

Waste Management Committee Meeting Minutes
Jan 13, 2021
Council Chambers
10:00 a.m.

Present

Councillor, D Roberts, Chair
Deputy Mayor A. Murray
Councillor M. Farrell
Mayor L. Boucher
K. Proctor, P. Eng. Director of Public Works
N. Haverkort, Eastern Region Solid Waste Management Co-ordinator
K. O'Handley, Eastern Region Solid Waste Compliance Officer
D. Halfpenny, Engineering & Planning Administrative Assistant

Call to Order

The Chair, Councillor D. Roberts called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Approval of Agenda

The Chair asked for any additions to the agenda. Two items were added:

1. Tender for Residential Waste Collection
2. Update of the annual Antigonish Kinsmen Fire Department Tree Mulch.

A motion was made by Councillor M. Farrell to accept the agenda with additions and was seconded by Deputy Mayor A. Murray. Motion Carried.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor A. Murray and seconded by Councillor D. Roberts to accept the minute of December 9, 2020. Motion Carried.

Business Arising from Minutes

Waste Bylaw

Councillor D. Roberts, Chair stated that the Waste Bylaw has been under review since Oct of 2019, she advised that a rough draft had been sent to K. Proctor, J. Lawrence, and S. Scannell for input at that time. She noted that Bylaw Enforcement had attended Waste Management meetings and provided valuable input into the draft and that it is now time to complete the work needed to finalize the bylaw and get it off the agenda. She suggested a deadline of March 2021 to finalize the bylaw.

Discussion followed.

N. Haverkort was tasked with cleaning up the document to remove crossed out items and highlighted material. Once this has been completed copies will be made for committee members to do a final review before sending to J. Lawrence, CAO; S. Scannell and K. Proctor for any further suggestions. Once final suggestions are completed it will be sent for legal vetting and then taken to Council for approval.

Residential Waste Collection

K. Proctor advised that with the Residential Waste Collection contract is due to expire in August 2021. He explained that the existing contractor has aligned with GFL to become Eastern GFL. He noted that because they are a local company the Town enjoy the benefits of Eastern GFL operating a store front which allows the citizens to drop off material conveniently. He stated that

the three-day pick-up schedule works well for residential pick up. He commented that should a new service provider be chosen a store front may not be an option.

K. Proctor explained that staff have reviewed the RFP sent out in 2016. He noted that it may be more of a Tender document than an RFP that will be sent out for the 2021 Residential Waste Collection Services contract. He explained that the cost of waste services is high and that it is important to be mindful that the population is aged. He noted that it is near \$300 for a single home green bin and \$600 for a four-unit apartment. He advised that drivers are hauling less material with the decreased occupancy numbers in single family homes. He stressed that with the decrease in competition in the waste provider market and GFL being a larger provider the Town may see an increase waste costs above the usual cost of living increase and may need to have the flexibility in the document to change the level of service to maintain the cost to taxpayers.

N. Haverkort commented that other considerations are the MERF collection contract which will be coming due during the five-year collection contract term and that EPR may have a shot at moving forward when the new NS Premier is in place. She noted should EPR move forward the Municipality would see costs off-set for recycling by the program.

Mayor L. Boucher commented that EPR costs are included at the point of purchase paid by the consumer much like the electronics fee.

K. Proctor noted that the document will contain a clause that allows for changes in services in the contract based on the province making changes to the industry. He acknowledged that there are some cost certainties but other changes that come into place such as when the electronic program came into effect to allow for some realignment of services. However, he noted the tender must be based on what we have in place now. The clause to remove some items is necessary and he acknowledged that education and compliance with new programs comes at a cost.

Waste Bag Limit

The Chair stated that with the Waste Bylaw moving towards completion for March and the Residential Waste Collection tender being prepared for July, the Waste Management Committee must determine if they are going to recommend to Council that a bag limit be added to the Waste Bylaw. She advised that the discussion on the bag limit had been brought to the attention of the Waste committee based on complaints received from the contractor to K. O' Handley during a Town curbside waste audit.

K. O' Handley reported that during a Curbside audit several households were observed to have many bags in the 20 to 25 bag range. The service provider noted that this was a common occurrence at these properties. K. O Handley advised he had the driver take only the bags that were visibly seen as being properly sorted and to place a rejection sticker on those bags that were not properly sorted.

K. O' Handley advised that the problems are diverse with some instance being attributed to a lack of information provided by landlords to their tenants; some issues with residents hoarding garbage and others just not sorting properly. He acknowledged that there is no easy solution other than continued education and enforcement. He noted that he had contact some of the tenants at the properties in question and he has observed improvements in a few. He remarked that one of the properties contained a single occupant which was surprising.

K. Proctor stated that it is important to determine if it is a one case or if it is consistently happening at a residence. He explained that a homeowner may be doing some small renovation or spring cleaning that may account for an increase in waste or it could be a home with a change in ownership.

Discussion followed on the pros and cons of adding a bag limit.

Pros were noted as introducing a bag limit would provide a more standardized approach which would match other municipalities. This would allow the hauler to have a clearer view of what is needed for capacity in their vehicles, whether it be a 50/50 split for the solid waste and organics or a 60/40 split, etc. It was advised this would decrease contamination issues.

