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DATE: April 24, 2023

TO: Wade Bryson, Chair
Public Works and Facilities Committee

THROUGH: Katie Koester, Director Engineering and Public Works

FROM: Denise Koch, Deputy Director Engineering and Public Works

SUBJECT: Talkin' Trash: Summary and Next Steps

The Talkin' Trash meeting on April 6th provided a wealth of information from which to continue to work on solid waste issues in the community.

Meeting Findings:

Current landfill: 20 years of life left (from WM)

Transfer station:

- If landfill closes and there are no alternatives in place, a transfer station will need to be built to ship waste out
- WM has no plans to build one at this time
- The CBJ can also build their own transfer station

Landfill expansion:

- Much less costly than building a new landfill
- Would have to adhere to the permit conditions of the current landfill, and not a newly constructed landfill
- Only expansion options are encroaching on wetlands, but may still be possible

New landfill:

- A new landfill could cost around \$20-40 million
- Finding a suitable location for a new landfill will be tough. There's often citizen resistance.
- If constructed, a new landfill will have higher environmental standards than the current landfill, which was grandfathered in when new standards were developed

Incinerator:

- Incinerators need to be continually run, and Juneau does not provide enough trash for this option to be operationally or economically feasible
- WM estimates an incinerator would cost around \$500-700 million to construct

Regulatory Options:

- Municipalities or other private entities can apply to the Regulatory Commission of Alaska (RCA) for a Certificate of Public Necessity and Convenience (Certificate) to haul waste
- CBJ can't regulate a privately owned landfill directly (except for policies that affect all businesses generally)

- Fines for illegal dumping are \$5-250 for a first offense, and a maximum of \$500 per subsequent violation. Note: There is no daily penalty.

Recycling:

- The RecycleWorks program is at or near maximum capacity
- In order to get a higher diversion rate, the recycling center would need to be expanded, or a new process will need to be developed
- Juneau provides high quality recycled materials (both from Recycleworks and co-mingled collected by Alaska Waste).

Waste Collection:

- Alaska Waste provides services to approximately 8,100 single family homes, which is about 91% of total single family households.
- Call Alaska Waste for quotes on item pick-up. Prices vary by size and material.

Follow-up:

Other SE Alaska Communities:

- Most local governments hold the Certificate for waste hauling
- Many local governments have solid waste ordinances and policies.

Solid Waste Management Strategy, February 2008 (Excerpts from the Executive Summary¹):

- The recommendations are intended to be considered, approved, and implemented as integrated package instead of on an item-by-item basis.
- Recommendations 3, 4, and 5 are the essential basis for the other recommendations and for the overall solid waste management strategy.
 1. Continue to Use Waste Management (WM) Landfill for Disposal ✓
 - a. Status quo
 2. Hire Solid Waste Coordinator ✓
(Stuart Ashton – RecycleWorks Operations Manager)
 3. Adopt Policy on Universal Trash & Recycling Collection Service X
 4. Transfer Arrow Refuse (Now Alaska Waste) RCA Certificate to CBJ X
 5. Form Contractual Partnerships Between CBJ, Arrow Refuse, & Waste Management X
 6. Secure Land for Multi – Purpose Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) ✓
 - a. Zero Waste Subdivision at Lemon Creek

Waste Characterization Study:

- Creates a baseline of the types of materials the community is disposing of
- Useful in discovering any unexpected waste materials
- Approximately \$50,000 for a community-wide study.

Actions Requested

- 1) Requested Action: Discuss and provide direction to staff on researching the process and implications of pursuing a Certificate for waste hauling

Enslosure: CBJ Solid Waste Strategy Executive Summary – February 2008

¹ <https://juneau.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/CBJSolidWasteStrategyExecutiveSummaryFeb2008.pdf>