

YORK TOWNSHIP

March 13, 2024, Special Meeting – Work Session

Trustees – Chairman Richard Monroe, Todd Zieja, and Christopher Kosman
Fiscal Officer Margaret (Peggy) Russell

Present:

Trustee Rick Monroe

Trustee Todd Zieja

Trustee Chris Kosman

Fiscal Officer Peggy Russell

Zoning Inspector/Twp Administrator, Steve Ibos

Cemetery/Town Hall, Theresa Forlini-Petrey

Administrative Assistant, Kristy McElroy

Guests & Residents

Chairman Rick Monroe called the meeting to order at 5:30pm and stated the meeting is being recorded for transcription purposes only. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the waste and recycling contract, the snowplowing contract, and any other business before the board.

INVITED GUESTS

Joe Schoffstall, Municipal Sales Specialist with Rumpke Waste & Recycling

Alex Sherman, Owner of Sherman & Sons Lawncare

CONTRACT DISCUSSION - SNOWPLOWING

Trustee Monroe stated that our snowplowing contract is up with Sherman & Sons, and we need to decide what we would like to adjust with the contract before putting it out for bid. Discussion of the contract included bids for both 1-year and 3-year contracts with no extension options and adjusting the contract year to better include the traditional plow season; addressing fuel rates and holding an annual meeting with the contracted company to review expectations, roads, etc.

Roger Mittler, Elyria Rd. resident, asked if the township is looking at buying a truck to do our own plowing, what the life of a truck would be, and what does the plowing contract cost the township each year. Trustee Monroe said not in the immediate future due to the overall expense of purchasing a truck, outfitting it for plowing and salting, vehicle maintenance, indoor storage, and staffing. Trustee Kosman said that Montville ordered a single axle road truck in March 2023 that they are still waiting on, and it was around \$175,000 to \$180,000 outfitted with plow and salting equipment; plow trucks generally last 10-15 years. This winter has been mild and has cost \$15-20k for plowing, with previous years ranging from \$40-50k with Sherman and \$80k the last year we were with Fabrizi, all depending on weather and snowfall.

Steve Ibos asked if it will be written into the contract that the company will be required to store salt, Trustee Monroe said the township will not be able to store salt as our salt building is still being used for storing other equipment that needs to be kept out of the weather and we do not have anywhere else to store it. Alex Sherman said they stored very little salt at their facility, but that this year it has been much better at the county facility where we get salt as to being open when his crew needs to get salt. Alex asked if the next contract will be based on a truck rate and man-hour rate; Trustee Monroe said it should be just the truck rate as we have personnel on hand now. Fiscal Officer Peggy Russell suggested including fuel price adjustments in the next contract.

Fiscal Officer Russell stated that we will need to go over the contract details with the Prosecutor's Office prior to advertising for bids.

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CONTRACT DISCUSSION - TRASH

Trustee Monroe opened the discussion on the single hauler trash contract. Our 5-year contract with Rumpke will end on February 28, 2025. The current contract includes renewal terms allowing us to extend it in 1-year intervals for up to 3 consecutive years, with rate increases up to 2.5% each year and continuing the 6% allowed opt-outs. We need to decide if we will extend the contract or put it out for bid and begin a new contract. Joe Schoffstall, our Rumpke representative, was in attendance and was able to answer some questions from Trustees and residents, some questions he will need to research before he can answer, the contract does allow for amendments so we will look at what allowable amendments are if we proceed with extending the contract.

The following residents had questions which were answered by Trustees and/or Joe Schoffstall: Roger Mittler (Elyria Rd.), Dave Hull (Spieth Rd.), Dan Fry (Fenn Rd.), Norm Hinman (Beck Rd.), Mike Knapp (Fenn Rd.), Bill Pavlick (Stiegler Rd.).

- Could an option for cart service every other week at half the current price be added to the contract? The bag service is not ideal here due to animals getting into bags. Are smaller trash carts and larger recycle carts available?
Logistics and routing would make this difficult, there are very few to no other contracts that offer this. Realistically it's not a feasible or financially reasonable option. 65-gallon carts are the smallest trash carts available; this is something that could be looked at but would depend on how many residents would want smaller carts, and it may not lower the price much. Larger recycling carts are not available, but a second recycling cart can be rented.
- Opt-out: Suggestion to make it a lotto system instead of the inconvenience of residents sitting all day. Thought that Trustees had stated at prior meetings that after this year there would be no more opting-out. How many residents were able to opt-out and can the contract be amended to raise the percentage of allowed opt-outs which would eliminate many of the current issues? Complaints about allowing a person to bring multiple forms when opting out, it should be one opt-out form per person.
We cannot do a lotto system with the current contract; it is a first come first serve process. The Prosecutor's office said they would never do a contract with an opt-out again. For opt-outs last year we accepted 100 (6%), this year we accepted 103 (6%) which was the exact number of forms we received. We will see if raising the allowed percentage would be an amendable issue. The contract allows a person to submit multiple forms.
- Dave Hull shared that the county trash facility has made many improvements and is more residential friendly now. Rates were changed last October, it is \$6 for up to 200 pounds, and they got rid of the bag rate.
- Why aren't farms with Rumpke dumpsters excluded from having residential service or having to opt-out since they have another service through Rumpke? Does the township have a list of who has dumpsters?
The contract states that all residential properties must receive cart or bag service, or opt-out. We will look into the number of active farms in the township and see if there is a

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possible way to amend the contract for verified farms if we extend the contract. The township does not have a list of who has dumpsters.

