

CITY OF NEWTON
IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN
PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2009

Present: Ald. Schnipper (Chairman), Lennon, Albright, Salvucci, Gentile, Yates, Mansfield and Lappin

Also present: Ald. Baker, Brandel, Fischman, Harney, Johnson Merrill and Vance
City staff: Nunzio Piselli (Public Works Department) Angela Sottile (Solid Waste Manager), Tom Daley (Commissioner of Public Works), David Turocy (Deputy Commissioner of Public Works), Mayor Cohen, John Daghlian (Associate City Engineer) and Shawna Sullivan (Committee Clerk)

Chairman's Note: The Commissioner provided the Committee and other interested Aldermen with an update on the automated trash pick-up trial. The Commissioner gave the attached PowerPoint presentation, which highlighted the significant reduction in trash volumes and the increase in recycling within the trial areas for the months of November, December and two weeks of January. The slideshow also provided comparisons of trash and recycling inside and outside of the pilot area. There was a reduction of 9% in the outside area compared to a reduction of 38% in the pilot area.

In addition, the Commissioner reviewed the extra trash pickups, extra cart requests, and requests for the smaller barrel data. Only three residences required an extra cart due to very special circumstances. Out of the 49 calls for missed trash pickup, 29 were due to incorrect cart placement or confusion. The Department of Public Works made a site visit to each of the other 20 calls and found that the trash had been picked up. Often times the barrels are inaccessible due to a parked car and the driver of the automated truck will come back for the pick up after he finishes the route. Several houses peripheral to the trial area have requested to be added to the pilot program. The Public Works Department has also received numerous requests by phone and at the Rumford Avenue site to be part of the program.

There have been no complaints regarding snow wind or single stream recycling. Many of the households in the trial areas have used their old trash barrels for recycling. Moreover, several households are beginning to recycle or recycle more items. This is probably due to the convenience of the single-stream recycling trial. However, there are a small portion of households that do not recycle at all and the Public Works Department will be working to get those households to recycle.

Ald. Johnson asked what kind of volume the Public Works Department has gotten in terms of extra bulk pickup. There have been 296 bulky waste pickups for things like mattresses, box springs and clean-outs. The bulky waste is within the limits that the Public Works Department anticipated. Ald. Johnson also asked if there were any households that did not wish to participate in the pilot program. There is one location that is not participating; however, it is a condominium association with 13 units. Ald. Lappin asked how the reduction in trash and increase in recycling interpret into a dollar figure. The Commissioner explained that it is more expensive to dispose of trash. Therefore, the less trash there is to dispose, the more money is

saved. The Commissioner pointed out that there has been an increase in the recycling market, which is beneficial to the City. Ald. Mansfield stated that he has received no complaints regarding the trial. He noticed that the automatic truck is equipped with a flexible robotic arm and wondered if there had been any call regarding damage to property. The Public Works Department has not received any calls regarding damage. Ald. Mansfield has also noticed full barrels located in parking spaces in the Newton Highland area. The Commissioner responded that there is not much that can be done except more education regarding the placement of the barrels. Ald. Baker acknowledged that the Citizen Advisory Group recommended a pay as you throw program be implemented and he wondered whether it would be possible to implement that type of program with automated collection. Commissioner Daley responded that a pay as you throw program would work with the automated collection system. Ald. Brandel inquired what the implications of a pay as you throw program would be and if the Mayor planned to bid the trash contract.

The Mayor stated that given the success of the trial, the City should take steps to accelerate the contract process. He would like to begin negotiations with Waste Management for a citywide automated collection system. He would like to give a presentation to the Board of Aldermen regarding the benefits very shortly, as the implementation would have a positive impact on the upcoming budget. If the City were to go out to bid, it would add an additional six months to the implementation process. Given how well the program is going and the significant savings generated, the Mayor would like to go with Waste Management, but it is ultimately the Board's decision. The Mayor would like to know if he should proceed with the process as it affects the next budget.

The Solid Waste Commission has made several recommendations regarding trash collection in the City. The first is to implement automated single-stream recycling, the second is to offer either a 35-gallon or a 64-gallon trash container for automated pick up, the third is to use a 64-gallon barrel for recycling but there would be no charge for the 96-gallon barrel. The Commission is also recommending selling additional bags for extra trash with the option of an additional cart for a fee. They have also suggested a fee for clean-outs and bulk pickups to be implemented at a future date. There is also a recommendation for the City to begin negotiations with Solid Waste Management but reserve the right to go out to bid. The results from the trial are very promising and there could be close to \$1 million in savings.

