



Staff Report

Report To: Council Meeting
From: Lee Gosnell, Public Works Superintendent
Date: 2020-02-13
Report: 2020-03
Subject: Waste Collection Services

Recommendation:

That West Elgin Council hereby directs senior staff to enter formal negotiations with Waste Connections Canada for Municipal wide collection of waste and recycling.

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to provide council with a summary of feedback received from West Elgin residents regarding curbside collection. This information was gained through completion of paper/electronic surveys and a public information session which was held on January 7, 2020.

Background:

On November 14, 2019, West Elgin Council received a report from the Public Works Superintendent outlining a proposal for expanding waste collection services in the municipality. The main purpose of that report was to gauge interest in entering negotiations with West Elgin's current service provider for the proposed expansion. At that time, Waste Connections Canada (our current service provider) provided West Elgin with an initial cost estimate based on preliminary investigation, and staff also included costing for disposal and contingencies in the report.

Council received said report and discussed the possible benefits and drawbacks of expanding curbside pickup to include the rural areas of West Elgin. The decision was made to provide information on the proposed changes to residents and garner feedback through the use of surveys and a public information session. At Council's direction, staff developed a waste collection survey which members of the public could submit electronically or by hard copy. A public information session was also held January 7, 2020 which was well attended. There were many thoughtful questions received, and we believe that most of these were answered to the satisfaction of those who took time to be part of the consultation process. A summary of all feedback, both positive and negative, has been included below for Council's consideration.

Summary of Survey Results

A total of 247 residents participated in the survey, both on line and paper. The survey shows that 71% of respondents agree that all residents should be provided the same service levels, and of the respondents who don't currently have curbside collection, 65% showed some level of interest in receiving this service.

The survey shows that 70% of respondents believe the cost of approximately \$200 per year or \$3.84 per week is acceptable for this user pay service and 73% are in favor of lowering the bag limit to 3.

Summary of Comments

The on-line and paper survey provided an area for comments, with 79 total comments provided. As expected, these comments were both negative and positive in nature. The public information session also provided an outlet for comments. Three main themes developed through these outlets.

The first being that residents feel that a larger emphasis needs to be put on reduction in garbage production, both through a reduction in bag limit and recycling. Municipal staff have built in some funds to the cost of the expanded program to provide more education to residents to assist with this request.

The second theme that developed both at the Public Information Session and survey comments is that many residents were unaware that currently curbside collection is a user pay service and appears as a separate line item on the final tax bill.

The third theme is that many rural residents use a private contractor, who's fees are less than the suggest cost of \$200 per year. The cost that has been provided by municipal staff and widely advertised is the maximum amount that staff anticipate this service to cost and includes disposal of the garbage at Greenlane landfill and education campaigns. Currently the private contractor disposes of this waste at the municipal landfill, however with municipal wide curbside collection the majority of household waste will be diverted from the municipal landfill, thereby extending its lifespan.

Financial Implications:

While numbers are still preliminary, staff are confident the original ceiling of \$200.00 can be met and possibly even improved upon. Once a formal proposal has been received from Waste Connections, a report will be prepared for Council outlining exact costs and providing options for additional items such as bag limits and waste reduction incentives.

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Waste Collection Services.docx
Attachments:	- 2019 Garbage and Recycling Survey Results.docx
Final Approval Date:	Feb 7, 2020

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Jana Nethercott