

**ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY BOARD  
CITY OF RAMSEY  
ANOKA COUNTY  
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

On Monday, February 10, 2025, the Environmental Policy Board (EPB) met in the Council Chambers at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive N.W., Ramsey, Minnesota.

Members Present:     Chairperson Melissa Fetterley  
                              Board Member Reid Bernard  
                              Board Member Paula Houts  
                              Board Member Hassan Salami

Members Absent:     Board Member Nick Burgess  
                              Board Member Thomas Hagerty  
                              Board Member Laura Moore

Also Present:         Senior Planner Chris Anderson  
                              City Council Liaison Eric Peters

**1.     CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Fetterley called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**2.     CITIZEN INPUT**

None.

**3.     APPROVE AGENDA**

Motion by Board Member Bernard and seconded by Board Member Salami to approve the agenda as submitted.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Fetterley, Board Member Bernard, Salami, and Houts. Voting No: None. Absent: Board Member Burgess, Hagerty, and Moore.

**4.     APPROVE MINUTES**

**4.01: Approve Meeting Minutes Dated January 13, 2025**

Motion by Board Member Bernard and seconded by Board Member Salami to approve the regular meeting minutes dated January 13, 2025.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Fetterley, Board Member Bernard, Salami, and Houts. Voting No: None. Absent: Board Member Burgess, Hagerty, and Moore.

Chairperson Fetterley welcomed the new Council Liaison, Councilmember Eric Peters.

Councilmember Peters introduced himself.

## **5. POLICY BOARD BUSINESS**

### **5.01: Curbside Recycling Contract Status**

Senior Planner Anderson presented the staff report. He stated the City of Ramsey is currently in the fifth and final year of a five-year residential curbside recycling contract with ACE Solid Waste. The current contract runs through December 31, 2025. The purpose of this case is to initiate discussion on policy direction in advance of the expiration of the current recycling contract. He reviewed options the Board could consider and stated that staff has been satisfied with the program as-is.

Board Member Bernard asked how residents are currently billed for recycling.

Senior Planner Anderson replied that is included in the City utility billing. He explained residents are charged \$3.98 per month for recycling, noting that the utility billing is done quarterly, therefore it is shown as \$11.94 quarterly for recycling services per household. He stated that ACE bills the City and the City does not charge any additional fees to residents, simply passing on the charges.

Chairperson Fetterley asked if ACE has always been the recycling provider and whether staff are satisfied with the hauler.

Senior Planner Anderson confirmed that ACE has always been the recycling hauler and staff is satisfied with the services provided. He stated that staff receive some complaints, but they are not frequent. He noted that some of the calls are related to recycling not being picked up and ACE now has cameras on their trucks. He noted that in a recent follow up it was determined that the customer had a large, black plastic bag on top of the recycling, which is not recyclable, and therefore the container was not picked up.

Board Member Salami asked if it could be more cost-efficient for the City to provide the recycling services directly with its own trucks.

Senior Planner Anderson replied that the City has never contemplated that and believed that would have significant costs for staffing, purchasing vehicles, etc.

Board Member Houts asked the last time the City went out for an RFP for recycling.

Senior Planner Anderson replied that in the past 20 years, Staff has always been directed to negotiate directly with ACE for either a contract extension or a new curbside recycling service.

Councilmember Peters asked the amount of staff time that is spent handling recycling issues.

Senior Planner Anderson replied that he does track that time because his time spent on recycling is funded in another manner. He estimated 10 to 15 percent of his time is spent on recycling but that is not always resident calls. He explained the educational items that he completes related to recycling. He stated that administration and customer calls are a relatively small portion of his recycling time.

Councilmember Peters asked where ACE sorts these loads.

Senior Planner Anderson replied that in the last five years, ACE added a transfer station to their Ramsey location and explained that process.

Councilmember Peters asked how much of the material collected for recycling is rejected.

Senior Planner Anderson replied that the weight collected that is shown in the case is the presort weight, which is the required reporting. He stated that inevitably there are contaminated items.

Councilmember Peters stated that his parents recently began participating in the organics recycling program in Maple Grove and have found that freezing temps often cause the organics to freeze to the container. He asked for information on what is done in neighboring communities for recycling.

Senior Planner Anderson provided information on the recycling collection of neighboring communities.

Councilmember Peters commented that he would not want trucks from seven haulers coming down the road, along with seven additional trucks for recycling, and would prefer to stay with organized recycling.

Chairperson Fetterley agreed that she would prefer to remain with organized recycling. She agreed that ACE has done a good job, and she does like supporting a local Ramsey company. She asked if the City could receive quotes from other haulers as that would provide more information and provide for competition.

Senior Planner Anderson stated that if direction is given to negotiate with the current hauler, he would not solicit other quotes. He stated that if additional quotes were desired, the City would need to follow an RFP process.

Board Member Houts commented that she is an ACE customer for trash and has no issues, but believes that after 20 years an RFP should be done to ensure the City is continuing to receive the best pricing.

Board Member Salami commented on the increases that he has seen as an ACE trash customer. He stated that if a reasonable price continues to be given, he would not object.

Board Member Bernard commented that the service has been great, and he has no issues continuing as is.

Chairperson Fetterley commented that she believed that organized recycling collection is in the best interest of the community and confirmed the consensus of the Board.

Senior Planner Anderson stated that if there is direction to negotiate a new contract and that does not seem to go well, the City can still decide to issue an RFP.

Chairperson Fetterley stated that she would prefer to negotiate with ACE and see how that goes.

Senior Planner Anderson commented that it seems there is consensus in support of continuing to provide a contracted service for recycling. He explained that typically there is a lesser monthly charge for contracted service to the whole city, compared to open market hauling.

Motion by Board Member Salami and seconded by Board Member Houts to recommend continuing with organized recycling collection and direct staff to begin negotiations with the current hauler.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Fetterley, Board Member Salami, Houts, and Bernard. Voting No: None. Absent: Board Member Burgess, Hagerty, and Moore.

Board Member Houts asked if the City has considered organized trash hauling, recognizing the difficulty recently experienced in Anoka when trying to institute that system.

Senior Planner Anderson replied that there has never been direction to look at organized trash hauling in Ramsey. He stated that if the Board wants to make that recommendation, that could be forwarded to the City Council but noted that has been extremely contentious in some communities.

Chairperson Fetterley stated that she has no interest in providing that recommendation as people enjoy having a choice in their trash provider because of the price gouging that occurs.

## **6. BOARD / STAFF INPUT**

Senior Planner Anderson stated that the vendor for the 2025 recycling events has been selected, noting that it is the same vendor they worked with last year. He stated that information on the spring recycling event will be advertised in the next *Ramsey Resident*.

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Board Member Houts and seconded by Board Member Bernard to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Chris Anderson  
Senior Planner

ATTEST:

---

Kathy Schmitz  
Administrative Clerk

Drafted by Amanda Staple  
*TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.*