

NEW TRASH HAULER TO BEGIN PICK-UP JULY 1ST

The City has selected FW Russell and Son of Somerville to serve as trash hauler in Chelsea for the next three years, beginning July 1st. Russell will replace Capitol Waste Services of East Boston, which held the City contract for 6 years. According to City Manager Jay Ash, the switchover was motivated solely by price.

“Capitol did a very good job and we appreciate their service. However, we expect Russell to do an equally good job at 80% of the cost, which in these tough budgeting times is a big savings,” claimed Ash.

According to figures obtained from Ash, Russell will cost \$800,000 for the upcoming year, \$70,000 less than the current Capitol contract and \$180,000 less than Capitol bid for future services.

“Over a three year period, we could save as much as \$500,000,” calculated Ash. “We might even be able to get more savings if we can negotiate an even longer contract.”

Although the City is not required to put trash hauling services out to bid, Ash said he did so to try to secure the best price possible.

“We’re trying to save money wherever we can to make sure the limited revenues we do have stretches over those services we prioritize. Police, Fire and Schools are priority areas, so if we can save hundreds of thousands of dollars on trash services, which is a service that has very little difference between operators, then we can provide for more in those priority areas,” explained Ash.

Ash especially praised DPW Director Joe Foti for his efforts in getting the City the best possible pricing on trash services, noting that Director Foti has also been able to negotiate lower pricing for the disposal of the City’s trash once picked up. For the upcoming fiscal year, the combined hauling and disposal costs will be approximately \$225,000 lower than they could have been.

Other than black trucks picking up trash, Ash said the biggest change people will see is that the City will be going to single-stream pickup for recycling.

“We heard from residents at our trash forum that they wanted to do single-stream recycling,” recalled Ash. “As of July 1st, recyclers no longer need to separate their paper from plastics, glass and metals. Russell will pick it all up, whether it is comingled or not.”

Russell has been in business since 1977 when they began pick-up services in Somerville. In addition to still maintaining that contract, the company also provides trash and/or

recycling services in Dedham, Chelmsford, Belmont, Wakefield, Cambridge, Methuen, Dracut and Walpole.

“We’re honored to be part of all the great things that are happening in Chelsea and plan on being a big asset to the entire community,” pledged Russell President, Charles Russell.

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