

**LOWER PAXTON TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Minutes of the meeting held April 11, 2023

A workshop meeting of the Lower Paxton Township Board of Supervisors was called to order at 7:01 P.M. by Chairman Henry on the above date at the Lower Paxton Township Municipal Center located at 425 Prince Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Board members present, in addition to Mr. Henry, were Robin Lindsey, Norman Zoumas, Chris Judd, and Paul W. Navarro. Also in attendance were Bradley N. Gotshall, Township Manager, Samuel Miller, Assistant Township Manager, and Steve Stine, Township Solicitor.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Navarro led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcement

Mr. Henry announced that the Supervisors had met in an executive session before the meeting and would meet again afterward.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Zoumas motioned to approve the minutes of the business meeting held on April 4, 2023. Mrs. Lindsey seconded the motion. Mr. Henry called for a voice vote, and a unanimous vote of approval followed.

Public Comment

There was none.

Presentation and Review of Solid Waste & Recycling Bids

Steven Stine, the Solicitor, explained the Bid process for Municipal Solid Waste & Recycling services for the Township, noting that the Township must put the contract for Municipal Solid Waste & Recycling Collection and Disposal out for a competitive sealed Bid.

After that, the Township must accept the lowest responsible Bid, and this information is in the statutory framework for contracting. Mr. Henry added that the Township received several Bids; however, the Supervisors have no choice but to accept the lowest responsible bidder.

Joel Washok of Penn Waste, Inc. was present to answer questions.

Mr. Gotshall reviewed the Township's current contract with Waste Management versus the new agreement, noting that the contract with Waste Management began on July 2, 2018, and ends on July 1, 2023. He explained that the new service agreement was broken into two separate contracts, one for Municipal Solid Waste and Leaf-Bulk Waste and a separate contract for recycling. On February 13, 2023, the initial request for Bids was sent to every licensed hauler in Dauphin County and across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. On February 13, 2023, an addendum was published, and another on February 20, 2023, to answer questions posed by the haulers. The Township held a Pre-submission Bid conference on March 1, 2023, and the Bids were opened publicly on March 27, 2023. He noted that Section 3102 of the PA Second Class Township Code does not allow the Township to choose a hauler, but the Township is legally required to select the lowest responsible bidder. Under the new contract, there would be two 96-gallon totes for the automated collection of solid waste and recyclables, and the bulk item collection must be prescheduled. The new agreement will also include penalty provisions for missed pickups, early starts, or trash left on the street by the hauler.

Mr. Gotshall reviewed some reasons for increased costs, noting that the Pandemic has impacted the hauler's ability to hire and retain employees. Also, for several years, there have been dramatic changes to the commodity industry, such as recycling, and these changes have had an impact at the local level.

The current hauler, Waste Management, has provided some feedback regarding some things that may have caused an increase in pricing and how the Township differs from surrounding Municipalities. Those items include manual collection, unlimited leaf waste collection, at-will bulk item collection, and individual billing. Also, Dauphin County's Municipal Solid Waste Flow Control System has impacted pricing as the incinerator is very costly.

Mr. Gotshall reviewed the Bid specifications for Municipal Solid Waste, Leaf & Bulk Waste Collections, and Recycling contract, noting that Penn Waste submitted the lowest Bid and none of the haulers bid on the manual collection process. The billing component is based on the Township performing billing service in-house, \$103.00 per quarter, and an additional \$5.00 fee per individual to cover administrative costs, a total of \$108.00 per quarter, saving individual ratepayers \$25.00 per quarter. Initially, the hauler will distribute two 96-gallon wheeled totes, one for trash and the other for recycling; residents may swap out both containers for a smaller 65-gallon tote. With the new contract, bulk-item collection services will now require a prescheduled arrangement with the hauler; residents must call or go online to schedule the pickup.

A discussion about the process for residents to request smaller containers and Homeowner's Associations (HOAs) followed. HOAs have rules that do not permit residents to keep the containers outside their homes.

Mr. Henry reviewed the guidelines for residents to speak under public comment. He reiterates that by law, the Supervisors must award the contract to Penn Waste because they submitted the lowest Bid. Also, not one of the haulers bid for manual collection; each offered a Bid for automated collection of solid waste, recyclables, and leaf waste.

Mr. Henry explained that the Township could eliminate the recycling service; however, the state law requires large Municipalities to recycle; if the Township didn't include recycling in the contract, then residents would be required to take their recyclables to a central recycling facility, which could create other issues. The same goes for leaf waste; if it were excluded from the service contract, residents would be required to take their leaf waste to the Compost Facility, which could also create issues, such as increased traffic flow in a residential area. The decision that can impact the cost to homeowners is the billing option. Whereas, if the Township takes over the billing, every homeowner will see a savings of \$25.00 per quarter. All the details still need to be worked out, but the vision is to include the trash fee on the quarterly sewer bills.

