

The Environmental Sustainability Commission of Willistown Township:
Special Community-Wide Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 5, 2023 – 6:30 PM

The Special Meeting of the Environmental Sustainability Commission was called to Order at 6:32 PM at General Wayne Elementary School at 20 Devon Road, Malvern, PA.

Members Present: Bruce Hartlein, Ken Lehr, Jeff Richards, Susan Vogel, Jennifer Jacobs, Keith Parsons, Karl Malessa

Ken Lehr led the Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence.

Susan Vogel welcomed everyone and reminded those present that no decisions would be made today; this is merely an informational session. Susan then introduced the Chester County Solid Waste Authority (CCSWA) Personnel in attendance: Patti Lynn, the Recycling Resources Manager, and Robert Watts, the Executive Director of CCSWA.

Patti and Robert began their presentation, including the Climate Action Plan and the CCSWA solid waste plan. They commented on the 73 municipalities in Chester County and gave a background of CCSWA leading into the single hauler discussion. They commented that 1/3 of municipalities are under a single hauler system, and 58% are private haulers. They laid out benefits of a single hauler system, including these factors: environmental, practical, costs, neighborhood appearance, addressing issues in pickup, and billing. They also laid out some paradigms around responsibilities of Township vs. Hauler, recycling, and possible effects on grants from the county.

Citizen Comments and Questions (Note incomplete information notated):

- William (Lorden?), 1112 (...): Commented that folks would be paying big price in taking away their choice; things must be greatly improved in order to justify moving to single hauler. The pluses seem negligible. He is a Blosenski customer and sees them struggling.
- Julie Frissora Commented that she would prefer doing her own hauler choice; costs would go up for her. She is recycling for free now. Concern shared: How would the township administrate? How could they with lean personnel structure?
- Karla (...), (...) Mill Road: Would we be screwed out of money by grants under current system? NO! The township already does a great job of educating. She felt pressured by the presentation and didn't like that. She recently changed providers and had to pay a lot of money for carts! Do I have to do that again? She was also concerned about reliability of single hauler. She had a problem so she changed providers.
- Lewis (...), (...) Applewood Road: He is against the system. The township is stressed and pressed for services for about half of constituents, so giving them another service would be a challenge. He made a carrier switch recently. He has a senior discount, and there would be no senior discounts for single hauler. The presentation offers a lot of "could

be's" that have yet to be proven. If we go to single hauler, what options would folks have? Patti responded: These are options; the township has the ability to select them.

- Jane McGowan, (...): She was grateful for the presentation. What struck her as an effect: the cumulative road damage from multiple haulers.
- William Watson, (...): He is for a single hauler! He had Republic; they pulled out to focus on other things. He has fewer options now. He called Blosenski and was quoted \$157.82/quarter; others who had them had a lower rate. He had no choice but to go with them, and they knew it. He will save money with a single hauler.
- David (...), (...): Circle: He found this a thorough presentation. He was impressed by the possibility of lower cost. He is personally opposed to a single hauler. He has lived in Willistown township for 43 years and likes options. He shared the story of his daughter who takes her own trash to the dump and wonders if we could do that here. That responsibility makes folks be more mindful.
- Cathy (...), (...): She has Blosenski and noted that everybody has problems. Some seniors can't pay what a single hauler would want and said that we have to come up with a better idea. Is this merely about more money in other peoples' pockets?
- (...) (...): Person noted that they appreciate the opportunity to hear about this option and has had a great experience with it in the past. They commented that they don't know if there are discrepancies in other places.
- Jennifer Washington, (...) Country Road: She is a strong supporter of a single hauler. She commented that she is a parent and sees a single hauler as a great thing to do it as a township. She had decent service until recently and would see a savings with a single hauler. She noted that other folks talk about choice; where are these so-called options? She has lived with single hauler, and they provide consistency and reliability.
- Gary (...) (...): He commented that my government wants my business. I should have a choice. We haven't had any issues. He has two houses, one in Willistown, one in Tredyffrin township. He doesn't want to pay trash twice as a senior. Is there an option to opt out? Please put the topic to a township-wide vote.
- (Roman) (...) (...): How would a single hauler be billed? I don't want to pay as regularly. I don't make a lot of trash.
- Karen (...) (...): If you don't make a lot of trash, you can go with Blosenski. There are cost-cutting options.
- Jerry (...) (...) Malvern: His family has been residents since 1978. It looks like the for/against is split 50/50. He brought up sewer system issue in the township and commented that the township is currently overtaxed. Where is the personnel coming from to administrate this? He agrees with others who commented that they like options. He also said that if I don't like someone, I fire them.

The meeting comments were closed. The full meeting adjourned at 8:03.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jeff Richards, Acting Secretary