

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. A(1)

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE: June 12, 2012

SUBJECT: Update on Proposed Changes to Solid Waste Collection Operations

DEPARTMENT: PUBLIC WORKS DEPT.	PUBLIC HEARING: NO
ATTACHMENTS: A. Resolution B. Power point presentation - Chapel Hill Study	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: George Seiz 918-7427

PURPOSE

The purpose of this item is to provide the Board of Aldermen (BOA) an update on proposed changes to the Town's solid waste collection operations in response to the closing of the Orange County Landfill come June 30, 2013.

INFORMATION

I. Background

At their regular meeting on February 21, 2012, County Commissioners voted to officially close the Orange County Municipal Solid Waste Landfill effective June 30, 2013. Town staff has been anticipating the eventual closure of the landfill for several years. Discussions about possible changes to solid operations in response to the landfill closure and potential transfer station sites have been going on for several years as well.

Impacts to the Town's solid waste services should the Town take trash to the Durham transfer station were discussed in a December 2009 memo to the Town Manager. The impacts noted and suggested operation changes still serve as the basis for planned modifications to the Town's solid waste operations to meet the effective closure date of June 30, 2013. Several assumptions from the 2009 memo were updated to better reflect fiscal impacts (see table 1 & 2 under Fiscal and Staffing Impact), however, the plan of purchasing a new front loader for the dumpster service and need to hire one full time solid waste equipment operator is unchanged, as well as the need to modify residential routes.

Changes are being planned for the following two solid waste operations assuming the Town's trash will be taken to the Durham transfer station: 1) the Multi-family/commercial dumpster service and 2) Single Family Residential trash collection/bulky item pick-up. Yard Waste and Construction & Demolition material (C&D) will continue to be taken to the yard waste and C&D site on Eubanks Rd. However, the yard waste collection schedule will be impacted due to changes in the residential trash collection schedule.

II. Proposed Operation Changes and Implementation Schedule

A. Changes for Multi-Family/Commercial Dumpster Service:

The town currently services multi-family and commercial dumpsters with one front loader truck and one driver making two trips to the landfill per day. A second front end loader truck serves as a spare (back-up). The additional round trip time to go to the Durham transfer station is 61 minutes (see Table 1 in the Fiscal Staffing Impact section). This will add roughly two hours to the work day and therefore one driver will not be able to finish the routes in an 8 hour day. The option of sending out two trucks with no spare is not a viable solution. Therefore, an additional truck will need to be purchased and additional labor will be required (529 hours/yr) to offset the increase in driving time and subsequent loss in productivity.

The proposed FY 12/13 budget includes funding to purchase a new front end loader which will replace an existing unit (Unit #56) which is over 11 years old. Our vehicle replacement policy calls for solid waste trucks to be replaced at 8 years. The other front end loader currently in operation was purchased in 2009, is in good condition and is scheduled for replacement in 2018. The plan calls for hanging on to Unit #56 for an additional year (will be the back-up truck for the other two trucks) and then buy a new truck in FY 13/14 so Unit # 56 can be completely retired but maintain three trucks necessary to carry out the operation.

B. Changes for Single Family Residential Collection

The Town currently services single family residential collection with one truck per day Monday thru Thursday and two trucks on Friday. The operation requires 6 trips to the landfill per week. The days that would be impacted are those when only 1 truck is used (two trips need to be made to the landfill in one day). With the additional driving time the one truck would not be able to finish the route within an 8 hour day, and therefore a second truck would always be required for at least 4 days of the week. Although the extra truck is normally available, there are only 4 fully automated trucks to service both the regular trash and yard waste during the week. If one truck of the three being used goes down there would be one spare available. Normally, one spare would be adequate, however if two trucks go down (and this happens) yard waste would need to be delayed. Basically, there is little excess equipment capacity with this system.

Additional equipment capacity can be created by revamping the current household trash system to a two- truck 3 days/week schedule. There are perhaps other potential advantages going to a two-truck/day system in terms of scheduling for yard waste and around holidays. Public Works has anticipated that this change would eventually need to take place as population increased and daily routes filled up. Increase hauling time creates the same need. Therefore, the additional driving time to go to the Durham site will dictate some immediate revamping of the current system. Additional labor will be required (317 hours/yr) to offset the increase in driving time and subsequent loss in productivity. An additional truck may be needed in the near future to handle increased population.

The current plan is to pick-up residential waste with two trucks on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. This mid-week schedule will preclude the need to change trash collection days for three Monday holidays and the Good Friday holiday. Scheduling around Thanksgiving and Christmas will still require some change in days collected.

This change in trash collection schedule will also require a change in the yard waste collection schedule. The plan is that the majority of the yard waste (carts, small piles) will be picked-up on Mondays or Fridays (there will be assigned days for designated areas). Large piles that require the boom truck will continue to be picked-up throughout the week.

C. Summary of proposed changes and time line:

- June 2012 - Continue planning implementation of residential collection schedule. Design new routes. Contact Durham transfer station to discuss pricing and contract requirements.
- FY 12/13 - Purchase a new front leader truck. Unit #56 becomes spare for 3 truck dumpster operation beginning July 1, 2013.
- December 2012 – Finalize implementation schedule and present to BOA. Begin public education in January/February of 2013. Provide on-line maps, brochures.
- FY 13/14 – Hire one Solid Waste Equipment Operator to offset 846 hours lost productivity due to increased driving time of going to Durham transfer station. Purchase new front end loader and remove Unit #56 from the fleet.
- July 1, 2013 – Begin taking municipal solid waste to Durham transfer station. Begin new residential trash collection schedule.

III. Chapel Hill Solid Waste Collection and Disposal Options

The Town of Chapel Hill undertook a study of their collection operations and disposal options earlier this year. A copy of the May 16, 2012 presentation from their consultant is attached. The final report and presentation are tentatively scheduled to be presented to the Chapel Hill Town Council on Monday, June 25, 2012. There are several interesting aspects being looked at with this study, but perhaps the most interesting from our Town’s perspective is the idea of Chapel Hill constructing/operating a transfer station near their Public Works facility off of Millhouse Road. A facility much closer than the Durham transfer certainly has attractive aspects in terms of reduced operational costs as well as reduced emissions. Carrboro Town staff will continue to keep apprised of this concept and explore opportunities for the two municipalities to work together on solid waste issues. Staff also welcomes discussion with other local government entities on solid waste issues.

FISCAL AND STAFFING IMPACT

**Table 1:
Labor hour Differential: Multi-Family/Commercial and Residential Collection**

	Existing Landfill	Durham TS
Trips Per Week	16	16
Roundtrip mileage	9.6	42
Roundtrip Time (minutes)	22	83
Additional Driving time per trip (minutes)	n/a	61
Additional Driving time per week (hours)	n/a	16.27
Labor Hours diverted per year	n/a	846

Table 2:

Annual Increase/Decrease Costs going to Durham Transfer Station

	Durham TS	
Labor (1fte) - hire one SW Equipment Operator I	\$38,000	
Vehicle Maintenance plus fuel	\$82,232	
Purchase one front loader truck, 8 year Amortized	\$31,471	Price - \$231,000
Tipping Fee Difference	-\$123,564	
Total Additional Annual Costs	\$28,139	

Assumptions:

Annual Tonnage MSW	6,981
Cost per gallon	\$3.38
Average mpg	2.8
OC Landfill Tipping fee July 1, 2012	\$62.70
Durham Transfer station tipping fee July 1, 2012	\$45.00

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Board of Aldermen adopt the attached resolution (Attachment A) accepting this report.