



PAUL HEROUX
MAYOR

City Of Attleboro, Massachusetts

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
Government Center • 77 Park Street
Attleboro, Massachusetts 02703
508-223-2222 • Fax 508-222-3046

DT: 10/30/2020
RE: Bulk Item Update

For Immediate Release

During the duration of the old contract with Waste Management (WM), many residents who did not use the 'one bulk item per week' service complained about paying for that service and complained about subsidizing others. As such, as a way to keep the cost of the contract down for as many people as possible, in the new contract with WM we opted to go to a pay as you throw system whereby the citizen would call WM and pay WM directly for disposing of a bulk item for \$29; there would be no more subsidy under this system. However, a lot of people did not like a single rate for all items regardless of size.

As such, I went back to WM and asked if we can do an amendment to the contract. The amendment allows for three weeks out of the year a 'small' bulk item service pick up. We defined small and large items. If there is any ambiguity, a small item is defined as something weighing less than 50 pounds that can be picked up by one person.

The cost for this contract amendment is \$11,250 for the service, plus the cost of the weight of the small bulk items. During FY21, the Health Department's Revolving Fund will pay for these amnesty weeks and the cost of the weight of the bulk items. However, for FY22, a small rate increase between about \$5-10 per rate payer will be needed as the revolving account won't be able to absorb another year's worth of three amnesty weeks at \$11,250 per week, plus the weight of the items. The reason that this works out to about \$5-10 per rate payer for up to 12 items as opposed to \$29 per item is because residents are going to be subsidizing each other again on a limited basis; \$29 is the unsubsidized cost for a bulk item.

This is a hybrid approach. People will still need to call WM and pay \$29 to have WM take away a 'large' bulk item, and if someone doesn't want to wait for the amnesty weeks, they will still have to pay \$29 for a small bulk item. But for people who are willing to wait to throw away up to four items during each of the three amnesty weeks, for a total of 12 small bulk items per year, they will not have to call WM and pay anything extra.

The cost of disposing of trash and recycling is increasing everywhere in the world. Attleboro has a very service rich program for \$230 per year. If the city were to have kept the bulk item program the way it was in the old contract, the contract would have gone from \$200 per year, to almost \$300 per year. Considering that most people don't use this bulk item disposal service, we reasoned that going from \$200 to nearly \$300 was too much of an increase for many families.

If anyone has any further questions about the trash or recycling program, they can contact the mayor at paulheroux@cityofattleboro.us or call 508-455-7990. Or email the solid waste administrator Jessica at rubbishcollection@cityofattleboro.us.