

Joint Committee Meeting
Rules & Ordinance
Finance
September 29, 2022, 7pm
Town Hall, Room 2

In Attendance: Stephen Ruggiero, Tracey Honan, Hannah Belcher, Rich Fucillo, John Munson, Bill Schmidt, Wendy Millar-Page (via Zoom)

7:01 – call to order

- Subject of solid waste ordinance: re-referred to committee at last council meeting
- Last met on 8/1
 - Sent to TM:
 - Help eliminate overlap between Board of Health (BoH) & town ordinance
 - Guidance on number of 4 family homes
 - Motion allowing homes that received notice that trash removal would end to remain in program
 - Stockpile of bins: enough to keep up with broken/stolen ones?
 - Guardrails for non-profit multi-unit homes (i.e. Pleasant st. group homes)*
 - Airbnb – will there be an impact on registered units re: trash fee, etc.
 - Goal of enterprise fund (self-sustain or reduce town allocation)
 - Recommendations for schools, WHA, town buildings

*Discussion:

- Coded as 990 (mass code)
 - From Wendy: do not pick up ALL non-profits, need to have a set distinction between which are picked up and which are not

Councilor Ruggiero: Goal is to catalog decisions that still need to be made. Next steps would be to communicate with Town Manager to give directives to DPW on process & implementation. To discuss tonight: Number of barrels per unit, abatements, overage bags.

Number of Barrels per House/Unit

- Wendy: issue is overbuying/overthrowing with no thought for what happens after. Ultimate goal of program is to reduce Town of Winthrop's waste – every town in MA tasked with reducing number of tonnage to 25% of current
 - Councilor Honan: option to buy more barrels should be non-existent
 - Buying additional barrels goes against goal of the program
 - Reducing tonnage saves town money
 - Councilor Munson: logistically easier to deal with one barrel per unit

- Councilor Honan: Previously discussed idea of multiple sized barrel option is a huge cost, and planning will delay implementation
- Wendy: we have SOME smaller barrels – need to have a legitimate reason that you cannot move larger barrels. Have given out several
- Councilor Fucillo: What is the cost per barrel?
- Councilor DeMarco: people should have the ability to have more than one barrel
- Councilor Ruggiero: hard to make exceptions to policy that doesn't exist yet – need to enforce/accept policy before we look at exceptions – hard to write policy on outliers – hears more about barrels NOT being filled vs. needing additional barrels
- Councilor DeMarco – Holidays should be an exception
 - Schmidt: reads in BoH regs that outline the approval of additional waste after holidays
 - Shouldn't need ordinance when there is already a trash regulation. Ordinance should be for financial issues – makes no sense to have separate regulations from BoH and town
 - Councilor Honan: why isn't BoH regulation being enforced?
 - Wendy: Council felt it should be an ordinance, not just a regulation
 - Goes out most days to look at trash – many people are in compliance
 - Councilor Honan: do other towns have both or just one?
 - Wendy: our type of gov't makes it difficult to compare
 - Schmidt: overflow bags, budget, finance should be handled by the TM/ordinance
 - BoH can give violations/fines
 - Honan: important not to duplicate information between town ordinance and BoH regulation
 - Schmidt: BoH reg refers fees to TM
 - Ruggiero: solid waste ordinance is out of date, but exists
 - Munson: this is opportunity to clean up redundancy
 - DeMarco: diversty issue – only have state holidays/Christmas – we should look at other cultural holidays

- Belcher: who enforces BoH regulations?
- Schmidt:
 - DPW, DPH, ISD, BoH or designee
 - Got ticket book from ISD for dumpster consistently overflowing
- Wendy: told that regulation oversteps authority of DPW
 - DPW Needs someone 20 hrs/week to aid with enforcement
 - With ability to drive around daily
- Schmidt: price for employee should come from enterprise fund
- STAFFING NEED FOR ENFORCEMENT – AND to free up Wendy's bandwidth
- Need to keep in mind cost with abatements
- Belcher: Requests copy of trash contract
- Munson: is there revenue in trash?
 - Wendy: at town yard, metals bin has additional things in it – town gets money from selling metals
 - Asked for bin for cardboard boxes only – save space in trash & bring in money to town
 - Price of recycling/trash price is highly variable
 - Black Earth keeps weight down

Abatements

- Black earth, financial hardship (tangentially demonstrated), age?
 - Wendy: other city/towns use % of income –
 - Honan: if they qualify for other assistance can apply for abatements
 - Wendy: Federal/state standard poverty level
- Munson: for small amount of trash generated?
 - Honan: no – we're one of the LAST cities/towns to pay for trash
- Wendy: State is not ALLOWING throwing out textiles
- Belcher: People don't understand that we're paying for the SERVICE, not the trash itself
 - Can we bill quarterly?
 - Honan/Wendy: added cost for administrative processing, assessor's office
- Munson: ONLY financial hardship abatement; should be able to bring things TO bins that the town so we can get revenue back for it
- Wendy: Black earth SAVES town money
- Honan: not in favor of black earth abatements

Overage Bags

- Wendy: 2 sizes of bags (January numbers – 45cents/33 gal bag, 30cents/15gal bag)
 - Typically sold in sets of 5
 - Minimum order: \$14k
 - Company contacts local businesses, sets up contract, collect funds, we get check
- Fucillo: What happens with overage bags?
 - Wendy: based on BoH reg, bags go in additional barrel

Schmidt: will talk to TM about BoH vs. ordinance

Enterprise Fund:

- Ruggiero: enterprise fund just like water, rink, etc. – we don't set rates for enterprise funds as a council, we shouldn't set rates for solid waste
 - Wendy: should be Wendy, Calla, CFO, TM
 - Wendy: why is it enterprise fund vs. revolving fund
 - Ruggiero: it was compared to water, recommendation out of finance was to do enterprise

Next Steps:

For Tony:

- Tony, Wendy and/or Steve Calla at meeting
- Get ANSWERS before next meeting
 - Original Qs
 - Funding for P/T staff
 - Jurisdiction
 - "Rates & fees set by TM"
 - Enterprise vs. Revolving Fund

Wendy: when we have question/hear concerns in town – direct them to Wendy

Meeting Adjourned: 8:14