

Tri-Community Recycling Committee Report on Saugatuck Township's Recycling Program: Background, Findings and Recommendations for Improvement

Submitted by Daniel DeFranco on behalf of the Tri-Community Recycling Committee¹

I. Introduction

In early 2020, the tri-communities (City of Saugatuck, City of the Village of Douglas and Saugatuck Township) collaborated to form the Tri-Community Recycling Ad-hoc Committee (TCRC). The TCRC was charged with identifying a list of objectives to research and prepare a report outlining any recommendations back to each unit of government. The following report and recommendations are a partial fulfillment of the TCRC's charge to Saugatuck Township with a focus on what the TCRC has identified as the greatest challenge facing the Township's

¹ The findings of this report would not have been possible without the hundreds of hours volunteered by committee members representing Saugatuck Township, the City of Saugatuck and the City of the Village of Douglas. This report is submitted in good faith and is an expression the TCRC's goodwill toward all the municipalities it represents.

present recycling program; equitable access to recycling. By “equitable access,” the TCRC means the following; providing all residents² with an affordable option for recycling.

A top priority identified by both the TCRC and the state of Michigan is maximizing the amount of material diverted from landfills. Without equitable access to recycling, the Township is unable to make significant progress towards achieving that goal; residents who lack access to recycling services have no other choice but to exclusively depend on their waste hauling service, a system that disposes of all collected material in the landfill. Additionally, without equitable access to recycling services any improvements made to the recycling program through the TCRC’s efforts and/or actions by the Township Board cannot be enjoyed by all Township residents.

The TCRC has identified the securing of a single-hauler contract for refuse and recycling services as an effective means for achieving equitable access to recycling services for Township residents. With a single-hauler contract, the Township can design a recycling program that meets the needs and concerns of its residents and that is affordable and accessible to all. The neighboring municipalities of the City of Saugatuck, Douglas and Laketown Township have all entered single-hauler contracts that guarantee residents affordable access to recycling services, and there is much the Township can learn from their experiences. The TCRC recommends that

² When referencing “residents,” note that this excludes residents who reside in a condo or housing association. Condo/Housing Associations, whether in the City of Saugatuck, Douglas or Saugatuck Township, bear the responsibility of contracting waste and recycling services for their residents, and, consequently, residents residing in condo/housing associations are not covered by single-hauler agreements contracted by tri-community municipalities. A report was completed by the TCRC on recycling options for residents living in condo/housing associations that can be provided upon request.

the Township initiate the process of researching options for a single hauler contract by either (1) requesting all area haulers present on services/prices that can be offered with a single hauler-contract or (2) issue an RFP to all area haulers for a single-hauler contract. These recommendations are detailed in the following report.

II. Background:

The Township's current recycling program is classified as "private" and "voluntary," meaning that the Township depends upon private companies to offer recycling services to residents and that residents contract these services on a voluntary basis. This was not always the case in the Township. Previously, the Township was a member of the Allegan County Resource Recovery and Recycling Program, contracting with Allegan County for recycling services. With the authorization of Public Act 138 of 1989, local units could participate in the Allegan County Resource Recovery and Recycling Program, a program which facilitates recycling programs on behalf of municipalities.³ For participating municipalities, the program was originally designed to be voluntary; households would be charged no more than \$25 per year for recycling services and individuals reserved the right to opt out of the service at any point. Saugatuck Township participated in the Allegan County Resource Recovery and Recycling Program until December 31, 2016, although it is unclear in what year the Township became a participating member.

In response to a longtime funding problem, the Allegan County Board of Commissioners approved a resolution under Public Act 69 of 2005 to allow municipalities to hold an election on setting a new surcharge for participation in the Resource Recovery and Recycling Program (not

³ See <http://cms.allegancounty.org/sites/Office/Health/EH/Recycling/SitePages/History.aspx>

to exceed \$36 per household) and to make such participation non-voluntary for residents.⁴ Note that prior to this resolution, the Township would supplement any funding shortages for the Resource Recovery and Recycling Program from its general fund.⁵ The Township placed a resolution to increase household surcharge for participation in the recycling program from \$25 to \$36 per year on the ballot for the August 2016 election; the resolution failed.⁶ The resolution appeared again on the ballot for the November 2016 election⁷ and failed.⁸ This ended the Township's participation in the Resource Recovery and Recycling Program, and ended residents' access to an affordable public option for recycling services. Note that the Board expressed disappointment at this outcome, citing misinformation published in the now defunct Local Observer as a contributing factor to the resolution's failure.⁹

