

Lamoille Regional Solid Waste Management District  
29 Sunset Drive, Suite 5  
Morrisville, VT 05661

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' BUSINESS MEETING  
TUESDAY, MAY 9, 2023  
CONDUCTED BY ZOOM

SUPERVISORS

Cathy Mander-Adams	Belvidere	Dana Sweet	Cambridge
Penelope Doherty	Craftsbury	David Whitcomb	Eden
Absent	Elmore	Vacant	Hyde Park
Howard Romero	Johnson	Charles Cooley	Morristown
Willie Noyes	Stowe	Absent	Waterville
Phillip Wilson	Wolcott	Absent	Worcester

STAFF

Susan Alexander	District Manager	Donna Griffiths	Clerk
Jon Skates	Facilities Foreman		

Willie Noyes called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public were present.

2. APPROVE MINUTES OF APRIL 5, 2023 MEETING

**Howard moved and Charles seconded to approve the minutes of April 5, 2023. The motion was passed unanimously.**

3. FY2023 FINANCIALS

a. *Approve March 2023 Financial Reports*

Susan said our net income is negative \$97,173.96. She anticipates we will be further in the red by the end of the fiscal year. A number of factors have contributed. Our recycling and disposal income has been dropping ever since COVID started. She had anticipated we would see a bump back up, but we haven't. The amount we have been paying out for health insurance deductibles for employees is higher this year than it has been. We put 100% of the premium and about half the maximum deductible in our budget. We run on a fiscal year and insurance runs on a calendar year. An employee could go through their full deductible in the first 6 months of our fiscal year and then go through another full deductible in the next 6 months. That has happened this year. Our premium went down slightly this year but there has been a lot of use of insurance by employees. We have increased salaries hoping to attract employees. Fuel costs have increased and inflation has affected many costs.

We expect to get about an additional \$180K from the increase in the bag fee and about \$40K from the increase in the surcharge. Those increases take effect July 1. We will put notices about the increases in the paper and on Front Porch Forum. We are required to give 30 days' notice of the surcharge increase. We probably will get an ad out next week about that. Penelope asked if it is okay to mention the increase to her selectboard now. Susan said she thinks that is fine. Letters have been sent to haulers notifying them of the change. The letters have been out for a week now and she hasn't heard anything back. Our surcharge and bag fees are on par with or lower than surrounding districts.

Dana asked if we can look at weighing bags at Johnson. Some of them are very heavy. Jon said we can look into it.

**Charles moved and Cathy seconded to approve the March 2023 financial reports. The motion was passed unanimously.**

*b. Ratification of Check Register*

**Dana moved to ratify the check register and the motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

4. DISCUSS MUNICIPAL ENERGY RESILIENCE GRANT FOR STOWE ELECTRIC BUILDING

Susan said the state Buildings and Grounds Division is offering a grant that doesn't require a match to improve energy resiliency. She and Jon think it is a good fit for the Stowe Electric Department building. They attended a meeting about it. There are 3 phases. The first is an initial assessment. They pay for someone to look at the building and see what it needs to bring it up to current energy codes or reduce energy usage. Phase 2 is getting someone to design solutions for the issues found in the assessment. It is not determined whether they will pay for that. Phase 3 is implementation and that would be 100% paid for by the MERP grant. She and Jon will continue to follow up on this opportunity. The application for assessments is not out yet. Regional planning commissions have been given money to help municipalities apply for the grants. It doesn't have to be limited to the Stowe Electric building. We could ask for them to look at all our buildings and kiosks.

5. DISCUSS FOR ACTION ADDITIONAL PRICE INCREASES

Susan said we are currently charging less for tires than what we are charged to dispose of them. She showed the board a list of proposed price increases for tires and bulky items. She said we should also increase our cubic yard fee. There is nothing in the LRSWMD charter and ordinance about fees at facilities. She is not sure if increasing the fees requires board approval but she wanted to get input on it from the board.

**Dana moved and Cathy seconded to increase prices as recommended in the chart prepared by Susan. The motion was passed unanimously.**

6. UPDATES

*a. H.67 HHW Extended Producer Responsibility*

Susan said the HHW extended producer responsibility bill has passed the house and senate and is basically a done deal. HHW events are costing us a lot of money and this bill should alleviate our costs for setup and disposal.

A total of 245 cars came to the HHW event on Saturday. All our towns were represented. We are still getting roughly the same number of participants as before we started charging. Penelope said she is hearing that people think it is cheap. Susan said until the HHW bill starts helping us with costs we can only afford to do two HHW events per year.

*b. H.158 Bottle Bill*

Susan said amendments have been put into the bill saying it will be studied and then come back.

*c. Compost Sales*

Susan said compost sales are going well. She thinks we have sold 85-90 cubic yards. Refills are really popular. We arranged with some haulers to haul large loads. We also freed up some time at Lamoille Soil through efficiencies so our employees may be able to do deliveries up to 10 cubic yards. For more than that we will suggest they work with a hauler. We will have an open house on June 3.

Willie asked if we are selling any compost at the Stowe facility. Susan said yes. Jon said we dropped a 32 yard pile there and we have about 8-10 yards left. He is considering putting another load there. Most of that is coming from bucket sales.

*d. Other*

Susan said Judy Root, who used to be an administrative assistant for LRSWMD, passed away this week. LRSWMD will send a card to her family.

Susan said Jeff Foss is retiring. Another hauler is thinking about moving into this area more. She is concerned that we have lost close to a third of the haulers that were here when she started 12 years ago.

Willie said he heard from former LRSWMD board member Rand Pelton that Howard Duchacek is doing well.

**It was moved and seconded to adjourn. The motion was passed unanimously.**

Chair Willie Noyes adjourned the meeting at 7:39 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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Donna Griffiths, District Clerk

Date

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Willie Noyes, Chair

Date