



Dear Coopersburg Resident:

You may notice that your quarterly utility bill shows an increase this month. This can be attributed to the trash services portion of your bill increasing from \$70 to \$150 per quarter. Council understands that this is a substantial increase, so we would like to share how we came to the decision to renew our contract with JP Mascaro and continue the same exceptional service that we've enjoyed for many years.

As elected officials tasked with representing the best interests of Coopersburg Borough and its residents (which includes all Council members), providing consistent and reliable utility services is one of our top priorities. We take pride in the fact that, with this 2023 increase, trash service in Coopersburg is the *only* utility that has increased in more than half a decade. (Notably Council also recently approved the Real Estate tax rate without increase for 2023 which has been consistent since 2009)

With our prior contract expiring in February 2023, we began to explore options for trash services last fall. During this process, we gathered information on alternatives to outsourcing such as individual household subscription services and bringing collection in-house.

We then solicited feedback from our community at a public town hall meeting on January 31st. * After one hour of constructive dialogue with those in attendance, it was clear **residents preferred the outsourcing option**. Other options were either overly burdensome on residents, decreased the level of service provided, or would have required considerable investments on the part of the Borough. Residents who spoke on the topic of duration **avored the longer-term contract option** to lock in rates considering the rising costs of fuel, labor, and dumping fees.

Borough Council formally took up this order of business at our regularly scheduled monthly meeting on Tuesday, February 21st. * In consecutive motions, Council unanimously voted in favor of outsourcing trash services and for the longest-term contract option. On the option of two pickups a week versus one, Council voted 4-2 in favor of two pickups, citing the minimal price difference for the added convenience. With these votes, we approved a **new contract with JP Mascaro, who will continue to provide services to Coopersburg for at least the next five years**. *See key benefits of this service on the back of this letter.*

In case you are wondering, Coopersburg is not the only municipality experiencing the pain of increased costs for trash services. *See Appendix 1 on the back of this letter for comparative data.*

If you have any questions or concerns on this topic, or any other, you are always welcome to attend our regularly monthly meeting which occurs on the third Tuesday of every month. We start every meeting with a Public Comment section and always look forward to hearing from you!

Serving you always,

Coopersburg Borough Council

**Minutes of public meetings can be found on the Borough website*



Notable benefits of current JP Mascaro Trash Collection Services:

- Trash collection 2x/week (Tuesday & Friday)
- Will collect all items placed at curb
- No additional charge for bulk items
- Recycling collection 1x/week (Friday)

APPENDIX 1 - Examples of recent municipal contract increases

Assessment of Recently Awarded Municipal Contracts Since January 2022			
Municipality	% Price Increased	Service	Start Date
Borough of Birdsboro	115%	Recycling Only	1/1/22
Borough of Souderton	96%	Trash and Recycling	1/1/22
Lower Providence Township	72%	Trash, Recycling & Yard Waste	3/1/22
Allen Township	70%	Trash and Recycling	6/1/22
Whitpain Township	242%	Lawn Waste Collection	10/1/22
West Pottsgrove Township	146%	Trash, Recycling & Yard Waste	12/1/22
Borough of Bath	96%	Trash and Recycling	1/1/23
Borough of Sugar Notch	126%	Trash Only	1/1/23
Borough of Wyomissing	182%	Trash, Recycling & Yard Waste	1/1/23
Washington Township	80%	Trash and Recycling	1/1/23
Upper Southampton Township	102%	Trash, Recycling & Yard Waste	1/1/23
Lower Southampton Township	102%	Trash, Recycling & Yard Waste	1/1/23
Shillington Borough	104%	Recycling Only	1/1/23
Borough of Hughestown	94%	Trash Only	1/1/23
Borough of Bridgeport	81%	Trash, Recycling, Yard Waste & Sludge Removal & Disposal	1/1/23
Maidencreek Township	121%	Recycling Only	1/1/23
Amity Township	134%	Recycling Only	1/1/23
Borough of Avoca	70%	Trash Only	1/1/23
Borough of Rockledge	113%	Trash, Recycling & Yard Waste	1/1/23
Borough of West Easton	109%	Trash and Recycling	1/1/23
Borough of Coopersburg	118%	Trash (Twice Per Week) and Recycling	4/1/23

**Data provided by JP Mascaro & Sons*

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