

Town of Greenville Proposed Changes to Solid Waste Management

An ad hoc committee of Town officials tackled numerous issues regarding solid waste disposal and came up with a series of recommendations (see attached). The Board of Selectmen voted to tentatively accept these recommendations, pending a public hearing which is scheduled for April 18, 2007. Following the public hearing, the Board will take final action on these recommendations.

Fee Collection System for Solid Waste

Currently: Fees are currently collected at the landfill, the recycling center (for household hazardous waste, or HHW, such as computers and televisions), and the town office. The fee for Construction / Demolition Debris (C/DD) as well as wood waste, varies with the type of vehicle or trailer being used to haul the material. These fees are mis-calculated by the clerks in the Town Office, who seldom see the vehicle or trailer containing the waste material. Furthermore, mixed loads are often charged at the Town Office based upon a verbal description of the load, not visual inspection. The landfill attendants visual inspect each load, and often find discrepancies for what has been charged (and paid for) at the Town Office.

Proposed Change: Create a universal solid waste collection form to be used by the Recycling Center and the Landfill. The form would be used to calculate the type of material, its volume and ultimately its tonnage, and the associated fee. The recycling center would likewise use this form for charges it assess for disposal of HHW. The Town Office would only collect fees for distinct items, such as tires, mattresses, box-springs, metal appliances, cathode ray tubes (CRTs) and central processing units (CPUs). Any material requiring visual inspection would be sent to the landfill or recycling center for assessment of the fee.

There currently is no double fee charged at the landfill or the recycling center.

Why: This change will streamline and make more precise and accurate the fees charged for different types of bulk solid waste. It should be more user-friendly for the public, as it eliminates a stop at the Town Office prior to disposal of the waste. It will also be easier for the landfill and recycling center attendants to charge and collect these fees in a timely manner.

When: This system would be effective July 1, 2007.

Fee Assessment and Collection of Construction / Demolition Debris (C/DD)

Currently: The Town's landfill has been slated for closure in 2009 unless the Town can show improving trends in groundwater quality over the next three years. In an effort to improve water quality, the Town ceased burying its Construction / Demolition Debris on-site and has developed a container system for hauling this material to another licensed facility. The cost for having a container placed at the landfill, having that container hauled to the licensed facility, and having that waste accepted at the facility is \$107/ton.

In order to continue this off-site transfer, the Town must collect more money per load than it does so now. The current fee system requires \$15 per pickup load, and up to \$90 for a trailer load. Since January 1, 2007, the Town of Greenville has collected \$3,341 in fees for C/DD. In the same time period, the Town of Greenville has paid \$11,942.25 to have this material hauled away. If this trend continues throughout the calendar year, there will be a deficit of approximately \$34,000.

Currently, small volumes which would fit in a typical 20-gallon trash bag are free (one per day per customer).

Proposed Change: To off-set this deficit and to be able to afford to continue to accept C/DD, the Town proposes a tonnage estimation system which will result in a higher charge to the customer to try to reflect the Town's actual cost for disposal. To accomplish this, a total volume would be estimated, rounded to the nearest cubic yard. Next, a conversion factor would be multiplied by the estimated volume to create an estimated tonnage amount. Finally, the tonnage amount would be multiplied by the Town's cost for disposal (\$107/ton). The conversion rates would be as follows:

Pressure-Treated Wood = 0.4 tons per cubic yard.
(painted or stained wood may be added to the wood pile)

Shingles = 1 ton per cubic yard.

Sheetrock weighs about 0.68 tons per cubic yard.

A mix load light = 0.15 tons per cubic yard.
(majority of the load material lighter than wood, sheetrock or shingles)

A Mix load heavy = 0.4 tons per cubic yard.
(majority of the load material as heavy as wood, sheetrock or shingles)

It is also proposed to cap the total volume of C/DD which could be brought to the landfill each day by a given person or using a given landfill sticker at 9 cubic yards. The purpose of this restriction is to prevent very large quantities from being brought to the landfill in a single day, thus filling our containers and forcing the Town to decline any further C/DD from the landfill until the container is emptied.

Why: The Town is attempting to pass along 100% of the cost of transporting and disposing (tipping) C/DD at another licensed facility. The cost of maintaining the landfill site, the C/DD collection area, maintaining the road to the landfill, the cost of labor for running this facility, and the cost of heavy machinery used at the facility are all included in the landfill budget: these costs are passed along to the property taxpayer. If those who bring in large volumes of C/DD are charged our cost for disposing of this material, then this cost can be contained.

When: Effective July 1, 2007.

Wood Waste Disposal

Currently: As part of a corrective action for the landfill, the Town ceased burning wood waste approximately 1 year ago. The heavy metals in the wood ash on the site were contributing to the groundwater pollution being detected. Wood waste is currently separated into two piles: tree parts and lumber / manufactured wood products. The tree parts will be chipped by a company for the value of the wood, and therefore cost the Town nothing. The lumber / manufactured wood products will cost the Town to be both chipped and also transported to a facility for consumption. This lumber / manufactured wood products waste may be painted or stained, but may not be pressure treated. The cost to dispose of this waste has yet to be determined.

