

# Town of Reading

Town  
Supplied  
Trash and  
Recycle  
Barrels





# November 2023 Town Meeting Request

- **Article 7, Allocate \$900,000 from Free Cash to Trash and Recycle Barrels**
- **Each home will receive:**
  - One (1) 64-Gallon Trash Barrel
  - One (1) 64-Gallon Recycle Barrel
- **Roll-out will take place Summer 2024**
- **Homes can “rent/lease” one additional trash barrel for \$200 per year, paid to the DPW annually, not prorated**
- **Homes can receive one additional recycle barrel at no cost**
- **Residents can purchase overflow bags at retailers for \$2/bag**
- **DPW will work with residents who need smaller barrels on a case-by-case basis**





# Why are we having this conversation?

Town Manager Maltez threatens to cancel new trash hauler's contract

By PATRICK BLAIS Oct 18, 2022 0



**In October 2022, Republic Services purchased JRM, our trash contractor. Service was severely impacted for several weeks**

We have learned that all trash companies **demand** automated collection from customers

# What would a new contract cost?

Vendor 1	\$	2,140,430
Vendor 2	\$	2,354,195
Vendor 3	\$	2,340,000
Vendor 4*	\$	1,850,600
AVERAGE	\$	2,171,306

- **CURRENT COST: \$1,181,384 – contract expires June 30, 2026**
- **All six companies required automation, manual collection: not an option**
- **We foresee a large increase in solid waste costs with our next contract**







# Are we unique with this concern?

## Danvers Town Meeting Votes \$980K To Supply New Trash, Recycling Bins

The vote Monday was in favor of an amendment stripping the Finance recommendation to make residents pay for their own barrels.

 Scott Souza, Patch Staff

Posted Mon, May 15, 2023 at 8:48 pm ET | Updated Wed, May 17, 2023 at 5:14 pm ET

## Waste pickup contract process begins in Burlington

By DAN KLECKO Feb 1, 2023 Updated Feb 1, 2023 1



BURLINGTON - The pandemic and inflation has not spared the waste management business from its economic wrath.

## Garbage disposal costs expected to double without reduction in tonnage

By BOB HOLMES Mar 28, 2023 0



*Current Hiring*

**K-6 PARAPROFESSIONALS**

- Medical, dental and vision
- Four & a half day work week
- Competitive salary




# Piling up: As landfills and incinerators close or reach capacity, Massachusetts is running out of places to process trash, which could put upward pressure on disposal prices

### Latest News

- Avid to be acquired by affiliate of
- Austin Butler: 'My self-doubt only



# Figures shared by Westford, MA:

## Waste Management Proposal Summary

DESCRIPTION	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29
	BUDGET	WASTE MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL 7/13/23				
Grand Total	1,391,432	1,971,480	2,262,041	2,352,036	2,445,614	2,562,381
Increase per Year	(60,736)	580,048	290,561	89,995	93,578	116,768
Cumulative Increase		580,048	870,609	960,604	1,054,182	1,170,949



# April 2023 Town Meeting

- **Article 13, Borrowing \$900,000 for Trash and Recycle Barrels**
- **Town Meeting Voted:**
  - 93 in the affirmative, 62 in the negative
  - Article 2/3rds Required, 10 votes short

## Town Meeting Asked:

- **Why do we need to do this now?**
- **Would we charge for an extra barrel? How much? Where will the money go?**
- **Will we provide smaller barrels?**
- **Other questions?**





# Why do this now?

- **We heard loud and clear: manual collection is not an option!**
- **Automated collection is safer, fewer employee injuries**
- **More cost effective and will result in lower costs to the Town**
- **Rolling out now will make the Town bid more attractive**
- **Barrel costs will only continue to go up**

## In Summary:

1. **Cheaper to do it now**
2. **Will make our bid more competitive**
3. **Will give us plenty of time to work out the issues**
4. **Will give residents better products and services**







# Would we charge for an extra barrel?

- Town will provide one 64-gallon for trash per household
- Residents to pay \$200 per year for a second trash barrel, this is to cover solid waste transportation and disposal cost
- Town will provide one 64-gallon for recycling per household, second recycle barrel provided at no-cost

## Other Communities:

1. Bedford \$185/year
2. Burlington \$150/year
3. Wakefield \$150/year
4. Wilmington \$150/year
5. Tewksbury \$155/year
6. Methuen \$100/year
7. Belmont \$250/year
8. Lynn \$132/year
9. Milton \$156/year

(prices do not include any annual trash fees)





# What will we do with the revenue?

- All revenues from second barrels & overflow bags will be placed in a “Solid Waste Revolving Fund”
- Revenues will be collected and only used to offset future solid waste costs
- Appropriations can only be done by Town Meeting and require a majority vote
- Town Accountant will report annually the amount in the fund
- Fund will offset rising future costs

## PURPOSE OF A *RAINY DAY* FUND





# Will we provide smaller barrels?

- Yes! The Town will provide smaller, 32-gallon barrels to older residents on a case-by-case
- Residents will also be able to purchase “overflow bags” at stores like Market Basket





# Other Questions:

- Will my trash be tracked? No, the barrels come with RFID chips, but they are only used at distribution to verify each home received a barrel
- What if the Town doesn't want to go automated? We don't think the Town will have a choice, all communities will be automated
- Is the Town making money on this? No, any additional costs will be used to offset future costs and must be approved by Town Meeting
- Why can't I just buy a barrel? A barrel is a tool for automation and for control of our solid waste program, the Town will lose control if barrels are not standardized and issued by the Town

*Any other questions?*



# Next Steps:

- **Present to Finance Committee**
- **Present to Select Board**
- **Host Public Forum on Trash Collection**
- **Hold Lunch & Learn at Senior Center**
- **Demonstration of Trash Barrels at Community Events**

*Any other steps?*