

**RYE TOWNSHIP  
SUPERVISORS' SPECIAL MEETING  
March 31, 2008**

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**PRESENT:** Chairman Ronald Evans, Vice-Chair, Robert Lightner, Sharon Cole Engdahl, Supervisor, Daisy Lightner, Secretary/ Treasurer, Ron Cree, Zoning Officer, Jean and Larry Kuhn, Beverly Miller, William and Barbara Holley, Fred Roberts, Mike and Joan Tomko, Brad, Greg and Clyde Sloop, Sam Leonard, Sr., Tim Kuhn, Stan and Jill Kuhn, Peggy and Sean Fedder, Beth Wiand, Joellen Szekeres, John Brennan Patterson, Mike Miller, Tom Bitner, Jr., Kathy Godfrey, Bryan Rowles, Matt Macut, and Gary Roth.

Former Supervisors present: Charlie Kunkle and Phyllis Page

This meeting was advertised in the Duncannon Record and proof of publication is on file. The meeting was held at the municipal building and called to order at 7:30 PM. Chairman Ron Evans convened the meeting with the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Vice-Chairman and Solid Waste Superintendent Robert Lightner explained the reason for the special meeting regarding alternate methods for trash collection service. Lightner expressed concerns involved with the current method of trash collection. Lightner said options are presently being explored with several independent trash collection companies. Additional information needs to be gathered, but the Board wanted to gain input from the residents as these alternatives are explored.

**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:** Lightner invited the public to offer their comments and suggestions at this time.

Bryan Rowles of 61 Lone Oak Drive, who recently moved from Wheatfield Township, offered that the individual be permitted to choose their own trash service, which is what Wheatfield Township does. Rowles said he previously paid \$64.00/quarter for collection with Sylvester's Services.

Barbara Holley of 1090 Flowers Lane suggested the Board attempt to better regulate the type of containers placed out for collection. Holley said she sees bags, cans, and cardboard boxes full of trash and thought perhaps an outside company might be able to better regulate and collect only what is permissible.

Stan Kuhn of 1045 Flowers Lane expressed concern with litter and debris left in a neighborhood when an outside hauler refuses to collect trash.

Phyllis Page of 165 Mountain Road expressed concern with the enforcement of the penalty sections of the Refuse Ordinance. She offered that, in her opinion, the Township employees should not be the ones collecting the garbage and she favored an outside hauler.

Road/refuse employees Mike Miller of 1450 New Valley Road and Brad Sloop of 3300 Valley Road offered that the amount of tonnage collected is over the amount that the current Refuse Ordinance permits. Sloop explained the following general estimate:

4 bags per resident @ 40 lbs. each	=	160 lbs
160 lbs. X 875 residential homes	=	140,000 lbs
140,000 lbs ÷ 2,000 lbs per ton	=	<u>7 tons residential trash collection</u>

Commercial Dumpsters (4 ) estimate =	<u>1 ton</u>
TOTAL	8 TONS

Sloop said the above calculation is an estimate and did not take into consideration the 2 bag limit for seniors, which would lower the weekly amount.

Sloop said it takes 11 ½ hours currently to collect trash in Rye Township with an average tipping weight of between 13-15 tons, which is 5-7 tons of trash more than is permissible. And 5-7 tons of trash per week that is going into the landfill. Sloop expressed concern with overweight bags of trash, not only picking them up, but lifting them up to dump into the packer.

Chairman Evans said his concern is with the “throw away” society we have and the legislators who won’t even look at possibly placing a deposit on plastics or glass.

Discussion ensued on the Township’s recycling program, which is held on the fourth Saturday of each month from 8:00 AM to 12 noon. Volunteers are *always* needed. Lightner said the Township applied and was approved through the County for grant funding to purchase a dumpster to facilitate interim recycling at the Township building. The County anticipated receipt of the funds this summer.

Mike Tomko of 1 Ridge Road expressed concern that items such as green and brown glass are no longer acceptable at recycling. Lightner said that is a regulation passed down from the County for which the Township has no control.

Beth Wiand of 88 Lone Oak Drive suggested the Board consider “curbside” recycling.

Although this would be definitely be more convenient, the consensus was that curbside recycling was not cost effective at this time, especially with the economy and the costs for fuel skyrocketing.

Sam Leonard, Sr. of 1408 Valley Road offered that costs to continue with Township employees collecting the trash is ever increasing with the costs of fuel, insurances etc.

Supervisor Lightner expressed concern not only for the increasing costs to provide trash collection service, but the danger to Township employees collecting trash along SR850.

