

# Environmental Advisory Committee

Minutes

February 11, 2016

**Present:** Gary Brown, Martin Cathrae, Councillor Chuck MacInnis, Councillor Steve Ireland, Shelley Innes, Carol Williams

**Absent:** Anne de Gobeo, Silvia Blanchard

Call to Order by Gary at 17:30

Approval/Additions to Agenda: Approved M/S Carol/Shelley

No pecuniary interests declared.

Minutes of the previous meeting were passed by email.

Delegation: Alfred Von Mirbach: Follow up from meeting of November 26, 2015. Alfred presented a series of ideas and options for the landfill. Full copy is in hands of Village Office and scanned at the end of the minutes. Summary as follows:

- A) Weigh Scale Installation: We need to be able to measure what is coming in to the landfill in order to accurately charge fees. Cost \$60000.
- B) Increase Tip Fees. C&D: \$125/T up from estimated \$50/T, Residential \$75/T: Should double on site revenue. Can phase in over some period of time.
- C) Offer Free Large Yellow Boxes to Residents: Cost \$8500.
- D) Offer Subsidized Backyard Composters: Cost \$1000.
- E) Depot Site Improvements: Signage, improve trailer/reuse centre. Cost \$1000.
- F) Recyclopedia, become partner with Rideau Environmental Action League: Cost \$1000.
- G) Promotion and Education: Ongoing promotion and education. Cost \$3000.
- H) Increase Bag Tag Fees. 33% increase in revenue, encourage diversion.

Approximate total cost, \$74500. With some conservative estimation it looks like the payback should be about 3 years.

Discussion following the presentation of Alfred's suggestions:

Add a weight limit to the yearly pass if we decide to keep it.

There is a possibility to change the role to a Landfill Supervisor role. Depending on how we structure the landfill we could have more or less hours paid on the landfill days.

How much of these items have recurring costs? We'll need to figure that out, we're thinking it's approximately \$6000. However the extra revenue will allow a fair recurring cost.

Rural Pickup. We probably won't be able to get it in the budget for 2016, will revisit in the fall and look at what it would take to get it in 2017. All bag tags should increase to in town pickup cost at that point.

Motion/Second Martin/Shelley: The EAC recommends that the full \$74500 be requested in the budget for 2016 to implement the full proposal of changes for the landfill and waste management system.

## Old Business

- Due to lack of time we will catch up on Old Business next month.

## New Business

- Proposal for changes to the waste management and landfill as above.

Next Meeting: March 24<sup>th</sup> 2016, 17:30

Adjournment: 18:55



## The Pitch

Merrickville-Wolford has an opportunity to make substantial improvements to its waste management system. When implemented as an integrated system, they will increase diversion, extend the life of the landfill, and decrease net operating costs. What is essential is that the township implement it as a system, and not piecemeal, as all the parts are interrelated.

### Components

#### A) Weigh Scale

Install a weigh scale, with appropriate software and traffic infrastructure (ramps, approach lanes and signs).

##### *Why*

Without a weigh scale, there is no way to estimate accurately, and therefore charge for, incoming non-bagged garbage, or to even track how much curbside garbage is coming in. It also makes the landfill site operate like a modern sanitary landfill site.

*Estimated Cost: \$60,000*

#### B) Increase Tip Fees

It is important to raise tip fees, in particular for construction and demolition waste, to something close to the going area market rate (~\$125/T, up from the current estimated fee charged at the township site of \$50/T). This should be done in a phase in manner, in order to give contractors lead time to adjust their pricing to clients. The recommended phase in is to increase to \$75/T three months after the weigh scales are operational, \$100/T six months after that, and going market rate after another six months. One option would be to implement two rates, as is done in Drummond North Elmsley Township, where regular scaled garbage has (again, in a phased manner) a tip fee of \$75/T and construction and demolition waste as a tip fee of \$125/T.

