



CITY OF NEWTON
SOLID WASTE COMMISSION
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton Centre, MA 02459-1449
David B. Cohen, Mayor

Sydra Schnipper, Chairman, David DelPorto, Vice Chairman, Ann Dorfman, Steven Ferrey, Elaine Gentile, Barbara Herson, Nunzio Piselli, David Queenan, Robert Rooney, Ex-Officio
Advisory: Environmental Affairs Staff, Michael Rourke, David Turocy

Minutes
November 9, 2006

Acceptance of minutes from October 26, 2006 deferred due to time constraints. Will be reviewed, amended (as needed) and accepted at meeting of November 30, 2006.

Commission voted to meet on November 30, 2006 as November 23, 2006 scheduled meeting was Thanksgiving.

Commission met with two consulting firms: HMR represented by Shawn Worster, Sr. Project Manager and RW Beck represented by David Demme, Vice President and staff members Tom Jones and Susan Bush.

HDR:

Shawn Worster, former Exec. Dir of NESWC, 3 years at HDR

- HDR has 5000 employees, started in 1917, #2 in Solid Waste management, studies curb-disposal
- At NESWC needed to look at market based contract; terms and conditions, cost/T, etc.
- Acquired BVA and works w/Ruth Abbe, Zero Waste Management Planning and Programs w/clients all over the country, specifically mentioned MA, MN, CA
- Consulted with NYC (12,000 T/day) for 16 years and worked on master plan for July 2006
- Also working in LA on master plan
- In MA have worked for Millbury (as a host for disposal) and Shrewsbury (as a host for ash)
- Assist communities to review options through competitive procurement
- Capital intensive programs no longer needed
- Will pull staff together to meet Newton's needs

Q&A:

- Experience w/in-house vs contract: yes with in-house to private in other states; CA, SC
- Experience with private vs back in-house: No,
- Experience w/separate collection contracts: yes
- Trends: depends on local competition, no national trend
- In MA trends: mixed, Newton is unique, does Newton want to unbundled?
- Any suggestions for Newton: unbundled, review at time of contract expiration, few large companies, might be able to get small company in
- Newton Contract: Hasn't seen one like Newton, it is very different
- Automated/PAYT, need to look at cost/benefits:
Automation: amortize equipment cost, performance is a question, does it make sense for Newton, need to review housing, routes, etc.: PAYT: Lexington had policy issues; it is a political process, pros/cons

- Newton prospects for collection and disposal: collection \$60/T, disposal \$60/T, forget long term, i.e. 20 years
- Is flat rate possible: no
- Current collection, transport and disposal is \$138/T: feels Newton could do better at ~\$120/T
- Does this include recycling, contracts are separate: should be two bid options, unbundled will ensure good work performance with no gaps
- Size of HDR for Newton: HDR will ensure personnel, he will be day-to-day, spent career working with municipalities in MA
- Limited capabilities of smaller vs large companies:
- Master Plan Time Frame: 10 years w/ 5 year updates

Debriefing of HMR:

- Broad generalities, a lot of expertise in a larger company, DEP would recommend either HMR or Merritt – never worked w/RW Beck, ethics issue raised with Town of Millbury and WMI, two different consultants with two different styles: Merritt is more local and HDR is more extensive nationwide, question raised on costs range comments per T from two different consultants (\$95/T - \$120/T)

RW BECK:

David Demme worked at HDR with Shawn Worster and brought colleagues Tom Jones, Sue Bush.

- 500 employees, owner-owned, 30 years
- Limited design and construction work, work on wastewater, water, solid waste
- Worked with various forms of government, trade organizations, SWANA, private industry, banks, insurance companies (analysis for investments), do not work for SW owners
- Worked on state and local master plans: New Bedford, Bridgeport CT (similar to Newton), Norwalk CT, communities in MA, NH, NYC, etc. and has capacity to bring in experts from anywhere in the country
- Experiences of Sue and Tom in areas of CT, VT, PA, OH, etc.
- Manage grant programs for PA for SWANA for ~ 100 communities in disposal, procurement, rail export, reduce waste
- Other colleagues worked on waste analysis, types of containers, curbside analysis
- Newton needs a Solid Waste Master Plan
- He can move people with expertise from his vast resource of people as needed

Q&A:

- Experience with large communities, any the size of Newton: many, most recently small communities in PA (lots of counties), there is no “one size fits all” different communities have different needs, some communities have no competition, but they adapt programs to fit individual communities
- In-house vs contract and bundle or unbundled: training course in small towns to look at all issues, need to use BMP for community
- In MA, bundling or separate contract: key is transfer station, if have one then collect and dispose, if no transfer station then need to look closely at costs, if unbundled cost can be expensive as a lot of communities are up for renewal
- Trend for in-house: no, trend, contracts stopped and stabilized, not a lot of municipalities go back to in-house, however they would work with municipality on effective collection, manage competition, work with union employees to keep jobs and cut costs and improve performance, have worked with municipalities to look at in-house but in the end contract went private, have worked with haulers as well
- Automation: different cost savings, employees don't get out of trucks, proper placement of toters, educational issues

- Experience w/PAYT: lots, in PA and CT held workshops for stakeholders, need to reach consensus with elected officials
- Where is the waste stream going: increased recycling, reduction, long-term in packaging, one contract for all Newton or break up to increase competition

Debriefing of RW Beck:

- Both companies have a lot of sw experience, we need to decide on size, focus and type of firm we want

Time became an issue and will have further discussion at the next meeting on November 30.