



APPROVED 9/26/19

**City of Cleveland Heights
Refuse & Recycling Task Force**

**9/19/19 Meeting Minutes
Cleveland Heights City Hall – Council Chambers – 6:00 p.m.**

Ms. Constance Johnson greeted the members of the task force and members of the public.

Ms. Johnson asked if everyone had a chance to review the minutes from the previous meeting, and asked if there was a motion to accept the minutes.

Ms. Hope Wright made a motion to accept the minutes.

Ms. Johnson asked if anyone was opposed.

Ms. Johnson noted that there was no opposition, and accepted the minutes.

Ms. Johnson moved the meeting to old business.

Ms. Wright commented that last week the task force voted to convert to automated collection and asked if it would make sense to take a vote to see if collection operations should remain in-house.

Ms. Johnson commented that she would like to add that as a point of order for current business.

Ms. Johnson commented about the report and that she spoke to Mayor Roe, but it should follow the format of a college research paper. She also said that if the task force needs more time, a simple request in writing will suffice. Ms. Johnson said that Mayor Roe suggested that the task force should hold a public meeting to present their findings to the public. Ms. Johnson said that the task force would be required to attend a council meeting when the recommendation is presented.

Ms. Carin Miller asked Ms. Johnson for clarification about when the public meeting would take place. Ms. Miller asked if the public meeting would be before the report is to be submitted to council.

Ms. Johnson responded that the order would be to complete the report, public meeting, submit to council.

Ms. Miller said that she was still confused.

Ms. Johnson said that complete report is a big word. Ms. Johnson said come to a conclusion, present our conclusions to the public in a meeting, and then present final recommendation to city council.

Mr. John Blackwell said basically we are producing a draft report, because the public may have some excellent suggestions that we may want to incorporate.

Ms. Johnson said definitely.

Ms. Johnson said basically when I say our conclusions I mean that we would be explaining how we came to our decisions, this is the process that we used, these are the people that we spoke to, these are the tours that we took, and these are the conclusions that we've reached.

Ms. Wright said that's taking a really big chance. The meetings that we have right now are already public, they're recorded. We do all this work, and come up with a recommendation, and then we receive a bunch of negative public feedback, because that's what the public likes to do. Ms. Wright said that we then go to council and present them with a recommendation and say that it was not received well by the public.

Ms. Johnson said I think that's precisely what they want.

Ms. Wright said I just don't think that council is going to take our recommendations to heart.

Ms. Susan Clement said I think it should be council's responsibility to invite public feedback after we make our recommendations. Ms. Clement said I don't know how charter review did it.

Ms. Johnson said they did, and it took a turn. Ms. Johnson said I feel your frustration and concern about the negative feedback.

Ms. Wright said they're going to want to know things that we don't have the answers for. Ms. Wright said they're going to want to know how much it's going to cost, where are we going to get the bins from, things that we do not have the answers to.

Ms. Kelly Menaker said I agree with Hope, we're just making a recommendation, and that council should have a meeting once they make their recommendation. Ms. Menaker said that she feels like putting the task force out there is a recipe for disaster.

Ms. Wright said we'd be a scapegoat. We'll be at the council meeting, and the public can ask questions at that meeting.

Ms. Cathi Lehn asked if a compromise would work where the draft report is posted online, and we ask for public feedback, and revise as needed based on that feedback.

Mr. Blackwell said I think we should write a report and hand it over to council, and if council would like to have a public meeting they can invite us to it. Mr. Blackwell said we've all put a lot of hours in to writing this report, not drafting a report that the public might put their input into.

Ms. Johnson said that the only people that are not here tonight are Ms. Davida Russell, Mr. Jordan Davis, and Ms. Susan Efroymsen [who arrived late]. Ms. Johnson said what I'm hearing tonight is no. Ms. Johnson asked if the task force felt that they can give the "no" answer with the members present.

Ms. Menaker said yes.

