

Memorandum
Public Works Department
Purchasing Division

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TO: John T. Lockerby, Village Manager

FROM: *Max Slankard*
Max Slankard, Public Works Director

Adam M. Letendre
Adam M. Letendre, Assistant to the Public Works Director

Michael Aleksic
Michael Aleksic, Purchasing Agent

DATE: December 8, 2014

SUBJECT: New Refuse Cart Roll-Out Plan and Purchasing Authority (Agenda Item)

Budget Amount & Account Number: \$165,000 020-0420-418.07-99 #134019

Background:

The Village of Skokie purchases all refuse and recycling carts used in residential collection. The current fleet of carts was originally purchased beginning in the summer of 2003. These carts were purchased over a one year period, with three one year additions. All carts came with a ten year warranty. Per the contract terms, the warranty period expired in 2013.

In the summer of 2013, Public Works conducted a testing program and deployed about 400 carts from three major cart suppliers in the nation. These carts were placed in areas of Skokie where the carts were in the poorest condition, as well as in additional control areas. The three cart types were: Rehrig-Pacific (the incumbent provider), Cascade brand and Toter brand. The test was intended to see how different carts held up in terms of rodent issues in alleys, how they held up to the elements and how they performed with the Village's collection equipment.

The results of the rodent test were generally irrelevant, as no cart lid proved to be "rodent proof." The smoother edges of the Cascade cart did seem to prevent squirrels from getting as good a foothold, so their performance was marginally better. The bodies held up similarly well, with the Toter carts having the strongest body. However, it was very quickly determined that the Toter carts had issues staying on the tipping mechanism on the backs of our collection trucks. Toter carts tended to slip off, and this created safety and efficiency issues for our collectors.

Over last season's harsh winter, the Cascade brand performed the best and did not split in extreme cold conditions, which the Rehrig carts have a tendency to do. Both carts are made of similar material, but the Cascade design is slightly different and the cart performed better. The Cascade cart also fits our refuse truck tippers without the need for modification.

Recommendation:

On the basis of the foregoing, staff is recommending that the Village transition to Cascade brand carts. Cascade has submitted a proposal to provide carts to the Village at a price of \$46.53 per cart. This price is 17% lower than our last purchase price from our current vendor. The pricing of the Cascade carts is set through an established contract with the National Joint Powers Alliance (NJPA), of which Skokie is a registered member. The contract pricing will be in effect for several more years. The NJPA contract allows pricing to be reviewed every six months, but prices can only change based on actual resin prices and nothing else.

It is recommended that an initial purchase of 1,500 carts is awarded to Cascade Cart Solutions, Grand Rapids, MI. in the amount of \$69,795. Future orders for carts will be placed on an as needed basis per the pricing and terms for the NJPA contract, and within the authority of the annual budget.

Comments:

Though many of the carts in the system are old, their condition does not yet justify replacement. Therefore, we will phase new carts into the system gradually. We anticipate changing out approximately 1,500 carts next calendar year, and then replacing in the vicinity of 1,000 per year for the foreseeable future. Staff plans to order about 400 carts initially, and then place similar orders later this winter to have supplies in place when spring breaks. We expect we can store up to 1,000 carts at a time at Public Works.

As an important aside, 100% of the Rehrig-Pacific carts that we remove from service will be taken by Cascade for recycling. Cascade will give the Village a credit of \$0.15 per pound of the recycled carts. This amount will be subtracted from the purchase price of the new carts.



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THE VILLAGE OF SKOKIE

