

## **South Hadley Basic Facts:**

6,400 housing units for trash collection.

Business and some large housing complexes are excluded (must have private hauler)

\$555,000 budgeted in FY 2020 for every second week trash collection contract

\$294K for budgeted trash pickup, \$230K for recycling, \$31K yard waste

“Tipping Fee” - \$220,000 (cost of final resting place for trash)

Revenue from “Green Bags” - \$500,000 annually

Recycling revenue - about \$12,000 (and dropping)

Operation Salaries Solid Waste (transfer station, recycling) - \$98,000

Total FY20 Operation - \$1,019,862

Net average per household for trash is \$160. The present direct fee to households is \$75. The offset for the fee is largely the \$500,000 from “Green Bags.”

## **Important things to note or consider:**

Price of “tipping” presently \$75 dollars a ton, industry prediction is that could increase by 18 to 20%. South Hadley agreement is up in June 2020. If the “Tipping” cost went up 18 to 20 percent another \$40,000 would need to be raised.

Recycling has been a revenue generator for decades, could become a negative in future. While best practices in recycling will likely be at a fee lower than trash, it is possible communities may begin to pay for getting rid of recyclable material. If we were to pick up trash every week the tipping fee would likely go up for trash by ten percent overall regardless of changes. (\$30K)

The cost for a 65 gallon toter for each unit would be \$12 a year added to trash for 6 years, if the toters as suggested has a six year life span. Units would have to purchase additional toters out right, including if they sought recycling toters. There are some grants which may save up to half the cost of a 35 gallon toter or about \$25 per receptacle. Additional toters could be made available in various sizes for purchase, but to keep this analysis sane I am attempting to stay moderately simple.

## **So here goes,**

Scenario #1; We kept the system exactly the same (pick up every other week) we lost most or all the recycling revenue and were saddled with an industry increase for “Tipping” the cost per unit would likely go up about \$15 per household. So each household would cost about \$175 per, with the “Green Bag” subsidy. Direct fee would likely go to approximately \$90 or the bag charge could be increased.

Scenario #2; We would seek request for proposals from qualified vendors for a system which would include toters, weekly pick up and bi-weekly recycling pick up. I would suggest a 65 gallon toter, for each customer, if additional toters are needed they would be available for order. This would include the \$12 a year for the toter (paid off over six years), the “Green Bags” would go away with the \$500,000 in revenue. The likely charge to each home would be around \$225 per year.

Scenario #3: Go to a private pick up requirement for each home. Likely to be much more expensive per household.

## Trash Conclusions;

There is no easy solutions. The Selectboard will need to give us direction by January or February about what we would like to pursue with the trash removal companies. Please note these are well developed approximations based on market trends, observations and other considerations. However, in the end we are making predictions in a very volatile industry setting. What is be presented could be subjected to substantial change, given the dynamics of the business climate.

There is always a balancing act when you increase trash pick-up charges too much, too quickly we end up just increasing trash showing up on roadways, in parks, conservation areas or other public space. We made that part of the team discussion internally.

There is a variety of adjustment which could be made which may impact costs, for example smaller totor for smaller users for a smaller fee (the truth is the difference would not be significant). Another savings might be requiring more multi-family complexes to implement trash solutions within the complex are their cost, it seems there is loose set of rules when it comes to this part of the equation. This will raise a significant policy discussion which needs to be addressed either way.

There is a more “boutique option” where our present contractor would be willing to develop a system where a homeowner could have a pick up in the off week and be billed direct. Or additional services tailored for a charge for individual residents.



Some communities have placed “cardboard only” receptacles in different parts of the town. The downside is they require monitoring and often people intentionally or in error place household trash in them defeating the value of “clean cardboard”. With the explosion of on-line shopping this strategy may become more necessary for the cardboard boxes.

There is new technologies related to “food waste” which is suggested to be more than 20% of our total was, increased composting is a great idea when done safely.

There are some great products out there to safely store and compost food scrapes.

The challenge is “food” recycling would be an additional area we would be venturing into as a municipal service if we were to provide an additional bin or sealed pail in this case. This would likely increase the overall cost of any of the scenarios as an add-on. It may lower the tipping cost by removing 20% of the waste stream (if everyone complied), but the overall cost with specialized containers an likely and additional method of pick up, probably would offset any savings or reduce it significantly.

However having a Compost Campaign for residents to voluntarily participate in composting on their own or perhaps even with an incentive of some sort. We also may look for a partner who has digester or is using food waste responsibly that residents can deliver their waste to be converted or otherwise utilized. Just getting the facts out about food waste would be helpful in reducing or controlling costs. Here is some interesting facts to chew on....

<https://www.rubiconglobal.com/blog-food-waste-14-facts-will-blow-mind/>

Whether the Town of South Hadley makes no changes or adjusts the service, education has to become more central to the mission. The more we can get citizens to reduce their waste stream, recycle more and reuse material more often better off we will be, putting out that message regularly is key to changing behavior and culture.

The South Hadley Internal Trash Team brought perspective from residents, including rental, both home and condo owners, as well as individuals from other communities large and small to tell how their communities are dealing with this problem. I also would note many of the participants get the “front-line” calls about trash and therefore have an important grasp of the present service. Their input enriched the discussion.

Thank you to Deputy Town Administrator Jennifer Wolowicz, DPW Superintendent Jim Reidy, DPW Recycling Coordinator Kevin Quesnel, Administrative Assistant Kellie Lempke, Planner Richard Harris, Associate Planner/Conservation Administrator Anne Capra, Health Director Sharon Hart, and Executive Assistant to Administration Kristin Maher for your input and for bringing a diverse set of perspectives to the table.

Submitted by Michael Sullivan

South Hadley Town Administrator 9/23/19

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