Public Comment

Tim Murphy, 1524 Pine Hollow Rd, thanked Mr. Gotshall and the staff for the detailed information provided on the Township's website. He also commented about the 96-gallon totes and had questions about the Bid process and contract.

Mr. Murphy asked if a rate adjustment would be made for those who don't put out a lot of trash. Mr. Gotshall explained that the contract and Bid specifications, as written, would not provide for any rate adjustment. Currently, 667 residents are using the bag tag system; there are a total of 15,000 residents using the trash pickup service. A discussion about the rate increase, fuel adjustment clause, and inflation followed.

Gayle Ranck, 4805 Lancer Street, commented about the post on Nextdoor.com. She learned about the Bid process when a friend told her about it, and she posted information on Nextdoor. Mr. Henry explained that the Township followed all legal guidelines and advertised the process appropriately.

Mr. Henry noted that the Board of Supervisors holds a Workshop meeting once every month to allow for public discussion. Mr. Zoumas added that the information is posted on the Township's website.

Mr. Ranck stated that only some have access to the internet. She asked Mr. Henry what had happened to the Township's printed newsletter. Mr. Henry explained that the newsletter had ceased during the COVID-19 pandemic, primarily because it was a challenge to get it printed due to the cost of printing and postage. Now, the Township has multiple platforms to keep people informed, including emails, text and phone notifications, and a website. She expressed some concern about the elderly residents not being able to haul the large totes to the curb for pickup.

Livia Harmon, 1031 Pond Ridge Dr., suggested that the Township distribute the 65-gallon totes to all the residents living in condos and townhomes.

Mary Lou Knowles, 1034 Oak Knoll Dr., asked if the Municipal Waste Collection fee could be added to the tax bill. Mr. Henry explained that the expense couldn't be added to the tax bill because that bill is only issued twice a year. The plan is to add the fee to the sewer bill and itemize the services. Ms. Knowles suggested that the bulk item pickup be scheduled every other week, like the leaf waste collection. She expressed some concern about the elderly residents not being able to haul the large totes to the curb for pickup.

Joel Washok, Penn Waste, Inc., explained that there's savings incurred by scheduling the bulk pickup, or else they would waste fuel if they had to ride around the entire Township every other week looking for bulk items left out for pickup. He noted that residents would be required to schedule the pickup at least 24 hours in advance, and their dispatch team would ensure that the driver is prepared to collect the items.

Mr. Henry noted that there's sufficient time for Penn Waste to distribute the smaller totes.

Mrs. Lindsey asked Mr. Washok to explain how residents can request the smaller totes, noting that only some have access to the internet. Mr. Washok explained that Penn Waste has a customer service department, and residents can call to request the smaller tote. He noted that they would compile a list of all the residents who want the smaller tote, and the details would be communicated to residents beforehand to ensure that the 96-gallon totes are placed curbside for retrieval.

Paul Williard, 6108 Allen Lane, complimented Waste Management for providing excellent services for the past five years. He stated that Penn Waste had performed poorly in other areas. The issue with the size of the containers should be addressed now rather than months from now. He also commented about how the hauler will dispose of recyclables, noting that they are going to take the recyclables to a landfill to save money. Mr. Washok explained that Penn Waste, Inc. owns and operates a Material Recovery facility that sorts recyclables and then sends them into new markets to be recycled into new material. Mr. Williard commented about Penn Waste, Inc. not being an American company.

Mr. Zoumas commented that not everyone in the Township had a good experience with the current trash hauler. Mr. Judd added that the Township contacted Waste Management requesting to extend the existing contract, and they did not want to.

Mr. Henry explained that the Supervisors must award the contract to Penn Waste because they submitted the lowest Bid.

Louis A. Diehl, 6202 Warren Ave., commented about the information posted on the Township's website, noting that the specifications indicate that whoever the hauler will be must have information on the website and be accessible.

Mr. Diehl suggested that Mr. Washok review Penn Waste's website to ensure that information is available to all residents. All pertinent information must be made available to people, such as contract changes, scheduling, or holiday pickups. He suggested that Mr. Washok visit the Township's website and click on the "Accessibility" link to review everything required to assist those using assistive technology. He noted that the Township is a recipient of government funds. Therefore, it is covered by Section 508 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act, and this refers to the Rehabilitations Act of 1973 as Amended. One stipulation of that law is that if the Township receives one dollar of federal funds, all its contractors must abide by the same access rules.

Mr. Diehl asked Mr. Washok if he could use a plastic bag inside the 96-gallon container. Mr. Washok answered, yes.

Mr. Diehl asked Mr. Gotshall to clarify the amounts listed under Bidder #1 Penn Waste in the Bid specifications.

Mr. Diehl asked Mr. Washok if the lawn waste could be placed in a container or bag. Mr. Washok explained that the lawn waste could be placed in brown bio-degradable bags or bundled.

