

**LEWISTON CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
SPECIAL MEETING**

Thursday, March 29, 2012

City Council Chambers

6:00 pm

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
Moment of Silence.

SPECIAL MEETING

1. Consideration of spring clean-up options.
2. Overview of the City Administrator's Proposed Fiscal Year 2013 Budget.

March 22, 2012

To: Edward A. Barrett
Fr: David Jones, Director of Public Works
Su: Spring Clean-Up

I understand that the City Council has asked to discuss potential spring clean-up activities at a workshop next week. Per your request, the following outlines the costs associated with each of the potential activities. Additional information is presented on the curbside collection system which the City has not provided in recent years.

Attached is a presentation Paul Boudreau and Megan Bates presented to the City Council in 2008. That presentation and follow-on discussions between Councilors resulted in the decision to end a full blown Clean-up "Week". Since then, we have held a clean-up assistance week (Saturday through Saturday) during which we open the Solid Waste Facility to City residents and we waive tipping fees for any waste materials they bring. We have also continued to perform curb-side collection of tree limbs and brush that fell over the winter. (We are finding more and more of this brush are prunings people have taken off their plants rather than limbs falling off trees over the winter).

The costs involved are:

- Brush Curbside Pick-up ~\$11,000
- Overtime for two (2) Saturdays ~\$1,000
- 1-week Tipping Fee Waiver ~\$20,000 (lost revenue from tipping fees)

In 2008, the total costs for the Clean-up effort was \$151,364. Adjusting this to today's costs for labor & equipment, we estimate it would cost ~\$168,000. But it was NOT the cost alone that prompted the Council's decision to end the program. It was taking Public Works 7 to 8 weeks to complete the Clean-up efforts. During this time, no other work was done. Street and sidewalk sweeping were delayed and often would not get done until late July or August. Maintenance paving prep work, road rehab, and stormwater projects being done in-house would be delayed until after Clean-up and sweeping were completed.

Additionally, people abused the program by putting out much more material than allowed and placing wastes at the curb that were clearly identified in pre-event advertising as not acceptable. As a result, more effort was required of PW management, and Code and occasionally police needed to get involved.

Further, this type of work was very hard on our aging workforce. We had numerous back and other injuries as a result of the clean-up efforts. Looking through some of the few photos we kept of these efforts, I can pick out several employees who have since

gone through disability retirement either directly or indirectly resulting from injuries they sustained during these efforts. More hazards are present today, and the recent increase in bed-bug infestations is a real concern. We also now have an even smaller crew than we had in 2008.

Available Budget

I checked the budget balance this morning, and Heather's estimate at the Council meeting was pretty close. The current balance in the snow budget is \$225,000. At this point, I am not ready to say we will have no more snow this year. If you remember, less than a year ago on April 1, 2011 we got ~15 inches of snow! Don't count on this money yet!

Additionally, you need to look at what this funding is for:

- ~\$107,000 of the funding is for regular salaries
 - If we are not charging our employees to snow, we are charging them to other accounts, which means those other budgets are likely overspent and we will need to move this funding to cover the expenses in those other budgets. None of this funding should be considered savings.
- ~\$98,000 of the funding is for overtime
 - Assuming we receive no more snow (a big if at this point), this will be true savings
- The rest of the savings is split between equipment/vehicle rental (which hurts the Municipal Garage budget) or materials, neither of which amount to much.

At most, I would suggest we will see a little less than \$100,000 in savings as a result of this nice winter.

I support the mitigation efforts we have available including the tipping fee waiver, extending hours on two (2) Saturdays, and curb-side brush collection. However, I most strongly recommend against re-instituting a cleanup effort for all of the above reasons. Please feel free to share this information with the Mayor and members of the City Council.

City of
Lewiston
Maine

Spring Clean-up Program



Spring Clean-up Program Outline for Presentation



- Spring Clean-Up Program History
- Spring Clean-Up Program Description
 - eligibility
 - collection
 - details of refuse handling

Outline (continued)

- Waste Collected/Cost of Services
- What Other Communities are Doing
- Consideration of Alternatives
 - Disadvantages
 - Advantages
- Final Statements

Spring Clean-Up Program

History

Designed to assist

Date back to the 50's and 60's

Few household owned pickup trucks

Fewer modern conveniences

“Getting around” more challenging

Since those days, collection and disposal efforts, has evolved into a time consuming and complex task for the Public Works Department.



History (continued)

Past - more employees geared to manual and redundant type labor

Present – today we have fewer employees. They are competently trained in the operation of various vehicles and equipment and perform the duties typical of a public works department.

