



City of Ketchum

July 19th, 2021

Mayor Bradshaw and City Councilors
City of Ketchum
Ketchum, Idaho

Mayor Bradshaw and City Councilors:

Recommendation To Authorize Short-term Extension of the Solid Waste Franchise Agreement With Clear Creek Disposal

Recommendation and Summary

Staff is recommending a two-month extension of the Solid Waste Franchise Agreement in order to complete due diligence activities associated with the next (10 year) franchise agreement.

"I move to approve Resolution 21-008 and authorize the Mayor to execute the short-term extension agreement."

The reasons for the recommendations are as follows:

- This short-term agreement will ensure the continued collection of solid waste and recyclable materials.
- The extension period will allow for remaining due diligence activities to be completed to inform long-term agreement.
- This approach will avoid the potential of multiple customer rate adjustments during the same year.

Introduction and History

The Council approved an initial three-month extension during the April 5th meeting. Staff requested this short-term extension in order to complete due diligence associated with the new cardboard compacter located near the YMCA. Staff has been working with Idaho Power but has not received costing estimates associated with extending power to the site. Therefore, staff is requesting an additional two-month extension to acquire final installation costs in order provide accurate customer rate increases as part of the public hearing process. This approach will avoid having two rate increases and associated public hearings within a short timeframe.

Staff did complete community outreach (attachment) with approximately 273 participants. There was strong support (71.1%) to move to a cardboard compacter.

Staff has been working with Clear Creek Disposal to evaluate service enhancements associated with a new Franchise Agreement. This evaluation has been in partnership with the City of Hailey, Blaine County, Southern Idaho Solid Waste District as well as interested non-profit partners such as the Environmental Resource Center, Sun Valley Institute for Resilience and Ketchum Sustainability Advisory Committee.

A waste audit for Blaine County, conducted by Warm Springs Consulting, concluded there were two major opportunity areas to explore:

- 23.5% of waste stream consisted of organic materials.
- 18.1% included recyclable materials such as cardboard, paper and plastic.

In addition to those opportunities, two other related topics were explored:

- How to reduce the contamination and other negative impacts associated with the community drop off recycling sites.
- How to reduce the occurrence of bears and other animals being attracted to trash containers, which in many instances results in euthanizing those animals.

The group evaluated multiple service scenarios and **initially** recommended the following new services:

- Curbside co-mingled recycling versus the current approach where residents must sort their recyclables. National evidence and experience in other western communities have demonstrated that with this change it can result in 65%-100% increase of recyclable material. The new service would also allow for the collection of cardboard at the curbside. Customers would receive a new container on wheels. It would be collected every other week.
- Curbside collection of organic materials (food/yard waste). Customers would receive a cart and pickup would occur every other week (off-set with comingled recycling).
- Collection of glass would still occur at drop-off sites.

These recommendations carry logistical/role changes between Blaine County and the Southern Idaho Waste District at the Ohio Gulch Facility. The details were discussed at the recent joint meeting. For Clear Creek Disposal, there would be operational changes as well; ranging from the need to purchase and distribute additional carts to new trucks. All of this would result in an increase in monthly costs for customers.

Based on feedback from the Blaine County Commissioners and the City of Hailey, staff is recommending the following **REVISED** course of action:

Short-term

- Transition current cardboard drop off location from numerous open dumpsters to one compacter system.
- Evaluate new and consistent downtown trash/recycling containers.
- Offer the ability for customers to purchase wildlife proof containers but do not mandate.
- Conduct community outreach to gain feedback on (1) potential composting program; (2) potential new cardboard curbside service; (2) interest in more significant changes to recycling such as co-mingled collection from both current recycling households and non-recycling.
- Return to the Council with findings from community input.
- Return to the Council with an updated 10-year franchise agreement that calls for an annual evaluation/implementation to any future recycling service changes and associated customer charges.

Mid-term (next 1-2 years)

- Based on community feedback, implement future service changes such as composting, curbside cardboard or co-mingled recycling.

Sustainability Impact

The Ketchum Sustainability Action Plan lists these potential service improvements as items to explore to reduce the amount of solid waste going to the regional landfill.

Financial Impact

Clear Creek has proposed an initial (14%) rate adjustment to address inflation in costs associated with existing service as there has not been a rate adjustment in several years. Clear Creek has developed an initial cost estimate for each associated service enhancement. However, verification with Idaho Power is necessary to finalize.

Attachments:

1. Resolution 21-008
2. Extension Agreement