

BROADWATER COUNTY



MONTANA

515 Broadway, Townsend, MT 59644

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COST CONTROL CHANGES

Background

The Broadwater County Solid Waste Department has been losing money, with a negative balance of approximately \$170,000 at the end of Fiscal Year 2018. To reverse this trend, the Department was tasked with first determining options for making changes in order to operate in the black. The “*Broadwater County Solid Waste Management Cost Control Measures for Solid Waste Operations*” report details four options considered for lowering costs. This report can be found on the County website at <http://www.townsendmt.com/broadwater-county/commissioners-schedule/>.

The four options considered:

1. Make no changes and leave sites as they currently are.
2. Close Toston, Radersburg, Dry Gulch, and Winston sites. Route all traffic to Cedar Street site.
3. Open all sites during daylight hours, but without a site attendant.
4. Open all sites, but limit days/hours and have sites monitored by attendant.

While the report offers significant details on the costs and cost savings, ultimately a modified version of Option 4 was chosen and will be implemented in May 2019. This will result in a cost savings of approximately \$42,000 per year.

Additionally, solid waste assessments have held steady at \$128 per year since 2001. This does not take into account inflation over the last 18 years. According to various inflation calculators (cited in the report), as assessment increase to \$185 is appropriate to cover the cost of this service.

Barring unforeseen costs and/or emergencies, Broadwater County’s Solid Waste Department should be operating on a balanced budget by 2021.

What modified Option 4 means to you

- Close the Radersburg canister site and consolidate all users to the Toston canister site.
- Establish days and hours of operation for Toston, Winston and Dry Gulch as follows:
 - Open Saturday and Sunday, 9 am – 3 pm
 - Install gates allowing 24-hour access
- Establish days and hours of operation for Cedar Street as follows:
 - Open Tuesday through Saturday, 8 am – 5 pm
 - Open Sunday, 9 am – 3 pm
- All fee payers will receive hang-tags.
- Sites will be staffed when open.

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