

HSWC minutes
1-12-2015
(1-23-15 version)
(tasks in bold)

Present: Rich Menge, Simon Dennis, Bethany Fleishman, Martha McDaniel, Todd Allen, Harry Kendrick, Shawn Kelley

Meeting convened at 5:40 PM

Agenda:

1. Review/approve minutes from 12-8-14 meeting
2. Discuss planned meeting with Selectboard concerning curbside recycling
3. Other business

Discussed:

1. 12/8/14 meeting minutes

Simon moved approval; Shawn seconded; approved unanimously.

2. preparation for Jan 13, 2015 Selectboard meeting (topic, whether to put FY 2016 curbside recycling on the March ballot)

a. what's the price; will it increase if there's a marked increase in participation?

- *cl. memo from Rich to Hunter on this topic*
- *quoted price for this 1-year agreement, \$180,000*
- *Jim Toher has agreed that the escalation clause that used to be in the now-long-expired agreement could be removed from a 2015-6 contract*

b. why is the price up so much (20%), especially given that gas prices are down?

- *the \$150,000 rate has been in effect for many years without an increase*

c. probable per household per month rate increases for private HSW removal, starting July 1 2015, that we know about:

*Casella \$8-12
More Waste Solutions \$6-8
Oakes \$12*

d. which Hartford residents would be "paying twice" (once via taxes, once to haulers) for recycling? (our best estimates of numbers)

- *about 50% use Town-supported curbside recycling (DSM report 2012)*
- *70-80% using haulers*
- *20% going to transfer station and probably recycling there (DSM report 2012)*
- *so, 20-40% not using Town-supported curbside recycling*

e. can/will private haulers distinguish among households, to tell which are putting out recycling for them to pick up (vs. using Town-supported curbside recycling)?
don't know - will have to ask them

f. will private haulers likely raise their rates as of July 1, 2015?

maybe, but...

- *it's a competitive market (makes it less likely they'll raise rates)*

- can't attribute any rate changes to a single factor (e.g. Town-supported curbside recycling)
 - for example, the Hartford surcharge for waste originating in Hartford will be increasing from \$10 to \$15/ton

g. the real cost of continuing Town-supported curbside recycling for "just 1 more year" ("kicking the can down the road")

unknown; it's likely that bidders could give us a better contract price for a multi-year contract – BUT, the landscape is changing so fast (and we can't really estimate the net effects of Act 148-mandated changes this year), that seeking a multi-year contract just now doesn't seem prudent

h. our estimates of real costs to residents of various options:

- Town-supported curbside recycling - ~\$3.40/month/household
- private hauler recycling - ~\$6-9/month/household

3. other business

a. Enfield / Plainfield – what info would we like?

- # households
- how do they handle long-driveway residences? (any special provisions?)
- what happened to their small private haulers after institution of the town-wide program?

b. followup on the possible issuance of RFP for Town-sponsored combined refuse/recycling pickup

- need info on: probable impact on transfer station; and funding mechanism (learn from Plainfield)
- should we plan to issue this RFP soon?
 - § against – impact on small haulers; and
 - § there's likely to be too much rapid change in the next year to make an intelligent recommendation.

c. for further HSWC discussion:

- DSM recommendations (2014 report);
- making recommendation(s) about any changes in transfer station operations
- what might be the best way to transmit our (final) recommendations?
- possible Townwide survey – might be a good tool for community-wide education

d. noted: upcoming "field trip" by Lebanon, Hartford, Norwich, Hanover, UVLSRPC representatives concerning composting

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha McDaniel