Ald. Gentile and Ald. Lennon expressed their opinion that the City should go out to bid. Although the trial is evolving the way Ald. Gentile hoped, he felt there was possibility that the City could get a cheaper contract. Ald. Lennon is not that impressed with Waste Management's services. It seems that they have several issues in the Ward 1 area and he has become frustrated in his dealings with Waste Management. Commissioner Daley expressed his concern about implementing a new program with a new vendor. He has done it before and it is a nightmare. Waste Management is very familiar with the City and does a great job. Ald. Mansfield felt that it was important for the Board to have all the trial data, which should include spring clean-outs.

The Mayor will give a formal presentation to the Board of Aldermen that includes an analysis of going out to bid. The presentation will also include the precise cost and savings related to going to automated collection. He will also include comparisons to other communities. There are significant budget impacts depending on whether the City goes out to bid or not. That concluded the update of the trash trial.

#4-09 JAMES H. WEXLER & FRANCES E. STOLL, 22 Exmoor Road, Newton Centre 02459 petitioning to extend a main drain from existing Manhole # 77-1600 in EXMOOR ROAD in a southeasterly direction 94' ± to a proposed manhole in front of 22 Exmoor Road. (Ward 8) [11-24-08 @11:53 AM]

PETITIONER TO PAY ENTIRE COST

ACTION: WITHDRAWN WITHOUT PREJUDICE APPROVED 8-0

NOTE: The City Clerk/Clerk of the Board received the attached letter from the petitioners requesting that the petition be withdrawn without prejudice. The petitioners are not sure that the petition is necessary. It is the intent of the petitioners to continue to work with the City to address some unresolved issues and petition again if necessary. The committee voted unanimously in favor of a motion to approve the withdrawal without prejudice.

#5-09 ATTY. PETER HARRINGTON on behalf of LaSalle Developers, LLC, petitioning for a common sewer main and easement in PINE MEADOW DRIVE from the existing sewer main in Pine Street northwesterly 250' to a proposed manhole in Pine Meadow Drive (a private way). PETITIONER TO PAY ENTIRE COST [11-24-08 @10:06 AM]

ACTION: APPROVED 8-0

NOTE: John Daghlian, Associate City Engineer and Peter Harrington, attorney for LaSalle Developers, presented the petition to the Committee. The petition is to accept an easement for the width of Pine Meadow Drive and Pine Meadow Drive Extension and a sewer main extension in Pine Meadow Drive. Pine Meadow Drive was created as part of a subdivision a number of years ago. Unfortunately, when the subdivision was created an easement for the sewer was never granted. If the Board approves this petition, it will give the City the right to repair the sewer if necessary. The Law Department and Public Works Department have reviewed all of the documents provided and recommended approval of the petition.

The public hearing was opened and Phil Mastroiani, 11 Pine Meadow Drive, asked if the street would be torn up. Mr. Daghlian responded that the sewer is already in; therefore, there is no need to tear up the street. Mr. Mastroiani had no further questions or comments and the public hearing was closed. Ald. Salvucci moved approval of the petition, which carried unanimously.

#304-07 LASALLE DEVELOPMENT, LLC, 210 Auburn Street, Auburndale, petitioning for construction of a common sewer in PINE MEADOW DRIVE EXTENSION from an existing sewer main in Pine Meadow Drive northwesterly 140' ± to a proposed sewer manhole in Pine Meadow Drive Extension. [03-30-07 @8:46 AM] **PETITIONER TO PAY ENTIRE COST**

ACTION: APPROVED 8-0

NOTE: The petition is for the construction of a sewer in Pine Meadow Drive Extension. The Committee reviewed the plans for the extension. Mr. Daghlian and Mr. Harrington were present and explained that the extension was approved by the Planning Board. All of the proper documentation has been submitted and reviewed by both the Law Department and the Department of Public Works. The Public Works Department recommends approval of the

petition. The public hearing was opened and no one spoke for or against the petition. Ald. Lappin moved approval of the item, which carried unanimously.

#224-06(2) ALD. LINSKY, ALBRIGHT & JOHNSON, BAKER & SCHNIPPER requesting further deliberation on the conditions set forth in the Site Plan Approval Board Order relating to the Newton North High School project, considering possible expansion and modification of the conditions.

ACTION: **HELD 8-0**

NOTE: The item was held with no discussion at the request of Ald. Johnson, who could not be present for the discussion.

#385-07 ALD. SCHNIPPER AND GENTILE updating the Public Facilities Committee on the progress of the Newton North High School Project. [11-21-07 @ 10:23 AM]

ACTION: **HELD 8-0**

NOTE: Ald. Schnipper and Gentile provided an update on the construction at Newton North High School. There is a plan to add bathrooms to the back of the athletic wing of the main building. The bathrooms will remain open all year round and will service the athletic fields and courts. The bathrooms are still in the planning stage and have not been priced out or fully designed. The plan and pricing will be provided as soon as it is available. The City is in the process of meeting with the Plumbing Board and is hopeful that the bathrooms will be acceptable.

Ald. Gentile stated that Ald. Linsky has raised the question of a turn around in Elm Road. It was Ald. Gentile's understanding that this issue had been fully resolved but he has asked about the possibility. The bottom line is that it would change the drainage and would change the site plan. The Board does not have the authority to make that change to the site plan.

Respectfully submitted,

Sydra Schnipper, Chairman



PILOT UPDATE

JANUARY 21, 2009

DEPT. OF PUBLIC WORKS

AUTOMATED TRASH & S.S. PILOT BEGAN ON 11/3/08



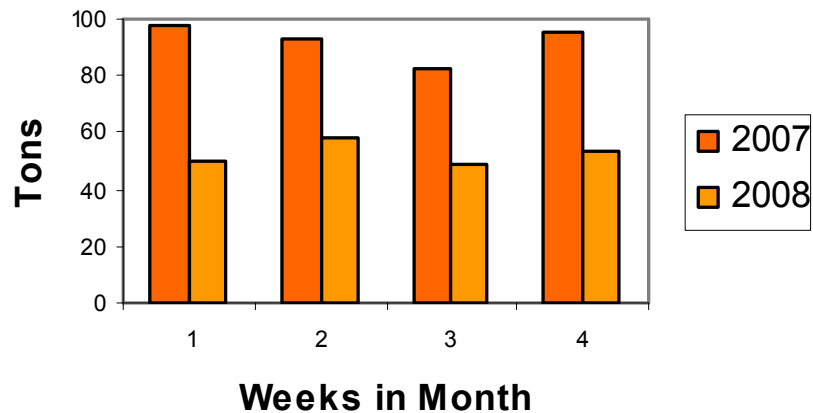
HOW ARE WE DOING?



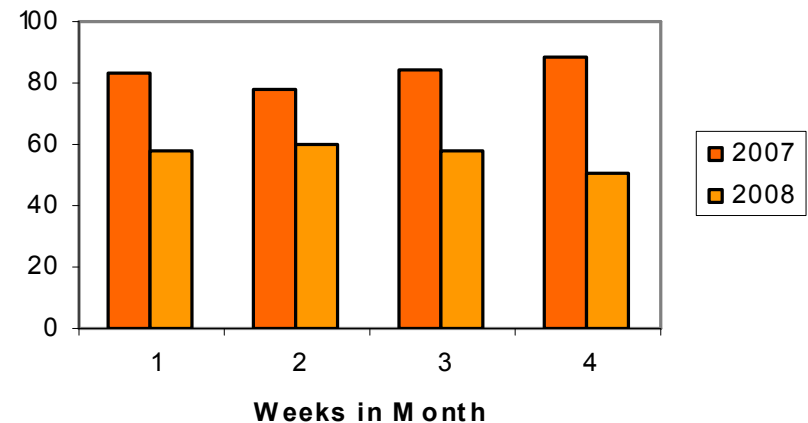
READY?

TRASH VOLUMES (IN PILOT):