Proposed Change: Through a solid waste ordinance, the Municipal Officers would be granted the authority to set a higher fee for the wood brought to the landfill, to better match the actual cost for disposal. In addition to the chipping fee and hauling fee for the wood waste, the Landfill budget contains funds for maintenance of the gravel pads for the wood storage areas, as well as the labor costs and heavy equipment costs for maintaining the wood piles. Until these costs are determined, a fee of \$5/cubic yard of material is proposed, with the landfill attendants determining the volume. Consistent with C/DD, a cap of 9 cubic yards per person per day per sticker is also proposed.

Why: This proposal will allow for flexibility for the Town to adjust its fees as actual costs are determined. It will also allow a reasonable charge for wood waste which is brought to the landfill in the interim. The cap on volume brought per day will curb the incidence of a single person bringing so much wood waste that the site needs to be closed until it can be disposed of.

When: This proposal would be effective July 1, 2007.

Solid Waste Management Ordinance

Currently: There are a variety of rules, regulations, fee systems and ordinances for solid waste collection and disposal in the Town of Greenville. Each has been adopted in different years, and the result is general confusion by the public using the landfill as well as various employees implementing these rules.

Proposed Change: Development of a common solid waste ordinance which will encompass the following:

- A. Rubbish Collection Ordinance
- B. Recycling Enhancement Ordinance
- C. Fee system for tires and appliances
- D. Fee system for household hazardous waste
- E. Construction / Demolition Debris fee system
- F. Brush and bulk metal fee systems
- G. All changes proposed for 2007.

In addition to bringing together all of these existing regulations, the Town would include language in the ordinance to allow the municipal officers to amend fee structures for materials collected for solid waste disposal. Such changes would require a public hearing prior to a vote by the municipal officers. It would also specify enforcement mechanisms for non-compliance with parts of this ordinance.

Why: This change is intended to streamline the management of solid waste in Greenville, and simplify the method of altering the fees for this system. All previous fees, regulations, and ordinances will be superseded by this new ordinance.

When: A public hearing is proposed to be held at 6:00 PM Wednesday, May 2, 2007 on the ordinance itself. If approved at Town Meeting June 4 and/or 5, 2007, the ordinance would be effective July 1, 2007.

Change Rubbish and Recycling Collection System for Wilson Pond Areas

Currently: The Town maintains (through its contractor) dumpsters in two locations near Wilson Pond: one at the end of the Townway for Scammon Road, the other near the intersection of the East Road and Wilson Pond Road. While use of these dumpsters is meant to be for household rubbish only (otherwise known as municipal solid waste, or MSW), other materials, including mattresses, shingles, microwave ovens, tires and carpeting, all items which result in the charge of a fee if brought to the landfill. Also, these dumpsters are intended to provide an alternative to curbside pickup of rubbish for camp owners in outlying areas, similar to the curbside pickup service provided by the Town for in-town residents. Unfortunately, these dumpsters are regularly used by others than those for whom it is intended.

Proposed Change: Removal of the dumpsters, and closure of these two respective sites for solid waste collection. Creation of two alternative sites for Monday-morning pickup of rubbish (and recycling on the first Monday of the month) for camp owners in these outlying areas. The alternative sites proposed are the plow-truck turn-around by the bridge over Wilson Stream off the East Road, as well as the intersection of Scammon Road and the Sawyer Pond Boat Launch Road (AKA access road to old dump). Residents would be directed to place their household waste here on Monday mornings after 5:00 AM, as outlined for all residents in the Rubbish Collection Ordinance (adopted at 2004 Annual Town Meeting, attached).

Why: This change will create parity between in-town residents who enjoy curbside pickup of rubbish on day per week, and some camp owners who enjoy 24-hour, 7-day-per-week access to an unmonitored dumpster. This change will also limit abuse of the rubbish collection system, although it will require intense patrol and enforcement by the Greenville Police Department upon implementation.

When: This change is proposed for Sunday, June 17, 2007 removal of the dumpsters and Monday, June 18, 2007 implementation of the new rubbish collection point.

Fee System for Commercial Suppliers of Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)

Currently: State law requires municipalities to collect the attached list of HHW from its residents, but not from commercial entities. The Town of Greenville receives very little HHW from commercial entities overall, but contributions of commercial HHW can come in surges, such as when a business upgrades its lighting fixtures and a large quantity of fluorescent light bulbs and ballasts are received, triggering a cost to the Town.

Proposed Change: Charge commercial entities the going rate for HHW items; continue to charge residents only for CPUs and CRTs.

Why: The Town is extending a courtesy to commercial entities for collection of HHW at all. By accepting it for free, the Town is incurring a cost paid for by all taxpayers. This change corrects this.

When: Effective July 1, 2007.

Develop a Transfer Station Development Committee

Currently: The Town of Greenville needs to develop a transfer station to more efficiently manage and dispose of solid waste. The Town will need to have a transfer station in place prior to the closure of the landfill, which could occur as early as 2009.

Proposed Change: Develop a Transfer Station Development Committee to build recommendations for what the Transfer Station would be designed to accomplish, where it would be located, how it would be paid for and how it would be operated.

Why: All stakeholders should assist in the design of this new facility.

When: The Board of Selectmen would like to collect a list of interested parties from which it would appoint a working committee by July 11, 2007.