Ms. Johnson said okay. Ms. Johnson asked if the task force felt that they need more time and wanted to ask for an extension.

Ms. Miller said we have to get this done, I feel like if we keep extending the deadline we will never finish.

Mr. Blackwell said that Ms. Wright is correct, there are important details that we don't have but we need to draft the report.

Ms. Johnson commented you are correct, one of the comments was about the cost of the bins, and I thought that we already have that.

Ms. Lehn said I think the gaps will become more obvious as we start writing the recommendation.

Ms. Johnson said I think you're right.

Ms. Wright said the public is going to want a more specific answer than we can provide. Ms. Wright said we can say it's going to cost in the range of \$13-\$15 but, you're going to have people who want exact numbers.

Ms. Susan Clement said I'm still confused about the numbers if we went to automated versus service with a private company. I've tried to go through the figures that I have and I cannot come up with a figure.

Ms. Johnson said I think we should follow Cathi's suggestion and start to put something together so the gaps start to become obvious. Ms. Johnson said the first thing we'll be talking about this week is that shift from private contractors to converting to automation.

Ms. Johnson asked if there were any other questions or concerns about the issues that I brought up this evening.

Ms. Miller commented that the webinar that she had sent to the task force has been cancelled, so if you haven't signed up, don't bother, laughing.

Ms. Johnson said thank you.

Ms. Johnson said Cathi made an outline, and I think it would be a good format, and I would like to assign sections.

Ms. Miller said that she was the person who drafted the agenda, and did not receive any feedback, and it was her intent that the second half of the meeting would be to review and finalize the outline at tonight's meeting.

Ms. Johnson said I think the lack of response was a "no news is good news" type of response. Ms. Johnson asked if everyone was okay with proceeding as planned.

Ms. Miller said that she wanted to confirm the remaining meeting schedule.

Ms. Johnson said that she would appreciate any feedback.

Mr. Blackwell asked could you restate that.

Ms. Miller said the next agenda item is to review the structure of the remaining meetings, and how to vote on things, does it have to be unanimous, or should it be a majority.

Mr. Joe Kickel suggested that if the task force is voting on an action item that it would be best to do a roll call vote and poll each voting member yea or nay.

Ms. Miller said the question is does it have to be unanimous or can it be a majority.

Mr. Kickel said you just need a majority. Mr. Kickel said you may have dissenting opinions on certain matters, and everyone is entitled to their vote.

Mr. Blackwell said I was going to say just that, in the report we can say that we came to our decision by a majority vote and those that did not agree had these concerns.

Ms. Miller said I did not want to make an assumption about the voting process, and I think we should be clear.

Mr. Kickel said last week I was under the impression that you grabbed a low hanging fruit and voted to utilize automated collection, but if that was not the case you may want to bring it before the task force again tonight and do a roll call vote around the table to clear up that matter.

Ms. Johnson said I think the problem was that there was comment from a member of the public that they thought we voted to keep it in house with our vote for automation, and Jordan clarified that it was not the case, and that a vote for automation was not necessarily a vote to keep collection in-house. Ms. Johnson said I think most of the task force members understood, and that the vote was unanimous, but maybe it was not clear to everyone, and we'll do a better job of that going forward.

Ms. Johnson asked Ms. Miller to review the meeting schedule going forward.

Ms. Miller said we have a meeting next Thursday the 26th from 6-8, we skip October 3rd, and then we have a meeting on October 10th from 6-8, and then we have another meeting on the 24th from 6-8. Ms. Miller said there was also some discussion about the room being available at other times. Ms. Miller asked if everyone had the three remaining meetings on their calendars, and should we try to identify additional dates. Ms. Miller said I'm not ready for additional dates right now.

Ms. Johnson said I would like to have the service provider decision decided tonight, and I would like to have individual assignments for the outline sections assigned tonight.

Ms. Johnson asked if the task force should take another vote just to confirm or affirm that the recommendation is to go to automation.