It is critical to emphasize that the Allegan County Resource Recovery and Recycling Program was the Township's longtime recycling program. In fact, the Resource Recovery and Recycling Program is cited in the Tri-Community Master Plan as the Township's solution to equitable access to recycling for residents. Participation in the program not only secured curbside recycling service for residents, it also gave the Township access to a recycling consultant via the Director of the Allegan County Resource Recovery and Recycling Program and the right to participate in county drop-off events for HHW, Medication/Sharps, Specialty Recycling (Tires,

⁴http://cms.allegancounty.org/sites/pages/Calendar/Lists/Board%20of%20Commissioners/Attachments/602/PS20150910_agenda%20full%20packet.pdf; Note that the Board of Commissioners increased surcharge to not exceed \$50 per household in a 2019 resolution (see appendix 1).

⁵ <https://www.hollandsentinel.com/news/20160818/saugatuck-township-voters-will-revisit-recycling-proposal-in-november>

⁶ Ibid

⁷ See Township Board Minutes August 3, 2016

⁸ See Township Board Minutes November 21, 2016

⁹ See Township Board Minutes August 3, 2016

Appliances), and Electronics. Since the termination of its participation in the Resource Recovery and Recycling Program on December 31, 2016, the Township has had no municipal-wide plan for providing equitable access to recycling services to residents.¹⁰

Consideration of a single-hauler waste and recycling option in Saugatuck Township has twice been considered by the Board.

The first consideration was in April-May of 2009. The Board was prompted by the City of Saugatuck and Laketown Township's entering into respective single-hauler contracts with Chef Container and by resident correspondence requesting the adoption of a single-hauler contract. Note that the City of Douglas entered a single-hauler contract with Chef Container (now Republic Services) in 2012. While there was unanimous consent of the importance of the issue, Board members expressed concern over "mandating use of the service" and "curtailing free enterprise."¹¹ The Board requested that staff research the terms of the single hauler contract adopted by Laketown Township and present their findings at a future meeting at which time the Board would return to the issue. A public hearing on the single-hauler question was heard at the Board meeting on May 9th, 2009. The Board minutes noted that the majority of public comments were against the proposal and the Board "agreed to no longer pursue the idea."¹²

The Board reintroduced the idea of a single-hauler contract in 2017. The motivation for reconsideration appears to be the Township's leaving the Allegan County Resource Recovery and Recycling Program. In November of 2016, Township residents voted down a \$36 per year

¹⁰ See Township Board Minutes November 21, 2016

¹¹ See Township Board Minutes April 1, 2009

¹² See Township Board Minutes May 9, 2009

mandatory surcharge (an increase from \$25 per year) for recycling and other services through Allegan County. This vote eliminated a public recycling option for Township residents. At the January 2017 meeting, the Board directed staff to request quotes for a refuse and recycling single-hauler contract and to schedule a public hearing on the matter for the April meeting.¹³ At the April meeting, the Board received 79 correspondences concerning a single-hauler contract; 57 residents were opposed and 22 residents were in favor of a single-hauler contract.¹⁴ During the public hearing, 22 residents spoke in opposition to and five residents spoke in favor of a single-hauler contract.¹⁵ Note that there were numerous non-residents who spoke at the public hearing.¹⁶

During the public hearing, it was revealed that an anonymous mailer had been sent out to residents that expressed opposition to a single-hauler contract and encouraged residents to voice their opposition at the public hearing. The source of the mailer was not determined. Concern was expressed by Board members that only a small portion of Township residents, motivated by the negative mailer, turned out for the meeting.¹⁷

Representatives from Chef Container and Republic Services spoke respectively about services and pricing.¹⁸ It appears that this was a general discussion as opposed to a formal submission of an RFP; the Board minutes do not reflect there ever being a formal RFP issued nor any RFP submissions received.

