

April 18, 2008

Mayor Devine & Members of the Common Council
7525 W. Greenfield Ave.
West Allis, WI 53214

Honorable Mayor & Council Members:

One of the many services provided by the Department of Public Works is the collection of recyclables. This service is provided in two different formats – curbside collection and at the Municipal Yard drop-off site. The drop-off site affords residents the opportunity to not only dispose of the typical recyclable products collected curbside but also to recycle used oil, anti-freeze, yard waste, tires and, of course, dispose of household refuse.

Currently, the drop-off site utilizes various large steel boxes for the containment of plastics, glass, metals and yard waste. Paper products are deposited in an older refuse packer since the paper product can be compressed to maximize storage capacity of the truck. While the refuse packer enables us to achieve our desired goal, the use of the refuse packer truck is not the most desirable approach since it ties up a relatively expensive vehicle and it must idle for a good portion of the workday.

Over the years, the Department has looked at and tried other alternatives for the collection of paper products but, for various reasons, none worked as well as the refuse packer. Recently, an opportunity has become available which will provide us with, what we believe, to be a very cost effective alternative to the use of the refuse packer. Specifically, we have found that a used portable compactor, similar to the one used to process refuse at the drop-off site, has become available through a local vendor. The unit, which is approximately seven years old, has been used as a rental unit by Stepp Equipment however, despite the age, it has a very low number of operational hours on it and is in extremely good mechanical condition.

Typically, to purchase a unit like this, one would expect to pay somewhere in the neighborhood of \$35,000 to \$40,000. Through negotiations, Stepp is offering us this unit for \$12,590. The Department believes that the acquisition of this unit would be extremely beneficial in reducing both capital and operational costs now and in the future. Therefore, the Department respectfully requests permission to purchase this compactor utilizing a small portion of this year's state recycling grant award money. The 2008 award, I might note, is for \$389,162, which is almost \$80,000 more than we had anticipated based on past grant awards. Should you have any questions regarding this requested purchase, please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael F. Pertmer
Director of Public Works

cc: Gary Schmid, Gene Baietto, Gordy Paprocki