

RECYCLING AND GARBAGE UPDATE

The Borough recently signed a new 3-year contract with County Waste (a GFL Company). The new contract was bid at a price of \$491,635 per year. This compares with our past 5-year contract with County Waste for \$174,500 per year. This was one of 4 bids we received which ranged between \$491,635 and \$1,006,591 per year. The cost of fuel, labor, Covid-19, and a poor recycling market have created a perfect storm for skyrocketing prices in the municipal waste hauling business.

The increase in contract price by 280% of what we had been paying required the Borough to increase the quarterly rate from \$50 to \$80 per quarter. You may remember that rates had been reduced from \$66 to \$50 per quarter when the original contract was signed with County Waste. Notwithstanding the increase to \$80, the Borough is still using \$68,000 per year out of the Garbage Fund surplus to balance the Garbage Budget.

The new contract will be for weekly garbage pick-up, and recycling pick-up every other week. We are waiting for the new schedule from County Waste, but they have informed us to follow the past schedule until we receive a new one. In addition, they have stated that they are still picking up recycling every week until they issue a new schedule.

We know many residents are frustrated by problems with garbage and recycling pick-up. The Borough office shares your frustration, and has repeatedly addressed your concerns with the hauler. However, we continue to ask that residents report problems directly to the hauler. Residents who need a bulk pick-up must schedule it with the hauler. The contact number is 1-800-832-3304. In addition, problems and questions can be sent by email to:

County.custsupport@gflenv.com

Unfortunately, the problems with trash and recycling pick-up are not limited to Slatington. We have heard similar complaints from many local communities. A limited pool of labor has been cut further by the surge in Covid-19 cases. Poor winter weather has combined with the above factors, and resulted in delayed pick-ups, missed pick-ups, and resident's frustration. Hopefully, warmer weather will result in improved service. Thank you for your patience.