

Joe Kickel

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Sent: Saturday, September 7, 2019 5:33 PM
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Subject: Options

Constance - At the end of the meeting on Thursday you asked for us to circulate comments by Monday. Here is what is going through my mind.

We agreed at the last meeting that we should come up with an approximate budget for the three options:

- I Replacement of what we have. Staffing the same, new trucks at \$450K for 10 years.
- II Equipping and staffing our own automated collection;
- III Subcontracting the whole MSW collection to a Kimble-like company

At this point it looks like these will be in order of descending budget, with option I the most expensive. Option II may be about \$200K less, due to staffing reductions; and option III will be the least expensive, perhaps by a further \$200K or so (based on Lakewood per ton figures?) This will be clearer when we have Joe's figures, and it is complicated by reduction in maintenance costs and workmen's compensation claims for option II.

Given that council will probably be looking to save money where it can, and in the absence of a "new revenue stream", they might be inclined to go to the cheapest of the three options. But we need to consider the following in favor of option II, which include:

1. Once we subcontract there will be no going back if we are dissatisfied, or find increases in cost unacceptable. A worst case scenario would be if the company goes bankrupt.
2. Our staff does an excellent job. It is a serious question as to whether a company can be so conscientious. If they are doing the job more cheaply and making a profit, something must be cut somewhere. Will they pick up missed items when the residents complain? What about large items?
3. Cleveland Heights residents have come to expect the quality of service they get. Even the conversion from bags to "wheely bins" will be unpopular at first.
4. Philosophically, I feel that trash collection is a civic responsibility, basic to public health and the appearance of our city. Some things are too important to "privatize". We don't seriously want to privatize the police! Isn't waste collection almost in the same category?
5. If it turns out that there is a much larger savings by privatization, we need to identify why the company is able to offer this, and see what can be done in house to reduce the cost of option II.

John