



To: Town Council
From: Jen Coates, Town Manager
Date: April 23, 2018

RE: Animal Resistant Containers

Background

The Town Council has discussed a need for animal-resistant containers for many years. In early 2017, the Town had a resident bear that consistently accessed residential and commercial garbage containers, turning them over to eat the contents, and resulting in a perpetual nuisance to the community with strewn garbage across town, and numerous reports to and call-outs to the Marshals Office, Sheriffs Office and Division of Wildlife. Throughout 2017 and into 2018 the Council discussed mandatory animal-resistant containers for all properties, including consideration of numerous drafted ordinances that would require animal-resistant containers for both residential and commercial properties. In early 2018, the Council supported a bid process for residential refuse services to include mandatory animal-resistant containers, and tabled discussion of any ordinance requiring animal-resistant containers for all properties, until now.

During the April 11, 2018 regular Town Council meeting the Council considered the 5-year contract and bid proposal from Bruin Waste for residential refuse and recycle services, which includes having animal-resistant containers for all residences. In addition, the Council introduced an ordinance requiring animal-resistant containers for all residential and commercial properties within the Town.

Council requested that the Refuse/Recycle Agreement for services include the option for all residential customers to either lease or purchase an animal-resistant container from the waste hauler bidder, Bruin Waste. In addition, the Council discussed the option of having 32-gallon animal-resistant containers instead of the 65-gallon animal resistant container.

The purpose of this memo is to provide some options for the Council to consider that will fall within the proposed bid from Bruin for residential curbside refuse collection using only animal-resistant containers effective this July 2018. The options provided here are focused on the bid documents as published as well as the Council discussion and concerns expressed during the April 11, 2018 meeting.

Note: in reviewing container sizes, they seem to toggle between 64 and 65-gallon sizes. We are using 65-gallons here to be consistent.



Analysis

During the April 11 meeting, the Council discussion focused on the ability of all residents to lease or purchase an animal-resistant container, and the ability of all residents to choose between a 32-gallon animal-resistant container and a 65-gallon animal-resistant container. In follow up to that meeting, staff met with the Bidder to discuss these 2 components of any contract for residential refuse pick-up services.

1. Lease or Purchase

Bruin proposed leasing all containers or providing all containers for purchase. Bruin is amenable to offering both options for residential properties: monthly lease or one-time purchase.

If the lease and purchase are both offered as options, Town staff will need to reach out to the community in early May and request that all 400+ residential properties commit to either a purchase or lease of an animal-resistant container to be provided by Bruin and delivered to each residence. Our plan at this time is to include a card and a self-addressed, stamped envelop to all 400+ residences, requesting each residence select lease or purchase. In addition, we plan to note that if no response is received by a certain date (planned to be May 14), the residence will be provided with the lease option. Once the containers are ordered by Bruin, no changes to the options are allowed as Bruin will order a specific color container with the Bruin logo for leases and another color without any logo for purchases. Bruin will commit to the purchase once the Town has provided the number of lease and purchase containers along with the address for each container. In order to coincide with the new waste contract and service rate, we are proposing the number of lease options and purchase options be provided to Bruin the week of May 14.

The Town will bill and collect the lease and purchase amounts from all residents and remit those amounts to Bruin Waste as a pass through billing and payment. With the current contract, customers lease directly from Bruin and purchase their own containers. This new lease/purchase option will require a new tracking and billing component for the Town, which we are working on now.

The Bruin bid proposes \$157.36 for the purchase price and \$7.33/month for the lease rate for a 65-gallon animal-resistant container.



The Council discussed requiring residents to purchase and acquire their own container, instead of containers being provided by Bruin. A quick online search shows the Toter 65-gallon container to cost \$212.73 (it is currently on sale from the original cost of \$287.32 at Walmart). For those unable to pick-up the container or who do not have a vehicle that could accommodate a pickup for that size of container (the web indicates free pickup is not available) it is advertised for delivery at an added cost of \$163.12. Total cost to the customer for the container and delivery would be \$375.85 for one, 65-gallon animal-resistant Toter container. Amazon is advertising the same container at \$308.13 with free shipping for Amazon Prime members. We were not able to quickly find a retail price online for the Otto 65-gallon animal-resistant container, but did find the 95-gallon container at Home Depot for \$299, excluding delivery and taxes. Non-mechanical containers such as the Bearicuda screw top containers are more affordable although they rely on users to be diligent in securing the lids as they are not self-latching and that frequently results in it being a non-animal resistant container. In addition, the Bearicuda cans are not chew-proof or resistant to chewing like the Otto and Toter containers. While the Bearicuda containers are certified by the Living With Wildlife Foundation, it is not clear that they meet the specifications in the new ordinance that the Council introduced on April 11, 2018 regarding achieving a passing rating of the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee as being bear resistant for 60 minutes. There may be other pricing and containers available, but this was a quick search to get an idea of cost for individual purchasing.

Request for direction: The Town Council may consider (assuming 65-gallon container):

- a) Bruin leases all containers to all residents at a cost of \$7.33 / month;
- b) Bruin provides all containers to all residents at a one-time cost of \$157.36;
- c) Bruin provides all containers for lease or purchase (resident's choice), at same cost (\$7.33/month lease or \$157.36 purchase).

