

**DRAFT**

Town of Onalaska  
Refuse and Recycling Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, February 28, 2017

The Refuse/Recycling committee meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, February 28, 2017 at the Town of Onalaska Town Hall, N5589 Commerce Road, Onalaska, WI. Members present were Frank Fogel, Steve Wage, James Burch, Josh Storandt, and Sara Kessler. Harry Helfrich and Jerry Bonsak were absent; Stan Hauser was excused.

Motion to approve the agenda by Storandt; seconded by Burch. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion on election of a committee secretary: Motion to appoint Kessler as committee secretary by Wage, seconded by Storandt. Motion passed unanimously.

Approve the minutes of the January 5, 2017, January 16, 2017, January 31, 2017 and February 7, 2017 minutes: Kessler and Storandt stated they intend to abstain from voting for meeting minutes of January 5 and January 16, as they were not yet on the committee. Further discussion revealed that among members at this meeting, only Frank Fogel was present for all of the meetings where minutes are to be approved. Fogel suggested approving minutes for the last two meetings where enough of the members were in attendance and tabling the first two to determine correct parliamentary procedure. Motion to approve only the January 31, 2017 and February 7, 2017 and table the January 5 and January 16, 2016 minutes was made by Burch; seconded by Storandt. Motion passed unanimously.

Feedback from the board: Fogel reported that the board approved moving forward to acquire the refuse and recycling carts as well as financing the cart purchase.

Discussion on Schedule of curbside chipping for 2017: Motion to schedule curbside brush chipping the second week of May, August and October by Storandt, second by Kessler. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion on acceptable brush and pile size for curbside chipping: Motion by Fogel to open the floor; seconded by Kessler. Fogel questioned former employee Al Steck about the size and capabilities of the Town's chipper. Steck said the chipper could handle pieces up to 24" in diameter. Motion by Kessler to close the floor; seconded by Storandt passed unanimously. Committee feels that it is best to limit diameter size to 6" so that residents do not use the service for full tree removal. The service is intended for residents to do seasonal yard clean up and branch trimming. Motion by Kessler and seconded by Storandt to recommend the following definition of brush pile: "Brush must be cut in 6-10 foot lengths and cannot exceed 6 inches in diameter. The brush may not be piled higher than 3 feet nor can the pile be longer than 12 feet." Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion on skid steer safety guards for curbside chipping: Fogel reports that the skid steer slated for use in the curbside chipping operations has only a glass front. He is concerned for the safety of the operators and would like to see more done to protect the operator from potential harm. Wage asked about other options; Fogel suggested some type of wire cage. Motion by Kessler, seconded by Wage to recommend that the Board review the current equipment and assess any possible upgrades or changes to ensure compliance and safety regulations are met. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion on yard waste disposal contract: Fogel motioned to open the floor; seconded by Bursch, passed unanimously. Tom Dummer, owner of Green Earth Compost addressed the committee on the yard waste contract up for renewal. He explained his costs to operate and manage the yard waste contract have risen since the Town's initial contract. The original contract with Green Earth was \$1000 for the year with no weight charges. The committee was given two options for the next contract: either pay \$20/ton fee OR annual fee of \$3000 for 2017 and \$5000 for 2018. Examples were given that if the Town had actually paid \$20/ton in 2015, it would have cost \$14465 and in 2016 the town would have paid \$11,196. Storandt added that with tighter controls on who is allowed access to the Town drop off facility, the actual tonnage should decrease. Fogel and Wage noted that non-residents have been using the Town's facility and with the addition of gates and scheduled supervised drop off times, the weight should decrease. Storandt asked if Dummer would consider a one-year agreement so the Town can assess with Green Earth the tonnage for 2017 to determine if tighter access controls limit the weight. Dummer agreed. Motion by Bursch; seconded by Storandt to close the floor passed unanimously. Motion by Bursch; seconded by Wage to accept a one year contract from Green Earth Compost for \$3000, with Green Earth Compost presenting a revised contract for 2018 at the end of 2017. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion on hauling of grass and leaves: Fogel presented the idea of using the Town's dump truck to be in position to receive grass and leaves as brought in by residents. It would be located on Town Shop property at the previous setting of large item drop off. Fogel added that if the site is staffed by Town crew, the option of having the residents load their grass & leaves into the loader bucket and lifted into the dump truck. This option allows insured crew members to get the load into the dump truck efficiently. Currently it often takes the crew a full day to scrape and load the truck from the resident drop off piles. Motion by Storandt and seconded by Kessler to recommend to the Board that the former large item drop off site be used as the resident drop off site for grass and leaf delivery, positioning the Town dump truck for direct deposit and positioning a tractor bucket for deposits less able to navigate the ramp next to the dump truck. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion on hours of operation of yard waste (grass/leaves) disposal site: The committee is aware increasing usage by non-residents, drives up the disposal cost of yard waste material, members agree that changes are necessary. Storandt opposes limiting access hours and encourages more than just Saturdays. Fogel supports late morning opening on Saturdays to allow for residents to wait for the grass to dry before mowing. Motion by Bursch; seconded by Wage to recommend the hours of operation as: every Tuesday and Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 pm and every Saturday from noon to 5 p.m. Motion passed 4-1 (Storandt).

Discussion on staffing of yard waste disposal site: Fogel recommends an every Saturday option as residents likely mow their grass weekly. Motion by Bursch and seconded by Storandt to recommend to the Board that staffing be managed by the Town crew, offering time off within the same pay period for any Saturday hours worked. Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Chair Fogel indicated that committee meetings will be held the last Tuesday of the month. There are several issues to address during the launch of the new waste and recycling cart operations, as well as efforts to align current ordinance language with new procedures. Any topics wishing to be added to the meeting agenda should be communicated to Fogel via a phone call.

Motion to adjourn by Kessler; seconded by Wage passed unanimously 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted; Sara Kessler.

DRAFT