

Village weighing garbage options

Written by MARK JAEGER

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With contract expiring this summer, officials expect cart system, reduced recycling could save money

With an expiring contract for garbage collection, Village of Fredonia officials are considering sweeping changes in how waste is handled.

The village's contract with Advanced Disposal — the company which purchased Veolia Environmental Services — expires at the end of July.

The Public Works Committee saw that deadline as an opportunity to re-evaluate how it handles garbage and recycling collection.

Options include switching to a cart system like the one used in most neighboring communities, altering the frequency of recycling collection and rethinking the policy of having businesses and the owners of multifamily apartments pay for their waste collection.

A detailed summary of the services and options offered by Advanced Disposal was given to village trustees at last week's Village Board meeting.

The 21-page request for bids was based on a document used by the Village of Grafton for its current five-year contract.

"I realize this is too much to digest right now. It is something I want you to think about for discussion at our next meeting," Village President Chuck Lapicola said.

Three tentative options are outlined in the proposal: a full 96-gallon cart system, with recycling collected every other week; a system using trash bags and 18-gallon bins for recycling, done weekly; and a continuation of the current bag system, with recycling done weekly.

The other major waste contractor, Waste Management, will also be invited to submit a bid for the village's business.

During the committee discussion of the garbage contract, Public Works Director Roger Strohm said the greatest savings are likely to come by having the community adopt the cart collection system. Bags of garbage and recyclables are currently left at the curb on collection days.

"Hopefully, if we invite competitive bidding we will see some aggressive pricing," Strohm said.

Cost savings were also suggested by reducing the number of times recyclables are collected to every other week or even once a month.

"The company said they would do pretty much whatever we asked them to do," Strohm said.

Trustee Mark Edbauer, chairman of the Public Works Committee, said a number of business

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owners have approached him about the unfairness of the village's exclusion of their properties from garbage collection.

"It does seem like double-dipping, because they are paying taxes in the village and have to pay to have their garbage collected, too," Edbauer said.

Yet another possibility mentioned at the board meeting was entering into a partnership with the Town of Fredonia to handle village recycling at the town's recycling center.