

**Stewartstown Borough Council  
Special Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020**

**Members present**

Brittany Barnette  
Donna Bloom  
Polly Kreiss  
Gordon Wisnom, Sr.  
Bill Gemmill  
Roy Burkins  
Mike Ellinger

**Others present**

Stacy Myers, Recording Sec'y  
Mayor Kenton Kurtz

**Visitors**

Ed Ward, Penn Waste  
Andy Warntz, Republic Services  
Pam Almony

John Barnette  
Stephanie Thompson

1. The meeting was called to order @ 7:00p.m., followed by the pledge to the flag.
2. **Trash Contract Bid Discussion/Award**—two companies bid on the Borough's new trash contract, as the current contract expires October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020. Several different options were put out for bid, such as 1-yr, 3-yr, 4-yr & 5-yr terms, with & without recycling, and one & two collections per week. Republic Services was the low bidder on the one collection/week and did not bid the two collections/week at all. Penn Waste was the other bidder, bidding most of the one collection/week options and all of the two collections/week. The following discussion took place:
  - Ed Ward, Municipal Contract Manager for Penn Waste was present to answer any questions Council may have. He's been with Penn Waste for 18 years and for most of those 18 years, Penn Waste has been the trash hauler for Stewartstown Borough. The Borough has always had two trash collections/week and Mr. Ward stated, to now go to one collection/week may cause problems. The trash limit for the Borough would not change with the new contract, regardless of one pickup/week or two. It would remain at 6 bags or 6 cans, so residents would now be required to either store their leftover trash (if they have it) or rent a toter to accommodate the excess trash until the following week's collection. Mr. Ward is the person at Penn Waste who submits the bids to municipalities and stated what drives the price increase is a couple things; i.e. cost of operating the trucks, the volume of trash that a municipality generates & labor issues. It's a tough job & it's even tougher to find good employees to ride a trash truck every day. In addition, there are very few trash companies in the area anymore. Mr. Ward said, compared to the costs of other utilities (gas, electric, phone) which don't seem to decrease, trash typically does not either. Recycling costs also spike trash collection costs. Prior to 2018, this wasn't the case; recycling helped to keep trash costs lower, but in 2018, recycle markets tanked due to the recycling crisis. A lot of recycling that was previously shipped to China was halted in 2018 due to contamination. Many items finding their way into the recycle bins are actually trash. Mr. Ward explained that people put dirty diapers, light bulbs, animal parts, batteries, and other items into the recycle bins, all of which is trash. Approx. 25% of what comes through the Penn Waste recycling center must go in with regular trash. Recycle markets, from a value standpoint, have decreased & contamination has increased. Stewartstown Borough is not mandated to recycle; we're not required to do it. While recycling is still good for the environment & there are still markets to move the items, a few Council members thought the Borough should stop recycling collection simply to keep costs

down. Mr. Ward stated the only other municipality in York County to not recycle is Yoe Borough & they stopped due to costs.

- Andrew Warntz, Manager of Municipal Sales with Republic Services was present for the bid award. He stated he agrees with Ed Ward on the reasons behind increased trash costs & added that the COVID pandemic has not helped. Labor issues (and the shortage of a reliable workforce) is a huge factor in rising costs.

Republic Services doesn't bid two trash collections/week because of the cost to run trucks to an area two times every week, but he didn't feel the reduction of trash collection would affect Stewartstown Borough that much. He lives in Red Lion Borough, receiving one trash collection/week and stated many municipalities have moved from two collections to one, without many complaints or issues from residents. As Penn Waste's trash does, Republic's trash also goes to the York County Solid Waste incinerator & their recycling goes to Penn Waste for processing.

Mr. Warntz thanked the Borough for the opportunity to bid because they hadn't previously due to the bid specs being for two collections/week.

- Other discussion/opinions from Council & Mayor:
  - Mrs. Barnette said unfortunately, inflation of services is something we can't get away from. She is in favor of keeping recycling in the Borough & believes many other residents would be in favor of it as well.
  - Mayor Kurtz confirmed with Ed Ward that all trash goes to the incinerator at York County Solid Waste. Mr. Ward said all recycling goes to Penn Waste for processing & whatever residues (or non-recyclable materials) is left goes to the incinerator. Mr. Ward agreed that the incinerator creates energy, so in essence, we are recycling everything. Mayor Kurtz believes there are very few residents in the Borough using 6 bags/cans **every** trash day. There may be days of higher volume, but he believes, for the most part, Borough residents would be agreeable to only one collection/week.
  - Mr. Ellinger stated, if we get rid of recycling, our volume of trash will most likely increase. And if we decrease to one collection/week, where will the extra trash & recycling go?
  - Residents in attendance tonight were adamant about not doing away with recycling services.
  - Of note, a newsletter survey that was conducted months ago generated 58 responses with 51 residents in favor of going to one trash collection/week (if it means lower costs) & 7 residents in favor of staying with two trash collections/week.
  - Recently, York County Solid Waste Authority announced a \$2.50/ton increase in the cost of waste disposal. Council members asked Ed Ward & Andy Warntz if & how this could affect the Borough's trash contract. Mr. Ward stated there may be an increase, not a large one (possibly \$.60/quarter), but it would be based on the Borough's annual tonnage of trash & the number of residences within the Borough. Mr. Warntz stated this increase would not result in a cost increase to the Borough's contract through Republic Services. The Borough's bid contract has an escalator clause in it that protects the municipality as well as the hauler. The trash must be taken to the incinerator, nowhere else.
- With the above in mind, the following motions took place. All bid options included the one bulk trash item collection each week:
  - Mr. Ellinger made a motion to award a 3-year contract to Penn Waste with two trash collections/week, with recycling; Mr. Gordon seconded. A vote was taken, 3-4 opposed (Barnette, Kreiss, Gemmill & Bloom).

- Mr. Gemmill made a motion to award a 3-year contract to Penn Waste with two trash collections/week, but NO recycling; Ms. Kreiss seconded. A vote was taken, 3-4 opposed (Burkins, Ellinger, Barnette, Bloom).
- Mrs. Bloom made a motion to award a 5-year contract to Republic Services with one trash collection/week, with recycling; Mr. Ellinger seconded. Mrs. Bloom stated she made her decision based on the cost difference & savings. A vote was taken, 2-5 opposing (Burkins, Kreiss, Barnette, Gemmill & Wisnom).
- Mr. Burkins made a motion to award a 3-year contract to Republic Services with one trash collection, with recycling; Mr. Ellinger seconded. A vote was taken, 2-5 opposing (Kreiss, Barnette, Wisnom Gemmill, Bloom).
- Mrs. Bloom made a motion to award a 5-year contract to Penn Waste with two trash collections/week, with recycling; Mr. Ellinger seconded. A vote was taken, motion carried 5-2 with Mr. Gemmill & Ms. Kreiss opposing.

Both Mr. Wartz & Mr. Ward thanked Borough Council for their time & the opportunity to bid on the Borough's next trash contract. Mr. Ward will arrange for the delivery of the recycling carts to all Borough residents prior to the start of the next contract which will take effect November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 through October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025.

3. **Adjournment**—With no further business before Council, the meeting adjourned @ 7:55p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Stacy Myers, Recording Secretary