##### *Why*

This will produce substantial additional revenue, both because the fees are increased, but also because without a weigh scale, it is very likely that incoming tonnage is substantially underestimated. It also avoids competing unfairly (tax-subsidized) with area businesses who offer similar services.

### **C) Offer Free Large Yellow Boxes to Residents**

Purchase 1,000 large 22 litre yellow recycling boxes, and offer one for free to all interested township residents (both wards).

#### *Why*

Experience in many other similar municipalities has shown that providing second large containers substantially improves recycling capture rates and minimizes contamination between container and paper streams, both for curbside and depot programs. It also makes it much easier to clearly promote a two stream recycling system.

Estimated Cost: \$8,500

### **D) Offer Subsidized Backyard Composters**

Purchase 100 backyard composters, and working with local environmental groups, offer them to township residents at a subsidized rate.

#### *Why*

Kitchen organics are the biggest remaining component of the waste stream that could be diverted from landfill, and backyard composters can help divert some of that waste. It is a low cost way of offering diversion alternatives to residents.

*Estimated Cost: \$1,000*

### **E) Depot Site Improvements**

Set aside funds to improve the appearance and function of the reuse and recycling areas at the landfill, and turn it into more of a welcoming community space that encourages people to drop off and pick up re-usables, and learn about other environmental initiatives

#### *Why*

There is potential to divert substantial waste, and in the process help out low income families, by improving the reuse centre. These funds will also make the other recycling components at the landfill site easier to understand and use (e.g better signage). By working with local service clubs and donations from local businesses, much can be accomplished with a nominal municipal contribution.

*Estimated Cost: \$1,000*

## **F) Recyclopedia**

Set aside some funds to become a partner with the Recyclopedia program, working with the Rideau Environmental Action League.

### *Why*

This program lets residents know about all the places in the community that already accept materials that might otherwise go to landfill. It's another low cost program that is easy to tap into, and will provide township residents with many opportunities to divert waste.

*Estimated Cost: \$1,000*

## **G) Promotion and Education**

Set aside a budget for ongoing promotion and education, including a flyer to let residents know what is coming, a newsletter/calendar near the end of the year, an easy to find and use website on your existing and new waste management programs, and newspaper ads.

### *Why*

This is perhaps the most important (and often overlooked) part of the whole system, because it is what not only lets the residents know about existing and new programs, but, more importantly, inspires them to take part. It is this second part that requires input from a professional communication company with good graphic design capabilities. TD Graham, based in Kemptonville, is such a company, and already has developed most the graphic images and products that might be needed - they just have to customize them to meet your needs.

*Estimated Cost: \$3,000*

## **H) Increase Bag Tag Fees**

Once these new diversion programs are in place, it would be appropriate to raise bag tag fees for 2017 to \$1.00 and \$2.00.

### *Why*

Increasing the fees helps to encourage diversion and discourage disposal. Give the new diversion opportunities that are being offered, it should mean that the actual cost to most residents stays about the same. It also will help to cover the cost of the disposal part of the municipal waste management system.

## Financial Implications

### One Time Capital Costs (2016)

Weigh Scale	\$60,000
Recycling Bins	\$8,500
Subsidized Composter	\$1,000
Depot Improvements	\$1,000
Recyclopedia	\$1,000
Promotion and Education	<u>\$3,000</u>
Total	\$74,500

### Increased Revenue

It's difficult to estimate with any accuracy what the increase in tipping fees and bag tag revenues will be, and as increased fees will be phased in, not all of those increases will be realized. However, if you assume that tipping fees increase from the current (estimated) \$50/T to an eventual mature average of say \$100/T, you could anticipate Landfill charges to double from the current budget figure of \$22,000 to say \$44,000. Bag tag revenues, once implemented, might raise an additional \$10,000 per year, over the current budget figure of \$40,000. In total, the mature system is estimated to raise an additional \$32,000 annually, so the initial additional expenditures would likely be recovered within the first three years.