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Resident wants South Russell to explore single hauler for entire village

Joan Demirjian Apr 18, 2019

SOUTH RUSSELL — Resident Lorraine Sevich wants the village to consider one hauler to pick up trash and recycling for all village households. She presented the idea to Village Council last week.

One hauler would save on the wear and tear of the roads, she said at the April 8 meeting, adding that trucks can weigh up to 64,000 pounds, similar to a tractor trailer truck.

“It would be wonderful to have one hauler,” Mrs. Sevich said. “Chagrin Falls has had one hauler for years and now Burton Village has started it.”

One of the important issues involves recycling. With recycling now limited in Geauga County, curbside recycling could be available. Currently, no glass and magazines and limited plastics are being taken in Geauga County which is under the direction of the Geauga Trumbull Solid Waste Management District.

She noted a number of waste haulers no longer offer curbside recycling to their customers. “My hope is we could get South Russell to bid out for a single source trash hauler and it would serve all residents,” Mrs. Sevich said. The trucks would be on the roads one day a week, instead of five days as now with several companies on the roads.

A proposal for one hauler was discussed about 10 years ago, urging council to look at the issue again, she said, adding that it would be less expensive for each resident.

At the April 8 meeting, Councilman Mark Porter recalled a strong reaction from residents a decade ago when the issue was raised.

Residents packed Village Hall at that 3-hour public hearing, he said, with people supporting lower rates and less wear and tear on the road. But everyone wanted the hauler they were using at the time, he added. With people unwilling to change haulers, village officials did not move forward with the idea.

He noted that Russell Township also looked into the matter and got a similar response. "People want their own hauler." Mr. Porter said.

Mrs. Sevich said she is hoping for a different result this time. "It is worth looking into," she noted. The residents of the Kensington Green neighborhood in the village have gone to a single hauler, she noted.

Mr. Porter said the homeowners in Kensington negotiated a better price with one hauler. He said he is willing to look at one hauler for the village.

Councilman Mike Carroll said he agrees the village should research the matter.

Resident JoAnn Mynchenberg said she favors one trash hauler. She noted there is no recycling at Gurney Elementary School and the students want to recycle. She said she hopes council looks into the matter.

Mayor William Koons said the village needs to look at the options and numbers. "It's an emotional issue with some." The question is can one company collect the trash in the village in one day and will they collect recycled materials. The village's Public Utilities Committee could look at the issue.

Bainbridge Township Trustee Jeff Markley said trustees plan to appoint a committee of residents to investigate going to a single-trash hauler.

Some groups, like Lake Lucerne residents, already have one hauler for a housing community, he said.

The committee could look into examples and then make a recommendation based on research, he said. They can determine what should be in a contract.

"I'd like to know why people are opposed to it," he said, since it saves money and keeps trucks off the road.

Bainbridge Trustee Kristina O'Brien said she supports doing the research and a feasibility study. "There are pros and cons and they have to be reviewed. We have to get our homework done and information is the key and we want to see residents' input."

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