Auto Trash Collection - November



Auto Trash Collection - December

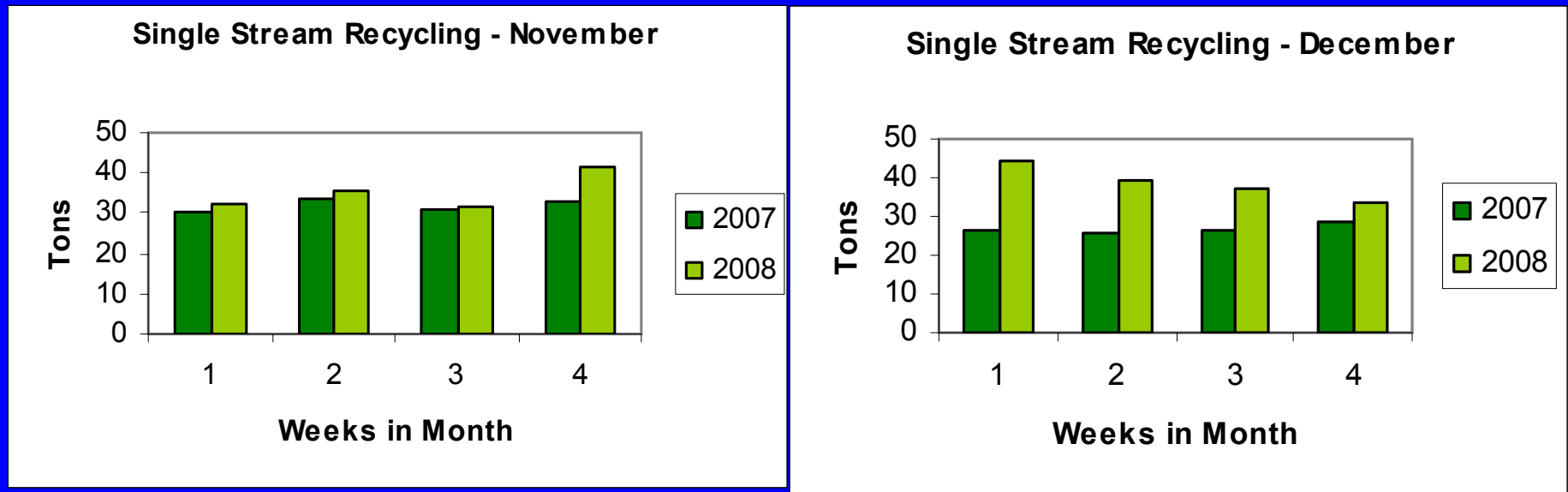


PRE-PILOT (2007) TOTAL: 702.3 TON

DURING PILOT (2008) TOTAL: 435.5 TON

-38%

RECYCLING VOLUMES (IN PILOT):

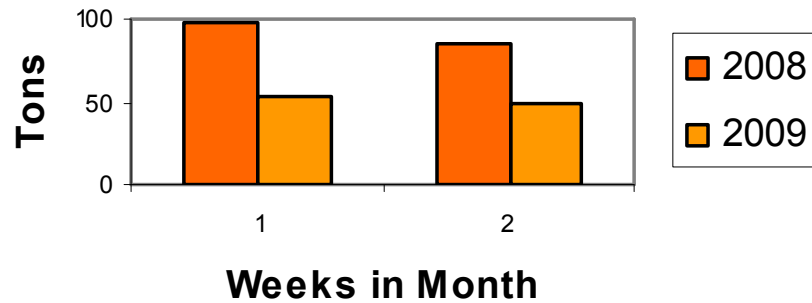


PRE-PILOT (2007) TOTAL: 233.9 TON

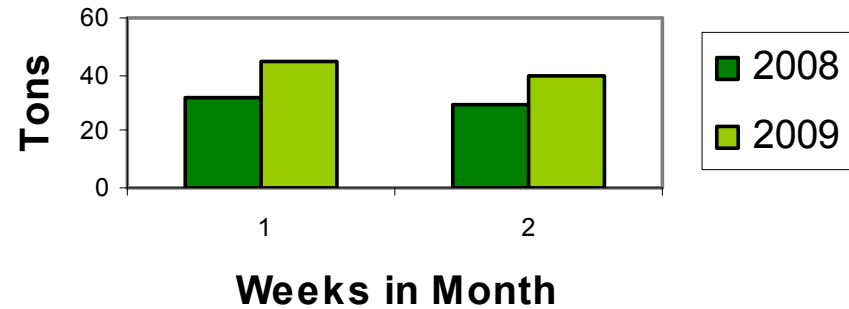
DURING PILOT (2008) TOTAL: 294.9 TON **+26%**

JANUARY 2009 (IN PILOT):

