TOWN COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

Title: Solid Waste Program Update.

Meeting Date: November 17, 2021

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RECOMMENDATION:

Council may discuss and comment on the information provided, but no action is requested.

BACKGROUND AND UPDATE:

The new 20-year Franchise Agreement between the Town and Mammoth Disposal has now been in effect for just over a year since October 1, 2020. As provided for in the Agreement, several improvements to service have occurred or are in progress.

Service and Operations
Since the start of the Franchise Agreement, Mammoth Disposal has increased its capacity by making operational changes and increasing services in accordance with the Agreement. They have increased the types of service available to residential customers by providing new bear-proof carts with pick-up service. This service was advertised to all residential customers and since that time 73 new customers have signed up for the service. Mammoth Disposal also provides increased hazardous household waste disposal availability and recycling is fully integrated into its operations. As noted below, a new sort line conveyor will be purchased through a CalRecycle grant, improving the sorting operations for cans, bottles, and glass.

One of the most significant changes was the addition of a Sustainability Coordinator to the Mammoth Disposal staff. This position, filled by Kendra Knight, is actively engaged with CalRecycle, Town staff, and the local community to increase recycling, diverting items from the landfill. The Sustainability Coordinator frequently meets with community groups, HOAs, schools, and other stakeholders to determine ways to increase recycling efforts throughout the community. Additionally, she is in frequent contact with CalRecycle, ensuring that the Town is complying with current laws, managing grants on behalf of the Town, and staying apprised of new legislation.

Mammoth Disposal continues to prepare for the closure of Benton Crossing Landfill. They have contracts in place for the hauling of all solid waste and the disposal of solid waste at Russell Pass Landfill in Fallon, Nevada.

Transfer Station and Material Recovery Facility (MRF)
Since approval of the Franchise Agreement, Mammoth Disposal has been working diligently on obtaining their permits for the new transfer station and MRF. On July 14, 2021, the Planning and Economic Development Commission approved the use permit for this project. The project has gone through CEQA and design review. Since that time, Mammoth Disposal has obtained a grading permit to begin preliminary grading work on the property and expect that a building permit will be issued within the next few weeks. In addition, the new project includes the relocation of the buy-back/recycling center from the current transfer station to 264 Commerce Drive. The transfer station is scheduled to be completed and operational by fall of 2022 in preparation for the closure of Benton Crossing Landfill.

The Town previously purchased two adjacent parcels in the Sierra Business Park near the airport to be used for the storage of containers and other large items. Town staff has been working to complete the infrastructure needed to store items at this site. Mammoth Disposal and Town staff have been working together closely on this work and to coordinate the timing of moving items to the site for storage. Short-term storage of bins and related service items is at the Benton Crossing Landfill and on private property off Commerce Drive until this work is completed. The storage is needed during construction of the new transfer station and there will be long-term needs as well.

CalRecycle
In the past year, the Town has been awarded two grants from CalRecycle. The first is a Beverage Container Recycling Grant for $247,500. The purpose of the grant is to expand and improve the existing beverage container recycling programs in multi-family housing, residential curbside recycling program, and parks and recreation. The grant will assist in expanding these programs by increasing the number of bear-proof beverage container recycling receptacle locations to address recycling demand and provide necessary upgrades to its aging sorting and processing infrastructure to support increased beverage container recycling volumes. To date, the following items have been purchased through the grant:

- 100 – 96-gallon automated bear proof beverage container recycling carts with both Town of Mammoth logo and Mammoth Disposal logo (received)
- 17 – Bear Saver bear proof beverage container recycling enclosures (received)
- Sort line with transfer conveyor and cross belt magnet (to be delivered soon)

The second grant is a Beverage Container Recycling grant for $5,000. This a grant that the Town typically receives each year and will also go toward the purchase of additional bear-proof beverage recycling receptacles.

The Town and Mammoth Disposal have been working with CalRecycle on the implementation of SB 1383. SB 1383 establishes statewide targets to reduce the amount of organic waste disposed of in landfills. It also sets a goal to rescue at least 20% of currently disposed edible food by 2025 and redirect that food to people in need. Mammoth Lakes is subject to several exemptions for elevation and our rural location.

Under the exemptions we are not subject to all the requirements of SB 1383. We will be bringing forward items to the Council soon to implement aspects of SB 1383 that we are required to implement. We will continue to work to see a larger share of our organic waste diverted from landfills.

Mono County Update

Mono County published its Request for Proposals for Countywide Solid Waste Management Services in March 2021. Mammoth Disposal was one of the respondents to the RFP. The Town and Mammoth Disposal are prepared to partner with Mono County to develop regional solid waste solutions provided the services can be provided within our service framework and within the County's desired solid waste framework. At this time, Mono County has not made any formal decisions about whether or not to contract with Mammoth Disposal or another provider for any of its services. The practical design of the transfer station in Town is sized to process all solid waste in Mono County currently flowing to Benton Crossing Landfill.