

Town of Menasha Board of Supervisors Special Meeting
Municipal Complex - Assembly Room - Monday, August 6, 2008

Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

Town Chair Arden Tews called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m. For the record, Clerk Backman took roll call and present were Chairman Tews, Supervisor Gerhart, Supervisor Hanson, Supervisor Ziegler, and Supervisor Youngquist. Others present were Administrator Sturgell, Dir. of Finance Piergrossi, Admin. Asst./Human Res. Burrill, Street Supt. Gallow @ 8:07, Dave Tellock of Veolia Environmental Services.

2. DISCUSS SOLID WASTE CONTRACT REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) RESULTS

Administrator Sturgell explained the four proposals, bid tabs and actual RFP's sent from the Town with proposals due by July 28, 2008. Vendors were asked to submit two fee proposals; one for manual collection and the other for automated service; and also requested base fees for bulk materials, household construction/demolition, yard waste and Christmas tree collection. Alternates were also requested for volume based tag program, special recycling disposal, branch removal/chipping and loose leaf collection. RFP results were reviewed for each method from Veolia Environmental Services, Waste Management, and Wittenberg Disposal. Van's Waste, Inc. does not provide residential collection. Staff had focused on Veolia and Wittenberg due to being lower bidders.

Administrator Sturgell asked Board members and staff to think about whether automated or manual was the way to go, stating manual service was cheaper but we do pay tipping fees. The feeling of the Board and staff is that automated may encourage more recycling by our residents. In making a decision, staff has looked at the costs for purchase of a new truck and the purchase of carts if we were to make the change to automated pickup.

Administrator Sturgell suggested the Board bring back the issue for discussion at the August 25 or next September meeting, to have a final decision in order for the vendor to have lead time in setting up their equipment. Chairman Tews agreed it would be a good idea to inform the public and suggested placement on the August 25 Town Board meeting.

The picking up of leaves was discussed. Admin. Asst. Burrill stated in 2008 pickup would go into the first week of December but would not include Thanksgiving week, and usually depends upon the amount of leaves and how long the leaves remained on the trees. She encouraged the use of the dumpsters for disposing of them. Supervisor Youngquist felt it was important that language be in the new contract to say that the week of Thanksgiving, in November, there would be no leaf pickup, and pickup would resume the first week of December.

Finance Director Piergrossi described the problem of the garbage fund going in the negative because of the high rise in fuel surcharge costs and spoke about wanting to try to negotiate with Veolia. She suggested a transfer could be made from the general fund to temporarily cover costs. Finance Director Piergrossi stated she had been looking at the purchase of carts and their useful life, and prompted Mr. Tellock for that answer. He stated the carts have been around a long time, and Veolia would offer better pricing than the County or anyone else. Supervisor Ziegler suggested the idea of purchasing carts jointly with the County.

Admin. Asst. Burrill explained that we must meet minimum recycling numbers in order to be eligible for the recycling grant, and felt even with new subdivisions going in, the numbers do not reflect this. She further stated the Town should inform residents and businesses about enforcing the recycling ordinance, with those in violation tagged and possibly fined. Discussed were the different options of the 95 gallon and 65 gallon containers available to residents and the pros and cons of each, as well as the option of purchasing an additional cart. Additionally discussed was whether to provide the same container to every resident, or have the option of either the 65 or the 95 gallon garbage container, and how to track their distribution. The Board asked about the process of changing out and delivering new containers, and asked whether the Street Department or the vendor would be responsible. Street Superintendent Gallow felt new residents would contact the Town and pay for the garbage container and his department would be responsible for distributing them.

Supervisor Ziegler felt the change would only get more costly by waiting and encouraged the Board and staff to move forward now.

Street Superintendent Gallow asked Mr. Tellock if the switch to automated service includes both garbage and recycling services at one time or whether one service could be implemented now and another in two years. Mr. Tellock encouraged automated service although he would do what the Town wanted, and seemed to imply that switching both at one time was preferable while he compared other municipalities' services. Our section of the state is further behind than others in going automated and Mr. Tellock felt more consideration should be taken into account other than just the costs involved.

Supervisor Youngquist asked whether garbage placed only on one side of the street would be economical and asked that it be looked at. He also asked whether January 1 is attainable for the switchover if a decision is made in September. Mr. Tellock answered yes and stated they would have to convert the trucks, but already have the carts and containers available. Chairman Tews asked if the Town went automated, how they would handle picking up leaves. Mr. Tellock answered that one truck would pick up garbage and a separate truck could pick up leaves and dispose of them in a compost pile. The number of times per month yard waste and garbage is picked up was discussed. Supervisor Hanson asked about the cost of special bulk items pickup, and Mr. Tellock stated they would be paid for by the requesting resident. Admin. Asst. Burrill stated that Winnebago County allowed residents to pay a reduced fee for transporting the appliance or large item to the County themselves.

In final comments, staff stated they realize residents don't like change and might strongly resist, but feel once converted, would be happy with the service. The Board asked staff to find if grant funds are available to help ease costs, and staff will be looking at the cost to convert to automated.

3. ADJOURN

At 9:30 p.m., MOTION: Ziegler/Hanson to adjourn. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Backman, Town Clerk