¹³ See Township Board Minutes January 4, 2017

¹⁴ See Township Board Minutes April 5, 2017

¹⁵ Ibid

¹⁶ Ibid

¹⁷ Ibid

¹⁸ Ibid

The Board passed a motion to send out a Township-wide mailer surveying residents on opinions regarding services/pricing for a single-hauler contract.¹⁹ At the May 2017 Board Meeting, a motion was made to approve up to \$2,403.00 to pay for a Township-wide mailer surveying residents on their views of a single-hauler contract.²⁰ The motion failed and the issue of a single-hauler contract was declared “dead.”²¹

Both times the Board considered the issue of a single-hauler contract, there were at least two local waste haulers operating in the Township; Chef Container and J’s Disposal. At present, there are no longer any local, residential haulers operating in Saugatuck Township; Chef was acquired by Republic Services and J’s Disposal was recently acquired by Arrowaste.

III. Findings of the Tri-Community Recycling Committee

In assessing the recycling programs of the tri-communities, it was determined that Township residents face obstacles to equitable access to recycling services not faced by residents of the City of Saugatuck and Douglas. In the cities, recycling is non-voluntary; all residents are required to pay for curbside recycling services and are provided with a recycling cart. Costs for recycling are pro-rated, giving all residents affordable access to recycling services. The recycling program in the Township is voluntary; residents have the option to contract for recycling services, but are not required to do so. The voluntary nature of the Township’s recycling program allows residents to choose their waste hauler, however, this system also requires that Township residents pay open-market prices for waste hauling and recycling services; purchasing waste hauling and recycling services at open market rates is the costliest

¹⁹ Ibid

²⁰ See Township Board Minutes May 3, 2017

²¹ Ibid

option for contracting such services and leaves the consumer little to no opportunity for negotiating on services and pricing.

For varying reasons, many residents in the Township have no recycling services at all. For some, recycling is cost prohibitive; open-market rates for recycling range from \$16.50-\$48.00 per quarter, depending on a resident's location in the Township and when the resident contracted with their present waste-hauler. For other residents, their haulers (1) are not presently taking on new recycling clients, and/or (2) do not offer recycling services in the part of the Township where the customer resides. It is unclear how many Township residents do not have recycling services. For the Township residents who do have recycling services, frequency of recycling pick-up varies; some residents have recycling pick-up twice-monthly whereas others have once-monthly pick-up.

To give the Board a better idea of costs, for the 2021-2022 calendar year, each household in the City of Saugatuck will pay \$14.91 a month (\$178.92 for the year) for the following services: (1) weekly, curbside pick-up of refuse in a 96-gallon cart and (2) once-monthly, curbside recycling pick-up in a single 96-gallon cart.²² In contrast, a Township resident who independently contracts with Republic Services can expect to pay approximately \$321.80 a year for once-weekly waste pick-up only. If a Township resident wants twice-monthly recycling pick-up in addition to their waste hauling service, the total cost can range from \$387.80 to \$513.80 a year. Additionally, the hauler for the City of Saugatuck can increase prices for services by no more than 3.5% each year. Township residents have no control over price increases for services from

²² See Appendix 2

one year to the next. Note that a single-hauler contract secures affordable access to recycling services and drastically reduces the yearly cost for waste hauling services for residents.

Given that many residents in the Township have no access to recycling services and those that do pay high, open-market prices, the TCRC finds that the greatest challenge facing the Township's recycling program is providing residents with equitable access to recycling services.

IV. Single-Hauler Contract: Benefits and Disadvantages

The TCRC believes that the most effective way for the Township to achieve equitable access to recycling services is through entering a single-hauler contract with an area hauler.

A. Benefits of Single-Hauler Contracts

Single-hauler contracts offer the following benefits:

- 1. Secure the most competitive pricing for waste hauling and recycling services.** With a single-hauler contract, the Township contracts waste and recycling services for all residents, and in doing so, has significant leverage in securing highly competitive pricing for those services. Adopting a single-hauler contract would be a significant cost-savings to residents and secure additional services not presently enjoyed. While the exact cost-savings to residents cannot be known until the Board receives official bids from haulers, review of the City of Saugatuck and Douglas' respective contracts suggests cost-savings to Township residents will top \$100 per year per household.²³ That is, residents would save approximately \$100 or more a year while gaining recycling services.

