early in the fiscal year.

A motion was made to receive the financials as presented by Paul Haskell. Steve Willbanks seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried with no abstentions.

3. **REVIEW FY 2017 BUDGET:**

Tom Kennedy began by stating that the 2017 budget needs to be adopted by the second Tuesday in January, 2016. It was also noted that the GUVSWD bond payments are decreasing. Tom then suggested to the board that he would like to reduce the per capita charge and town membership fee from \$231,052 to \$219,180. It was also pointed out by Neil Fulton this would be a benefit paid back to tax payers. Tom continued by informing the board that it can be difficult to determine waste management fees at this time because of the uncertainties of Act 148. Discussion persisted on the revenue side of the budget noting most items had been level funded and that in 2017 proposed total revenues were \$691,594. Expenditures were also mostly level funded, though Tom noted that the district will continue to adjust time, hours, days, and so forth that the personnel will be working. Bed Bradley had a question regarding the "Legal and Engineering" line item, as to why funds were not higher if the Solar Park project is not completely dead. Tom replied that if the District is successful in negotiations of the Solar project GroSolar would pick up expenses of up to \$40,000.

A motion was made by Verne Clifford to set a public hearing to adopt the FY 2017 budget on January 7th, 2016 with a provisional snow date January 14th, 2016 . Motion seconded by Paul Haskell. All in favor, motion carried with no abstentions.

4. **UPDATE ON SOLAR PRJOECT:**

Tom Kennedy opened by informing the board of unfortunate news that had been discovered in working with GroSolar and Green Mountain Power (GMP). The lines that the district were trying to use to draw in the power were overextended and would have to be replaced which would cost upwards of \$1.5 million, making it unfeasible in the near term to make the project work. In addition GMP has a lot of projects they are currently involved with and so do not particularly have great interest in the GUV project in North Hartland at this time. Tom continued by suggesting that the District postpone the project. GroSolar likes the site and there may be a possibility that have GMP assist in absorbing some of the costs for the connection. It was then mentioned that the lease agreement, given at the last Board of Supervisors meeting, had been revised and that GroSolar now only wants to pay \$5,000 and would like a 3 year agreement. When discussed by the administrative committee this was deemed unacceptable and so was then suggested by Tom that the board table the lease agreement and that the District continue further discussions with GroSolar or wait to hear back from GMP to see if the project would be feasible in 2 to 3 years. The District would consider keeping GroSolar as the developer, but until ready the GUV should not enter a lease agreement.

A guest attending the meeting suggested that potential development grants could aid in the projects costs. Tom stated that it's not necessarily a financial issue but rather GMP simply does not have great incentive to pursue this project at this time.

The board agreed to have further discussions on how to proceed with the project.

5. **DISCUSSION OF LANDFILL SITE:**

Tom Kennedy stated that in his numerous visits to the Town of Strafford he encountered some people who are concerned about District costs and are curious what is being done. Tom noted that

the District is trying to find revenue to reduce costs to tax payers and the town membership costs to the District. It was asked if the strategy of selling the land with embedded permits had been considered by the District as well as if the board would consider hiring an assessor to appraise the value of the land. Neil Fulton made mention that over the last four years the board had looked at numerous options including selling the land, a landfill study, and alternative uses (potential transfer station, compost site, etc.) though there has never been an appraisal. Neil then added that the appraisal fee would not be cheap because the land would need to be appraised for alternative uses. Tom asked the board if there were any other suggestions as to what could be done to reduce member costs. Phil Swanson mentioned the idea of a harvest and timber sale. John Timken voiced that he feels the board cannot necessarily go forward with thinking that the land will be used as future landfill site and thought the board should not dismiss the idea of getting an appraisal. Tom then stated that he thought the board should give another year for the Solar Project.

A motion was made by Pual Haskell that at this time the board would not consider an appraisal for the property while the Board of Supervisors continues discussions and actively pursues interest in alternative uses of the land. Motion seconded by Verne Clifford. All in favor, motion carried with no abstentions.

6. **SWIP FINAL APPROVAL:**

A motion was made by Paul Haskell to approve the final version of the SWIP for submittal to ANR. Motion seconded by John Timken. All in favor, motion carried with no abstentions.

7. **STAFF CHANGES:**

Tom Kennedy began this part of the meeting by informing the board that Stephen Lambert will be departing the GUVSWD at the end of the month and thanked him for his many years of service to the District. The rest of the board followed thanking Steve for his hard work and dedication. Tom continued by suggesting the potential of the GUVSWD to contract with the Southern Windsor Regional Planning Commission in handling administrative tasks on a temporary basis due to excess capacity in the financial department of the Planning Commission. It was then noted that the District office may reduce hours to 3 days a week. Staffing details and discussions on what to do with the current office are ongoing. The board was asked to bring ideas to the next Board of Supervisors meeting in January.

8. **ELECTRONICS COLLECTION PROGRAM:**

Tom began my noting that the initial electronics program contract, which ended on October 31st, 2015, paid transfer stations collecting electronic material \$0.05 per pound. The new contract now states that it will not be paying collectors of electronics at all. Many towns throughout Vermont did not understand that once they signed the contract they would be obligated to collect not only from their town resident's but from any Vermont resident, free of charge. The state will likely be limiting the number of collection sites in half.

9. **NEW BUSINESS:**

Tom made note of a recent letter offered by VLCT regarding policy on solid waste legislation and '*Issues Raised by Local Officials.*' The board was asked to read and provide comments.

10. **OLD BUSINESS:**

Tom stated that he would like to have an RFP to have engineered flooring put down and painting done at the office building at 96 Mill St. in North Hartland, VT. Phil Swanson mentioned that one possibility to source the work might be to hire personnel from the state Prison which could provide 10 workers, overseen by a staff supervisor, for \$1,500 over 5 days. The board agreed, with no objection, to submit an RFP should this not work out.

11. **SET NET REGULAR MEETING DATE:**

The next proposed meeting date, which will include a Public Hearing for the adoption of the FY 2017 budget, will be on January 7th at 4:30 p.m. at Tracy hall in Norwich, Vermont. John Timken will be unable to attend the meeting on this date.

A motion was made to adjourn the GUV Board of Supervisors meeting at 6:30 p.m. Motion carried, all approved with no abstentions.

Respectfully submitted,

Bryan Tibbals
Recycling Coordinator