Mr. Blackwell said before we go to that, I voted for it last week, and I'll vote for it this week but we are going to have to have something in our recommendation for why we are rejecting the status quo. We have to state what those reasons are.

Ms. Johnson said yes.

Mr. Blackwell said maybe we should do that first.

Ms. Menaker said I think the easiest thing to say would be that since we will no longer be permitted to use plastic bags for recycling and we have to convert that part of the collection system, then it would just make sense to convert the entire system. Ms. Menaker said it's the path of least resistance.

Ms. Efroymsen said I would add the people who work for us and the lower rate of incidents and injury.

Ms. Johnson said so maintaining employees, and the possible reduction in workers compensation claims.

Ms. Efroymsen said I was thinking of that too, but more so the human cost.

Ms. Johnson said please elaborate.

Ms. Efroymsen said fewer injuries to the people who are doing stuff for us that we don't want to do.

Ms. Wright said I was going to add to what Susan said, and if you're going to upgrade your trucks then you should do it down the line over a few years, and continue to update them.

Ms. Johnson said I'm seeing some overlap. What we're looking for now is reasons to convert our current method of collection to an automated system.

Ms. Clement said the assumption that Susan and Hope just put forward is that we're not considering privatization. So I think the reason to switch to automation is the efficiency of the system. John said no more blue bags, so we're going to need a cart, but I think you're jumping ahead when you're talking about the workforce.

Ms. Efroymsen said if I can respond, you would be correct if you are assuming the workforce is ours, but I think this is true for whomever picks up for us whether it's from the city or from an outside source. The idea of lower rate of incidents occurring in Cleveland Heights is still a positive no matter who is doing it.

Mr. Kickel said I'd like to add a couple of points to the reason for automation, one it's pretty much the industry standard, and two there are environmental benefits that should also be noted. By containing trash in a container you are reducing surface water run-off, loose trash.

Ms. Efroymsen said and the odor.

Mr. Kickel said yes, and noxious odor reduction.

Ms. Johnson asked if there were any other arguments for converting to automation.

Mr. Blackwell asked Mr. Kickel what is the amount of time per house for the current system versus automation. Does it speed it up?

Mr. Kickel said I just read something about that but I don't remember the exact time, but believe that it reduced stop time by 50%. Mr. Kickel said Tony could probably answer that better.

Mr. Torres said that the current stop time is about 5 minutes, with automation I would say probably 2-3 minutes once you get good enough.

Mr. Blackwell said so how is the circuit being lengthened.

Mr. Kickel said we've discussed that we would reduce the trash routes from 5 to 4 and the recycling from 3 to 2 initially, and that it might reduce even more depending on the level of efficiency that we achieve. Mr. Kickel said that even greater efficiency can be achieved by performing route studies.

Mr. Blackwell said does it reduce the number of people collecting, and does it reduce the number of trucks.

Mr. Kickel said yes so we previously discussed eliminating 2 workers out of 27 and that it would be a 7% reduction with automation.

Ms. Efroymsen said I believe it was said that employees would not be let go, but they would be allowed to retire.

Mr. Kickel said Tony you do have a vacancy in the department right now as well as employees that are eligible to retire.

Mr. Torres said yes I have one vacancy and if we were planning to convert to automation then I would not replace them. I have another employee who is eligible for retirement next may and I would not replace him. Mr. Torres said it's not about laying anyone off it's about downsizing through retirement.

Mr. Blackwell said based on the amount of time per house it should affect the number of workers.

Ms. Johnson said yes, it's not about a reduction of workers but reassigning workers to other tasks.

Ms. Johnson asked Mr. Torres about his department previously being downsized over time.

Mr. Torres said we went from 36 workers in 1994 to 27 today.

Ms. Johnson said that is for the entire department.

Mr. Torres said yes.

Mr. Kickel said just to clarify the Public Works department is structured like a labor pool. Each division has specific tasks like the Refuse & Recycling division, and when their task is finished they're done for the day. A refuse worker wouldn't finish their job and go out and work with the Forestry division, it's just not the way the department is structured.

