

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

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' BUSINESS MEETING  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2023  
CONDUCTED BY ZOOM

SUPERVISORS

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

STAFF

Susan Alexander	District Manager	Jon Skates	Facilities Manager
Donna Griffiths	Clerk		

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 SEPTEMBER 12, 2023 MEETING

**David moved and Cathy seconded to approve the minutes of September 12, 2023. The motion was passed unanimously.**

3. FY2023 FINANCIALS

a. *Approve August 2023 Financial Reports*

Susan said we have a positive net income of \$112K. That is a good place to be but it is also early in the year. We have had some pretty big increases in disposal and surcharge income, primarily due to the increased surcharge and bag fee. Surcharge income is also up due to flood debris.

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

b. *Ratification of Check Register*

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

c. *Pre-payment Authorizations for Large Checks*

Susan said the payment of \$36,036.51 is to US Ecology. They run the HHW collections. We received a couple of thousand dollars from the \$10 per car fee we charge. We got payment from the Agency of Agriculture for disposal of pesticides and the state paid part of the set-up fee. We also charged some small quantity generators. All that totals about \$11K, so the cost to us for the event is around \$25K.

**Cathy moved and Dana seconded to authorize pending payments in the amount of \$36,036.51. The motion was passed unanimously.**

4. DISCUSSION OF 2024 INSURANCE PLAN AND RATES

Susan said we have used the same insurance for several years. Only full-time employees (32 hours per week or more) receive the health insurance benefit. We cover the employee only and do not provide family coverage. We cover 100% of the employee's cost. We use the Blue Cross Blue Shield Bronze CDHP plan. We opted for a low premium high deductible plan and that has worked well. Last year there was a minimal increase in the premium. This year the premium is increasing from \$581.44 to \$659.13. Our total increase for all employees is \$7,458.24. That is close to our current deductible amount of \$7,500. Susan doesn't budget for 8 full deductibles and that has worked out. For next year she recommends continuing with the current plan, but maybe next year we should review the plans again. Another option is a plan with a higher monthly premium (\$912) but a smaller deductible. Because our insurance plan is based on the calendar year and our fiscal year is July to June, we ended up having two employees who used their full deductible between July and December and then both deductibles were almost exhausted again in the remainder of our fiscal year. (*Penelope left at 6:53 and Phil arrived at 6:54.*)

5. REPORT FROM VISIONING COMMITTEE

Susan said she, Jon, Phil, Howard, and Charles met last Thursday and started looking at data on amount of trash, number of customers, trips over the scale, etc. to inform any decisions we make. They talked about the role of the Stowe Electric Department building in our future. We are currently paying \$2500 a month to rent it. The price for OCC is low now and we might not be breaking even on OCC recycling, but we use the space for other things as well. There will be a 3% increase on rent every year. We are underutilizing the building because we have not moved the office there. We have to call into question whether we should continue to rent it. Should we ask for a 100 year lease? Should we purchase it outright? Susan has been trying to find out if the Stowe Electric Department is interested in selling but she has not been hearing back from them. She just sent an offer to buy it outright for \$50K and has not yet heard back.

The committee looked at aging infrastructure and talked about what we need to do and know to make decisions about what we want to invest in. Jon said they went through data from Sarah about trends in trash and C&D generation at the Stowe site over the last 6 years or so. The trend is downward. There is not a lot of reason to believe our tonnage will go up dramatically. There is a lot of reason to believe that the compaction and trailer system we have today will continue to be appropriate and practical for the quantities we have at Stowe.

Charles said one thing to consider is whether we stay with one large compaction process or look at compacting and hauling smaller amounts. A lot of that depends on Casella and our long term disposal agreement. Jon said he got a couple of quotes on trash compactors the size we use today. A new one would cost about \$190K. He got 2 quotes for refurbished units that were around \$135K to \$140K. He doesn't have details on those units yet. He has asked for more information. Susan said an alternative would be to have smaller compacted loads, like 40 yards. We would have to reconfigure the site to accommodate the smaller compactor, at a cost of perhaps \$40K. Jon said we have 2 cylinders that drive the current compactor. Both have problems. There are not cylinders like these available on the market. We would have to get them built at a cost of about \$12K each.

It takes about 20 weeks. The estimated time to get a new or refurbished compactor after ordering it is also about 20 weeks. If we divide the cost of a new compactor by 30 years, that comes out to about \$6K per year. Purchasing cylinders for the current compactor would cost about 2 years of payments on a new machine.

Susan said Howard is working on some sketches of proposed modifications at Stowe.

6. UPDATES

Susan said we submitted an application to the Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont to have our compost certified for organic use. We are hoping to hear back in time for spring sales.

Jon got a small VLCT safety grant for automating overhead doors. Jon said the grant is \$3500 with no match. The total project cost will be about \$4300.

Susan said the Lamoille County Conservation District spent an afternoon on the river collecting tires and trash. They spent under \$100 of the \$500 clean-up grant we gave them. They will be able to use the rest before the end of June if they want to.

Brian Kellogg passed away 2 weeks ago. His family is having a memorial on Sunday, October 15. We will be closing the Stowe and Johnson facilities early that day so staff can attend.

Sarah Lillibridge will be pursuing a new opportunity and shifting to part-time work with us starting November 1. She and Susan are working on what responsibilities will get shifted or contracted out and what she will finish up before the end of the year. After January 1 we will see how the arrangement is going.

Sarah will do an open house at Lamoille Soil on October 21. She does radio shows every Wednesday. The recordings are on our website.

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

Chair Willie Noyes adjourned the meeting at 7:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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Donna Griffiths, District Clerk

Date

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Willie Noyes, Chair

Date