

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO.: D(1)

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE: MARCH 18, 2003

TITLE: Work Session to Discuss Recommendations for Alternative Financing made by the Solid Waste Advisory Board

DEPARTMENT: PLANNING	PUBLIC HEARING: Yes ___ No <u>X</u>
ATTACHMENTS: A. Resolution B. SWAB Recommendations C. Financing Scenarios	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: PHILIP J. PRETE, 918-7326

PURPOSE:

The Orange County Solid Waste Advisory Board is charged with reviewing the Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan and alternatives to financing the program. The Advisory Board has made recommendations to the County Commissioners for consideration in the 2003 – 2004 budget cycle. The Administration recommends that the Aldermen review the proposed strategies and schedule a hearing to receive public input.

INFORMATION:

The Solid Waste Advisory Board (SWAB) has taken on the task, as part of their charge, of evaluating and has made recommendations to the County Commission for consideration in the 2003-04 budget cycle, and beyond, on the following:

- ◆ The County-wide Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan
- ◆ Financing alternatives to ensure proper funding of the Solid Waste Program

Recommendations include endorsement of the Comprehensive Plan and a suggested strategy of long term financing to cover the budgetary implications of the Plan. The recommendations also alert to the need to cover a significant budget shortfall in the 2003-04 fiscal year. The recommended strategy allows fiscal stability and security as the County approaches the end of its landfill capacity, requiring shifting to a system of waste management that cannot be supported by tipping fee revenue alone.

Primary financing alternatives the SWAB is recommending replace the existing tip fee and allocate all costs of providing solid waste services to a schedule of user fees, or availability fees.

The County Commissioners reviewed the recommendations in a work session conducted with the SWAB on February 26, 2003, and recommended that the towns review the recommendations in preparation for discussion at the Assembly of Governments meeting on April 29, 2003.

FISCAL IMPACT:

These recommendations would result in a new fee imposed on Carrboro residents and businesses in the coming fiscal year and beyond. If implemented as recommended, the Town's budgeted amount for paying landfill tipping fees would revert to the Town general fund.

ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION:

The Administration recommends that the Board of Aldermen adopt the attached resolution to refer this matter to the Planning Board, and the Environmental Advisory Board, and to set a public hearing to receive public input prior to the April 29 meeting of the Assembly of Governments.