

East Stroudsburg Borough, September 25, 2014

A public hearing/information meeting was held by East Stroudsburg Borough Council at the Municipal Building on Thursday, September 25, 2014. The following members were in attendance: Peter Begley (arrived 8:10 p.m.), Roger DeLarco, Edward Flory, and William Reese. Richard Smith and Sonia Wolbert were absent. Also attending were: Mayor Armand Martinelli; Manager James S. Phillips; Solicitor John C. Prevoznik; DPW Director Steven DeSalva; and Codes Official Marvin Walton.

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance – President DeLarco

President Roger DeLarco called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. The pledge of Allegiance was led by Maury Molin.

Public Hearing on Possible Changes to Garbage Collection Requirements

Mr. Phillips said the current Borough garbage contract with Waste Management expires the end of this year. It is an unlimited service provided to residents; there is not a weekly limit on the amount of refuse that a resident may place out for pickup, including bulk items. Many municipalities, however, place a limit on the number of containers or bags per week. The Borough is looking into changing the service to include a limit on the number of bags or containers per week that a residence can place out for pickup, in order to get a lower price on our contract bids. Most of the large volume of refuse comes from rental properties. Most people do not place out large amounts of refuse or multiple bulk items. Overall, the amount of refuse collected by the Borough's contractor has declined – apparently due to the economy. The Borough does intend to base the new contract cost for disposal on the actual quantity of refuse collected.

Mr. DeLarco pointed out that the Monroe County Waste Management Authority has contracted for landfill space for years into the future, and all waste from the County must be disposed of at landfill(s) designated by Monroe County. Mr. Phillips said those landfills are ones owned or operated by Waste Management.

Maury Molin asked what the savings might be from placing a limit on the no. of containers per week? Mr. Phillips said that will not be known until bids are taken. Mr. Molin said enforcement will be an issue, and asked whether Mr. Walton will be able to enforce these requirements?

Mr. Walton said it definitely would involve more time to enforce, and he is spending a lot of his time already on the rental licensing and inspection requirements.

Homer Lee of Georgellen Drive said he is concerned for “party houses” – if they can't put all their refuse out at one time, garbage will be left to sit around until the next week. Mr. Lee said East Stroudsburg is a pretty clean town; and he would rather “subsidize the rental properties a little bit” if it means having a cleaner town for all.

Robert Gress of 36 Lions Street said the garbage collection system we have now works – why change it? Mr. Gress said, if anything enforce recycling more.

Gary Walck of Fulton Street said someone will need to police the system if there is a weekly limit. He said he has no problem paying the garbage fee because we get good service.

Peggy Stuart of Spangenburg Avenue said she enjoys being able to put out whatever they need to get rid of.

Maria Cohen of Analomink Street said less people are recycling now on her street than when she first moved there.

Mr. DeLarco asked for additional comments, and there were none. The public hearing was adjourned at approximately 8:20 p.m.

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James S. Phillips, Secretary