

Draft
Town of Onalaska
Refuse and Recycling Committee Meeting
December 5, 2016

The Refuse/Recycling Committee meeting was called to order by Chairman Frank Fogel at 7:00 pm at the Town of Onalaska Town Hall, N5589 Commerce Road, Onalaska, WI. Members present were Frank Fogel, Harry Helfrich, Stan Hauser, Jerry Bonsack, and Mary Rinehart. Steve Wage was excused.

Motion to approve the agenda made by Hauser; seconded by Bonsack. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve October 23, 2016 meeting minutes made by Hauser; seconded by Bonsack. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment: Francis Brown of N5889 State Road 35, Onalaska was in disbelief that the Town cannot have large item pickup at least every month or two. He was unhappy with way fire dues for the Holmen Area Fire Department is assessed to the communities. He stated if the Fire Department money issues were fixed we would have money for garbage.

A letter from Marie Weaver, N5316 County Road S, Onalaska, was read in to the record as follows:

Dear Committee Members of the Town of Onalaska, I'm very concerned about the garbage pick-up issue. I would like to suggest that you continue with the Hilltopper Group for the coming year and raise the price of the trash bags to meet your budget needs. In the meantime have another vote on the recycle and garbage containers (which I voted on to have). I think many people did not understand the importance of the issue. Get more information in your Onalaska and La Crosse papers to explain in layman's terms the issues. Also send out a newsletter to explain the money issue you are facing as the town board. Thank you for your consideration. Marie P Weaver.

A letter received by email to the clerk from Sandy Thompson, Supervisor IV, was read is as follows:

I am out of town and cannot attend the refuse and recycle committee meeting on December 5th, 2016. I request that the following comments be read into the records of the meeting during the public comment section of the meeting.

At the Special Town Board meeting held on December 17th, the Board of Supervisors approved a 2017 budget that included refuse and recycle budgetary items based on switching to the cart system for curbside refuse and recycle, and using the proposed new bids from the haulers who submitted bids to provide such services. For the past 20 months the board has been moving forward with the intention of switching to the "cart system" and doing away with the Town bag system that has not been keeping pace with the expenses to handle the Town's refuse.

I fail to see why the agenda for this refuse and recycle meeting has any line items regarding a referendum. The past referendum failed, which simply does not allow the Town to assess special fees for refuse, taking it off the tax roll and to use the funds for other purposes in the budget. Additional referendums that ask the tax payers for permission to increase fees and not reduce taxes will also likely fail, in my opinion.

The board has a budget for 2017 that provides for moving forward with a cart system. The haulers have told us that in the not too distant future the "old fashioned" and outdated bag system will not even be available.

I believe that it is time that this committee accepts the task of moving forward to smoothly transition to the new and far more efficient and cost effective cart system. The Town's 2017 budget does not provide sufficient funds allocated to refuse if this committee recommends an extension of the current contract, and to make that decision would be a fiscally irresponsible use of our tax payers money. It is time that this committee supports the Board of Supervisors in moving forward with a plan to provide curbside refuse and recycle services, as required by our Code of Ordinances, in a financially responsible manner by moving forward with the new cart system.

*Thank you
Sandy Thompson
Supervisor IV
Town of Onalaska*

Discussion on appointment of James Burch to Refuse and Recycle committee: Motion to table to another meeting so he is in attendance made by Hauser; seconded by Helfrich. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion on board disapproval of committee recommendation in regards to refuse and recycle contract extension: Motion by Helfrich; seconded by Rinehart to recommend to the board that we agreed with the board and to proceed with board recommendation as based on 2017 approved budget and to proceed with hauler proposals and transition to carts. 2 yes (Helfrich, Rinehart) 3 no (Fogel, Hauser, Bonsack) motion failed. Motion to recommend to the board to go back to the August 23, 2016 recommendation to the board to extend the current contract for one year, go back to referendum, with numbers included in the question, stipulate not to take a loss on the levy and include resident education prior to election, made by Hauser; seconded by Bonsack. Discussion followed in regards to the length of the extension. Bonsack withdrew his second. Hauser amended his motion to state a 6 month extension; motion seconded by Bonsack. Motion passed 4-1 (Helfrich).

Discussion on hauler proposals: Motion to recommend to the board to accept the Hilltopper proposal dated 9/29/2016. Motion passed 4-1 (Hauser).

Discussion on referendum in regards to curbside refuse. Motion to recommend to the board to consider the questions submitted by Hauser if they decide to go to referendum made by Helfrich; seconded by Bonsack. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion on referendum questions: No action.

Discussion on brush chipping and removal from shop lot: Motion by Bonsack; seconded by Hauser to recommend to the board to go with Tree's Today grinding and haul away option for \$4,000. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to adjourn was made by Helfrich; seconded by Hauser and passed unanimously at 8:24 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Rinehart