



Town of Carrboro

Town Hall
301 W. Main St.
Carrboro, NC 27510

Agenda Item Abstract

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TITLE:

Update on Changes to Orange County Recycling Program

PURPOSE: The purpose of this item is for the Board of Aldermen to discuss the impending changes to the Orange County recycling program and the effect on the Town's operations.

DEPARTMENT: Town Manager and Public Works

CONTACT INFORMATION: George Seiz, 918-7427; Matt Efird, 918-7314

INFORMATION: At the Orange County BOCC Meeting on March 7, 2013, County Staff introduced a plan to explore a franchise agreement process for the unincorporated areas of the County which would include the privatization of curbside household solid waste and recycling. The County may also include in their Franchise Agreement the ability for the Town's to participate in the Agreement. Orange County staff will provide additional information at the April 9, 2013 regular BOCC meeting and, the BOCC will hold a public hearing on the matter on April 23, 2013.

The impact of the changes to Orange County's recycling program for Carrboro residents is the elimination of Orange County's curbside recycling collection as of July 1, 2014. Under Orange County's proposed RFP, individual property owners can contract, at their own expense, with a single approved hauler to collect their recycled goods.

The Town has essentially three options for dealing with this issue.

- First, the Town could advocate that Orange County continue to fund the recycling program for the entire county. This does not preclude the country from entering into an agreement with a single franchise hauler, but an agreement that places the onus on the individual property owners may be counter to the community's efforts to increase participation in the recycling program and reduce the amount of solid waste that is sent to a landfill.
- If unsuccessful in convincing the County to fund the recycling program, the Town has the ability, either on its own or in partnership with Chapel Hill, to pursue a separate RFP for curbside collection within the Town limits. The Town could then fund the recycling

program for our residents. Based on Orange County's estimated per household cost for the Urban Curbside program, this could cost the Town over \$300,000.

- The final option is to join Orange County's RFP for a franchise hauler and allow individual property owners who wish to receive the service to contract, at their own expense, with the hauler.

The anticipated timeline for the County's changes is as follows:

- March 15, 2013 - Notice to existing private solid waste collection services of the April 23, 2013 meeting to discuss Franchise Agreement and displacement of private solid waste collection services
- **April 23, 2013** Public Hearing to discuss Franchise Agreement and displacement of private solid waste collection services implementing the 15 month public notice requirement
- April 23, 2013 - June 15, 2013 Create Request for Proposals (RFP) - Franchise Agreement
- June 15, 2013 - August 15, 2013 RFP available for vendors to responses
- August 15, 2013 - September 30, 2013 Staff evaluation of proposals and negotiations with vendors
- October 8, 2013 Work Session discussion of Franchise Agreement
- November 5, 2013 Public Hearing to consider Franchise Agreement
- November 19, 2013 Board Approval of Franchise Agreement
- **July 1, 2014** - December 31, 2015 - Phased Implementation of Franchise Agreement

FISCAL & STAFF IMPACT: The Fiscal Impact will vary depending upon the Board's direction. A Franchise Agreement based on Orange County's model will place the financial burden on individual property owners, limiting the impact to the Town's budget. If the Town made their own Franchise Agreement and covered the cost for all properties (most similar to current recycling program), a very preliminary estimate of the cost at approximately \$200,000, based on Orange County's per household cost of \$3.73 per household, per month for operating the urban curbside program.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends that the board consider the information provided and provide Staff with direction on how to move forward.