²³ See City of Saugatuck and City of Douglas' respective single-hauler contracts with Republic Services

2. Lock-in competitive rates for the duration of the contract. With a single-hauler contract, the Township could lock in service rates and/or control rate increases over the course of the contract; the hauler would not be able to raise rates for services unless such rate increases were explicitly agreed to in the contract. For the City of Saugatuck, Republic Services is unable to raise rates on services more than 3.5% a year. Currently, Township residents have no control over whether their waste-hauler will raise service rates or by how much rates are raised. Township residents have the option of moving to a new waste-hauler once their contract has expired, but there are now only two viable options for waste-hauling in the Township, leaving residents with few options and means to protect themselves from their waste-hauler raising rates and/or eliminating services.

3. Access additional services tailored to the needs and concerns of Township residents.

Currently, residents individually contract with their hauler and have very little leverage to request additional services that could improve their recycling experience. For instance, some residents have no ability to increase the frequency of their recycling pick-up from once-monthly to twice-monthly or sign-up for recycling services at all. Additionally, no area hauler operating in the tri-community provides residents with a Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Drop-Off service. Prior to the 2021 HHW Drop-Off event organized by the TCRC, this service had not been offered in the tri-community for 13 years.²⁴ If the Township were to pursue a single-hauler contract, it could specify the

²⁴ While no HHW Drop-Off events were hosted in the tri-communities for 13 years prior to 2021, residents of the Township did have access to county-run HHW Drop-Off events up until December 31, 2016.

services to be offered to residents, such as higher frequency of recycling pick-up and/or an annual HHW Drop-Off event.

- 4. Establish a direct line of communication with Hauler.** Currently, residents must call a national customer service center to communicate issues with their waste/recycling services. Often representatives are unfamiliar with our community and they have been known to share false information with residents. Representatives at the national call-center also have limited abilities to address certain problems, leaving residents frustrated and without a solution to their issue. In contrast, the City of Saugatuck and Douglas can communicate resident issues and concerns directly with senior management at Republic Services who know our community and are familiar with their specific refuse/recycling program. If the Township were to establish a single-hauler contract, they too could directly communicate issues/concerns of residents with senior management of their chosen waste-hauler. This line of communication greatly improves the chances of issues being resolved successfully and could relieve many of the frustrations residents experience with their waste-hauler.
- 5. Less wear-and-tear and safer streets.** The Township's present waste-hauling program has multiple haulers operating on different days of the week and at different times. This results in more traffic, increased wear-and-tear on the roads, and increased chances of accidents related to waste-hauling trucks. These challenges could be addressed with a single-hauler operating on a set schedule designed to maximize efficiency.

B. Disadvantages to Single-Hauler Contract

The TCRC recognizes that there are specific disadvantages with the Township entering a single-hauler contract.

- 1. Residents will no longer be able to choose their waste hauler.** With a single-hauler contract, the Board will decide the hauler for the entire Township and residents will not have the ability to opt out of these services. In the past, residents have expressed that they highly value the opportunity to freely choose who they contract with for refuse services. At the time these sentiments were expressed there were multiple local haulers operating in the Township, and so it is unclear if residents valued the opportunity to choose, valued supporting local businesses by allowing local haulers to freely operate in the township, or both. Given that all local haulers have now been acquired by larger companies, the TCRC believes it would be prudent for the Board to reassess public opinion on this issue.
- 2. Residents cannot easily terminate services with hauler if they are dissatisfied with services/pricing.** With a single-hauler contract, the Township would be bound to use the services of a hauler for the extent of the contract, a period of at least one year. For example, the City of Saugatuck's most recent contract with Republic Services is for a period of five years. The determination of the length of a single-hauler contract is at the discretion of the Board, and it is worth discussing the ideal time frame of the first contract. If, for whatever reason, residents are dissatisfied with services/pricing of the hauler, there is no way for residents to cancel services; residents must express their dissatisfaction with the Board and wait until the termination of the contract before any big changes can occur. With that said, residents who independently contract with their waste-hauler must also wait until the expiration of their yearly contract before switching haulers. Additionally, with a single-hauler contract, the Township would have direct communications with a representative of the hauler and could seek to resolve issues

experienced by residents. If issues are irreconcilable, the Township would have to wait until the end of the contract before seeking a single-hauler contract with a new hauler or moving back to a private, voluntary program for waste hauling and recycling.

