

Letters to the Editor

Like an unstoppable political juggernaut the movement for a single waste removal company for Manitou Springs continues to move forward, seemingly in defiance of all reason.

The proposal for a single waste service moves forward while failing to meet most of its own environmental goals. This proposal continues to move forward despite the fact that all the waste removal companies currently offer single stream recycling. The proposal moves forward despite the fact that reductions in our carbon footprint, wear and tear on the roads, and safety concerns will only be negligible because those commercial businesses that opt out will still require repetitive visits to our community from other trash haulers. The proposal continues forward despite the fact that there is no guarantee that people will recycle any more than they currently do, even if recycling bins are placed in front of their homes.

The proposal for a single waste removal company continues to move forward in the face of indicators that there are flaws in the process and a lack of public support. It moves forward despite the fact that only one company submitted a bid for the proposal. It moves forward despite the fact the company with the current majority of waste removal accounts declined to submit a bid. The proposal moves forward despite the fact that it faces a community divided over whether it even wants a single trash hauler

Likewise, the single hauler proposal moves forward while failing to meet most of its fiscal goals. This proposal moves forward despite the fact that it fails to reduce trash removal costs for all citizens. It moves forward despite the fact that while trying to generate \$48,000 through a franchise fee the city then diminishes this revenue by paying Bestway \$22,000 more than it currently pays for the removal of the city's trash.

However, in the most flagrant affront to reason, fiscal responsibility, and a testimony to the proposals apparent inevitability, this proposal moves forward despite the fact that the city will likely lose money. For when the city takes over the billing for the trash service it will apparently have to create a new position in the finance department at an approximate cost of \$41,000. Combined with the \$22,000 the city is paying Bestway for municipal trash removal, it will be paying approximately \$63,000 to get a \$48,000 franchise fee. With this in mind, there seems to be no other logical interpretation for the city to continue to pursue this proposal with all its problems and its associated costs unless they want to justify a new position and/or they are planning to increase their revenue stream through rate hikes in the future.

In light of all these problems, I ask that if anyone on city council is still listening, please reconsider the merit of this proposal, and should the citizens of Manitou believe that this movement is ill-considered please raise your voice so city council can hear you.

Eric Fredrickson

To Mayor Marc Snyder and all City Council members:

Just wanted to clarify a few remarks the Mayor stated in his response to the trash service proposal.

While we at Springs Waste Systems have obviously been very interested in this process at no time has anyone from the City staff, Council or even Teri Christman ever spoken or corresponded with us about anything concerning this issue.

The first and only time we ever met and discussed these issues was at the pre bid meeting on Feb. 10.

It is disingenuous to state that I or any member of Springs Waste Systems staff have met with city staff and or citizen volunteers or that you "worked hard to satisfy both haulers concerns" as it never happened.

It is also inaccurate to state that the water service, as it relates to billing, is not involved. It is in the Request for Bid!

This as well as mandatory service for all residents, as there was no "opt out" for any citizen in the proposal. Though these are exactly the issues I was most passionate about and implored you to change this was not done until after the bid letting and more likely after we sent out our letter to the citizens.

If these items would have been changed prior to the bid letting we would have submitted a bid. You would be surprised to learn that we are not opposed to the goals of this project only the way it has been presented and handled.

This could have and should have been dealt with differently. I would also caution you about the belief that this proposal would be a "revenue stream" for the City.

The waste and recycling business is labor intensive and logistically challenging and I don't just mean the hauling part.

It would be a mistake to assume that the purchase of a software program is all you need to administrate and bill this project and the rest would go to the bottom line.

Thank you for your time.

Dan Shrader
Springs Waste Systems manager

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