

Solid Waste Advisory Commission Updates

May 26, 2010

Attended meeting on Thursday May 20th, 2010.

The Commission had selected a subcommittee to review the solid waste and recycling bids for a contract over the next 1 to 5 years. This subcommittee met on April 29th and made their recommendation. This was presented and discussed during this SWAC meeting and it is the recommendation of the Commission to select Pinard Waste Systems. This will be in a resolution presented to the Council tonight, May 26, 2010 for their approval.

I presented the Commission with the following questions as requested by various Councilors during the May 5th, 2010 Council meeting:

1. Councilor Nadelka asked to entertain increasing the Bag and Tag bag price to generate more revenues. The commission feels that this is not necessary as the program is making money and has been very effective in encouraging the curbside trash pick up system.
2. Councilor Carrier feels the construction debris fee/pound could be increased and still be a bargain. The Commission feels that the fees are at a reasonable level to encourage the use of this service while still making a profit. Turnkey charges 7 cents per pound with a \$140 minimum. Dover increased the rates in 2008 from 5 cents to 7 cents for citizens and in 2009 increased to 10 cents for heavy users (i.e. contractors).
3. Councilor Carrier asked about fees for LP tank disposal. A standard small grille tank is \$5, a 30lb tank is \$10 and tanks larger than 30 lbs are \$20.
4. Councilor Carrier asked if there has been consideration to review options to attract more out of town users of the center and possibly charge an additional user fee. Madbury does have full access and pays the city for its use. Somersworth has been approached and has declined. A major concern is with the minimum staffing in the budget, they do not have the resource for more users and the monitoring of them.
5. Councilor Weston asked about shifting to a mandatory recycling system to increase revenues. The idea would be to have bags with a hint of green that are “see-through” so the waste removal contractor can quickly see if there are recyclables in the trash bags. If so, they would be left at the curb. The Commission does not recommend this as it will likely:
 - a. cause more bags to be left curbside for days and increase work orders for community service.
 - b. increase calls/complaints to the administrative staff
 - c. slow down the vendor and therefore likely increase the pick up costsMost importantly, the current system has an unusually high recycling rate that has worked very well.

Councilor Bill Garrison