



Meeting Notes

Landfill Improvements and Tipping Fees

Public Information Session

September 18, 2024

Purpose of information session:

To share information, and get feedback on:

1. Improvements that are underway at the landfill front of house
2. The shift to regional waste management in the Yukon
3. Proposed sorting requirements and tipping fees at the Haines Junction landfill

Discussion notes:

Feedback re: Landfill Improvements

- There is a desire for a composting unit to be onsite at the landfill as soon as possible, so food waste can be diverted. It was noted that these units will work in the wintertime.
- The Village was strongly recommended to consider purchasing a compactor with a bailer. This purchase is seen to be long overdue and will help prevent windblown garbage.
- It was noted that different measures the Village has taken in recent years to bail and manage soft plastics is creating a noticeable reduction in the amount of debris that needs to be picked up along highway corridor. Kudos were expressed to public works staff for their efforts.
- Funding was requested to pay volunteers that help to manage the Free Store. It was suggested that this funding could be sourced from the Village's Donated Refundables Fund.
- A location for trappers to store bait within the landfill was requested, for safety reasons.
- A request was made for an on-site washing station for compost/recycling bins

Feedback re: Regional Waste Management

- Fees for Large Volume Users:
 - Whether large volumes of asbestos should be charged a higher rate per cubic meter than small volumes was discussed.
 - Whether large volume users can negotiate lower rates was discussed.

- Public communications:
 - The Village is requested to do more public communications on where recyclables go, and to make sure the gate attendant is able to answer these questions.
 - The Village is requested to prepare an education and outreach plan on recycling – what can be recycled, how it is to be dropped off, etc. Currently information is available on the website, some of which is out of date,
 - Village staff noted that the Government of Yukon’s Extended Producer Responsibility legislation will be changing how recycling is done in Yukon. A more comprehensive and up-to-date education and outreach plan was requested.
 - The Village is encouraged to send a mailout to all regional users about the changes that are taking place

Feedback re: Tipping Fees

- The cost for disposal of tires >24.5” is not noted
- The cost for the disposal of animal carcasses is not noted
- Mixed waste:
 - It was noted that the Village is charging more than Whitehorse for mixed waste (\$6 for up to 5 bags or \$1.20/bag)
 - Some noted that they would have to hold on to garbage for three weeks to fill up a 90L garbage bag and would be concerned about smells attracting animals in the summer.
 - It was noted that some families in town struggle to pay for food, and now some of this money will need to go for garbage. A compassionate approach for lower income residents is needed (e.g. a compassionate tipping fee grant).
 - It was suggested to have different prices for different sized bags
- Vehicle disposal:
 - Old vehicles tend to be driven by people who can’t afford newer vehicles. This means that those who can least afford an expensive disposal fee will have to pay for disposal of end-of-life vehicles (ELVs)
 - Landlords are concerned that more old vehicles will be left on rental properties.
 - Village staff clarified that the fee of \$900/car is based on a cost estimate the Village received from Urban Recycling to crush and remove all of the vehicles from the landfill
 - A phased-in approach was suggested - start with lower rates, educate, encourage, then build to cost recovery
 - The Village was encouraged to figure out a way for people and businesses to dispose of old vehicles in a holistic and environmentally friendly fashion that also encourages clean-up around town.
 - Village staff noted it is pursuing, through AYC, help from YG for the disposal of ELV’s
- Grubbing:

- Concern was expressed at the high cost. At \$25/m³, it would cost \$6,000 to dispose of 20 loads of grubbing (the amount estimated to be produced from the clearing of a residential lot).
- An estimate of 20 loads is based on the loads being unsorted and including brush. The estimate would be much lower if brush were separated.
- Village staff confirmed that the cost is high because stumps take up a lot of air space in the landfill, noting the desire to encourage sorting
- Contractors noted that this cost is contrary to the Village's interests of promoting affordable housing, as the costs will be passed along to the property owner. Costs to sort brush from grubbing may be no different from the costs of dropping off unsorted brush/grubbing
- Village staff committed to holding a separate meeting with contractors to discuss this further.
- Unknown liquids and chemicals:
 - Why would these be accepted at all?
- There will be a rush on disposal of materials at the dump before tipping fees come in.
- Tipping fees may reduce the amount of salvage that takes place as folks will now only take things they are certain they can use (as they will need to pay to drop it off again)
- Village staff clarified that "honey buckets" are not accepted at the landfill (per regulatory requirements). Should someone need to dispose of one they should contact the Manager of Public Works.

Other Feedback

- Dump hours:
 - The Village was asked to consider winter hours and summer hours, that would enable the dump to be open on Mondays in the summer.
 - The Village was asked to consider providing a key fob for commercial / institutional / large volume users on days that the dump is closed.
 - Village staff noted that Haines Junction has the second greatest opening hours (next to Whitehorse). Dawson is open 4 days/week and Teslin 3 days a week, Watson Lake is 5 days a week but for fewer hours.
- Village staff confirmed that illegal dumping is enforced by Yukon government outside of town and the Municipality within town
- The Village was recommended to put a surveillance camera at the gate to be able to monitor who drops off garbage outside operating hours