Ms. Johnson asked then how would that work.

Mr. Torres said if we do the bi-weekly recycling then those two workers would be assigned to another division like the parks department for cutting grass or the streets division for patching holes, or snow removal. They would be transferred out.

Ms. Johnson said okay so they would be removed from the department.

Mr. Torres said correct bi-weekly.

Ms. Johnson said clarify that please so you're saying they'll go to different departments.

Mr. Torres said yes, so you'll have them collecting one week, and working in another division the next.

Mr. Kickel said my understanding is that we would be eliminating two routes, and maintaining weekly collection, so instead of 3 weekly recycling routes you would have 2 and instead of 5 weekly trash routes you would have 4.

Ms. Efroymsen said correct me if I'm wrong but we never actually voted on that.

Ms. Miller said it's not something that we would vote on, by moving to automation they're able to increase the efficiency of their operation and so they would reduce the number of routes.

Ms. Efroymsen said right but whether we picked up recycling weekly or every other week. It's come up in discussion, but I didn't know if we decided that.

Ms. Johnson said if I understand that the every other week is based on the impact of automation. Is that correct?

Mr. Torres said yes.

Ms. Miller said isn't that something that's not in our purpose. I think like Joe said, you would do route studies, and analyze how routes would be done. I don't think that's something that the task force would do.

Ms. Menaker said I feel like we're back pedaling a bit. I think we should go through and affirm switching to automation, and move to Hope's point about keeping it in house. Can we even do a straw vote to see about keeping it in house versus privatizing.

Ms. Johnson said I agree, but before we move on, are there any points against switching to automation.

Ms. Johnson said then can I get a vote to affirm our decision to switch to automation. This will not be a determination about whether or not we keep services in house or privatize, but just a vote to convert to automation. Can we affirm the vote from last week.

Ms. Miller said I move to affirm the vote.

Ms. Johnson asked if there was a second.

Ms. Wright seconded the vote.

Ms. Johnson asked if there was any opposition.

Ms. Johnson said then we will consider that motion passed.

Ms. Johnson said now let us get into the conversation about privatizing versus remaining in-house.

Ms. Johnson said I think some of the points made before relate to this because of the improved working conditions.

Ms. Johnson asked which would you like to start with privatizing or in-house.

Ms. Menaker said I think we should start with in-house, and see how many people are for in house, that way if we're all in favor of in-house when we get to privatizing we'll have reasons for not choosing it.

Ms. Johnson said I'd like to have pros and cons for both, but that's a good way to start.

Ms. Miller said I think Joe worked really hard on the decision tree and we never formally went through it. Would it be possible to pull up the decision tree and go through it. Ms. Miller said isn't it basically a list of pros and cons.

Mr. Kickel said no not per se, it's basically a list of decisions.

Ms. Johnson said it's an outline.

Mr. Kickel said yes a visual outline.

Ms. Johnson said there are different ways of getting into it, but as long as we walk away with a list of pros and cons I'm fine with it.

Ms. Johnson said so taking Kelly's suggestion how do you feel about privatizing. Those who say yes? Indicate by saying aye.

Ms. Clement said privatizing. Here's my concern. What I want for the city is the best cost and maintaining good service. I think I stated before that I am sympathetic with anyone losing a job, but I don't think that is a reason to not consider privatizing. Two thirds of the cities in Cuyahoga county are private, and the people that I spoke with all said that it was a matter of cost, and not because it

was easy. If there is a large savings to be had I think we need to consider privatizing. I believe in Cleveland Heights and I believe in good service, but with the rising costs of taxes, I think we need to ask can we get good service.

Ms. Johnson commented about the spreadsheet that Mr. Kickel presented.

Ms. Clement said that she cannot come up with a bottom number of what it would cost for Cleveland Heights to become private. She asked Mr. Blackwell about some figures that he previously provided in an email.

