

Roads, Infrastructure and Public Works Committee

April 4, 2023

4:15 p.m.

Members Present: L. Seman, Chair; A. Mitchell, E. Fant, J. Russo, S. Shaw

Members Absent: None.

Councilors Present: B. Kirven; R. Bradley

Staff Present: H. Gamble; K. Wunder; T. Coker; B. Mihalic; N.Miglionico; IS Staff

1. Call to Order

Chairwoman Seman called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m.

2. Invocation

Chairwoman Seman provided the invocation.

3. Approval of the minutes of the March 21, 2023 - Committee meeting

Motion: by Mr. Fant to approve the minutes of the March 21, 2023 Committee meeting. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

4. Recycling Discussion

Ms. Hesha Gamble provided an update on Greenville County's recycling program and impact of the discontinuation of the Greater Greenville Sanitations recycling program. Ms. Gamble discussed the following issues:

- The discontinuation of curbside recycling services by GGSD will have a financial and operational impact to the services provided by the County
- We expect at least 20% influx in new users to our sites, so growing pains are to be expected
- Rate increases due to inflation and new business models have a significant financial impact to the County
- Staff is working diligently to continue providing adequate recycling services and best meet the needs of the citizens in an efficient and cost effective manner

Mr. Fant stated citizens are upset over the discontinuation of Greater Greenville Sanitation's recycling service and asked what Greenville County is doing to mitigate the loss of recycling efforts. Ms. Gamble explained Greenville County doesn't collect waste but residents can bring recycling to convenient centers located around Greenville County. Mr. Fant asked if there would be any added locations. Ms. Gamble explained convenient centers are hard locations, there are recycling boxes but it has been challenging to find property owners that will agree to have a recycling box on their property.

Mr. Fant asked if we had noticed an increase in recycling demand. Ms. Papin stated when Simpsonville stopped their recycling program they saw a 20% volume increase and 20% increase in the number of box pulls. Ms. Papin explained now that Greater Greenville has stopped their recycling service, they plan to add additional boxes at sites Greenville County already uses, find locations within Greater Greenville Sanitations district, and changing the boxes to all fiber and all comingle which should reduce the pulls by 20-30%.

Chairwoman Seman asked how much a recycling container costs. Ms. Papin stated approximately \$9,500 but the boxes belong to Republic Services. Chairwoman Seman asked how many options were

available in terms of bidding out the boxes. Ms. Gamble stated the largest cost is not the containers but the service. Ms. Papin stated the only vendors who bid are Republic Services and Green for Life (formally Waste Management).

Mr. Mitchell asked how many times they sought out bids. Ms. Papin stated every five years since 1993. Mr. Mitchell asked if they received the same bidders. Ms. Papin stated they had a different company early on but they have had to go with Republic Services for 15 years now. Ms. Papin stated the five year contract, with depreciation requirements, makes it difficult for a new company to bid. Ms. Gamble explained anybody can submit but it has to be financially feasible for them.

Mr. Shaw asked if there are some items that would provide a better economic benefit to collect and if there is any consideration about exploring those options and adjusting the collected material. Ms. Papin explained they have pared their list of receivables down and monitor their price per ton. However, recycling is a service the community has asked for and it's never a breakeven situation. Money received from recyclables defrays costs but never have covered the entire cost and probably never will.

5. Adjourn

Mr. Fant made a motion to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote and the meeting was adjourned at 4:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Miglionico
Nicole Miglionico
Recording Secretary