

## Burke Rubbish Information with costs

The Selectboard appreciated the feedback and questions from the discussion at the meeting on February 6, 2023 and beyond. The board is faced with a difficult decision of what they feel would be best for the town - this has been a service that has been offered for many years and one that is not taken lightly.

**Challenges:** The past several years have presented many challenges with curbside rubbish pickup services.

The Rubbish Truck breaking down, needing expensive repairs. It was out of service for approximately 4 months the past year. Getting dumpsters was very expensive. The cost is between \$1,500.00 to \$2,000.00 each week. With onsite dumpsters come unpleasant smells and bears. Not a pleasant or safe situation for residents bringing up their trash or for the Senior Meal Site.

Additional challenges are keeping a driver with a CDL for the 10 to 15 hours a week and an attendant the is physically able to pick up the trash for 10 hours a week. If the truck was running, then we didn't have a driver, then no attendant. Utilizing Town Administrator and/or Road Crew is not a long-term solution as they have other duties to attend to. Safety is also a serious concern with curbside services.

Expense Totals from 2022:

Total recycle expense for the year	84,502.06
Total recycle income for the year	<u>4,719.13</u>
total cost	79,782.93
Total rubbish expense for the year	147,580.13
Total rubbish income for the year	58,779.25
Total bulky day income	<u>3,110.00</u>
total cost	85,690.88

**Option 1:**

The Town gets out of the rubbish business entirely: No curbside rubbish or recycle pick up. Recycle center remains open for drop off of recycling materials only. Bulky days and Hazardous waste days remain unchanged.

Town would arrange for a private contractor (EZ Trash or NEK Rubbish, etc.) to set up at the Recycle Center during recycle hours to collect trash & possibly in East Burke. Pay per bag direct to contractor (\$3-\$10 per bag). No town tax involvement.

**Line items that would come out of the 2023 Town Budget:**

Driver/Attendant Wages \$34,000  
Rubbish FICA-Med \$2600  
Tipping Fees- Rubbish \$33,000  
Worker's Comp Rubbish \$3,270  
PACIF Insurance \$450  
Unemployment Insurance \$450  
Operations & Maintenance \$ 5000  
Fuel- Rubbish Truck \$10,000  
Outside Maint/Repairs \$10,000  
Rubbish Supplies \$1500  
Rubbish Truck Replacement Fund \$50,000  
**Total of \$150,270**

Proceeds from the sale of the trucks & recycle trailer, rubbish truck reserve fund would be used toward other expenses to lower tax burden.

Residents could choose to contract for curbside rubbish (and recycle) pick up with. Some prices obtained for available options include:

NEK Rubbish \$40- 50/month for curbside pickup.

Casella Waste: offers 96 gallon trash cans for rubbish and recycling. They pick-up every other week for a cost around \$70 a month. Phone number is 888-485-1469.

Myers offer the same service with 68 gallon trash cans for rubbish and recycling around \$56, with an every other week pick-up. Phone number is 800-981-5213.

**Option 2:**

Do away with curbside pickup. The Town would contract for a commercial compacting dumpster at the Recycle Center for drop off rubbish collection.

Tax expenses: monthly cost of the compacting dumpster, labor cost of rubbish attendant, cost to fence in to secure, tipping fees (per pound of trash fees charged to the town on every dump). Residents would also pay per bag brought in.

Compacting Dumpster Rental \$950 per month = \$11,400/yr

Estimated Hauling Fees \$13,860

Estimated Attendant Labor \$13,000

Rubbish tipping fees (145/ton x 311 tons last year) \$45,095

**Option 3:**

Purchase a new rubbish truck, advertise for a curbside pick-up attendant (p/t CDL driver position is currently filled) and hope for the best to continue the program as is. New Truck is currently estimated at \$370,000. If we spend the money for a new truck, there is no guarantee that we can staff it. The treasurer proposes that cost of per bag stickers should increase to \$10 to better offset actual expenses.