

COMMUNICATION 132010

Received From: Guy Bourgon, Director of Public Works
Addressed To: Committee of the Whole
Date: December 08, 2020
Topic: Waste Collection – Additional Bag of Waste

BACKGROUND

At the September 22nd, 2020 meeting of Council, the following motion regarding waste collection during the COVID-19 pandemic was passed:

Motion No. 17-131-05

Moved by: Councillor Fritz

Seconded by: Councillor Randell

THAT Council directs staff to proceed with Option 2 - Extend the One (1) Additional Bag of waste until December 31, 2020, as outlined in the report prepared by the Director of Public Works dated September 08, 2020, in regard to the collection of curbside waste.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION:

As the current extension of the one (1) additional bag of waste expires on December 31, 2020, it is appropriate at this time to determine if Council wishes to consider a further extension.

The increased cost associated with the collection of an additional bag of waste per household each week is limited to the tipping fees at the disposal site and the quantity of material received. Tipping fees were \$94.07/tonne until the end of October and are now \$99.00/tonne based on the recently approved contract. Collection costs are not impacted. The quantity of waste and tipping fees for 2019 and 2020 from April to October are summarized in the table below:

Month	2019 (tonnes)	2020 (tonnes)	Increase (2020 over 2019)	Increase in Cost
April	236.11	322.45	86.34	\$8,122
May	279.28	260.87	-18.41	-\$1,732
June	235.44	272.73	37.29	\$3,508
July	218.50	278.60	60.10	\$5,654
August	248.68	290.97	42.29	\$3,978
September	232.01	281.76	49.75	\$4,803
October	268.37	303.34	34.97	\$3,462
Total	1718.39	2010.72	292.33	\$27,795

Due to the lack of headway made against the spread of COVID-19, while some of the workforce has returned to the workplace, many residents are still working remotely.

Additionally, many students will be continuing to learn remotely for at least a portion of each day. The waste that would otherwise be generated at the workplace or at school

by those individuals is consequently finding its way into the residential waste stream. While the amount of waste generated at home during the work or school day is not considered to be large, it still results in a small increase in weekly waste for those impacted households. While a small amount of the increase in curbside collection can be attributed to growth within the community over the past year, the majority of the increase is directly related to the additional permitted bag of waste.

A typical effect of allowing additional waste to be collected is a reduction in recycling rates, as can be seen in the table below. In general, allowing only one bag per week encourages residents to recycle more material, thereby diverting recyclable material from landfills. The Town had made good progress from 2018 to 2019, but the recycling rates have dropped significantly since the introduction of the additional bag of waste.

Month	2018 (tonnes)	2019 (tonnes)	2020 (tonnes)	Decrease (2020 from 2019)
April	80.39	110.97	91.94	19.03
May	88.68	130.81	76.99	53.82
June	79.10	111.37	79.09	32.28
July	76.41	107.72	82.85	24.87
August	88.14	102.64	57.80	44.84
September	82.47	99.76	77.77	21.99
October	98.79	110.95	108.04	2.91
Total	593.98	774.22	574.48	199.74

OPTIONS

Option 1 – Return to One (1) Bag Limit Effective January 1, 2021

The Town would return to collecting one (1) bag of waste per week from each household. There would be no further impact on the Town's waste budget after returning to the one (1) bag limit.

Option 2 – Extend the One (1) Additional Bag until April 30, 2021

The Town could extend the period of the collection of one (1) additional bag of waste per household per week until the end of April. There would be a return to the one (1) bag limit in May. Based on the trending observed for the quantity of material tipped at the disposal facility, it is estimated that \$16,000 in additional charges will result from continuing with an additional bag of waste per week for the first four months of 2021.

Option 3 – Extend the One (1) Additional Bag for an Alternate Timeframe

Council could determine to extend the period of collection of one (1) additional bag of waste per household for some alternate period of time, shorter or longer than April 30, 2021, at an additional cost of approximately \$4,000 per month.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council direct staff to proceed with Option ____ as outlined in the report prepared by the Director of Public Works dated December 08, 2020, in regard to the collection of curbside waste.