Mr. Blackwell said that it was a ballpark figure that he had come up with but nothing more than that. Mr. Blackwell said that Jordan had made a good point in a previous email, that we have not seen any of the costs for any necessary improvements at the transfer station.

Ms. Efroymsen there was a discussion about the numbers, and that she agreed with Ms. Clement that not looking at the numbers would not be right. Ms. Efroymsen said that other cities that made the change were affected by a different time in the market, and they did not have their own transfer stations. In terms of costs, I think if we went out there now, I think we'd get a really sweet deal at first, but prices would rise, and we would lose the ability to go back.

Ms. Menaker asked if the transfer station was not included in the spreadsheet.

Mr. Kickel said no, but I can get some numbers for the transfer station.

Ms. Wright asked if the transfer station is separate budget.

Mr. Kickel said no, but major capital improvements would probably not come out of that budget.

Ms. Miller asked if there is annual maintenance that is a part of the budget for the transfer station, major capital improvements excluded.

Mr. Torres said we spend about \$20,000 a year on the maintenance.

Mr. Kickel said that would come out of Tony's budget.

Ms. Miller said what we need is the major cost of repairs over the next couple years.

Ms. Johnson asked if Mr. Torres knew of any repairs needed in the next couple years.

Mr. Torres said one of the compactors will need to be replaced, and the cost is about \$250,000.

Mr. Kickel said that he can get some additional figures.

Ms. Johnson said since we are a city of festivals and special events do we have any idea of what the department would look like to handle special events.

Mr. Kickel said I would imagine that you would have to have two employees on staff to handle litter cans, special pick-ups, handicappers. Mr. Kickel pointed to the spreadsheet and said two employees would be about \$155,000 year but that's based on the entire department, and that figure might be slightly off.

Ms. Johnson asked Mr. Torres if he would need new trucks if they were limited to just two employees.

Mr. Torres said no, we would probably get rid of $\frac{3}{4}$ of the fleet and keep the newest trucks. We have one that is four years old, and one that is three, and the rest are ten years.

Ms. Johnson said what would the life expectancy be for those trucks.

Mr. Torres said if they're not going out every day you'd probably get another five to ten years out of them.

Ms. Efroymsen said that she wanted to register her dissatisfaction with the fact that the city new the trucks needed to be replaced, and that there was no plan to replace them.

Ms. Miller said I think you're saying for our recommendation that we recommend that the city not defer maintenance.

Ms. Efroymsen said I think this should have been planned for, and now things look more expensive than they should be. If they had asked for an increase in the refuse fee or additional increase in the income tax I don't think we'd have these problems.

Ms. Johnson said we can definitely include that language.

Mr. Blackwell asked are we able to introduce automation slowly, one route at a time, to see how it would be received.

Ms. Johnson said she is interested in the idea of phasing things in, and it's more probable, but she thinks the decision should be definitive.

Mr. Blackwell asked why she thinks it would be more probable.

Ms. Efroymsen said if the city were to privatize then you would not have an option to phase in collection.

Mr. Kickel said if the city were to privatize they would not phase in collection, and the system is pretty simple, you deliver the trash cans, and the residents start using them.

Ms. Johnson said we'll see. We're looking at privatizing versus in-house and I think we're getting a bit off topic.

Ms. Johnson said Susan was unclear about the costs or privatizing versus in-house.

Ms. Menaker said the spreadsheet can be confusing.

Mr. Kickel went over examples for the three private contracts on the spreadsheet.

Mr. Blackwell asked why Chagrin Falls is so much higher than the other two.

Mr. Kickel said probably because they're so small.

Ms. Clement asked where our bottom line would be if we had the same type of contract.

Mr. Kickel said yes, that's estimated, but it's our numbers with their contract figures.

Ms. Clement said she didn't understand that it was our numbers with their contracts. Thank you for clarifying.

