



Meeting: Village Board
Meeting Date: 05/14/2012
Agenda Item: 8e

Mission Statement
Delivering quality services in a courteous,
cost-effective and efficient manner.

VILLAGE BOARD MEETING STAFF REPORT

REPORT TO: Burt R. McIntyre, President
Village Board of Trustees

REPORT FROM: Geoffrey S. Farr, PE, Director of Public Works

AGENDA ITEM: Review future plans for providing the public with fall leaf collection route and progress information.

POLICY ISSUE

Should the staff implement a fall leaf collection route and provide progress information?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Trustee Speaker requested that staff review and report on current leaf collection procedures to see if improvements can be made during leaf collection season. This is an excellent question as residents often express frustration as to not knowing when the truck will be at their property.

Past practice has been to collect the leaves on every street in the Village in each pass and then start the process all over again. This happens until most of the leaves have been collected or snow prevents further collection. Typically we make approximately 5 complete rounds throughout the Village with two special leaf vacuum trucks. Normally this occurs over a 6-week period from mid October to late November.

Typically the first few rounds go very quickly as the leaves fall slowly at first, and a single round through the Village takes several days. Later in the season when the leaves fall very quickly, the collection speed slows to a snail's pace, and a round takes a week to two weeks. At the end of the season when most of the leaves have fallen and the bulk of leaves have been collected the rounds accelerate again and the process is completed. Some areas of the Village have many more and larger trees and need more collection than other areas. Rain, among other weather factors, also effects collection rates and can impede progress. In addition mechanical equipment breaks down occasionally and slows progress. All of these factors contribute to constantly changing collection speeds, locations, and difficulty in predicting where trucks will be at any given time.

One way to inform property owners where leaf collection is currently ongoing and where collection will be going next is to consider creating collections zones or routes in the Village. People are already familiar with the weekly garbage collection route. By knowing the day your own garbage is collected we would be able to tell people that we are currently collecting in the, for example, Tuesday garbage zone. In addition we can say that after that zone is completed we will be going to the Wednesday garbage area next and Thursday after that. This would help us to track progress,

predict and inform residents as to where we are and where we are going in the next few days. The information could be posted on the Village's website and be updated every day or two. If residents call the office we can tell them where we are and where we are going next. This way we rotate around the Village in a regular fashion and we can tell people when to generally expect us several days in advance. This will help residents to better plan when to rake leaves in advance of collection. Hopefully watching the old leaf pile blow in the wind for a week or more can be avoided and reduce the time needed between raking and waiting for the truck to arrive, ultimately increasing customer satisfaction.

Another big positive is that the Village added a new truck in 2012 that will be equipped to collect leaves. Having three trucks will increase collection reliability as we will be down 33% capacity rather than 50% when we had only two trucks. This will become very important as more of our Tree City USA trees grow.

PRIOR ACTION/REVIEW

None

FISCAL IMPACT:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Is There A Fiscal Impact? | <u>No</u> |
| 2. Is it Currently Budgeted? | <u>Yes</u> |
| 3. If Budgeted, Which Line?
funds | <u>Enterprise</u> |

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Village staff recommends that the Village Board provide staff with feedback on this concept.

POLICY ALTERNATIVE(S)

The Village Board could take the following actions:

- Ask questions & offer ideas
- Provide direction

ATTACHED INFORMATION

- I. Garbage Route Map

COPIES FORWARDED TO:

- I. None