Neil Luke, 4312 Wimbledon Drive, stated he and his wife reside in a townhouse community near the intersection of Linglestown and Colonial Road. Those living in townhouse developments face a difficult situation because there's no room in the garage for the 96-gallon or 65-gallon trash containers, and they are not permitted to place the containers outside. He noted that Waste Management had provided excellent services over the years, and he recalls when one man and one truck were picking up the trash.

Mr. Diehl added that today retired seniors are faced with many financial difficulties; now, they are paying more for less.

Mr. Diehl noted that the HOA does not permit trash cans outside in the development, nor do people want to see them. He asked the Supervisors to consider the residents living in townhomes.

Alyssa Figueroa, 1411 Marine Drive, announced that she lives alone and works 16-hour days; she asked Mr. Washok to consider single people who live alone and work long hours. Mr. Gotshall explained that the hauler could not address her concerns, as they merely responded to the Township's request for Bids and Specifications. Unfortunately, there is no additional consideration. Ms. Figueroa asked if she could refuse the trash hauling service because she works 16-hour days as a nurse. Mr. Gotshall explained that there is no way to opt out of the service, as the Township has an Ordinance that requires residents to use the trash collection services offered by the Township.

Sam Reinhold, 7042 Kendale Drive, complimented Waste Management for providing excellent service. He asked the Supervisors to reconsider and further evaluate the quality of services offered by Penn Waste, Inc.

Louis Booker, 4111 Lisa Drive, asked Mr. Washok if the recycling and solid waste would be collected on the same day. Mr. Washok explained that the recycling and solid waste would be collected on the same day. He asked Mr. Gotshall if Waste Management offered more than one large container in their Bid proposal. Mr. Gotshall explained that both haulers offered one container for solid waste and one for recyclables. He asked Mr. Washok if there was a limit to how much leaf waste residents could put out. Mr. Washok explained there is no limit, just if it is put out correctly. Mr. Henry added that the Township would continue to schedule its regular leaf waste collection in the fall; this is a separate service provided by the Township.

Mr. Booker suggested that the Township send out a newsletter or sort that includes a lot of information about the transition.

Mr. Henry stated that the most efficient way of informing residents would be to include the information as an insert in the sewer bill and it printed.

Randy Bronstein, 3837 Laraby Drive, asked for the dimensions of the containers.

Mr. Henry suggested that Mr. Washok bring the containers to the next board meeting.

Michael Daily, 5893 Shope Place, asked Mr. Washok how the yard waste should be removed. Mr. Washok explained that he would work with Mr. Gotshall to properly educate residents on preparing for yard waste collection.

Greg Hair, 5902 Pine Hollow Ct., asked Mr. Gotshall if it is possible to hold a public meeting on the Bid process before requesting Bids; this way, all the problems could be resolved before the Bid is submitted.

Pat Reardon, Union Station, asked Mr. Washok if he could use his 65-gallon container with the latch in the front. Mr. Washok explained the personal container could be damaged in the interim; however, it is okay if Mr. Reardon is okay with taking that risk.

Dan Altemose, 4090 Valley View Rd., commented about the trash problem in the Township: litter and trash are blowing all over the streets. He asked Steve Stine, Solicitor, if there's an Ordinance that says waste must be placed in a sealed bag before it is placed at the curb. Mr. Stine noted that the Ordinance read that trash must be placed in a can with a lid before it's set at the curb. Mr. Judd stated that he, too, must find room for the large containers but feels it's a plus to have the large containers with lids, which may eliminate the problem of having recyclables all over the street.

Mr. Altemose asked Mr. Washok what residents must do if they have more trash than what the 96-gallon container holds. Mr. Washok explained that additional totes could be provided to residents who need to put out more waste; however, there would be a charge for the extra service.

Richard Frazier, 1072 Country Hill Drive, commented about the automated trash pickup and placement of the containers.

Pat Reardon, Union Station, asked Mr. Washok if residents would be permitted to place the recyclables in a plastic bag and then place the bag in the tote. Mr. Washok explained that the recyclables must be placed in the container without a bag; they must be loose so that they can be separated when the items are moved to the facility.

Mr. Judd announced that residents could sign up for the Township's notification system on the website, social media platforms residents, and regular email/e-newsletters. Mr. Henry noted that the Township would include important information in the Sewer Bill; he encouraged residents to read the inserts.

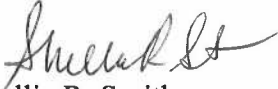
Announcements

Mr. Henry announced that the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 18, 2023, beginning at 7:00 P.M. If residents have additional comments or questions, they can contact the Township Manager at bgotshall@lowerpaxton-pa.gov.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Mr. Zoumas motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Lindsey seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned the meeting at 9:02 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Shellie R. Smith
Recording Secretary

Approved by,



Chris Judd
Secretary