

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MERION

Public Works Committee

Issue Briefing

Topic: Recycling Schedule Revision

Prepared By: Paul A. McElhaney, Director of Public Works

Date: February 22, 2019

I. Action To Be Considered By The Board:

Approval of a new weekly recycling collection service based on a divided recycling material pickup schedule to be implemented after an education campaign and receipt of the new recycling vehicles.

II. Why This Issue Requires Board Consideration:

Township Code allows the Director of Public Works to establish regulations which include establishing new or amended collection routes. Staff is seeking Board concurrence for a proposed revision of the recycling material collection schedule.

III. Current Policy Or Practice (If Applicable):

Currently both commingled and paper recyclables are picked up from our residential properties on a bi-weekly basis.

IV. Other Relevant Background Information:

Earlier this year, the Board reviewed the equipment replacement schedule for 2019. Included within that schedule is the replacement of 5 dual-hopper style recycling trucks.

Staff has been reviewing the specifications for the new vehicles, plus the process and procedure for collection of recyclables to identify any possible cost savings and/or efficiencies.

Staff now believes that moving from the current split-body or two rear-hopper compartment style recycling vehicles to a single-hopper style truck that mirrors the current refuse trucks will allow us to create efficiencies within the Refuse Division. This will provide substantial savings in the purchase of the recycling vehicles and in

long-term maintenance of the equipment but does require a revision of the recycling material collection schedule.

To utilize the single-hopper style trucks would require splitting the collection of comingled recyclables to a different week than collection of paper. Therefore, instead of recycling only being collected every other week, one type of recycling material would be collected every week, alternating between paper and comingled recycling materials. Residents would no longer have to remember whether it is their recycling week or not but would have to remember whether it is a paper recycling week or a comingled recycling week. If approved by the Board of Commissioners, staff would allow enough time prior to implementing this new recycling collection program to properly educate residents, similar to the education campaign for the new collection routes implemented in early 2018.

V. Impact On Township Finances:

Analysis of current estimated costs show a potential savings of approximately \$330,000 on the planned purchase of recycling vehicles. The single-hopper trash truck style vehicles are less expensive to purchase plus, while they would be marked as recycling vehicles, the trash and recycling vehicles would be interchangeable, adding flexibility to the fleet.

Part of the analysis included review of the current maintenance cost of the Township's single-hopper style trucks versus the dual-hopper trucks. Staff found an average cost of an additional \$6,000 per dual-hopper truck yearly. This is due to having twice the equipment to maintain. These savings would not be realized until the equipment has aged a few years, but longer term will offer lower maintenance cost savings that could amount to as much as \$30,000 per year based on \$6,000 in projected savings per truck.

VI. Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends the Board of Commissioners approve conversion to a new weekly recycling collection service based on a divided recycle material schedule to be implemented after an education campaign and receipt of the new recycling vehicles.