

New trash contract will bring carts

Written by MARK JAEGER
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Village Board approves five-year agreement with Advanced Disposal, but officials not overly pleased

The Fredonia Village Board approved a five-year garbage and recycling contract last week with Advanced Disposal, but it was hardly a ringing endorsement.

Trustees approved a contract which will bring automated cart collection to the village, along with every-other-week recycling.

Both are changes for village residents, who have been receiving curbside bag collection of trash and recycling up until now.

While talking to representatives from Advanced Disposal (formerly Veolia) and Waste Management, village officials were told switching to the automated system was inevitable unless they were willing to pay a significant price premium.

The village's current contract with Veolia expired July 31, but company officials have said they would continue curbside bag collection until carts are delivered to village residences. Village officials said that transition could take several months.

Village President Chuck Lapicola said he found a lot he didn't like in the contract, but went along with the board.

"This is a contract I don't really like, but it is the best of the worst," Lapicola said after the vote.

He was critical of the switch to alternating week recycling collection and the inclusion of 96-gallon carts in the base bid.

"I really don't like the idea of having two large carts. For me, I know I am going to be able to keep one in the garage and one outside," Lapicola said. "But you can't argue with the numbers."

According to village officials, the Advanced Disposal contract will cost the village \$8.15 a month for trash collection and \$2.21 for recycling for each of the community's 677 homes.

The village currently pays \$6.98 for garbage collection and \$2.43 for recycling per household.

The Waste Management bid ranged from \$12.27 per household for monthly recycling to \$16.45 per household for curbside pick up of trash and recycling.

The contract will allow cost-of-living rate hikes in the final three years of the agreement, capped at 3%.

Fuel surcharges will be added in 1% increments if gasoline costs increase between \$4 and \$5 a gallon.

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Village officials have yet to work out how the collection of bulk items will be handled, but they said residents always have the option of calling the company directly to pick up things like furniture and appliances.

Free dumpster collection will be provided to village buildings, and trash collection will be offered at all community events and festivals.

The village is bucking the trend of other Ozaukee County communities, that have approved 10-year contracts with Advanced Disposal.