



Town of Belmont

Department of Public Works

To: Patrice Garvin, Town Administrator

From: Jay Marcotte MPA, Public Works Director

Date: November 14, 2022

Re: 5-year contract extension proposal (collection & processing fee)

The Solid Waste & Recycling Committee and DPW Administration has been working with WM on a possible contract extension that would suit the needs of the Town and meet our budget, service delivery and environmental concerns. Over the past 2 months, exploring many different options, it was determined that a 5-year contract extension would be our best option. There were two (2) major cost increases that we had to consider in this proposal. The first being that the prevailing wage rate set 5 years ago increased by 23% and the second is rising inflation rates currently at 8-9%. It made the most sense for the Town to spread these cost increases out over a 5-year period. What is being proposed is a 4.5% increase in year one (1) with years 2-5 increasing 3.6% per year.

5 years ago, The Town of Belmont did not pay a fee for recycling. Since 2017, the markets have changed and the “cost” to process recycling has transferred to municipalities in the form of a “processing” fee. Because recycling is a commodity, it fluctuates with the markets, which is still very volatile and pricing for processing continues to rise. What is being proposed is a 35.7% increase in year one (1) with years 2 – 5 increasing 3.5% per year. This rate increase for processing is in line with communities that have recently sign contracts with WM, Casella and Republic.

The Solid Waste & Recycling Committee at their October 18th meeting voted unanimously to recommend this 5-year proposal by Waste Management to the Select Board for consideration and approval.

Jay Marcotte, MPA
Director, Town of Belmont Public Works