Mr. Kickel said no it's based on our numbers of residential units and tons.

Ms. Wright said solid waste and recycling numbers only correct, it doesn't include bulk and special collection, and yard waste.

Mr. Kickel said correct, if I read it correctly I believe Westlake collects bulk once a month.

Ms. Efroymsen said she didn't wonder if Chagrin falls was higher because it's so hilly.

Ms. Miller said for the purpose of this recommendation we're not going out to bid with private haulers, but we're using other communities contracts for comparison.

Mr. Blackwell said that the price seems very comparable with that of Olmsted Falls. Is that a good number to compare automating in house.

Mr. Kickel said that it depends on what you want to do. There are a number of options here. Mr. Kickel said that the base price to convert the current operation to automation with everything that we do now including apartments the cost would be approximately \$2.5 Million.

Ms. Efroymsen asked if you could take a similar conversion and show the least expensive option and the most expensive can we compare.

Ms. Menaker said the highest number would be Olmsted Falls at \$16.00, the lowest would be Rumpke which would be \$10.00, if we were to keep it in house it would be \$14.70 at the high end with the \$80 recycling fee, if we went to bulk once a month with no apartments we'd be right in the middle. I think this is what people are going to want to see.

Mr. Blackwell said that our numbers have to be lower. We're not right in the middle.

Ms. Menaker said that these are our numbers with their contracts.

Ms. Blackwell said I understand that.

Ms. Johnson asked if everyone is comfortable.

Mr. Blackwell said I'm not comfortable we have a ten percent difference.

Ms. Miller commented yes there is a difference, but one of things we discussed was that we would probably retain a couple of staff members and that's not represented in the private hauler figures.

Ms. Clement said we haven't talked about the transfer station and some of the costs.

Ms. Miller said the general maintenance costs are included, but capital improvement costs are not.

Ms. Clement said if you say so.

Mr. Kickel said I can get some estimated capital costs for the transfer station.

Ms. Efroymsen said are we ready to at least do a straw vote for in-house versus private.

Ms. Johnson said do we feel comfortable with having a straw vote.

Mr. Blackwell said I think we should go around and ask the individual members.

Ms. Efroymsen said that she spoke with Ms. Davida Russell today and that she is in favor of keeping it in house. I know I can't vote for her, but I too am in favor of keeping it in house for the reason of the superior service that it provides, and the loss of not having a transfer station, and once it's gone there's no going back, I fear rising costs with privatizing, and I value being able to maintain control of our operations.

Ms. Miller said I am in favor of keeping our services in house, I think the transfer station is valuable asset, and echoing many of the reasons that Susan just gave such as service, allowing us to be flexible and change over time.

Ms. Lehn said I too would like to see it kept in house, and I would like to propose that all of these numbers be included in the homework assignment.

Mr. Blackwell said I am also in favor of keeping it in house, and I like all of the good reasons that came from further down the table. I also think it is something that we should do even with all of these numbers whichever way we decide to go, they are not far enough apart to consider changing because of the budget. We do have excellent trash collection in Cleveland Heights and we don't want to lose that.

Ms. Johnson said for clarification by keeping it in house it would allow the city to be more responsive.

Mr. Blackwell said if someone calls in with a complaint someone picks it up instead of having to call Kimble about it.

Ms. Johnson said excellent customer service.

Ms. Menaker said that she favors keeping it in house for all of the reasons that everyone has previously mentioned including controlling the education.

Ms. Wright said when it comes to capital costs those are budgeted further out in the future. We have a lot of bulk that moves through our community and it is not the same in other communities, and we are treated royally in our community.

Ms. Clement said I need more time, a one on one to understand these numbers to feel at ease with as I said before if the cost is the same or close to it with keeping it in house I would prefer to keep it that way. I have been a supporter of unions, but it is totally a matter of the money issue. I wasn't looking at these numbers the same way, but now I will do some homework.