- There are residential properties in the township that do not have residential service and are not on the opt-out list. Is there data available on current and previous year opt-outs? *This will be looked into, please provide known addresses to the township. Data is not available tonight but can be put together and provided at another meeting.*
- What can be done about the trash that blows out of the trucks when they tip cans? *Unfortunately, there is nothing we can do about the wind. Recycled items should be loose in the cart for processing, so that tends to be what blows out the most. Drivers do their best to pick it up when they see it happen.*

Trustees asked Joe what his service area is and what are some of the fees he sees with other contracts they have? We have seen surrounding township residents sharing that they pay anywhere from \$130 (Litchfield) to \$170 (Medina Township) per quarter for comparable service but potentially with other waste companies, where our residents pay around \$66 per quarter. Joe stated that his area includes other rural residential areas such as Mansfield and Richland, as well as some urban areas such as Cuyahoga. Many of the other contracts are set as a subscription service and range from around \$30-40 per month and often that does not include recycling or the carts, though he does not have the exact figures with him. The current contract is based on prices from 2020 and costs have increased. The township contract is written with a 2.5% allowable increase each year, but new residential bids are up 4-7%, with a monthly rate increase of 15-30% in many areas. Almost every contract he manages has no opt-outs.

Trustees said that there were great questions, concerns, and information they will further discuss with the Prosecutor to see what amendments may be allowed before they make a decision to extend the current contract with Rumpke or put together a new trash contract to put out for bid.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Trustee Kosman stated there is a York Township Facebook account, but we do not have access to it. Bill Pavlick said the account was created by his wife years ago, it was never finalized and is inactive. Theresa will discuss with Mrs. Pavlick and see what we need to do to take over the page.
- Trustee Kosman said we need to discuss the cemetery benches and decide what direction we'd like to proceed with. There were letters sent out last year, what stemmed that? Trustee Monroe said we need to agree on a bench and work to have several installed throughout the cemetery and remove the ones currently there. Mr. Pavlick spoke and said that letters were sent as none of the benches currently in the cemetery were approved by Trustees or Dorothy Crouch when she oversaw the cemetery. Trustee Zieja feels that if we place benches, it will eliminate others bringing their own. He would like to see benches that are sturdy, safe, can be secured and will last many years. Trustee Monroe would like to see 3-4 benches installed; Trustee Kosman was thinking around 6 would be good. Paul Lindenberg (maintenance employee) asked how it would be determined where the benches would be placed. Theresa Forlini-Petrey said that at Mill Stream Park in Valley City, they had a layout of where benches would be placed, and each bench was

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available to be sponsored. A resident suggested placing 4 just around the flagpole. Theresa asked how we would proceed on the benches. Trustee Kosman said he will work with her to create a plan before any final decisions are made.

- Trustee Kosman asked the other trustees if Trustee Keller, from Liverpool, reached out to them on the Solar Eclipse event at Buckeye High School. Trustees said yes, but they are not sure what the purpose would be for York to have a table at that event. Trustee Monroe stated that the EMA has lowered the anticipated count for Medina County to 110,000 visitors. Trustee Zieja said that they are no longer opening emergency operations centers either.
- Dave Hull said he's grateful the Trustees are doing this workshop and thinking ahead. He asked if it would be beneficial to conduct a survey for Rumpke services? Trustees said that a low number of responses is often received from surveys put out in communities.

FISCAL OFFICER

- Star OHIO State Treasury Asset Reserve Authorized Signer Certification Form needs to be completed and notarized. Kristy will notarize tonight.
- **MOTION to Approve Payroll and Bills moved by Trustee Zieja, second by Trustee Kosman.** Roll: Zieja, yes; Kosman, yes; Monroe, yes.
- **MOTION to Approve PO's as presented, moved by Trustee Kosman, second by Trustee Zieja.** Roll: Kosman, yes; Zieja, yes; Monroe, yes.
- **MOTION to approve Lexipol Annual Fire Procedures, supplemental manuals, and Annual Fire Policy Manual & Daily Training Bulletins for \$3,097.77 which includes 15% discount; moved by Trustee Zieja, second by Trustee Kosman.** Roll: Zieja, yes; Kosman, yes; Monroe, yes.
- **MOTION to approve \$1,822.50 to CB Graphics for the graphics on the new Fire Department pick-up truck, moved by Trustee Kosman, second by Trustee Zieja.** Roll: Kosman, yes; Zieja, abstain; Monroe, yes.
- Charles Harris finished working on our Hinkle notes for 2023, and our year end information was submitted to the State Auditor, so we officially closed 2023. January and February Bank statements have been reconciled. Ohio Checkbook authorization was granted, and year end notification made to the Gazette.
- Permanent Appropriations were emailed to Trustees a few weeks ago. Please look over to approve at the March regular meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- **Norm Hinman** – Is there an update on the Beck Rd. siren? Trustee Monroe said it is a work in progress, we may have to look at other options depending on what is found to be the issue. The sirens are expensive to maintain and repair.

MOTION to Adjourn at 6:36pm moved by Trustee Zieja, second by Trustee Kosman. Roll: Zieja, yes; Kosman, yes; Monroe, yes.

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Trustee Richard Monroe, Chairman

Margaret Russell, Fiscal Officer

Upcoming Trustee Meetings:

Regular Meeting – March 28, 2024 at 7:00pm

Regular Meeting – April 25, 2024 at 7:00pm