

Garbage bids will cover all options

Written by MARK JAEGER
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Village officials want to weigh costs of different approaches to trash, recycling collection

Village of Fredonia officials have decided to cover all the bases in seeking bids for garbage collection and recycling.

Village trustees authorized Public Works Director Roger Strohm to include a series of optional approaches to waste collection in seeking proposals from private haulers.

Officials already have some idea of what to expect, after having heard from representatives of Waste Management and Advanced Disposal — the company which last year acquired the village's current hauler, Veolia Environmental Services.

The village's current contract expires at the end of July.

A representative of Advanced Disposal said the company will likely require a switch to cart collection or there will be a significant increase in charges.

If the switch is made to a cart system, the hauler would like an extended contract to help cover the cost of buying the containers.

Strohm went before the Village Board last month, looking for direction on which of 18 services officials wanted included in the request for bids.

Rather than narrowing the options, trustees asked that all of the choices be included in the bid request.

Among the possibilities are:

- Continuing the current policy of weekly curbside pickup of garbage in clear bags and recycling in blue bags at each residence.

Mimicking the current collection policy would also include weekly pickup of bulky items left at the curb and collection from five village-owned dumpsters

- Weekly collection of residential garbage, with every-other-week collection of recyclables.
- Weekly collection of residential garbage using 96-gallon carts.
- Recycling collection using 96-gallon carts or smaller blue plastic bins.
- Semi-annual collection of bulky items and discarded electronics at a village drop-off site.
- Semi-annual collection of electronics left at curbside.

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The village will also ask both contractors what fuel surcharge they will face if costs at the pump rise above a designated level.

Trustees had no problem taking a scatter-gun approach to the waste contract.

“What we need is a memo with prices. When that is put together with the different prices, we can decide what we can afford,” Trustee Don Dohrwardt said.

Officials had talked about the option of expanding garbage collection to cover businesses, but Village President Chuck Lapicola said that might be more costly than the village can afford at this time.

“I think we are going to have to say with what we are doing, at least until we can generate some more tax revenue,” Lapicola said.

Trustees are expected to take action on a new waste collection contract by their second meeting in June, or the first meeting in July at the latest.