



OBSERVER CORPS REPORT

BOARD OF HEALTH 4-27-26

Hybrid Meeting - Recorded

LWVM Observer: Tom Krueger

Members in Attendance: Andrew Petty, Tom McMahon, Tom Massaro, Amanda Ritvo

Review of Curbside Collection Regulations, Chapter 217 Health and Sanitation, Article - Solid Waste

Dr. Massaro announced at the beginning that this was an Open Meeting for the topic above. Mr. Petty began by saying that the new regulations were needed because of the changes in curbside collection (larger bins, etc.) as well as fees that would be required if the override did NOT pass. (Other fees for disposal of specific items, e.g., mattresses, box springs, etc., would be updated.) The new curbside collection regulations are changes but otherwise in addition to the current Chapter 2217, Health and Sanitation regulations.

Mr. Petty went through section by section the regulations, beginning with "Definitions". In section 3 "Eligibility" he noted that it is the same as before - only for 1-4 unit dwellings. He listed those residences ineligible as well as an appeal process. In section 4 "Town Issued Receptacles (Carts)", the Town will provide a 95-gallon cart for recycling and a 65 gallon for trash. Each cart will have a serial number assigned to the property. The property address and unit number will in the upper righthand corner of the cart. No other carts are to be used. Each resident is responsible for separating waste from recycling material. Recycling material MUST be placed in the 95-gallon cart.

In section 6 “Collection, Handling and Compliance,” containers can be placed no sooner than 6pm on the day prior to collection. All containers should be removed by the end of the day. Note all solid waste (which must be bagged) or recycling material must be placed in their respective cart with the lid securely closed. All material outside of the carts will not be collected. Bulk items which cannot be placed should be taken to the transfer station. Mandatory recycling is required and must be separated from waste material. Noncompliance can result in refusal of collection, assessment of fees, etc. Section 7 covers “Voluntary Opt-Out rules. All MHD residences are part of the program, unless the “owner opts out of participation in writing”. Those who elect to opt-out must complete an “opt-out form” and have secured alternative lawful arrangements of collection and disposal of solid waste and recycling. Carts will be collected from those residents. Those who do opt-out may subsequently re-enroll, subject to availability and compliance with the regulations.

Section 9 “Fee and Charges” will apply if the override does not pass. A minimum quarterly fee will be assessed and billed twice a year - much like property taxes are now. (See later discussion about the yearly fee below.)

At this point the discussion turned to whether businesses may participate in the curbside collection, etc. program. Their inclusion would depend on the number of residents participating. Mr. Petty said they are trying for the 8000 residences but if more opt-out, then there is more availability for businesses. (Note - food establishments have to have a separate means of collection and disposal.) The discussion next turned to low-income adjustments. These residents are only the ones that are approved by the assessing department, not the health/waste department.

In further discussion Mr. Petty said that the curbside collection and waste disposal override would be for \$2,298,575. Note - this override is separate and NOT included in any other overrides. Additional discussion covered the downtown collection (same as current); changing size of cart (have to start with a 95g, and a 65g, and can later change to 35g); if only place waste cart out (the waste will be looked at to ensure there is no recycling material.)

At this point the board took up determining the fees. After much discussion the board decided to assess \$290.76 per annum, anticipating a 6% opt-out

rate for participating residences. For low-income adjustments, the Board chose \$145. If business were to be part of the program, the fee would be \$80 per month. Each of these amounts was approved by the board.

Mr. Petty gave an update about a proposal from Waste Management to continue a disposal contract. As previously mentioned, their proposed amount was less than that of Republic. Mr. Petty went to Republic with this information and Republic did not want to match it. Continuing with Waste Management will save the town \$102K.

Director's Report - Mr. Petty said that the renovations at the transfer station were not complete - there is a minor punch list and some striping to done. At Town Meeting Mr. Petty will speak to the curbside collection and waste override.

The next BOH meetings are scheduled for 5/12 and 5/26 at 7PM.