

White River Alliance

Solid Waste Board

August 12, 2020

Those in attendance: Moe Brigham, Judi Brigham, Robert Young, Jenn Bartleman, Sandra Conrad, Rebecca Beguin; Via Zoom: David Barker, Chris Noble, Jo Lavasser (Herald Reporter)

Guests: Chris Jarvis, Bethel Selectboard Chair, Therese Kirby Bethel, Town Manager, Royalton Police Officers: Chief Lorretta Stalnaker & Constable Marc Preston

Call to Order: 7:02PM

Minutes for previous meeting on July 8, 2020 were not finalized as Megan was not present to add more details re: comments on education options as discussed to be added was requested by Sandra. Motion to table these minutes by Robert, seconded by Judi, all approved.

Financial Report: Discussion ensued on financials – Ms. Kirby was present to explain how the finances were handled by the Bethel Town Office. Board would like to have a balance sheet each month along with the Budget Status Reports. Sandra had questions as to 1) why the 2018-19 budget figures were \$34K different from the audit figures; 2) why the SWIP Grant was only \$12K and not the \$25K – SWIP payments came in in 2 payments – SWIP grants now comes as a 5 year grant and is dispersed in 1/5th increments as Hazardous Waste Days are observed; Chris N had questions as well – 1) was the SW Board given incorrect data to run the facility by previous manager; 2) Do we “co-mingle” money with the Town of Bethel; 3) any co-mingling should stop immediately. Ms. Kirby requested Chris N that he send his questions via email to Judi Brigham and she’d respond to them. She went on to explain how and why any finances were handled by the Town and why we need to have the Town “float” money so that our bills are paid on time. Per Therese Kirby there is NO co-mingling of any finances by the Town. Rebecca suggested we move on to the new budget year and wanted to know what was being done about the Audit Recommendations. Discussion about these recommendations and how the auditors do not like that – 1)we accept cash, should have check or credit/debit card payments only or ticket system, etc.; 2)how changes in allocations (Journal entries, coding errors, etc., are handled; 3) flow controls explained.

Motion by Chris N – SW Board needs to be notified each time the Town of Bethel “pays” our bills for us. Therese added that she will add a note to the budget summary provided each month when this occurs. OK’d by Chris N. Motion seconded by Sandra – motion carried.

Currently the SW Board has a deficient in the budget which needs to be resolved and it was suggested that the rates need to be raised to help with this. Discussion then ensued about raising the rates and the Alliance Fees. No action was taken at this time.

Rate Discussion - Since we have a deficit in our budget we need to consider raising our rates to resolve this problem. Per Jenn, she and Therese have consulted with Casella and have gone over the current budget extensively to try and find common ground so as not to have the rates "go thru the roof" and to keep the customers happy. Overtime was once again discussed. Sandra noted that with shorter hours, shouldn't be so much overtime - however per Jenn, mandatory work must still be completed prior to leaving the facility that can't be done with the public on premises.

Motion to go into Executive Session to discuss Personnel Matters moved by Judi, seconded by Robert. All in favor. Executive Session started 8:35PM

Executive Session ended: 9:22PM

Motion by Sandra to have Dave and Judi continue to write a draft letter for the SW board's review to put in the paper showing a unified front by both the Bethel and Royalton Selectboards and the SW Board denouncing the harassment/threats recently received and fully supporting our facility manager and her policies. Seconded by Robert and all in favor.

Motion to adjourn by Robert, seconded by Sandra at 9:25PM.