



Meeting: Village Board
Meeting Date: 10/24/2011
Agenda Item: #6e

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 Engineering

AGENDA ITEM: Review and take action on Village Yard Waste Collection site practices and enforcement

POLICY ISSUE

Should the Village more vigorously enforce yard waste drop-off rules?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Village provides weekly residential brush pickup, seasonal leaf pickup, and Christmas tree pickup in January at the curb. The Village also provides residents with a yard waste drop-off site at the Public Works Building that is open 24/7 year round. Please see the attached photos.

Residential brush pickup occurs every Tuesday from April through November. Overall yard waste disposal volumes have increased for leaf pickup, brush pickup and at the yard waste drop-off site. This trend will continue as Howard grows in population and as trees mature, which will ramp up significantly in the years to come due to all of the new subdivisions. Peak yard waste drop-off occurs in the Spring, Fall and after storm events. Trustee Lemorande asked for a report on yard waste, more specifically concerning the yard waste drop-off site. This request followed a wind storm that resulted in a particularly heavy yard waste drop-off weekend. He also indicated that he had heard by word of mouth that some residents of another community were using the site.

The yard waste drop-off site is limited to Howard residents only. Users are informed about yard waste drop-off site rules via the sign posted at the site. Please see the attached photo of the yard waste site and rules sign. Limiting or controlling access could be accomplished by fencing and gating the site to prevent unauthorized usage; however, this would lead to restricted times and/or days of the week when the site would be open. Staffing the gate to restrict access could also be provided but would be expensive. Enforcing non-resident access to the yard waste facility in this manner would be difficult without also limiting access to Howard residents, adding expenses and reducing the high level of service currently provided to Howard residents. Also by policy the Village encourages "on site" chipping, composting and reuse of yard waste to reduce Village collection and processing costs; however, this is not a widely adopted homeowner practice.

Certainly there are occurrences of illegal non-resident and commercial users of the site. Some people knowingly violate the rules for the sake of personal convenience as Howard's site might be closer to their home or is just on the way to work. Thus they will try to use the site hoping to not get

caught. Some people don't know the difference between Howard and Suamico or don't know where the Suamico drop-off site is located. Suamico's yard waste site is relatively new and is mentioned on their website, but not displayed prominently. It is located in the northern half of Suamico and is on the west of Scenic View Landscapes Nursery on Elmwood Road. This site is available from dawn until dusk every day.

Typically staff does perform spot checks on a random basis to discourage non-resident use. This approach seems to be effective because it becomes inconvenient once someone is denied access and is sent home. We could also hand out maps identifying other appropriate yard waste facilities when we encounter a non-resident. I believe that renewing our spot check enforcement efforts will effectively get the message across and not impact the level of service Howard residents receive. Staff could do this throughout next Spring and Summer. If the problem continues we could take license plate numbers of offenders, take photos with our onsite remote camera and turn the information over to law enforcement. That worked very well when we used to have other types of illegal dumping at the site. Illegal drop-offs stopped over night when tickets were issued.

The drop-off site also specifically prohibits all business and commercial use of the yard waste drop-off site. Commercial entities have been prohibited as they are in a profit-making business and there is no real way of determining where their waste comes from. They are also high-volume disposers of yard waste. Examples of this include builders that are clearing a home lot, Asplund clearing power lines in the Village for WPS, a homeowner hiring a tree service to remove a tree, lawn mowing and landscape services. An exception for a tree removal is if the resident or family members actually haul the brush to the curb themselves.

Violators could face the following charges:

16-75(10) (Public Nuisances) **GARBAGE AND REFUSE**. The deposit of garbage, refuse or any offensive substance on any public or private property except as may be permitted by this Code.

16-151 (Public Nuisances) **STORAGE OF JUNK PROHIBITED**. No person, except a junk dealer licensed under sec. 12.10 of this Code, shall accumulate, store or allow any junk outside of any building on any real estate located in the Village.

24-361 **LITTERING PROHIBITED**. No person shall deposit any mud, glass, refuse or waste, filth or other litter upon the streets, highways, alleys, parks or other property of the Village or upon any private property or into or upon any body of water or stream within the Village. Any person found guilty of violating this section shall be subject to a forfeiture of not more than \$200.00 plus the cost of cleanup. Each day a violation continues shall constitute a separate violation.

PRIOR ACTION/REVIEW

The waste drop-off site has been discussed at various occasions in previous years.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Village staff recommends that the Village Board direct staff to more vigorously enforce yard waste drop-off rules as described above.

If the Village Board agrees with this action, the following motion could be used, ***“Motion to have staff more vigorously enforce yard waste drop-off rules for nonresidents, business and commercial users and to pursue official enforcement action if the problem persists next fall.”***

POLICY ALTERNATIVE(S)

The Village Board could take the following actions:

- Continue with existing rules and policy but more vigorously enforce them.
- Change the rules and or policy
- Request additional information

ATTACHED INFORMATION

- I. Photos

COPIES FORWARDED TO:

- I. None

