

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. D(4)

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT MEETING DATE: December 4th 2012

SUBJECT: Update on Solid Waste

DEPARTMENT: PUBLIC WORKS DEPT.	PUBLIC HEARING: NO
ATTACHMENTS: A. Resolution B. Single Family Collection Graphic C. Proposed Route Map	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 on June 30, 2013. The board was previously updated on various proposed changes at the June 12, 2012 meeting.

INFORMATION

I. Background

Town staff has been anticipating the eventual closure of the landfill for several years. Impacts to the Town's solid waste services should the Town take trash to a transfer station located in Durham were discussed at the June 12, 2012 board meeting and the analysis assumed trash would be taken to the City of Durham Transfer station. Since the June 12, 2012, town staff has looked into the option of possible disposal at the Waste Industries transfer station also located in Durham. This transfer station, while the same distance in mileage as the City of Durham transfer station, has a slightly shorter travel time. Tipping fees will need to be negotiated no matter which location is chosen.

Changes have been planned for the following two solid waste operations assuming the Town's trash will be taken to a transfer station in Durham: 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 operated by Orange County 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:

It was noted in the June 12, 2012 update that the additional round trip time to go to a transfer station in Durham will add roughly 1 ½ to 2 hours to the work day. Subsequently, the one driver that handles this operation will not be able to finish the routes in an 8 hour day. Therefore, an additional truck, and staffing, will be needed. The first step in increasing the front loader fleet from two to three trucks was accomplished with the purchase of a replacement truck

for the older of the two existing front loaders (approved by the BOA at the November 13, 2012 meeting). The older truck will be used initially as a spare until an additional truck is purchased in FY 13-14 as scheduled in the CIP. Additional labor will be required (430 to 530 hours/yr. for multi-family/commercial) to offset the increase in driving time and subsequent loss in productivity.

B. Changes for Single Family Residential Collection

Staff shared with the BOA in June a proposed revamping of the current single family trash collection system to create additional equipment capacity with the existing equipment. This capacity was created by changing to a two-truck 3 days/week schedule (see Attachment B). There are other advantages of 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 a transfer station in Durham will dictate some immediate revamping of the current system. Additional labor will be required (260 to 310 hours/yr for residential collection) to offset the increase in driving time and subsequent loss in productivity. An additional truck may be needed in the future to handle increased population.

The proposed plan is to pick-up residential waste with two trucks on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. This schedule will preclude the need to change trash collection days for three Monday holidays. Scheduling around Good Friday, Thanksgiving, and Christmas will still require some collection day changes similar to what is currently done. Attached is the route map showing the proposed new single family residential routes (see Attachment C). The Town is divided into three relatively equal areas in terms of number of stops (Wednesday - Blue, Thursday - Yellow, Friday - Red). Friday's route is purposely planned at this point in time with slightly less stops to accommodate future growth in the north part of town.

Yard waste collection will still be twice per month; however, collection will be done on Monday thru Tuesday instead of Wednesday thru Friday. Staff feels this will be an improved level of service by collecting early in the week immediately after the weekend and spread out over only two days instead of three. Wednesday's route and half of Thursday's route will have yard waste collected beginning on the first and third Monday of each month; Friday's route and the other half of Thursday's route will have yard waste collected beginning on the second and fourth Monday of the month. Large brush piles will still be scheduled for pick-up throughout the entire week.

C. Implementation Schedule

Resident notification regarding route changes will begin in early April 2013 with electronic notification from the Town's website, message board, and email listserv. The biennial solid waste brochure, to be distributed to residents in May 2013, will include notification and the new collection day. As Public Works prepares to implement the changes in residential collection schedules it will be an opportune time to re-educate the public about waste reduction and recycling opportunities and the brochure includes information on these items. The annual holiday stickers that are placed on roll out containers will reflect changes in collection. Staff will explore the idea of placing signs at key intersections in June 2013 indicating that routes will be changing. Route changes will become effective the week of July 1, 2013.

FISCAL AND STAFFING IMPACT

Table 1:

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

	Current Landfill	Durham TS	WI TS
Trips Per Week	16	16	16
Roundtrip Mileage	9.6	42	42
Roundtrip Time (minutes)	22	83	72
Weekly Hours Driven To/From Site	5.87	22.13	19.20
Additional Hours Driving Time Per Week	n/a	16.27	13.33
Additional Labor Hours Per Year	n/a	846	693

Table 2:

Annual Increase/Decrease Costs going to Transfer Stations in Durham

	Durham TS	Waste Industries TS
Labor (1fte) - hire one SW Equipment Operator I	\$38,000	\$38,000
Vehicle Maintenance plus fuel	\$81,934	\$81,934
Purchase one front loader truck, 8 year Amortized (Purchase price of \$231,000)	\$42,662	\$42,662
Tipping Fee Cost Per Ton *	\$42.50	\$41.00
Tipping Fee Difference	-\$101,225	\$-111,696
Total Additional Annual Costs	\$61,371	\$50,899

* Subject to change pending quotes received or negotiated rate early in 2013.

Table 3:

Assumptions

Annual Tonnage MSW	6,981
Cost Per Gallon, Diesel	\$3.35
Miles Per Gallon, SW Collection Trucks	2.8
Orange County Landfill Tipping Fee, 2012-13**	\$57.00

** Fiscal impacts calculated back in June, 2012 assumed Orange County was going to increase the tipping fees 10% beginning July 1, 2012 from \$57.00 to \$62.70. The increase was not implemented.

CONTINUED COLLABORATION

Town Staff will continue collaborating with the Town of Chapel Hill and Orange County on solid waste issues. It is anticipated that this effort would include the initiation of a new inter-local agreement for recycling and the continued disposal of yard waste, construction & demolition debris, as well as white goods and other recyclables at the Orange County facilities. Other topics may include siting/contruction of a new transfer station and pay-as-you-throw. The County's proposal to move forward with single stream recycling and larger recycling containers may increase participation and reduce the Town's waste stream. Recent discussions indicate that Orange County is looking to re-establish the Solid Waste Advisory Board (SWAB) which would include representatives from the various local governments and whose charge may include looking at waste to energy solutions or the creation of a regional solid waste authority.

The Chapel Hill Town Council has also indicated an interest in organics processing. Organics collection/disposal will be a good collaboration topic for the municipalities and County. Town staff will begin research on this topic in the near future.

PAY-AS-YOU-THROW

The concept of pay-as-you-throw (PAYT) as a waste reduction strategy has been discussed over the years by the BOA and there appears to be renewed interest in this subject during this period when the Towns have been reviewing their solid waste operations. Town staff last provided information to the BOA about PAYT and other waste reduction strategies in 2007. The February 6, 2007 report addressed implications of implementing PAYT and the June 12, 2007 report touched on alternative waste reduction and recycling strategies.

Since it has been five years that this topic was last reviewed in any detail, there are likely new methods or technologies worth exploring. PAYT is another good collaboration topic for the municipalities and the County to pursue, and subsequently Town staff will begin researching this topic as well. Any review and research will need to keep the following issues/implications in mind:

- Compatibility with existing collection system.
- Enforcement
- Impact on budget
- Effectiveness of reduction
- Waste shifting

RECOMMENDATION

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

