

Wildlife Committee Meeting – Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Agenda Item no. 6

“Curbside Pickup” Question

Background

Currently, there are about 120 trash curbside pickup accounts in the Town of Mammoth Lakes (a relatively small portion of the subscriber base). The current cost of this service for 1x week service is \$81.30 per quarter. Sections 8.12.050 and 8.12.130 of the municipal code deal with curbside pickup requirements. These sections need to be revised to provide for more restrictions regarding this service in order to prevent trash spills related to wildlife.

Before these revisions can be drafted, a fundamental issue needs to be addressed by the Town Council – “Does the Town of Mammoth Lakes and Mammoth Disposal want to continue providing curbside pickup and if so, what new restrictions need to be put in place?”

The Town Council will be deciding this question in late February/early March timeframe. Staff would like to get feedback from the Wildlife Committee prior to Council discussion.

Discussion/Analysis

The first question is whether Curbside service should be offered. Certainly, elimination of curbside pickup resolves any issues surrounding this service. There are however, 120 accounts in Town and those who subscribe to this service are passionate about maintaining this service.

If we do want to continue offering this service, changes need to be made as follows:

1. Municipal Codes need to be updated to give restrictions more “teeth.
2. The type of trash containers need to be “bear resistant”.
3. Subscribers will need to sign a contract with Mammoth Disposal outlining the terms and conditions of this service, which include the purchase by the subscriber of the mandated trash containers.

Staff has worked with Mammoth Disposal over the past several months on parameters regarding the provision of this service and options include:

1. Mandated use of two 30 gallon hard plastic trash containers with screw on lids.
2. Bear resistant 64 gallon tote.

The 30 gallon hard plastic trash containers with the screw on lids will work however, there are some concerns over their weight. They weigh about 20 pounds each and the concern is the maximum weight limit of what can be put in such a container. The weight limit exists to protect Mammoth Disposal workers from lifting too heavy of a container and mitigating the risk of injury. These containers cost about \$50 a piece.

The 64 gallon tote provides the same capacity of service and would be utilized in conjunction with a specialized truck that uses hydraulic action to pick up and empty the tote container. Staff believes that specialized totes would prove to be bear resistant. Mammoth Disposal currently operates a truck in Mono County that offers this service and they would be willing to operate this truck in the Town of Mammoth Lakes. The cost of a tote would be approximately \$180 to \$200.

Before this item appears on the Town Council agenda, staff will be sending each subscriber of curbside pickup a notice of the various options and the specific date of when this item is agendaized so they have the choice to express their thoughts to the Town Council.

Options

Option 1 – Recommend the elimination of curbside pickup service

Option 2 – Recommend revision of the Town Municipal Codes outlining new restriction related to curbside pickup.

Option 3 – If Option 2 is preferred, then a recommendation on the type of trash receptacle and service level.

Staff Comments

Staff prefers the elimination of curbside pickup service as it would eliminate the problem. Subscribers of this service however, are very passionate about this service. Staff believes this service could be successfully offered through a revision of the municipal codes and the utilization of the 64 gallon tote. Subscribers would then have the option of signing a contract and purchasing the 64 gallon tote or switching to the residential bin program at the Mammoth Disposal transfer station (this option would save them money). Staff estimates that about 50% of the current subscribers would choose to purchase the 64 gallon tote and continue on with the curbside service.