

**DOVER TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WORK SESSION MINUTES
September 9th, 2024**

The Dover Township Board of Supervisors Work Session for Monday, September 9th, 2024, was called to order at 6:01 PM by Chairperson Stephen Stefanowicz in the Dover Township Board of Supervisors meeting room. Supervisors present were Chuck Richards, Stephen Parthree, Michael Cashman, and Robert Stone. Other Township Representatives in attendance were Laurel Oswalt, Township Manager; Kristina Rodgers, Assistant Township Manager; Christian Miller, Solicitor; and Brooke Scarce, Township Secretary. There were 2 members of the public present.

This meeting is being recorded for the purpose of minutes only.

DISCUSS THE DRAFT TRASH CONTRACT FOR JULY 1, 2025, THROUGH JUNE 30, 2030

Manager Oswalt stated the Assistant Township Manager prepared the contract bid this year. The previous contract from 2020 was put out for bid in December and awarded in February. The previous bid included 3 new items; allowance for an annual increase, a recycle only option, and the alternate bid for brush collection pick up once a month. Recycling and brush collection is a mandated requirement from the State due to the size of the municipality. This year the brush collection pickup has been included in all the options. The old brush collection location was in Eagle View Park, thereby drop off and Township collection are no longer feasible. There was a meeting held with Penn Waste regarding concerns they have regarding the contract. During the meeting with Penn Waste, having the Township handle the billing for trash and recycling was suggested and then the Township would pay the trash company directly. The Township does have the ability to add that service to the bills, however, the bills are currently only being sent out for water and sewer customers which is roughly 5,000-6,000 customers which would mean the Township would need to bill roughly another 3,000 customers. She is not in favor of that option. Penn Waste is experiencing delinquency issues. There is a 9% delinquency issue in the Township. This delinquency issue was mentioned at a prior meeting, so she contacted MPL and was told that Penn Waste could pursue the accounts under the Municipal Lien Act.

K. Rodgers stated that the only edits she made were basic general provisions.

S. Stefanowicz questioned if Penn Waste offers a pay ahead option.

Manager Oswalt stated that she is not aware of any pay ahead options. It is also not something that is included in the contract.

Manager Oswalt noted that one thing Penn Waste does not have control over is the tipping fee from the Solid Waste Authority. When the Solid Waste Authority raises their tipping fee, the fee is passed along to the residents. This fee increase usually occurs in January, then their yearly raise in price for trash and recycling is in July.

C. Richards stated that he notices large items sitting at the curb that have not been picked up by Penn Waste.

Manager Oswalt stated that the residents must call Penn Waste to schedule a time to pick up their large item.

C. Richards suggested adding something to the newsletter in large print stating that residents have to call and schedule a large item pick up.

C. Richards questioned if there have been any complaints about the brush collection.

Manager Oswalt stated that she is not aware of any recent complaints about the brush collection. However, there were complaints in the beginning of the current contract during the transitioning time of Penn Waste picking up the brush instead of the Township.

S. Parthree questioned if the contract could be mailed to other trash collection companies.

Manager Oswalt stated this can be completed, but they have to be within the 20 miles radius according to what is written in the contract. The information for accepting bids goes in the newspaper, on the website, and on Savvy Citizen.

S. Stefanowicz stated that the only complaint he remembers hearing about is the residents that have long driveways that had to move their toters to the street.

Manager Oswalt stated that was a question that was brought up during the meeting with Penn Waste, and they checked with the route supervisor on how that has been. A majority of the people have adjusted and there are few people that they have to make special exceptions for due to disabilities.

Manager Oswalt noted that there are a total of 63 customers who are recycle only customers. The only way to be granted a trash waiver is if the customer has a business in the Township that has a dumpster, or if the customer wants to take their trash to incinerator themselves. The trash cannot be burned. The Solid Waste Authority is expanding their current facility to include a transfer station. They are including a transfer station in preparation for when Modern Landfill will not be able to accept any more trash.

M. Cashman questioned if there is a discounted rate if the Township takes over the billing for trash and recycling.

Manager Oswalt stated that she is not sure. But if the Township were to prepare the bills, the Township pays the bill to Penn Waste and then we would have to devote staff time to the collection process for that and file liens for customers who do not pay their bill.

M. Cashman questioned whether the Township could provide free trash service and increase the millage rate.

Manager Oswalt stated that there are communities that bill their trash on the real estate tax bill. If the Township prepares the billing and raises real estate taxes to pay the bill to Penn Waste, it will require approximately \$2.6 million a year for trash and recycling service. To be able to come up with the funds from the real estate tax millage rate, the rate would need to be tripled. Additionally, since your tax bill is based on assessed value of your property, people with a higher assessment would pay more in millage than those with smaller assessments. Trash service is a

set price for each of the options right now. Lastly, businesses that have dumpsters would also pay the increased millage rate.

R. Stone had a question regarding the restriction that the trash company must be within 20 miles. He does agree with that and thinks the radius should be expanded.

Attorney Miller stated that the radius is 20 miles so that if an issue was to arise, it would not be a long drive to the contractor's office.

R. Stone stated that by having a radius of 20 miles we are limiting potential participating providers.

S. Parthree stated that it is difficult for contractors to decide roughly how much each year is going to cost looking at a 5-year span. He questioned if the contract could be a 3-year contract with the option of a 2-year extension.

Manager Oswald stated that the last time the Board bid for trash was a 3-year contract with a 2-year extension.

After further discussion, the Board's consensus was to change the contract to reflect a 40-mile radius rather than a 20-mile radius. With no further comments, this matter will be brought forth for advertisement at the next Board Meeting.

With no further discussion on this matter, Chairperson Stephen Stefanowicz adjourned the Work Session at 6:44 PM to be followed by the regular Board of Supervisors meeting at 6:59 PM.

Respectfully submitted by: Brooke M. Scarce

Brooke M. Scarce, Township Secretary