Auto Trash Collection - January



Single Stream Recycling - January

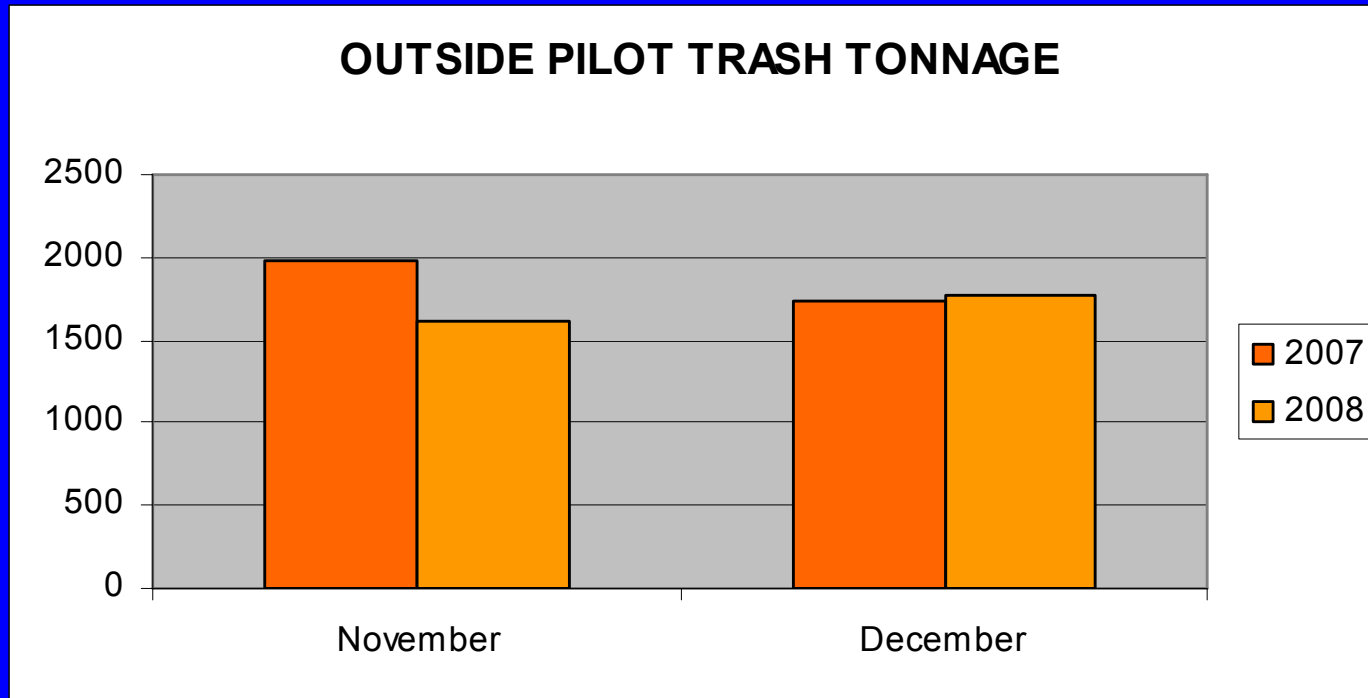


-45%

+28%

THE TRENDS CONTINUE.....

WHAT IS THE ECONOMY AFFECT?



NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2007: 3,722 TON

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2008: 3,389 TON

-9%

WHAT HAVE WE BEEN HEARING?

- Extra trash – 222 pickups out of 41,000 / .54%
- Extra Cart Requests – 20 out of 4,100 / .5%
- Swap cart Requests – 56 out of 4,100 / 1.4%
(64 gal. to 35 gal.)
- The “ONE-BAGGERS” – 12 out of 4,100 / .3%

WHAT HAVE WE BEEN HEARING?

- Extra Cart Required – 3 out of 4,100 / .07%
(Very Special Circumstances)
- Missed Pickup Calls – 49 out of 41,000 / .12%
(29 of which using cart incorrectly / confusion)
(Other 20 nothing found during site visit.)
- Outside Pilot
Missed Pickup Calls – 455 out of 250,000 / .18%
(Usually late “put out”, not to regulation, etc.)

WHAT HAVE WE BEEN HEARING?

- Please Note – Typ. 2 calls / week for missed p/u due to parked car, near school, etc.
ASL returns later and picks up.
- Several houses peripheral to trial area added by request
- Numerous requests by phone and at Rumford to be part of program
- Env. Affairs has del. 190 carts – switch out, stolen, missed

WHAT HAVE WE BEEN HEARING?

➤ NO Complaints for –

➤ SNOW

➤ WIND

➤ ANYTHING TO DO WITH S.S. RECYCLING PROGRAM

WHAT HAVE WE BEEN HEARING?

- MISC. -
- Many people using old trash barrels for rec.
- Many households beginning to recycle and recycling more!

WHAT HAVE WE BEEN HEARING?

- Problem Areas -
(non-programmatic)
- Monday – small portion of Cherry St.
(people not recycling)
- Friday – Jasset, Faxon, Dalby, lower CA
(51 households not recycling)

WHAT HAVE WE BEEN HEARING?

- A POSITIVE NOTE...
- The Pilot has brought Env. Affairs closer to our constituents and it's having a positive impact.

THANK YOU!



09 JAN 20 PM 12:39
CITY CLERK
NEWTON, MA 02459

22 Exmoor Road
Newton, MA 02459
January 13, 2009

David A. Olson
City Clerk
Newton City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, MA 02459

Re: Petition #4-09
Public Facilities Committee hearing on Wed., January 21, 2009

Dear Mr. Olson,

We are hereby withdrawing the above petition without prejudice. It is our intention to try to work with the City to address the issue that led to the petition.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,


James H. Wexler and Frances E. Stoll

Cc: Alderman Sydra Schnipper, Facilities Committee Chair