

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MERION
Finance Committee
Issue Briefing

Topic: Ordinance – Solid Waste Fee Changes and Chapter 82 Code Updates

Prepared By: Eric Traub, Chief Financial Officer

Date: October 11, 2019

I. Action To Be Considered By The Board:

Consider for recommendation to the Board of Commissioners to authorize the Township Secretary to advertise an ordinance to amend Chapter A167, Fees relating to Garbage and Refuse and to amend Chapter 82, Garbage and Refuse to clarify what qualifies as a container.

II. Why This Issue Requires Board Consideration:

An ordinance is necessary to adjust solid waste fees and to make necessary updates to the Township Code.

III. Current Policy Or Practice (If Applicable): N/A

IV. Other Relevant Background Information:

The Board of Commissioners discussed solid waste fees at its September and October Finance Committee meetings. The draft ordinance includes a 10% increase to the Mini-Can and Rear Yard Collection Fees and a 5% increase on all can level fees. With this fee structure and the initiatives previously discussed the projected ending fund balance in 2020 in the Solid Waste Fund would be 11.9% of fund expenditures (Township financial policy is a goal of 10%).

SWF Can Level	2019	2020 Draft Ordinance	Annual Increase
Mini-Can	\$ 237	\$ 261	\$ 24
1 Can	\$ 338	\$ 355	\$ 17
2 Cans	\$ 405	\$ 425	\$ 20
3 Cans	\$ 472	\$ 495	\$ 23
4 Cans	\$ 539	\$ 565	\$ 26
5 Cans	\$ 606	\$ 635	\$ 29
6 Cans	\$ 673	\$ 705	\$ 32
7 Cans	\$ 740	\$ 775	\$ 35
8 Cans	\$ 807	\$ 845	\$ 38
Rear Yard	\$ 231	\$ 254	\$ 23

The draft ordinance also includes two additional minor changes to Chapter 82. The first is to eliminate language that allows the use of plastic or vinyl bags to be used as containers as this can cause issues when the bags become ripped or torn. The second is to revise the maximum size of a container from 45 gallons to 48 gallons. The maximum weight of 50 gallons per container would remain unchanged. The reason for this change is the prevalence of 48 gallon containers used throughout the Township and based upon what retailers sell as trash containers. These minor changes would bring the Township Code into accordance with how the Refuse Division operates.

V. Impact On Township Finances:

The ordinance if adopted would help maintain an appropriate fund balance in the Township's Solid Waste Fund.

VI. Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends the ordinance be recommended for advertisement to be considered at a future Board of Commissioners meeting.