

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO.: D(2)

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE: APRIL 22, 2003

TITLE: Public Hearing to Receive Public Comment on Recommendations for Alternative Financing made by the Solid Waste Advisory Board

DEPARTMENT: PLANNING	PUBLIC HEARING: YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
ATTACHMENTS: A. Resolution B. SWAB Recommendations C. March 26, 2003 SWAB letter to County D. County Solid Waste Fund summary 03-04 E. Advisory Board Recommendations	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: PHILIP J. PRETE, 918-7326

PURPOSE:

The Orange County Solid Waste Advisory Board has made recommendations to the County Commissioners for consideration in the 2003 – 2004 budget cycle. The purpose of tonight's hearing is to receive public input on the proposed strategies. The Administration recommends that the Board of Aldermen recommend that the County take the necessary steps to fully implement the proposed fee schedule in a single year, as early as practical, that cover all costs of managing solid waste in the county, that simultaneously eliminates the tipping fee, and that provides relief to low income families.

INFORMATION:

The Solid Waste Advisory Board (SWAB) has taken on the task, as part of their charge, of evaluating and making 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 were reported to the County Board in February 2003 that include endorsement of the Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan and a suggested strategy of long term financing (Attachment B) to cover the budgetary implications of the Plan and a short-term interim fee (see Attachment C) to cover a significant budget shortfall anticipated in the 2003-04 fiscal year (See Attachment D). The recommended strategy is intended to provide 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 front-end comprehensive availability fees.

The Board of Aldermen reviewed the recommendations in a work session conducted with Town Staff, County Solid Waste Department Staff, and SWAB representatives on March 18, 2003, and

referred the recommendations to the Environmental Advisory Board, the Planning Board, and the Downtown Development Commission for review and recommendations. A joint review was held with those boards on April 3, 2003, and recommendations that have been offered are included as Attachment E. The Board further set a public hearing for April 22, 1003 to receive public input prior to discussion of this issue 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 year implemented, and beyond. If implemented as recommended, the Town's budgeted amount for paying landfill tipping fees would revert to the Town general fund when the landfill tipping fee is eliminated.

ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION:

The Administration recommends that the Board of Aldermen adopt the attached resolution to recommend the following:

1. That the County institute the recommended comprehensive, prepaid availability fee that covers all costs of managing solid waste in the county in accordance with the Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan, and that simultaneously eliminates the tipping fee in the same year.
2. That the County take the necessary steps to fully implement the proposed fee schedule in a single year, as early as practical, rather than in multi-year phased approach as proposed by SWAB.
3. That measures to provide relief to low income families should be incorporated into the fee system.