2. Container Size and Type

The bid for services includes only a 65-gallon animal-resistant container for lease or purchase. The bidder has indicated that this is the least cost, most-effective polycart on the market today and is the Toter brand polycart container with the top finger-latch that has an automatic closing mechanism to insure all containers close and lock as designed in order to meet the intent of the animal-resistant container. They do not require any additional latching or securing any manual mechanisms, which would compromise the animal-resistant feature.

Bruin has shared that there is a 32-gallon animal-resistant container that meets the specifications in the Town Request for Proposals and introduced ordinance. It is manufactured by Otto and has a self-latching finger latch on the front of the container at a cost of just over



\$200 each. This smaller sized container costs more than the larger 65-gallon Toter container. Customers using more than 32 gallons of trash per week (up to 96 gallons) would need to purchase 2 or 3 of these containers at a cost of \$400 (2 containers) or \$600 (3 containers) total. Otto also manufactures 65-gallon containers, which are much more expensive than the Toter 65-gallon containers at more than \$200 each, as the 32-gallon Otto containers are \$200.

The base cost of service with the 32-gallon animal-resistant container may remain close to the same bid price at \$16.15 for up to 65-gallons; however, Bruin has requested an opportunity to re-evaluate the service rate if this is to be considered.

Various cart specifications for the 32, 65 and 95-gallon Otto brand carts are as follows:

MODEL	HEIGHT	WIDTH	DEPTH	LOAD RATING°
95 GAL. BS	45 3/8"	27 1/2"	33 1/4"	340 LBS.
65 GAL. BS	42 3/8"	25 1/2"	29 1/2"	230 LBS.
32 GAL. BS	38 1/2"	19"	22 1/4"	120 LBS.

The 65-gallon Otto animal-resistant container is approximately 4" taller, 6.5" wider and 7" deeper than the 32-gallon container.

Toter specifications for the 65-gallon container are: 31.5" x 24.8" x 42.5", which is very similar to the Otto brand 65-gallon container. The Toter container weighs 45 lbs. and the Otto container weighs 42.5 lbs. Both containers have wheels and a handle for movement.

In reviewing this option for a smaller container, Bruin shared the following information regarding the average volume of residential waste in Ridgway:

- o 30% of residences have an average of up to 32 gallons of trash per week (one 32-gallon container)
- o 50% of residences have an average of up to 65 gallons of trash per week (up to two, 32-gallon containers)
- o 20% of residents have an average of more than 65 gallons of trash per week (up to three, 32-gallon containers)



In summary, approximately 70% of Ridgway residences have more than 32-gallons of trash on average, per week. 50% of the residences would need to purchase 2, \$200 containers (\$400) and 20% of residents would need to purchase 3, \$200 containers (\$600).

Bruin will not offer the option to buy or lease 32-gallon and 65-gallon containers. The Town will need to select one size for lease or purchase, either 32-gallon or 65-gallon containers.

Bruin submitted their proposal on the 65-gallon container based on various inputs, primarily that 70% of residences in Ridgway have more than 32 gallons of waste on average each week in 2018.

Bruin will not consider providing the screw top animal-resistant containers, primarily for 2 reasons: user error frequently renders the container to not be animal-resistant, and the labor involved with his employees having to unscrew each lid x 400+ containers is excessive.

One additional container that Bruin would consider offering is the Grizzly container, which holds 65-gallons of waste and has a cost of \$230. This would be an option alternative to the finger latch, if that is desired. The service rate in the bid would remain the same with this container option.

If Council is inclined to look at any container other than the 65-gallon animal resistant container, Bruin has indicated they will need to update their bid pricing.

Request for direction: the Town Council may consider:

- a) Providing all 32-gallon Otto containers at a cost of ~\$200 per container (need to confirm cost with Otto and then get new bid price from Bruin on lease/purchase);
- b) Providing all 65-gallon Otto containers at a cost of >\$200 per container (need to confirm cost with Otto and then get new bid price from Bruin on lease/purchase);
- c) Provide all 65-gallon Toter (finger latch) containers at the bid price of \$157.36 for purchase or \$7.33/month for lease;

Summary

Lease or Purchase: Bruin has offered a lease or purchase option with this new contract. Town Staff will need to reach out to all residential properties and confirm the preference of leasing or purchasing. Lease-purchase is not an option for Bruin. Staff plans to commence this work in early May with the utility billing, and complete the work by May 14th in order to provide numbers to Bruin for ordering and deliver in July. Staff is proposing that to insure compliance



and minimize any code enforcement issue and penalties, that for non-responders, a lease container will be ordered and they will be under a lease arrangement with Bruin.

Container Size: Based on the waste use of Ridgway residents where 70% have more than 32-gallons of trash per week and the higher cost of the smaller 32-gallon container, Staff recommends that if the Council is committed to the animal-resistant container requirement, the Town move forward with the 65-gallon Toter poly cart at a cost of \$157.36 per container for purchase or \$7.33 /month for a lease with Bruin.

If the Council is committed to requiring animal-resistant containers for all properties, as described in the ordinance introduced on April 11, 2018, the approach that provides some option on cost is the lease or purchase option. With 70% of residents having more than 32-gallons of trash per week on average, it seems prudent to proceed with a larger container (65-gallons) that would accommodate a large majority (80%) of the users, with the remaining 20% of users needing two, 65-gallon containers. In the alternative, the simplest roll-out and management may be the lease only option for all residences for the 65-gallon container, where all residents will be charged the lease rate of \$7.33.