

# ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY COMMISSION

## Meeting Minutes September 22, 2021

### Conducted Remotely

Commission Members Present: Laura Derks (Chair), Colin Taylor, Lisa Boone, Mark Goldberg, Liz Lukehart, Stephen Morales, Cassandra West, Darryl Baker.

Staff Liaisons Present: Mindy Agnew, Sustainability Coordinator and Erica Helms, Sustainability Fellow.

Staff Presenters Present: John Wielebnicki, Director of Public Works and Cameron Hendricks, Environmental Services Manager.

- 1) **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Derks at 5:30 p.m.
- 2) **Approval of Agenda:** A Motion was made to approve the agenda and it was unanimously approved.
- 3) **Approval of Minutes:** A Motion was made to approve previous meeting minutes with suggested revisions and unanimously approved with none opposed.
- 4) **Public Comment:** No public comment.
- 5) **Agenda Items:**
  - Welcome introduction of Commissioner Darryl Baker. He provided a brief introduction and background.
  - Introduction of new Village Sustainability Fellow Erica. She is taking notes and provided a brief introduction.
  - Commission recommendation of preferred Municipal Trash, Recycling and Food Scrap/Yard Waste bid: Presentation from John Wielebnicki and Cameron Hicks regarding feedback on the Waste Hauling RFP. John gave a brief overview of the memorandum and asked for a recommendation from the commission to bring in addition to staff recommendations to the Village Board of Trustees. The proposals came from two waste hauling companies, Waste Management (WM) and Lakeshore Recycling Systems (LRS). The proposals include pricing for the current base programs (Trash, Recycling, Compost, and Yard Waste) and some additional alternatives. John provided a clarification that the proposed fees for these services are only for pickup of the materials, and do not include disposal costs. Discussion began first about the Trash and Recycling programs. Questions were asked regarding possible rate increases in the future, John responded saying that rate increases are included in the proposal. There is a limit of 0-5% increase in the 5-year contract, with an option to renew after 3 years. Questions came up regarding the seemingly high rates proposed by WM, John responded by stating that WM has been the Village's hauler for about 20 years and has likely been locked into low rates, he speculates that these proposed fees are closer to their actual costs. LRS is cheaper because they are a smaller, local company that is growing quickly. Lisa Boone asked a question about vetting process and expressed the desire to tour the hauler's facilities. John responded saying that he checked all of the references for both haulers, including some additional references that were found outside of the proposal, and he was satisfied with the responses. Tours were on hold because of COVID-19, but can likely be scheduled soon. Discussion then began about the Compost/Food Scrap program. There are 2 scenarios for this section: The current opt-in program, or a universal program in which everyone pays the same amount and can participate if desired. One issue that came up is

that LRS does not accept meat in their compost bins (likely due to rodent issues at the compost site). Cassandra West expressed concern for no longer diverting meat from the landfill and the associated methane emissions. The commission also expressed concern regarding education of residents on this change. Steven Morales asked a question regarding the percent contamination allowed from LRS. John will confirm. The commission expressed concern that the universal program could impact lower income residents and seniors. Discussion ensued about the possibility of future subsidy consideration of these costs. The universal option is that multi-family buildings (6 or more units) would be able to participate, potentially increasing participating households from 2,500 to ~11,000. General emphasis on education for this program. Discussion ensued about the Fall Leaf Collection component (yard waste). The options include: keep the program the same (residents rake leaves to street for pick up); change to a bag system and the village pays for it; or change to bag system and residents pay for a sticker. General consensus to keep the program as is due to strong resident opinions and desire to focus changes elsewhere.

- A motion was made by Colin Taylor for the commission to recommend selection of LRS for the Village's trash and recycling services, and keep the compost program as is (opt-in). The motion was seconded and all were in favor with none opposed.
- A motion was made by Stephen Morales for the commission to recommend selection of LRS as the village's food scrap and yard waste hauler with the expectation that the resulting financial savings go towards education about composting and the haulers meat restrictions (i.e. lid labels). LRS will be expected to keep the option open to change to the universal composting service starting in year 2. The motion was seconded and all were in favor with none opposed.
- A motion was made by Colin Taylor to move to LRS for leaf collection services and keep the current method the same (rake leaves to street for pick up). The motion was seconded and all were in favor with none opposed.
- Mindy Agnew shared that the next meeting will include 2022 Work Plan discussion.
- Chair Derks asked that new business items be emailed to herself or Mindy.
- The topic regarding the commission's contribution to the scope of service for the GRAEF contract was raised for New Business for the next meeting.

6) **Adjourn:** At 6:30 p.m. a motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn the meeting.

**The next EEC meeting is planned for October 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm.**