



County of Fairfax, Virginia

To protect and enrich the quality of life for the people, neighborhoods and diverse communities of Fairfax County

Waste Collection Companies Meeting Notes February 6, 2014

Companies with attendees: KMG, CSI, Republic Services, ESI/PDS, IDS/Broad Run Recycling, 1-800-Got-Junk

Online Participants: Waste Management, ADS, Trash Away, Michael Wallen

County Staff: Pamela Gratton, John Kellas, Scott Patchan, Alex Castillo, Don Green, Jessica Smithberger

The meeting began at 5:02 pm.

Introductions/Welcome

Pamela Gratton greeted everyone.

Operational Issues

John Kellas stated that there was no news regarding operations.

The topic of fiscal year (FY) 2015 rates was mentioned, but it was stated that the rates will not be set until the end of the month.

Q: Will out-of-county waste stay at the current rates? Was there any impact on administrative issues or any problems due to the lower rates?

A: Pamela stated that she was unsure about out-of-county rates for FY2015, but that the rates will likely stay the same. Regarding the impact of out-of-county rates, she said she would look into that for the next meeting.

Q: Is the Covanta renegotiation still on-target?

A: Pamela – Yes, it is moving forward and will conclude by the end of the current fiscal year.

Enforcement Issues

Pamela told attendees that the County doesn't often issue Notices of Violation (NOVs); unless field staff observes a violation, the County cannot move forward with enforcement action. As a part of the NOV process, the County always gives the guilty party opportunity to respond to the notice, since a response could address the issue and alleviate concerns. Companies are also given opportunities to sign consent agreements or pay fines, and if all options are declined companies can be subpoenaed and taken to court.



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There have only been a few complaints from residents during bad winter weather, which is a good reflection on the services that collection companies provide. Don Green further asserted that there have been few complaints, as well as few enforcement issues; the only complaint he's received has been of containers on streets.

Q: Brokers and unmarked containers are difficult to track – has there been discussion on that issue recently?

A: Pamela explained that regulations are being added to the Code regarding brokers, specifically registering them with the County. Companies were asked to contact the County if they suspect that brokers are operating in violation of the County Code.

Pamela also notified companies that staff has received complaints from residents who live close to shopping centers. The complaints are about trash trucks, though Pamela said that they are more likely hearing delivery trucks.

Recycling Program Updates

Pamela asked the companies to send their recycling reports. The County needs companies' residential and commercial totals. Companies were also asked to include information on where they take yard waste to help the County avoid double-counting the data and get a more accurate total. For example, if a company takes yard waste to a County facility, that data will not be added since those totals are included in the facility totals.

Administrative Services

Pamela introduced Scott Patchan chief of Administrative Services.

Scott spoke of the implementation of a lockbox to process invoice payments. Invoices will have a new mailing address, and all checks will go to a P.O. box in Merrifield where a third party company will collect and scan the checks, and send data to County staff. Companies are still welcome to hand-deliver checks to our office, but all mailed checks should go to the P.O. box. Scott reminded companies to include the remittance page with their checks, as it contains important information that will help identify the payments. The LIS team will send out notifications to companies regarding this change, which should begin with the invoices that will be mailed out on Tuesday February 11, 2014.

UPDATE: The new target start date is March 12, when the next invoices go out

Q: What about online bill-pay, where the checks are sent directly from the bank?

A: Scott – The bank should be able to update the mailing address.

Q: Can companies still pay at facilities?

A: Scott – Yes, payment will still be accepted at both facilities.

Q: What if transactions are charged with an incorrect material type or rate?

A: Pamela asked companies to contact County staff and assured them that staff will work with companies to resolve such matters. There is a system in place to verify transactions.

Q: Are easier online payments an option?

A: Pamela apologized; the County's systems are not there yet for the Solid Waste Management Program. Scott stated that online payment options are implemented by other agencies, and that it is a future goal to improve the Solid Waste Management Program's processes.

Administrative Items

As the CTO renewal process is currently underway, Jessica Smithberger informed companies that Permit Office staff is available to assist companies in completing their renewal packages. Companies should send their vehicle lists to the Permit Office as soon as possible and get an early start on vehicle inspections. Additional staff is now working on inspections to help expedite the process. If companies wish to bring multiple vehicles at one time, please call ahead to schedule an appointment. During inspections, vehicles designated to collect recyclables must present the sign, flag, or other designation that indicates when the vehicle is collecting recyclables.

Jessica also mentioned that updated Facility Rules and Regulations were not sent with CTO renewal packages because of delays; however, copies are available at the Permit Office as well as electronically. Companies were asked to contact staff if they would like the documents emailed to them.

Sanitary District Announcements

No new petitions have been received.

Collectors' Issues and Discussion

The floor was opened up to attendees for questions and comments. One attendee mentioned that there are potholes right before the scales at the Transfer Station. County staff agreed to look into it.

Q: Are open top containers that are owned by HOAs and placed on streets a concern?

A: Pamela explained that these are not a common complaint, and that such complaints generally come through the Board of Supervisors. She encouraged companies to inform County staff if they see containers that need to be moved.

Q: Are there permits for special projects containers (i.e. home remodeling) that must be temporarily placed on streets due to power lines, trees, or other objects preventing them from being placed elsewhere?

A: Pamela explained that this is a zoning ordinance issue and that she would look into it further.

The meeting adjourned at 5:43 pm.

Next Meeting: May 1, 2014, Government Center – Room 2/3