Ms. Johnson said I want to be clear, for some people the bottom line is the bottom line, that four dollars is huge. We want the public to know that we thought about it. I would like for us to consider some of these smaller committee appointments. Susan I would like for you to work with the people on the budget numbers so that you have a better understanding of the numbers. Would that make sense.

Ms. Clement said yes.

Ms. Johnson said just so that I can go on the record, for all of the reasons stated here, I am in favor of keeping it in house. There is that discrepancy with the bottom line budget but I think it is worth keeping it in house. I like the idea of being able to control the educational aspect of things.

Ms. Efroymson said I would also like to say a double negative but a reason not to not keep it in-house should not be a lack of budgeting. The citizens should not be penalized because of the failure to recognize that the fleet was reaching its maturity, also political motivations for someone to say that we can save money by privatizing.

Ms. Johnson said and they are so far outside of the scope of this task force.

Ms. Johnson said we are coming close to the end of our meeting and I'd like to look at individual assignments. We have a couple of proposals on the table. My first instinct is to break down the solid waste collection and break it down or take it on as a whole.

Ms. Johnson identified which outline she was looking at.

Mr. Kickel said I would like to call the city of Westlake because it looks like something may have been left off on the county's spreadsheet. It just seems off. I would like to check and see if they are paying an additional price per ton for refuse disposal. I will follow up with them on that, and I will report back.

Ms. Johnson said as we move forward I'm asking for recommendations for how we are going to break up committee assignments.

Ms. Menaker said I would suggest volunteers for people who feel comfortable with a certain area.

Ms. Johnson said how are we going to attack these.

Ms. Miller said I took a report from Idaho Falls and made an outline of it. Here's the existing problem, and I tried to outline the specific problems and people could then fill in the details of what we have analyzed. One of the problems that Cathi has identified is trying to write a document by committee, so I thought everyone can outline their sections, and then one or two people can work together writing the prose so that it's not a mish mosh.

Ms. Lehn said that my thought process was to come up with ten bullet points so everyone can start writing and have them submit them by Tuesday so everyone can see where we are.

Ms. Johnson said I would like for everyone to volunteer for a section.

Mr. Kickel said some of these we have already identified the pros and cons on our worksheet.

Ms. Johnson said yes, it gives us structure to start putting this together. Let's start putting things together. Is Tuesday enough time, can we commit to have something by Tuesday.

Ms. Efroymsen said I'm going to have a scheduling conflict with the coming Holidays, but I feel kind of guilty saying this.

Mr. Kickel said one lucky person is going to get the introduction.

Ms. Wright said I'll take bulk and yardwaste.

Ms. Efroymsen said if you need help with that Hope, I'm glad to assist.

Ms. Miller said I'll take Automation pros and cons.

Ms. Clement said I can work on Education.

Ms. Lehn said I don't have a strong feeling for any of them except I do not want budget summary.

Mr. Blackwell said I'll be happy to take recycling.

Ms. Johnson said I think a couple of us could work on Budget, myself, you [Mr. Blackwell], and Jordan.

Ms. Johnson said funding opportunities, how far do we want to go with that. I think we are limited with that, but maybe someone can draft a narrative.

Mr. Blackwell said but we do know there are funds available at the county level.

Ms. Menaker asked which ones are still available.

Ms. Johnson said pros and cons of in-house collection.

Ms. Menaker said I can do that one.

Ms. Johnson said last we have pros and cons of privatization.

Ms. Wright asked what was meant by special collections.

Ms. Lehn said I thought it was more for seniors.

Mr. Torres said special collections are for seniors, or if your freezer goes out and it's not your scheduled trash day and you need a special pick-up. We do the Greek festival, Passover collection.

Ms. Lehn said I can take apartments, commercial, and special collections.

Ms. Menaker asked if anyone has taken the pros and cons of privatization.

Ms. Johnson said no.

Ms. Menaker said I can do that one too, because I think they go hand in hand.

