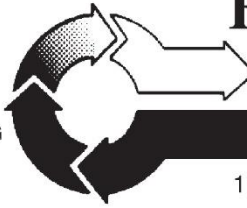


REDUCTION
RECYCLING
COMPOSTING
DISPOSAL



Franklin County Solid Waste Management District

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DISTRICT BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES MEETING MINUTES January 20, 2021

Representatives and Alternates Present: Justin Lawrence – Bernardston; Andrea Donlon – Buckland; Marguerite Willis – Charlemont; Jonathan Lagreze – Colrain; Lynn Rubinstein – Conway; MA Swedlund – Deerfield; Reenie Clancy – Deerfield; Annette Herda – Leverett; Chris Boutwell – Montague; Amy Fagin – New Salem; Bob MacEwen – Northfield; Terry Narkewicz – Shelburne; Doug Tanner – Wendell; Larry Kuttner – Whately

Representatives Absent: Bryan Smith – Erving; Arthur Cohen – Gill; Bob Root – Hawley; Hilma Sumner – Heath; Ed Billiel - Orange; Priscilla Curtis – Orange; Tom Fydenkevez – Sunderland; Michael Mankowsky – Warwick

Others Present: Jan Ameen – Executive Director; Amy Donovan – Program Director; Stephanie Meehleder – Administrative Assistant

This was a virtual meeting via GoToMeeting. It was called to order at 6:07 p.m.

I. Review and Accept Minutes: A motion was made by Lynn Rubinstein to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2020 meeting and seconded by Doug Tanner. There was one abstention and 12 in favor and one was not present at the time.

II. Public Hearing: At 6:11 p.m. Jan opened the public hearing to discuss the proposed FY22 budget. She stated that the budget was sent out to all of the towns after the November meeting and she did not receive comments or questions. Jan then opened the floor for discussion and there were no public comments or questions. A motion was made by MA Swedlund to close the public hearing and was seconded by Jonathan Legreze. The motion was unanimously approved at 6:14 p.m. and the Board meeting continued.

III. FY22 Budget – Review and Adopt Budget: A motion was made by Doug Tanner to adopt the FY22 budget as submitted. This was seconded by Andrea Donlon. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Executive Director’s Report: Jan gave an update on sludge pricing: The City of Lowell Treatment Plant is the only choice available for sludge disposal at this time. Towns with wastewater treatment plants will see significant increases in their budgets due to the increases in disposal and sludge processing fees. There will also be a slight increase in hauling fees. Report on the Springfield MRF recycling processing fees: The report reflected a decrease in the fees charged per ton due to an increase in the AMV (Average Market Value). To date, the net fee has decreased to about half of the budgeted base fee of \$93.50. RDP Grant Funds: The DEP allows towns that have RDP (Recycling Dividend Funds) funds to pay \$50 per ton for recycling processing out of the town budget and anything over that could be paid for with RDP funds. These funds can be rolled over and continue to build up each year. DEP is starting to look at the fund totals in each town and would like to see the towns using their RDP funds. Jan is proposing that the towns either make a transfer from the RDP funds to their

general fund to pay for recycling processing fees (over \$50/ton) or use RDP funds to pay for expenses such as electronics, light bulbs, tires, or composting. Jan sent a spreadsheet to each town of their total available RDP funds. Currently, Jan is in the office Mondays and Tuesdays. Stephanie is in the office on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Amy continues to work from home. Jan is still accepting sharps and selling compost bins using the front foyer for contactless exchanges. The building and the office remain closed to the public. More information can be found in the Executive Director's Report.

V. Program Director's Report: Amy sent out the holiday recycling guidelines in November and will include the link in her report. Amy has been collaborating with a science teacher from Pioneer Valley Regional High School working with a 9th grade ecology class. They are studying worm bins at home with remote kits. Amy was able to donate 3 pounds of worms from various bins in the District and is hoping to get some press about it. The Springfield MRF Advisory Board has formed a subcommittee that will be updating educational videos. The subcommittee has added a new video page on the MRF website. There are currently four quick videos posted and more coming soon. Compost programs: Currently we are working to increase town participation in food waste compost programs. The towns that are currently hosting municipal compost programs are Bernardston, Conway, Deerfield, Leverett, New Salem, Northfield, Orange, Wendell and Whately. Whately was the first in the state to participate. Warwick and Montague are considering adding composting at their transfer stations. Buckland, Heath and Rowe are unable to get compost hauler services at this time. The remaining Towns of Colrain, Charlemont and Shelburne may be able to participate in the future. MassDEP will award 2 RDP points (valued at \$700 - \$1200) to each town for setting up a composting program. The RDP revenue can then be used to pay for the cost of compost hauling. Also, Jan added that any resident in Franklin County can bring their food waste to the Greenfield transfer station. Further information is available in the Program Director's report.

VI. Town Reports / New Business / Schedule Next Meeting: There is nothing new to report on the lawsuit with prevailing wage. The HHW Collection has been scheduled for September 25, 2021. There has been discussion about Bulky Waste Day. Holding it depends on available help, the state of the pandemic and safety issues. The next board meeting will be May 19, 2021.

Chris Boutwell moved to adjourn the meeting and Annette Herda seconded. Passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

The following written materials were used at the meeting:

- FY22 proposed budget
- FY21 AMV chart