- 3. Possible curtailing of local competition and creation of a hauling monopoly that could cost residents more in the long-term.** This was an expressed concern by Board members and residents when previously reviewing a single-hauler option. For better or worse, the hauling industry has been trending towards the consolidation and/or acquisition of smaller haulers by larger regional and national companies. The tri-community area is no exception to these national trends. Since the Township Board last considered a single-hauler contract in 2017, Chef Container was acquired by Republic Services and J's Disposal was acquired by Arrowaste. The Township's decision not to pursue a single-hauler contract has not prevented the acquisitions of local haulers by larger companies. Support of local and regional business may be more effectively achieved through expanding/diversifying the Township's recycling program. In early June of 2021, the tri-communities launched a pilot programing for battery recycling facilitated by Battery Solutions, a company headquartered in Howell, MI. The tri-communities are now in the process of launching a tri-community-wide paper-recycling program through Paper Gators, a non-profit headquartered in Byron Center, MI. As the tri-community continues to pursue its recycling and sustainability goals, more opportunities may arise to support local and regional companies. The TCRC believes that the Township's openness to a single-hauler contract is critical to this effort.

V. Recommendations

The TCRC recommends the Board consider the following options for securing equitable access to recycling services for all residents:

1. Request area haulers present to the Township on services/rates for a potential single-hauler contract.
2. Issue an RFP for a single-hauler contract to area haulers

Pursuing either of these options will enable the Board and residents to see what services a single-hauler contract could bring to the Township and what the cost-savings would be for each household. This would mark an important step toward securing all Township residents highly cost-effective recycling services and mark progress in achieving equitable access to recycling in the Tri-Community. In making the above recommendations, the TCRC is not advocating for any specific area hauler; the TCRC encourages the Board to engage all area haulers in determining which hauler offers services/rates that best fit the needs of Township residents.

Given that previous discussions of a single-hauler contract were highly contentious in the Township, the TCRC recommends that the Board (1) make this report public and (2) direct staff or the TCRC to develop an informational piece summarizing the information offered by haulers from their presentations and/or submission of a RFP. The TCRC believes this is an important step to maintain transparency and ensure that residents have accurate information.

If the Board proceeds with hearing from area haulers, the TCRC recommends the Board inquire into the following services and conditions. The following services and conditions were developed in view of the findings of the Tri-Community Recycling Survey and from having studied single-hauler contracts of neighboring municipalities. The TCRC believes that the

inclusion of the following services and conditions in a single-hauler contract are reasonable and feasible and would satisfy the specific needs and concerns of Township residents.

1. Hauler is to provide curbside recycling service by means of a 96-gallon recycling

cart. A recycling cart picked-up curbside is the most convenient method of recycling for residents and significantly reduces the likelihood of contamination of recovered materials. A study by the City of Holland found that 76% of material recovered in their yellow bag recycling program was contaminated, prompting their transition to recycling carts.²⁵

2. Hauler is to provide twice-monthly recycling pick-up. The City of Saugatuck and

Douglas' respective contracts with Republic include monthly recycling pick-up. In a survey of tri-community residents, residents identified that "higher frequency of service" was the second most important change that would improve their recycling service. It may very well be the case that "higher frequency of service" is the most important improvement that could be made to the cities' recycling programs according residents. The survey cited above included responses from residents in all three municipalities and did not differentiate respondents with respect to the municipality in which they reside. Residents of the Township who pay open-market price for recycling services through Republic Services already have twice-monthly pick-up of recycling, and thus "higher frequency of service" may not have been a priority for TWP residents who completed the survey. The TCRC has received correspondence and heard public comment from many

²⁵ <https://www.hollandsentinel.com/news/20200214/market-changes-bag-failures-prompt-holland-to-rethink-yellow-bag-recycling>

residents of the cities citing “frequency of recycling service” as negatively impacting their recycling experience.

