Robert Goulding

From: Gene Bergman <genebergman26@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 16, 2021 11:30 AM
To: Robert Goulding
Subject: Re: Consolidated Collection

[ WARNING]: This email was sent from someone outside of the City of Burlington.

Thank you Robert. I'm helping care for my 94 year old father in law this week and cannot be present at tonight's meeting. I have a few comments that I'd like you to share with the commission.

1. I thank the department for its additional analysis in the memo. I am pleased it looked at a point I have made in support of the municipal option, that the franchise model underestimates the cost to the public by $0.66 to $4.24/month. This makes a municipal model the most cost effective for the public as well the most democratic and most environmentally and socially responsible option. I'm sorry, however, that the memo does not address the problem of monopolization which I've raised and which is inherent in a franchise model; indeed, monopolization is likely in the medium run to decrease consumer cost, choice and convenience, thereby making the rating of the franchise model inaccurate due to the rating's short term framework. I believe the ratings for the franchise model should be reduced from high to medium in each of these 3 areas to account for the monopolization that will occur should we adopt a franchise model.

2. I believe the matrix undervalues the public model in the 4 areas rated as high risk/low benefit; the ratings should be upgraded to at least medium.
   A. The risk to launch the municipal option is at best medium because if the voters reject it, there is no harm and another option can be explored and the time frame for staff utilization is short, all this contrasted with the benefit to having a municipal program will be very high after the initial 2--3 year period.
   B. It makes little sense to me that the upfront capital costs are rated a high risk and are looked at separately from the start up; it seems like a way to give an extra set of low points to the public option.
   C. The need for a charter change is also wrong since it is framed as a vote to create "an enterprise fund". An enterprise fund department is not needed to create a municipal option and the charter in section 48(6) already gives us the authority to collect this solid waste and charge for it. This too is a way to underrate the municipal option.
   D. The risk to the city is also overblown. Again, it raises the specter of a vote on a charter change which is unneeded. It makes little sense to rate the development and management of the facility and the program as a low benefit/high risk; running an efficient and ecologically responsible solid waste program under democratic control is of high value and we have proven through the water department and BED that it can be done right. The legal challenge threat is a red herring as the numbers on municipal programs demonstrate. The risk of voter rejection is no risk at all.

3. The hybrid model overstates the environmental benefit, equating it with a single collector, because it requires 2 haulers to do the same pick up.

4. I ask that the commission support the municipal model.

On Tue, Jun 15, 2021 at 4:30 PM Robert Goulding <rgoulding@burlingtonvt.gov> wrote:

   Hello Gene,
We’ll have a big update in today’s FPF on management’s recommendations for consolidated collection, an invitation to share your views at two upcoming meetings, and some next steps. I’m sharing this directly with those who have reached out to us and expressed interest and please feel free to forward along.

A Major Proposed Overhaul for Trash & Organics Collection
Per the direction set by a 2018 City Council resolution, the Department of Public Works (DPW) has been evaluating whether to consolidate collection of trash, recycling and food scraps for small residential customers. Currently, the City picks up recycling while residents are responsible for contracting for their individual trash pickup and managing their compost. This results in multiple trash and compost haulers serving the same streets.

During our review, we learned that a more coordinated collection of waste streams can reduce truck traffic and emissions, lower costs to residents and increase customer convenience. After conducting a community survey, interviews with other communities and multiple public meetings (including a current tour of NPAs), we are now sharing our recommendation with the Public Works Commission on June 16th at 6:30PM and with the Transportation, Energy and Utility Committee (TEUC) on June 22nd at 5:30PM.

DPW is recommending a hybrid consolidated collection system where the City continues to collect recycling and the City selects a private hauler through a competitive bidding process to collect trash and organics in each established district (think large neighborhood) for at least 1 to 4 unit residential properties in Burlington.

This approach is expected to:
· Save residents money as it is more efficient to have one company collect all trash and organics on a street, instead of 3 to 4 different companies
· Reduce garbage truck traffic and emissions on most residential streets by two-thirds according to our consultant
· Increase convenience by having all trash, recycling and organics collected in each neighborhood on the same day of the week

The Commission and TEUC may choose to support this recommendation or make alternate recommendations to the full City Council. Later this summer, we anticipate the full City Council deliberating on next steps for this process. Your feedback has been and will be important to this process. We encourage you to join us at these meetings and share your views with these bodies. If you cannot make this meeting, you can always submit feedback at DPWCommunications@burlingtonvt.gov or call us at 802-863-9094.

After the City Council decides which collection model to advance, DPW is recommending another resident engagement process to determine specific service levels and options that would be initially offered. Do note that implementing a consolidated collection system takes time – and that any model selected by the Council would take 2 to 5 years to launch.

To learn more about consolidated collection, please visit burlingtonvt.gov/dpw/maintenance/cc.
To see the agenda for the DPW Commission meeting, please visit burlingtonvt.gov/dpw/commission/agendas.

To see future agendas for the TEUC (next week’s has not been posted yet), please visit burlingtonvt.gov/CityCouncil/TEUC.

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Robert Goulding

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