



City of
Peterborough

To: Members of the Waste Management Steering Committee

From: W. H. Jackson, Director of Utility Services

Meeting Date: November 6, 2017

Subject: Report WMC17-011
Consideration of Tip Fee Exemption for Mattresses

Purpose

A report to address the request to grant tip fee exemptions on certain mattresses brought to the Peterborough County/City Waste Management Facility.

Recommendations

That the Waste Management Committee endorse the recommendations as outlined in Report WMC17-011 dated November 6, 2017 of the Director of Utility Services, as follows:

- a) That tipping fees charged to for-profit enterprises not be waived; and
- b) That Staff be requested to present a proposal for the waiving of certain tipping fees for charities.

Budget and Financial Implications

There are no budget or financial implications as a result of this report.

Background

At the Waste Management Committee meeting of June 19, 2017, staff was requested to consider the waiving of tipping fees associated with certain mattresses.

Specific Example Cited at Waste Management Committee

The local Sleep Country Canada store is offering to provide new mattresses at no charge to Our Space Community Centre in the City of Peterborough. Because disposal of the old mattresses would cost \$11 per item at our landfill's current tip fee, staff was requested to consider waiving this fee.

Specific to this instance, however, staff advises that Sleep Country Canada currently does not bring any mattresses to the Peterborough County/City Waste Management Facility for disposal/recycling. Due to the large volume of used mattresses they generate through their normal business activities, they have established a direct relationship with a mattress recycler(s), and staff is of the opinion Sleep Country Canada should be able to handle the collection and disposal of all old mattresses through their existing disposal system.

General Overview of Waiving Tipping Fees

On a more general note, the waiving of tip fees is something that Staff feels should be approached very carefully, as it would potentially open the City and County up to a great many similar requests. In the case of Sleep Country, or any for-profit business, staff is of the opinion that fee exemptions should not be offered. If a business chooses to do charitable work within a community, the community, undoubtedly will benefit. But there are typically off-shoot benefits that the company might reap as well. They're able to use the profits of their business to boost their reputation in the community and build relationships with future customers. While such generous offers are always welcome and appreciated by the community when they come, having businesses look to the municipality to partially subsidize such undertakings could get out of control and result in a substantial loss of revenue.

On the other hand, staff feels that the Waste Committee might want to consider relief in the form of waiving certain tipping fees for charities which inadvertently acquire significant amounts of waste as a result of their good works in the region. There are numerous examples of not-for-profit tipping fee exemption policies to be found in other municipalities and it would be prudent to examine this consideration in some detail to better inform Committee of the costs involved in such a program. Accordingly, it is recommended that a policy for eligible not-for-profits be developed and presented to Committee in 2018.

Submitted by,

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