

Yorktown saves \$1M with garbage contract

by Brian J. Howard

Yorktown has agreed to a new residential garbage contract with its long-time trash and recyclable materials hauler, saving residents \$1 million a year.

Allied Waste Systems, doing business as Hudson Waste Haulage, came in with the low bid last month and beat out four competitors to earn the right to haul Yorktown's garbage. The company also beat out its own previous price by one-third.

"We still ended up with the same contractor, one million dollars less," said Yorktown Supervisor Linda Cooper.

Yorktown's deal with Hudson Waste is for two years with three one-year options for renewal. The Briarcliff firm will be paid \$1,973,832 each year the contract is in effect.

Previously, Yorktown had paid \$2,956,890 per year for the same services.

The average Yorktown homeowner will see savings of around \$100 a year.

The move came as a result of the Town Board's decision last year to reassess its trash hauling services. The New York City-based environmental services consulting firm Great Forest, which has offices in Scarsdale, was paid \$1,150 to aggressively seek a

wider range of bids than the town had previously received in the past.

"The more companies you get, the more the price obviously drops down, which is a savings to our taxpayers," said Patrick Lofaro, the head of Yorktown's Environmental Conservation department.

In the past the bid process had usually yielded bid proposals from just two to three different contractors.

Yorktown Councilman Nicholas Bianco said he had brought Great Forest to the attention of the Town Board at the time it was first considering seeking improvements to its garbage contract.

"So for \$1,150, we saved a million dollars," said Bianco. "I'll take that any time."

Cooper pointed out one of the contractors that submitted a bid to Yorktown proposed a variation from what the town was seeking. But the town has opted to have its garbage consultant explore that option of employing 64-gallon containers in a test program.

By using a single-man, automated pickup method, the proposal could yield significant savings.

"This may work in some sections of town, and so we're going to review it," said Cooper.