3. Hauler is to organize an annual Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Drop-Off

event for residents. This service is included in Laketown Township’s single-hauler contract with Republic, and costs residents \$11 per year. On May 1st, the TCRC hosted a HHW Drop-Off Event, the first held in the tri-communities in 13 years. 270 vehicles were serviced in three hours by 40 volunteers, collecting nearly 30,000lbs of material at a cost of \$23,255.16, which was partly financed by each municipality. A follow-up survey revealed that 86% of respondents would be “very interested” and another 9% of respondents would be “somewhat interested” in an annual HHW Event. The high turnout and respondent enthusiasm for the event indicates that an annual HHW Event is needed in our community and would be well received. While all three municipalities made financial contributions, the majority of the event’s cost was paid for by private donations. The TCRC has already secured a \$20,000 donation from the Rotary Club for next year’s HHW Drop-Off Event (\$10,000 coming from a grant received by the Rotary Club and the other \$10,000 coming from matching funds to be raised by the Rotary Club). It is unclear if such large donations can be secured indefinitely. The TCRC strongly recommends that the Township include the facilitating of an annual HHW Drop-Off event in their RFP for a single-hauler contract, a move which would guarantee the continuation of an annual HHW Drop-Off Event in a sustainable and cost-effective way.

4. Hauler is to conduct a semi-annual audit of the Township recycling program. A

similar condition is included in the City of Holland’s single-hauler contract with Republic

Services. In the recycling survey conducted by the TCRC, respondents identified “reassurance that all eligible materials are actually being recycled,” as the most important thing that could be done to improve their recycling experience. The TCRC believes that regular recycling audits would be the best means of achieving this goal. The audit recommended would be one of residents’ recycling carts as well as an audit of material as it is received at our local Material Recovery Facility (MRF). The audit would provide the Township with the rate of resident participation in the recycling program, the rate of contamination of recyclable material, and identify the most common reasons for contamination in our recycling stream. Having this information would make the recycling process transparent for the public as well as give the Township the necessary information to address the specific challenges facing our recycling program.

- 5. Hauler is to offer residents the option of subscribing to a door-step, pick-up service for waste and recycling at an additional cost.** As there are many long private drives in the Township and elderly residents who may experience challenges bringing their refuse and recycling bins to the curb, the TCRC recommends that the Township include in their single-hauler RFP an optional service for door-step, pick-up that would be at an additional cost to residents. The option for door-step, pick-up service at an additional cost is available to residents in the Cities of Saugatuck and Douglas.²⁶

- 6. Hauler is to allow Township to contract independently for composting services and/or develop proprietary programs for residential composting.** As the State of

²⁶ See the City of Saugatuck and the City of the Village of Douglas’ respective single-hauler contracts with Republic Services

Michigan reviews the challenges facing waste reduction, expanding residential and commercial composting activities and supporting composting initiatives have emerged as statewide priorities. While long-term, the TCRC believes that developing a community composting program is a realistic goal. By specifying to area haulers that the Township seeks independence in pursuing composting service opportunities, the Township can avoid potential obstacles that a single-hauler contract could pose to the development of a community composting program.

VI. Future Considerations

Both the City of Saugatuck and the City of the Village of Douglas currently have single-hauler contracts with Republic Services; Douglas' contract expires November 11, 2022 and the City of Saugatuck's contract expires in 2024. The TCRC recommends that the Board consider the possibility of entering a Tri-Community Single-Hauler Contract with the City of Saugatuck and Douglas. Such a contract need not be with Republic Services, but would require special coordination between the tri-communities in identifying an area hauler that could provide services that satisfy the specific needs of our community at a competitive rate. The experience of the TCRC has revealed that the tri-communities have a great deal more leverage in engaging Republic Services when that engagement is initiated by all three municipalities. Additionally, the work of the TCRC has revealed that tri-community residents are committed to ensuring that the local environment is cleaner, materials are conserved, energy use is reduced or clean energy options are pursued, and as much waste as possible is diverted from West Michigan landfills. The TCRC has identified many opportunities for achieving the sustainability goals of our municipalities, and we strongly believe that the tri-communities are in a much better position to

realize our community's vision for local sustainability initiatives with a Tri-Community Single-Hauler Contract in place. As to the viability of a Tri-Community Single-Hauler Contract, it certainly depends upon the Township Board's willingness to investigate a single-hauler contract for the Township and the willingness of the Township, City of Saugatuck and Douglas to work together on researching options for a Tri-Community Single-Hauler Contract. The TCRC firmly believes that the very existence and successes of our committee is evidence that the tri-communities are in a strong position to work together on this initiative.