Ms. Johnson said ok, we have volunteers for everything. Pros and Cons for automation is Carin [Miller], Pros and Cons for in-house and privatization is Kelly [Menaker], Budget Summary is John Blackwell, myself, and Jordan [Davis], Recommendations for recycling is John Blackwell, Recommendation for Bulk is Hope [Wright] and Susan [Efroymsen], and Education is Susan [Clement], and special collections and apartments is Cathi [Lehn].

Ms. Johnson asked is everyone comfortable with the assignments.

Ms. Miller said I would encourage everyone not to write full sentences, but rather just bullet point items in an outline.

Ms. Johnson said this can be intimidating, don't worry about crafting sentences, but work on the information, you have a lot of support in this room. Of course we cannot answer all of the questions, but answer them to the best of your knowledge.

Mr. Blackwell said I think this list needs to be sent to the absentee members. They'll probably want to volunteer.

Ms. Johnson said yes I agree. We have drafted Jordan but we have not drafted Davida, so we want to give them an opportunity to volunteer.

Ms. Johnson moved the meeting to the public comments.

Mr. Mallory Jackson from Rushleigh Road thanked the task force for considering keeping the operation in house, and he is in favor of keeping the operation in house. Mr. Jackson has always been very happy with the services that the department provides even before serving as a representative for the union.

Mr. Stan Budin from Shaker Road asked if the task force should send a letter to the Heights Observer about what's to come.

Ms. Johnson said she does not know.

Ms. Efroymsen suggested a news article.

Ms. Johnson encouraged the members of the public to share details of the meeting with their neighbors.

Ms. Johnson asked if there were any other questions or concerns.

Ms. Wright said we still didn't tackle what I wanted to address, and that was if there was a motion on the floor to move to automation, and to keep it in house in Cleveland Heights. We took a straw vote and everyone gave their opinions.

Ms. Johnson said we did vote to convert to automation.

Ms. Efroymson said ultimately should we wait for the members who are not present.

Ms. Johnson said I would not like to set that precedent, we have a quorum, so if someone would like to put forth a motion.

Ms. Wright said I move that we keep all of the automation that we want to have in house, and that we keep our transfer facility.

Ms. Menaker said I second it.

Ms. Johnson asked all opposed.

Ms. Clement said questionable.

Ms. Johnson said all in favor.

[Undetermined ayes]

Ms. Johnson said all opposed

Ms. Clement said did you say that I can abstain.

Ms. Johnson said if you don't feel comfortable stand behind your feelings.

Ms. Clement said I said that earlier I needed to do some homework. So at this point I would.

Ms. Johnson said you would abstain.

Ms. Clement said yes.

Mr. Blackwell said we are in a situation where this motion has not been voted on and we can table it.

Ms. Johnson said I think the hope was that there would be something accomplished, but I understand.

Mr. Kickel said I would suggest for the purposes of voting that we do a roll call vote, and that would simplify things, just yeas or nays. It's just a recommendation, and then you would know if you actually have enough votes for what you want to accomplish.

Ms. Johnson said Susan [Efroymsen].

Ms. Efroymsen said Aye.

Ms. Johnson said Cathi [Carin Miller].

Ms. Miller said Carin, I'm in favor yep.

Ms. Johnson said Cathi [Lehn].

Ms. Lehn said Aye.

Ms. Johnson said John [Blackwell].

Mr. Blackwell said aye.

Ms. Johnson said Kelly [Menaker].

Ms. Menaker said Aye.

Ms. Johnson said Hope [Wright].

Ms. Wright said Aye.

Ms. Johnson said Susan [Clement].

Ms. Clement said Abstain

Ms. Johnson said Constance [Johnson] votes Aye.

Ms. Johnson said the motion carries, we are making a recommendation to go automation, and to maintain in-house.

Ms. Efroymsen said motion to adjourn.

Ms. Menaker said second.

Ms. Johnson said is there any opposition.

Ms. Johnson said the motion carries, we'll see you all next week.