Stan Kuhn of 1045 Flowers Lane suggested the Board check with the State Association of Townships for ideas and various methods for collection. Kuhn suggested the Board consider incorporating recycling with trash collection.

Supervisor Cole Engdahl offered that the bag system is not economically feasible for some residents. With the cost of bags at \$3.00 per bag, a resident who place 4 bags out weekly would cost \$12.00 times 4 equals \$48.00 per month. Currently, Rye Township pays \$50.00 per quarter for regular residential trash collection.

Supervisor Lightner said for the residents who only place one bag out per month, the bag system is great. But the Board must consider all of its citizens.

William (Bill) Holley of 1090 Flowers Lane offered that he agreed with the Township looking to get out of the trash collection service.

Ron Cree of 1865 Valley Road offered that there are only two options for consideration for trash collection: the bag system and an outside hauler collecting trash for a flat rate similar to what is currently provided by the Township.

Supervisor Lightner said, "That is correct". Lightner said the majority of those in attendance tonight are in favor of the bag system. Lightner asked for input as to how to distribute or sell the bags to residents.

Phyllis Page of 165 Mountain Road offered that retired seniors volunteer time to come and handle the selling and distribution of the bags at the Township office.

Several voices suggested the following businesses as possible distribution points: P & R Auto Repair, the Country Treasures craft shop, and Radabaugh's Camping Trailers.

Supervisor Cole Engdahl offered that the reason municipalities allow their residents a choice with trash carriers is in hopes that competition between two carriers would keep the costs down.

Gary Roth of 3118 Valley Road inquired as to the annual costs for Capital Tax Collection Bureau for billing and collection.

The Secretary/Treasurer said the cost is \$1.50 per bill and special reminder letters are \$10.00 each. Supervisor Lightner said he would provide the 2007 year end totals for that expense to Roth at the next supervisors' meeting.

Brad Sloop of 3300 Valley Road offered that if the bag system is instituted, the services of CTCB would no longer be necessary.

Bryon Rowles of 61 Lone Oak Drive offered a possible combination solution: contract an outside hauler to collect four bags per week for each residence with the option for residents to purchase additional bags if needed.

Former Supervisor Charlie Kunkle asked about how the semi-annual clean ups would be funded. Supervisor Lightner said the Township would bid the costs for the clean-ups independently as is the current practice. Chairman Evans said money to fund the clean ups would have to be found. Kunkle offered incorporating in the bid for an outside hauler an additional fee for the collection of one bulk item with weekly collection or perhaps once a month collection of a bulk item.

Peggy Fedder of 2985 Valley Road expressed concern if the bag system is instituted, how the Township would know if all residents are participating with trash collection. Fedder said there are always those residents who will illegally dispose of their trash.

Mike Miller of 1450 New Valley Road offered that the Township impose a small flat fee along with the bag system to give account that all residents are participating with a trash service.

Supervisor Lightner said the Board would consult with Solicitor Wagner for legal counsel in updating and/or adopting new refuse ordinances with the new method of trash collection.

Chairman Evans said the Second Class Township Code permits the Board to charge for the service of collection and disposal of solid waste within the Township.

Gary Roth of 3118 Valley Road offered that he is in favor of the bag system. Roth commented on violators who habitually place more out for collection than permitted. Roth commented on the reduced rate for senior citizens.

Fred Roberts of 440 Buck Ridge Road recycles and is in favor of the buy a bag system.

Beth Wiand of 88 Lone Oak Drive expressed concern with dogs and cats, getting into her garbage before it is collected.

Gary Roth of 3118 Valley Road commented that he has seen several times cars stopping in the morning illegally dropping off bags of trash at the Animal Hospital collection site.

Sam Leonard, Sr. of 1408 Valley Road observed that trash collection has doubled over the last seven years.

Chairman Evans offered that the packaging used today is creates greater volumes of trash than it was seven years ago.

Stan Kuhn of 1045 Flowers Lane encouraged the Board to incorporate recycling with whatever method of collection is instituted by the Board.

Several voices spoke in favor of acquiring an additional dumpster for interim recycling for added convenience.

Phyllis Page of 165 Mountain Road suggested the Board designate in the revised refuse ordinance a specific number of hours prior to collection that trash is permitted to be set out along the road.

Supervisor Lightner expressed appreciation to all who came and for the good ideas shared. He said the Board will research and gather information and schedule another special meeting in the next few months.

**ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING:** With no further discussion, Lightner made a motion and Cole Engdahl seconded to adjourn the special meeting at 8:37 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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Daisy Lightner  
Secretary/Treasurer