VII. Conclusion

The TCRC has identified equitable access to recycling as the most significant challenge facing the Township's recycling program. Some residents' haulers are not offering recycling services in the area of the Township in which they reside, some haulers in the Township are not taking on new recycling clients, and other haulers are charging cost-prohibitive rates for recycling. Consequently, a significant number of township residents have no access to recycling, which stymies local and statewide efforts to maximize materials being diverted from the landfill. Up until the end of 2016, the Township utilized the services of the Allegan County Resource Recovery and Recycling Program. The Township's exit from that program has left the Township without a municipal-wide recycling program, leaving residents to fend for themselves in contracting recycling services. The TCRC encourages the Township to take steps in developing a municipal-wide recycling program, and recommends that the Township initiate this process by soliciting presentations or issuing a RFP to all area haulers for a single-hauler contract. A single-hauler contract could secure refuse and recycling services for all residents at an affordable rate, which would be a momentous step in achieving equitable access to recycling services for residents.

Appendix 1

Allegan County Board of Commissioners Resolution on Surcharge Increase

S T A T E O F M I C H I G A N

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF ALLEGAN

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS—RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ELECTION PURSUANT TO PUBLIC ACT 69 OF 2005

WHEREAS, if approved by the voters of a participating unit of government, Public Act 69 of 2005 permit a county to charge not more than \$4.00 per month or \$50.00 per year per household for waste reduction programs and for the collection of consumer source separated materials for recycling or composting, including, but not limited to, recyclable materials, as defined in part 115 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 P.A. 451, MCL 324.11501 to 324.11550, household hazardous wastes, tires, batteries, and yard clippings.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that:

1. The Allegan County Board of Commissioners (Board) hereby authorizes an election under P.A. 69 of 2005 scheduled for August 4, 2020,
2. Robert Sarro, County Administrator for Allegan County, is designated as the individual to negotiate the interlocal agreement between the municipalities and townships within the County,
3. Each municipality and township within the County that intends to participate in the County's waste reduction programs shall elect to participate in the interlocal agreement and authorize an election under MCL 124.508a by May 12, 2020,
4. The amount of the proposed surcharge is \$50 per year per household,
5. Commercial businesses will not be subject to the proposed surcharge,
6. A voter-approved surcharge is a mandatory charge to be collected as part of billings for property taxes, both current and delinquent; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the County Administrator and/or the Board Chairperson are authorized to sign the necessary documents on behalf of the County and that the Executive Director of Finance is authorized to perform the necessary budget adjustments to complete this action.

Moved by Commissioner Dugan, seconded by Commissioner Kapenga to approve the resolution as presented. Motion carried by roll call vote. Yeas: Kapenga, Storey, DeYoung, Jessup, Dugan and Cain. Nays: Thiele.

ATTEST, A TRUE COPY



_____, Clerk-Register

APPROVED: September 12, 2019

cc: Admin. - Finance - Human Resources - Resource Recovery

Appendix 2 City of Saugatuck Services/Rates



2471 Wilshire Drive PO Box 109 Jensen, MI 49428
 o 877 696 7274 f 268 669 2992 republicservices.com

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Exhibit A Rate Sheet Effective October 1, 2019

Rates for City of Saugatuck Collection and Disposal of Rubbish/Refuse/Garbage and Collection and Recycling of Recyclable Materials.					
2019-2024					
Monthly Service Rate per Residential Customer for 12-Months					
Pickup Frequency	Year 1 2019-2020	Year 2 2020-2021	Year 3 2021-2022	Year 4 2022-2023	Year 5 2023-2024
32 GAL WEEKLY (Curbside)	\$ 12.47	\$ 12.91	\$ 13.36	\$ 13.83	\$ 14.31
96 GAL WEEKLY (Curbside)	\$ 13.92	\$ 14.41	\$ 14.91	\$ 15.43	\$ 15.97
REAR YARD P/UP (Additional Cost)	\$ 9.70	\$ 10.04	\$ 10.39	\$ 10.75	\$ 11.13
YARD WASTE (April thru November)	\$ 142.19	\$ 147.17	\$ 152.32	\$ 157.65	\$ 163.17
96 GAL RECYCLE (1x Every 4 Weeks)	Included	Included	Included	Included	Included

Note: Price are based on current fuels cost based on \$4.75 per gallon for diesel

** Seasonal trash service is available for a minimum period of six months.
 Seasonal service must be paid in advance.