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Date: 11/14/2019

To: Public Works Committee

From: Brett Hebert, Director of Public Works

Subject: Brush Collection Revenue

I was asked to prepare options that the Public Works Committee could review in regards to generating revenue to offset the cost of curbside brush collection. In 2019, the cost to collect brush curbside five times city-wide was $72,600 for wages, equipment costs and fuel. The wages are a fixed cost in our operating budget, but the specific time is still allocated solely to brush collection. The equipment costs are a per hour charge out rate for each specific piece of equipment used and the rates are set by the State of WI. The figure above does not include the special collection we performed in May for storm damage as this collection was not part of our program.

Brush Collection Fee Options

- Charge a **special fee** to all dwellings up to 4 units (mirrors the solid waste fee structure) to collect brush curbside four (4) times per year and collect Christmas trees in January.
    - Potential Rate Scenarios:
        - 4524 x $5 = $22,620
        - 4524 x $10 = $45,240
        - 4524 x $15 = $67,860
        - 4524 x $16 = $72,384

- Charge collection fee for those that **set out more brush than they are allowed**. In 2020, The brush pile must fit within the terrace area (back of curb to either the sidewalk or property line if there is no sidewalk) and shall not be greater than 20 feet in length. If the brush pile is greater than 20 feet, the city could impose a fee per foot greater than 20 feet. For example, the brush pile is 25 feet in length. The property owner would be charged for 5 feet at a given rate:
    - Potential Rate Scenarios:
        - $5 per foot = $25
        - $10 per foot = $50
    - This option would pose some extra clerical/billing work and may be somewhat subjective when measuring the actual piles.

- **Pay per curbside collection**. This option would charge users a fee per curbside collection. If there is brush out they would be charged a set fee. If there is no brush out, there would be

no charge. The standard pile size of no more than 20 feet in length and must fit within the terrace would still apply.

- Potential Rate Scenarios:
  - $5 per collection

    Or
  - $15 for all four collections during the season

Although all three option do present potential ways to generate revenue to pay for the brush collection program, they all present added administrative and clerical work when it comes to billing. I look forward to discussing the pros and cons of these option, or others, with the committee.

Respectfully,

Brett Hebert
Director of Public Works