

RYE TOWNSHIP
SUPERVISORS' SPECIAL RECYCLING MEETING
July 2, 2018

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PRESENT: Chairman Ken Quigley, Vice-Chairman Jim Sabo, Supervisor John F. Stahl, Daisy Lightner, Secretary/ Treasurer, Nancy Sunday, Barbara and William, (Bill) Holley, Ray L. Martin, Eric Simmons, Sean Fedder, Corinna Van Hine, Jean Snyder, Camille Otto, Rebecca Schulze, Denise Glenn, Mary Joyce, Alexis N. Schrock, H.E.,(Gene) Rebert, Barbara Bitting, David Greene, Caron and Tom Pawlicki, Kimberly M. Woodrow, William S. Kretchman, and Ed Ward of Penn Waste, Inc.

FORMER SUPERVISOR PRESENT: Charles Kunkle

The meeting was held at the municipal building and called to order at 7:00 PM. Chairman Quigley convened the meeting with the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

OPENING OF THE MEETING: Chairman Quigley appreciated all in attendance and explained the purpose of this special meeting was to discuss recycling concerns and options to resolve current problems with the voluntary drop-off program, and to hear a presentation on recycling from Ed Ward of Penn Waste, Inc. Quigley offered that the recycling contract expires the end of 2018 and additional information is required before the Board would make any decisions regarding the future of the recycling program in Rye.

PRESENTATION ON RECYCLING: Ed Ward of Penn Waste introduced himself and offered that Penn Waste Recycling Facility opened in 2015 and operates a state-of-the-art 96,000 square feet recycling facility in Manchester. Penn Waste does not collect recyclables in Rye. Rye Township currently is under contract with Advanced Disposal as their recycling contractor. Most of Advanced Disposal's recycling is taken to Maryland. He wanted everyone to understand that Rye Township recyclables are not currently taken to the Penn Waste Recycling Facility.

Mr. Ward explained that the recycling market everywhere is in a state of chaos at this time due to a change of standards in China. China is the largest importer of U.S. recyclables. At the beginning of this year, the country enacted a ban on some materials and strictly limited the contamination allowed in shipments of others from five, (5%) to five tenths of a percent (.5%) driving up costs for processors like Penn Waste.

Penn Waste is having trouble finding a market for recycling mixed paper and with lowering high contamination limits in the recycling. Effective July 1, 2018 Penn Waste implemented new recycling guidelines that get back to basics to try to meet the new contamination limits where they only recycle aluminum and steel cans, plastic bottles and jugs, newspaper, glass bottles and jars, dry and flattened cardboard that had no food contact, and cartons. They are looking at domestic markets also to assist with the crisis at hand.

Mr. Ward understood that Rye currently operates a voluntary drop-off recycling program and has discussed the possibility of bidding for a curb-side recycling collection. He explained that the economics of recycling have changed. In the past, the recycler could keep the value in recyclables. He pointed out that the value of recyclables today has plummeted while processing costs have skyrocketed resulting in higher costs for a municipality to provide recycling. All trash and recycling contract renewals are seeing increases this year, not only due to recycling cost increases, but also increases with labor, health insurance, other insurances, and fuel.

Mr. Ward offered that even if Rye Township's quarterly trash and recycling bill increased to \$60.00 per quarter, which amounts to \$20.00 per month, in comparison to the costs of other utility bills, such as electric and water, that is a bargain considering the service provided.

The floor was opened for questions and discussion from the citizens in attendance and the following information was gathered:

- Items permitted for recycling will be decreased and limited. The new slogan is, "*When in Doubt. Throw it Out!*"
- No items can have food waste on or in them. Even cardboard that is recyclable cannot have food waste on it. For example: a pizza box cannot have cheese and grease on the cardboard. If it does, then it is no longer recyclable. Plastic containers cannot have liquids or food waste in them.
- Penn Waste takes weekly trash collection to the Harrisburg Incinerator, which is a waste energy facility and not to landfills.
- Approximate 20% increase in quarterly trash bills was a rough estimate given of anticipated cost increases to provide curbside recycling along with weekly trash collection, which equates to approximately \$60.00 per quarter billing or an increase of \$32-\$40 per year.
- Elimination of the current recycling program was proposed, only if all trash was collected and disposed and incinerated at the Harrisburg Incinerator.
- The State previously funded the County recycling program. When funding stopped, the County discontinued the program. At that time Rye chose to operate and fund their own recycling, which is when the bins were acquired and the voluntary drop-off program initiated.
- Rye Township recycled approximately 97 Tons of materials in 2017, which is approximately 8 tons a month.
- Rye Township receives approximately \$4-\$500 in State grant funds each year for recycling. The amount is determined by the amount of recyclables collected minus a 15% residual to allow for contaminants.
- Recycling materials are sorted and processed at the recycling facility and shipped to markets. Over the last few years, recycling participation has increased. People want to recycle. With that increase in recycling, there is more contamination of the recyclables collected due "Wishful Recycling". People put in hoses, tools, shovels, baby strollers etc. and they "hope" it can be recycled. That waste must be sorted and disposed of accordingly adding additional costs to the process.
- Rye Township pays approximately \$1,400 per month to recycle. Eliminating the hauling expense would assist with offsetting some of the increase in costs to provide curbside service.
- Additional signage or cameras at the bins were suggested to catch violators.
- Curbside collection of recyclables would eliminate the drop off of unwanted items at the recycling bins.
- The bid could specify that the successful bidder provide recycling containers for each resident that chooses to recycle.
- The acceptance of the bid for trash and recycling would be awarded at a public meeting.
- Curbside recycling would be more convenient. Some in attendance felt it worth the extra cost.

- The Board is concerned that many in the Community cannot afford a \$20.00 per quarter increase in costs. They noted there are accounts now that are delinquent and headed for collection.
- The domestic metal market is not as volatile as the plastics and cardboard market.
- The Board expressed concerned with the amount of materials collected at the annual clean-up. Providing the option of adding one bulk item pick up per week for residents was also discussed. This would reduce costs in the Budget for the bulk clean-up.
- Very rough estimates for one bulk item pick up per week would add an additional cost of 8-10% to the quarterly trash bill.
- The options proposed are:
 1. Curbside recycling- pick up every other week
 2. Drop-off recycling
 3. Renewal of current trash contract and elimination of the recycling program as long as all waste is taken to the Harrisburg Incinerator for recycling as steam.

Chairman Quigley offered that additional information would be gathered. He invited anyone with any further input or questions to email the Township office at ryetwp@ptd.net.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING: With no further discussion or business before the Board, Chairman Quigley adjourned the special meeting at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Daisy Lightner, Secretary/Treasurer