



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.guvswwmd.org

[Draft]

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

AND PUBLIC HEARING

Hybrid Meeting

Physical Location: Ascutney Professional Building

Ascutney, Vermont

Wednesday, September 27, 2023

4:30 PM

Board members present: Steve Willbanks (Strafford), Mary Gavin (Sharon), Neil Fulton (Norwich), Bob Stacey (Hartland), Vern Clifford (Pomfret), Mary McCuaig (Woodstock),
Staff present: Tom Kennedy, Ham Gillett

1. Changes to the Agenda

Tom K. thanked Mary Gavin for her years of dedication serving on the board. This was Mary's last meeting. Mary stated that it had been her pleasure.

Neil K. asked that Tom K. give a status report on the FY2023 audit.

Tom K. asked that he speak to the board regarding the current relationship between the Lebanon Solid Waste Facility and GUVSWMD.

2. Approval of July 12 Minutes (Enclosure) – Steve W. moved to accept. Vern C. seconded. Tom K. took roll. Motion accepted.

3. Receive July 2023 Financials (Enclosure)

Tom K. reported that the new auditors are in the final stages of the FY2023 audit. A final report is expected in November, at which time Tom will send it out to all board members. In the P&L, Tom noted that GUV had budgeted \$50K for two HHW collections. The actual cost was \$89,510. Tom expects that the \$80K budgeted for FY2024 will cover most of the costs for the two collections.

Mary G. moved to accept the P&L financial report. Mary M. seconded. Tom K. took roll. Motion accepted.

Bob S. moved to approve the Balance Sheet. Mary G. seconded. Tom K. took roll. Motion accepted.

a. Compost and Organic Transfer Station Lease Increase

Tom K. reported that Agri-Cycle continues to have problems with a lack of drivers and a lack of finished compost for sale. The amount of packaged material coming to the transfer station has increased. Agri-Cycle has agreed to an increase in the base lease amount from \$1,000 to \$1,500 to

cover the cost of finished compost that has not been sold. Tom K. stated that this increase should cover existing expenses.

Neil F. asked for a motion to allow the Administrative Committee to amend the lease.

Vern C. moved to accept. Mary G. seconded. Tom K. took roll. Motion accepted.

4. Discussion of the Creation of a Development Soils Facility

Tom K. stated that there is a growing need from the state for land to dispose of development soils containing PAHs, arsenic, or lead. The Coventry, VT landfill is currently the only site available in VT after a site in NY State recently reached capacity. Disposal fees at Coventry are currently \$60/ton. There are large costs involved in transporting this material. Tom K. gave an example of a town in Vermont that will pay 60% of the \$1M project fees for transportation.

VT DEC has approached GUV about the availability of the North Hartland site. Tom K. offered to the board that income from such a project would offset the continued loss of income from tipping fees and surcharges from the Hartford Transfer Station to the Lebanon Solid Waste Facility. Vern C. asked if existing soil at the N. Hartland site would need to be removed in order to bury the incoming development soil. Tom K. said yes, or that incoming soil could also be deposited in existing ravines. Tom offered that he is not qualified to answer technical questions.

Steve W. asked if there would be a possibility of GUV receiving payment for good soil being removed. Tom K. stated that he had been in communication with a company in Putney regarding this subject.

Vern C. and Steve W. suggested that there would be significant opposition from the public regarding the permitting of a landfill. Tom emphasized that discussions of this project must refer to a “facility” and not a “landfill”, which would necessitate much more permitting. Tom K. stated that Vermont has very strict standards for disposing of development soils, their standards being higher than those of the EPA.

Vern C. moved to approve that the Admin. Committee allow the Chair to amend the existing agreement. Mary G. seconded the motion. Tom K. took roll. Motion accepted.

5. Discussion of Developing a Permanent HHW Facility

Tom K. reviewed the need for a permanent HHW facility for GUV, stating the significantly lower cost between the Springfield HHW Depot, open twice a week by appointment from May through September, and the two annual 4-hour collection events held at the Hartford Transfer Station. Tom stated that the new Hartford DPW Director has been much more cooperative than his predecessor and that he’s heard positive reports about the new Town Manager.

Two options that Tom has considered are to: 1) have Hartford remove their existing trailers on the lower level of their facility and replace them with HHW containers similar to the ones at the Springfield site; 2) create a Springfield-type HHW drop-off at the North Hartland site between the existing transfer station and the composting operation.

Tom K. also stated that the Hartford DPW Director has reached out to GUV for administrative and outreach assistance. Tom suggested that there is a potential for cost/staff sharing between the two districts.

6. Recycling Coordinator’s Report (enclosure)

Ham G. delivered the report.

7. Update on Transfer Station and Compost Facility – (See 3a)

8. Discussion of Sharing Staff with the Town of Hartford - (See 5)

9. New Business

Tom K. asked for the board's thoughts on the relationship and communications between the Lebanon Solid Waste Facility and GUVSWMD. The facility is undergoing significant changes in terms of payment from customers. They have signed contracts with each GUV District town, yet they continue to ask GUV to communicate all changes to those towns. They have a signed agreement with GUV to provide data on usage from GUV residents and businesses. They have not provided this data despite repeated requests from GUV for several years. Due to the decrease in services at the Hartford Transfer Station, the fact that they shut down during COVID, and the fact that Lebanon charges 20% of what Hartford charges for household trash, GUV has lost considerable revenue as GUV residents and businesses switch to Lebanon.

Following discussion, the board agreed that GUV should not be assisting the Lebanon Solid Waste Facility in any communication regarding their services.

10. Old Business - None

Meeting adjourned at 5:36 PM.

The next regular meeting date is scheduled for _____, 2023, at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ham Gillett and Tom Kennedy