

VILLAGE OF BARTLETT

COMMITTEE AGENDA

JUNE 4, 2019

PUBLIC WORKS, CHAIRMAN CAMERER

Contractor Brush Collection Discussion

Memo

To: Paula Schumacher, Village Administrator
From: Dan Dinges, Director of Public Works
Subject: **Contractor Brush Collection Discussion**
Date: May 24, 2019

BACKGROUND

Staff was instructed by the Board to review possible options to improve the residential brush pick up. The current brush program is handled through the Village's waste hauler, Groot, with a monthly fee that is incorporated into the monthly rate for garbage pickup. The program prior to the new Waste Hauler contract was done through Village Public Works Staff. Staff divided the Village in half, and would collect brush on each half twice a month from April thru November. The Village Board decided to have Groot perform this service to allow Public Works Staff to be able to perform other necessary infrastructure such as bike path repair, concrete and sidewalk work, tree trimming and storm sewer maintenance that was falling behind due to the large amount of time and resources it took to conduct the brush pickup program, including the high amount of workers compensation claims caused by the old brush program.

During the initial review of a new waste hauler, the Village inquired about hiring a separate contractor to perform the brush collection. Using those previous price points, the Village can extrapolate the cost of hiring a separate contractor for brush collection. Staff has reached out to those contractors again to obtain pricing, and once Staff receives the official numbers, will provide an updated analysis to the Board. A table detailing each cost is attached for review.

DISCUSSION

Current Brush Collection Through Groot

As stated above, the Village currently contracts brush collection through Groot. Groot requires all brush to be bundled with biodegradable twine in a pile no larger than four feet in length by two feet high by two feet wide (4' x 2' x 2'), and weigh no more than fifty (50) pounds. Groot charges a monthly fee of forty-seven cents a month (\$0.47/month) that is incorporated into the monthly bill for a total of five dollars and sixty-four cents (\$5.64) a year per home. Next year, this price will increase to forty-nine cents (\$0.49) per month for a total of \$5.88 on the year. Groot has stated

that any brush piles not properly bundled are tagged and they are supposed to reach out to the residents to explain the issue.

Contracting Out Brush Collection

This service would require residents to place their brush at the curb similar to when Village crews picked up brush (no bundling) and the contractors pick up the brush with grappling machines and haul it away. Staff has reached out to two (2) known contractors that provide this service for other municipalities, Kramer Tree Service and Trees-R-Us, to provide preliminary quotes for the cost of providing residential brush collection should the Village Board decide to move in that direction. As those quotes are still being finalized, Staff looked back at previous pricing to estimate a monthly cost. The previous quotes consisted of either contractor coming to pick up residential brush either once a month or twice a month (Trees-R-Us only quoted for twice a month pickup). Kramer originally quoted for an 8-month service, the same as the current Groot program, and Trees-R-Us quoted for a 7-month program running from April – October.

Kramer's once a month pickup is estimated to cost approximately \$276,020.00 in 2019. This would equate to a monthly cost for approximately \$2.27 per month or an annual total of \$27.24.

The twice a month pickup is estimated to range between \$343,937.00 and \$414,030.00 (estimated cost of \$34 - \$41/yr. per household).

If the Village Board chooses to pursue this option with either contractor after obtaining formal bids, the costs for contracting the service would need to be funded through the General Fund or passed through to the residents on their monthly utility bills. The Village currently has also been informing residents that if they wish to not bundle their brush there are landscaping contractors that may also pick up the brush and dispose of it for a fee.

Brush Pickup Cost Comparison Chart*

Groot (Current Contractor/Waste Hauler)		
Number of Pickups/Month	Home Monthly Cost 2019	Home Annual Cost 2019
Weekly	\$0.47	\$5.64
Kramer Tree Services		
1 Pick-up	\$2.27	\$27.24
2 Pick-ups	\$3.41	\$40.86
Trees-R-Us**		
1 Pick-Up	\$2.83	\$33.94

*Have not received updated pricing from Kramer or Trees-R-Us yet

**Trees-R-Us bid for 7-month program (April-Oct.)

Adding 2 Special Pickups (Spring & Fall)

We also looked at Village crews providing a pickup in the spring and fall in addition to the current program through Groot. This could be done however, it will once again take crews away from completing the infrastructure maintenance that is needed and the concern is that because it is only offered twice a year the piles will be large and take much more time.

Tji/attachments