

Jefferson County
Board of Commissioners
Agenda Request

To: Board of Commissioners
Mark McCauley, County Administrator

From: Monte Reinders, Public Works Director/County Engineer 

Agenda Date: August 7, 2023

Subject: Solid Waste Division Minimum Fee Low-Income Discount

Statement of Issue: The Board of County Commissioners adopted a new fee schedule for the Jefferson County Department of Public Works Solid Waste Division on July 3rd, 2023 which included a rate adjustment for the minimum charge for all transactions at the transfer station and a minimum charge at the Quilcene rural drop box for up to two each thirty-two (32) gallon containers. Staff were asked to consider implementing a low-income discount rate to address the potential negative effect of the minimum charge on low-income residents.

Analysis/Strategic Goals/Pro's & Con's: Staff found one other low-income discount rate in King County and has modeled a program based on discussions with staff from King County, the City of Port Townsend, Olympic Community Action Programs, and the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services. A low-income discount rate for residential self-haul minimum fee customers could be implemented as part of the new fee schedule on September 4, 2023.

Fiscal Impact/Cost Benefit Analysis:

The financial impact and cost benefit analysis will not be known until at least six months after implementation in order to draw from sufficient data.

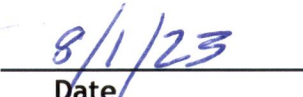
Recommendation:

Public Works recommends adoption of the attached Resolution and scheduling a workshop with the Board of County Commissioners in February, 2024 to report on the financial impact and cost benefit analysis. Staff recommends waiting until after a six month review of the low-income discount program to consider including the low-income discount fee in a revised fee schedule.

Department Contact: Al Cairns X213

Reviewed By:


Mark McCauley, County Administrator


Date

STATE OF WASHINGTON

County of Jefferson

A Resolution Adopting a Low-Income Minimum Fee Discount Pilot Program for the Department of Public Works, Solid Waste Division

RESOLUTION NO. _____

WHEREAS, Jefferson County is a political subdivision of the state of Washington as provided by [Title 36 RCW](#) and the Washington State Constitution [Article 11](#), and may impose fees to recoup the costs of providing services to the public; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners may impose fees charged by the Department of Public Works, Solid Waste Division (“Solid Waste Division”) to implement the code and statutory duties; and,

WHEREAS, JCC 3.80.020 authorizes the Solid Waste Division to request adoption of its fee schedule by resolution; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners adopted a revised Solid Waste fee schedule by resolution on July 3rd, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the adjustment to the minimum fee may negatively impact low income residents and discourage proper solid waste disposal, and

WHEREAS, a low-income discount for qualifying residential self-haul minimum fee customers would address this impact; and

WHEREAS, the City of Port Townsend has requested that a low-income discount be applied to residential self-haul minimum fee yard debris customers; and

WHEREAS, State issued forms of identification such as Electronic Benefits Transfer, Apple Health, and Provider One cards could be used to determine low-income minimum fee discount eligibility,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF JEFFERSON COUNTY:

- 1) Upon proof of eligibility by showing a form of identification approved by the Public Works Director, a residential minimum fee self-haul customer shall be charged at the rate of 50% of the minimum fee to include disposal of municipal solid waste, yard debris and one refrigerated appliance per transaction.
- 2) Public Works shall advertise the availability of the low-income minimum fee discount to local and State agencies that provide services to low-income residents.
- 3) Public Works shall track the number of customers charged at the low-income minimum fee discount rate for a period of six (6) months and report these findings to the Board of County Commissioners.

(SIGNATURES FOLLOW ON THE NEXT PAGE)

APPROVED and ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2023.

**JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS**

Greg Brotherton, Chair

Kate Dean, Member

Heidi Eisenhour, Member

SEAL:

ATTEST:

Carolyn Gallaway Date
Clerk of the Board

Approved as to form only:

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July 26, 2023

Philip C. Hunsucker Date
Chief Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney