

Department of Public Works

# Memo

To: Steven Contente, Town Administrator  
From: Christopher J. Parella, Director of Public Works  
Date: May 25, 2022  
Re: Transfer Station Restructuring

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE  
BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND  
2022 MAY 26 PM 12:21

Administrator Contente,

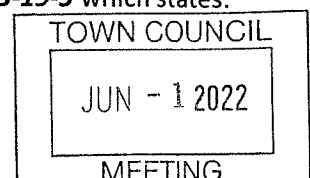
I am requesting that you accept my recommendation for the following changes to the rules for disposal of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) at the Bristol Transfer Station.

- 1) Establish a yearly cap of two tons for all Residential Permit holders
- 2) Eliminate Commercial Permits and all commercial trash from being processed at the transfer station

The rationale for my recommendations is as follows:

In a letter dated March 28<sup>th</sup> of this year, Joseph Raposa, Executive Director of the RIRRC stated that starting on July 1<sup>st</sup> of this year, the Town of Bristol, by allowing commercial trash to be dumped at the Transfer Station, will not be in compliance with the Solid Waste and Recycling Services Agreement between the Town and the RIRRC. The letter also states that as of July 1<sup>st</sup>, if we were to continue accepting commercial trash at the Transfer Station, we would need to provide a plan to separate and subsequently pay the difference between residential and commercial waste that we intend to dispose of at their facility. In essence, by accepting and processing commercial trash, we would be acting as a private trash hauler, and we would need to pay the non-municipal rate to dump all commercial trash and recycling. Failure to comply with the conditions stated in the letter and the agreement by July 1<sup>st</sup> will result in the Town being charged the non-municipal rate for all commercial trash and recyclables that we bring to their facility. Currently, the non-municipal rate is \$115.00 per ton for solid waste and \$75.00 per ton for recyclables.

In my discussions with Kristen Littlefield, the Municipal Program Coordinator at RIRRC, the crux of the issue is that the Municipal Services Agreements that RIRRC enters into with all municipalities, which provide a significant disposal discount, are **ONLY** for municipal solid waste that fits into ***R.I. General Laws, Title 23 Health and safety, Chapter 19 Rhode Island resource and Recovery 23-19-5*** which states:



"Municipal solid waste" means that solid waste generated by the residents of a municipality in the course of their daily living, the disposal of which the governing body of that municipality has undertaken in the discharge of its duties to protect the health of the municipality. Municipal solid waste does not include solid waste generated by residents of a municipality in the course of their employment or that generated by any manufacturing or commercial enterprise.

The verbiage contained in this statute sets forth the parameters for municipal solid waste that is eligible for the municipal disposal rate. If we process and subsequently transport any waste that does not fit within this definition, we will pay the full price that any private contractor will pay. This is the precipitous for my recommendation to discontinue the issuance of Commercial Permits as well as to no longer accept any commercial trash at the transfer station.

Besides the elimination of all commercial trash, I highly recommend that we establish an annual cap of 4,000 pounds (two tons) on each residential permit. I believe that RIRRC will need to see a cap to ensure that we are not disposing of commercial trash and paying the discounted tipping fees outlined in the agreement. The control restrictions are much more restrictive in the few municipalities that still have a transfer station.

In conclusion, I would request that the Honorable Town Council consider my recommendations and take whatever action they deem appropriate in an expeditious manner since the July 1<sup>st</sup> deadline is quickly approaching.

Please advise if you have any questions or concerns

Christopher J. Parella  
Director of Public Works