

Minutes for June 2020

White River Alliance Solid Waste Board June 10, 2020

Those in attendance Sandy Conrad, Moe Brigham, Robert Young, Judi Brigham, Jenn Bartleman, David Barker, Rebecca Beguin

Call to Order 7:00pm

Election of Officers Moe Brigham was elected as Chair; David Barker was elected as Vice Chair; and Megan Fuerst was appointed Clerk.

Minutes for May 2020 Robert moves to accept May minutes as written. Motion seconded by David. Minutes approved by vote.

Financial Report Budget status report is accurate as of the end of the day June 5th, including cash deposits and expenses. The Chair has signed off on payroll & bills at the town office. Sales of recyclables is decreasing steadily as the result of global politics (China is paying/taking less for recyclables). The Transfer Station spent more to get rid of recycling than it was paid for recyclables. Labor is still slightly over-budget, but that is being addressed. Question on whether the Transfer Station should maintain COVID-19 hours or extend hours on Saturdays because there's been reported long wait times. It gets busy after 10am, and wait times have not exceeded 20 minutes. General agreement to keep the current hours.

Facility Manager Report The next Hazardous Waste Day was rescheduled for July 18th. Jenn will send a letter to Bethel and Royalton's Selectboards so that each SelectBoard can approve the event at their next meeting. The Transfer Station will remain open for regular business during July 18th, in addition to collecting hazardous waste from Alliance members for free as a separate set-up on the premises. A new gate was installed on the cardboard compactor today (June 10th), it is OSHA approved.

Budget Discussion The Transfer Station is required by law to have two closure-related costs set aside at all times. The first amount is \$20k that must be set aside for the removal of solid waste and recyclables if the facility were to close (there are currently no plans to do so). The second amount is for the post-closure maintenance of the landfill, which was \$5,000 for 2019 but can vary due to inflation. An inspection was done in May that will determine the new yearly cost for the post-closure landfill care, for 2020 and the next 5 years based on inflation. There is currently a 41 account named "Solid Waste Reserve Fund" in the Town of Bethel's budget with \$37k in it; Jenn and Town Manager Therese Kirby propose renaming that to "Solid Waste Closure Fund" and leaving in \$27k in order to cover the two closure-related costs, plus a small buffer for the

increasing post-closure landfill maintenance amount. Robert moves to rename the reserve fund to the Solid Waste Closure Fund. Motion seconded by Rebecca. Motion approved by vote. There was confusion over the 40 replacement reserve account within the operating budget and how that line item is used. General agreement that this money does not belong in the operating budget, but rather as a separate fund as described above. Since the 41 Reserve Fund has more money in it than necessary, Jenn and Therese also propose to take \$10k from the current 41 Reserve Fund and put it into another, newly created Capital Fund account specifically for equipment upgrades. This Capital Fund would replace the replacement reserve account, which would be taken out of the operating budget. General agreement among the Board that it makes sense to do this.

A suggestion was made to move the Closure Fund into a sweep or escrow account in order to earn interest. Board members did not feel like they had adequate information to make the determination as to which type of account would be best in terms of highest interest earned, and therefore delegated the decision-making to Therese

Jenn and Therese are revamping the budget that has already been approved for FY21 in order to true up certain line items and align codes with actual expenditures. Jenn listed line items that will be changing in budgeted dollar amounts. The Transfer Station needs a new SWIP written this year, and any associated grants will go towards Hazardous Waste Days.

Other Business Questions on how Green Up Day went – little trash, lots of tires. Discussion on making the Transfer Station more comparable to Randolph in terms of prices so that people don't travel as far to discard their waste. Question on whether it's actually costing the Station more to manage the additional waste, even if it brings in more revenue for trash. No clear answer, but there is certainly a need for more signage at the transfer station to discourage non-Alliance members from bringing only recycling to this Transfer Station.

The Board went into Executive Session at 8:45pm on a motion by Robert and second by Judi to discuss a personnel matter. The Board left the Executive Session at 9:00pm on a motion by Robert and second by Judi. No action was taken. The meeting adjourned at 9:05 on a motion by Judi and second by David.