Cons were concerns with homeowner's holding on to waste for a prolonged period and properties becoming unsightly and attracting rodents. Concerns as to whether it would fix or add to the problem

N. Haverkort provided K. Proctor with a provincial table with bag limits for municipalities.

The Chair asked that J. Dee of GFL be contacted and invited to the next Waste meeting for input on the adoption of a bag limit. Item tabled for next Waste meeting.

The Mayor left the meeting to attend another meeting at 11 a.m.

Household Hazardous Waste

Chair, D. Roberts reported that the HHW waste site has been opened for business. She explained that with the Covid restrictions there has not been a grand opening. However, she was informed that the location was being promoted by social media and that radio blurbs were being scheduled and consideration of a newspaper ad.

N. Haverkort circulated a flyer of location details and permitted items. The Town waste hotline will provide the information to the citizens.

Dog Waste Receptacles

Noted as too expensive to pursue.

Litter Cans on Electric Poles

K. Proctor provided recommendation not to place litter cans on electric poles due to shared poles increased safety concerns. He noted that the poles are shared with Bell and Eastlink and the Town of Antigonish keeps their poles free all materials including posters.

Chair D. Roberts advised that the current issues with litter cans being overfilled may further create an unsightly concern on the Main Street.

Discussion followed on potential vandalism to litter cans on electric poles.

The Waste Committee agreed that litter cans on electric poles would not take place in the Town of Antigonish.

The Chair thanked K. Proctor for providing insight.

The Waste Committee discussed the various types of litter cans in the Town of Antigonish and the pros and cons of each.

K. Proctor noted that staff monitoring of the litter cans have shown that the 3 slot sorting stations do not have as much litter in them. He also advised that they are expensive to purchase and merchants sometimes do not want them close to their businesses even if they are in the Town right of way.

N. Haverkort commented that the three slot stations have smaller holes to dispose of litter which prevent household waste and larger items from being tossed in while providing the opportunity for proper sorting.

K. Proctor explained that decreasing the space in the concrete cans by adding the wooden cover with a lock system has cut down on household waste and other items being placed in the litter cans. He stated while not the most attractive type of litter can they do stand up to vandalism and are cost efficient.

N. Haverkort noted that the Food Vendor section has been added to the Waste Bylaw to address concerns that food trucks have been adding to the problem of waste being tossed into the litter cans.

Councillor, M. Farrell commented that a uniform look to the litter can with some continuity and clear identification is important.

Chair D. Roberts noted that this is very much a cross over issue with Beautification and that Deputy Mayor, A. Murray who is the Chair of the Beautification Committee may advise as to options to create some conformity, and a better use of existing litter cans.

The Deputy Mayor agreed that it was a cross over issue and that he would add it to his agenda for the Beautification Committee.

K. Proctor advised that at present there are too many litter cans out there. He explained that with the core of the downtown changing from retails to other types of business there are less convenient stores which were the main purpose for the litter cans where someone would toss their gum wrapper or chip bag. He mentioned that a clear indication much like the wayfinding signs could be created to identify location of litter cans and create better efficiencies.

New Committee Member

The Chair noted that she had spoken with D. Wilson Deputy Clerk regarding advertising for vacancy and new positions on the Waste Committee. She was advised that a motion would need to come from the Waste Committee to make a recommendation to Council. She commented that a member from the Landlord's Association although they are not an official group would be a good addition to the Committee and that the STFX representative not be limited to a student.

Discussion followed.

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor A. Murray to recommend to Council that an advertisement be placed to fill the existing vacancies on the Waste Management Committee: a member of the public, a member from the business community (member of the rental association), and a STFX

representative from the Environmental department that is not limited to a student. Seconded by M. Farrell. **Motion Carried.**

Antigonish Kinsmen/Fire Dept Tree Mulch

N. Haverkort advised that the Antigonish Kinsmen in conjunction with the Antigonish Area Fire Departments and their sponsors Antigonish Market Square, Antigonish Rental All, Kell's Enterprises, Eastern GFL, Asplundh Tree Services, 98.9 xfm and 101.5 The Hawk had held a very successful event Tree Mulching event on Saturday, January 9th. She reported that two dump truck loads of mulch plus a trailer full were generated from tree mulch. Eastern Regional Solid Waste Management supplied donuts, muffins, and coffee for the volunteers. She noted that a Glen Road resident had arrived with a trailer and had been loaded up with mulch to use for a trail on her property.

Education and Compliance Report

Compliance Officer Report - K. O' Handley circulated his report of activities undertaken within the Town of Antigonish since the December 9, 2020 Waste Management Meeting.

K. O' Handley reported that highlights include McDonald's Antigonish is working with GFL Commercial Account Manager A. Drapeau Reynolds to set up for proper composting and STFX is sending out a mass email to state that black bags are not for use in the Town of Antigonish.

He noted that seven landfill inspections have been completed with two being waste related StFX loads and two being STFX organics, 2 Town ICI and 1 Town of Antigonish residential load.

There were five warning letters sent for black bag use.

A motion was made by M. Farrell to accept the compliance report and seconded by A. Murray. **Motion Carried.**

Next Meeting Date

Next Waste Meeting Wednesday, February 3rd at 10 a.m.

Motion was made by Councillor M. Farrell that the Waste Management Meeting be adjourned. Motion Carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.