Environmental requirements

From open burning of the disposed waste to separation, deciphering and recycling (with an emphasis on recycling).

Program Description

Who is Eligible?

Single family residence

Duplex residence

3 unit apartment - owner occupied

Who is Not Eligible?

1. Properties that do not currently receive weekly trash collection provided by the City.
2. Properties that pay the City for trash collection services.
3. Properties that pay private hauler for trash collection services.

(Chapter 62-23)

How much waste is allowed?

From the City Ordinance Section 62-23(1).

“Volume shall be limited to six items of bulky waste (which may include one television set or computer monitor and one Freon® containing appliance) and three cubic yards solid waste per dwelling unit.”



What is not collected?

- Tires
- Automobile Parts
- Liquids
- Volatile Materials
- Hazardous Waste
- Mercury Containing Devices (i.e. thermostats, fluorescent lamps blood pressure cuffs)





Photos from the Field



What is Collected During Spring Cleanup?

Metal (i.e. appliances)

Wood (i.e. yard waste, wood furniture, clean lumber)

Bulky material (i.e. non-wood furniture)

How should the refuse be placed?

- All eligible materials must be placed at curbside
- Materials must be separated or they will not be picked up
- Bagged trash (MSW) must be separated from Spring Clean-up items
- Brush must be also separated and placed along the roadside with the butt ends facing the road

The City encourages residents to bring their spring clean-up refuse to the Solid Waste Facility, located on River Rd. anytime during regular operating hours.

Operation hours are Monday – Friday, 7:00 AM to 3:00 PM and Saturday, 8:00 AM – 12 noon.

Spring Clean-Up Program Records

2004-2008

Waste Collected /Cost of Service (Spring Clean-up Program)

- 2004 – 530 tons at \$104,000
 - 2005 – 513 tons at \$90,300
 - 2006 – 571 tons at \$99,100
 - 2007 – 585 tons at \$107,000
 - 2008 – 955 tons at \$163,200
- Over Budget \$48,256*

Opportunity Costs 2008

Labor hours 4,699 totaling	\$76,140
Equipment hours 4,364 totaling	\$63,416
Outside Rental	\$11,175
Advertising	\$633
Total for Spring Cleanup 2008	\$151,364

2008 Spring Cleanup Expenses

\$29,700

Which includes the disposal in landfill,
trash disposal at MMWAC & Bulky Waste
disposal at Bio-Fuels.

Total Cost of Spring Cleanup Program 2008

Opportunity Cost = \$151,364

Disposal Cost = \$29,700

Total \$181,064

What are other communities doing?

Bangor – No curbside collection. Limited collections of yard waste (related to storm damage)

Waterville – No spring clean-up/curbside collection of bulky waste items. Residents are required to haul this material to the transfer station and pay a fee for disposal.

Bath – No curbside collection of bulky waste items offered. Tip fees for one week out of the year for limited quantities of bulky waste/yard debris.

Brunswick – Basically the same as Bath.

Westbrook – No curbside collection.

What are other communities doing?

Augusta – Curbside collection of spring clean-up materials provided for a fee. Service provided 3 weeks out of the year. Quantities and types of material is limited.

Portland – Curbside collection of spring clean-up material has been eliminated as of 2008. Residents may obtain an electronic swipe card (replaced the punch pass), which is good for free disposal of 10 yards of bulky waste/yard debris.

Auburn – similar to Lewiston's Spring Clean-up Program

Why seriously consider an
alternative to the Spring Clean-up
Program as we know it 

Disadvantages

Advantages

Current Disadvantages

- Abuse from ineligible parties
- Leaving more debris than the program stipulates
- People placing refuse out incorrectly and at the wrong time negatively affecting the City's image and perception
- Cost
- Lost Revenues

Current Disadvantages

- Scavengers-Removing items and disturbing well organized piles, which requires more time handling and negatively affects city revenue.

Scrap Metal (\$113 per ton)

2007 – 44.29

2008 – 16.13

Current Disadvantages

The construction season in Maine is roughly 22 weeks long +/- June through October. The seven weeks it took for spring clean-up to be completed in 2008 equals nearly a third of the construction season.

Advantage

Less time spent on the Spring Clean-up Program equals more time spent on other Public Works' Highway Division projects. (i.e. general pavement repairs, road maintenance, road rehabilitation, lawn repairs, street and sidewalk cleaning, asphalt curb repair, road line painting, grounds maintenance, catch basin cleaning, tree work and other duties customarily performed by a public works operation.)