

*Questions and Answers Regarding Waste and Recycling Services
&
Billing and Service Issues*

Q. What time period does the bill cover?

A. The bill you received in February of 2008 covers the period from January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008.

Q. Why was this done?

A. Unfortunately the cost of trash & recycling is spiraling out of control as a result of the fees imposed on trash haulers by Federal, State and County Governments. While Hanover Township selected, as required by law, the lowest qualified bidder for services provided to locations with barrel and bagged waste in 2006 for services during contract years 2007/2008 through 2011/2012 it resulted in an 18.9% increase compared to the old rate (\$913,212 v. \$768,000) and that will continue throughout the contract (year 2 - \$928,692, year 3 - \$948,060, year 4 - \$967,032 and year 5 - \$988,452). Consequently, the Township decided to bill trash & recycling as most municipalities do, outside of taxes.

Q. Why weren't we notified, when were the discussions held?

A. The Township notified residents of the change via a letter sent by the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors on January 15, 2008. The discussion to bill separately for trash & recycling was held during the Board of Supervisors meetings in November and December of 2007. Residents are always welcomed at Board meetings.

Q. I live in a Townhouse, why am I not considered a multi-family?

A. Residents who have their trash picked up individually are considered single family residences for trash & recycling billing. Residents who have dumpster service for their collection are considered multi-family for billing purposes.

Q. I thought this was included in my condominium fee?

A. That is a question that you will need answered by your condominium association.

Q. I own a restaurant, why can't I take my trash and recycling to my dumpster?

A. The cost of trash & recycling was equally divided amongst all individuals who are being provided the service within the Township. Hanover Township does not have an opt out provision.

Q. Even though I take my recycling to the center (Illick's Mill Road), do I still have to pay for recycling?

A. The short answer is yes. Additionally, the Township receives Performance Grants from the PA Department of Environmental Protection based on our and **your** recycling efforts and by using a facility not in the Township facility you are costing **yourself** and the other tax payers in Hanover Township with reduced grants and higher taxes. By using the Illick's Mill Road Center you are assisting the City of Bethlehem with their Performance Grants.

Q. Can I get my own hauler?

A. No, Hanover Township provided for a single hauler to be licensed in the Township for waste & recycling when the Board of Supervisors of the Township of Hanover adopted Ordinance No. 91-3 on January 21, 1991, as amended in its entirety by Ordinance No. 07-10 on July 24, 2007.

Q. What happens if I don't pay the bill?

A. A municipal lien will be placed against your property and the Township will also lien for the associated legal fees.

Q. Wasn't this a part of my real estate taxes? Should I send my waste & recycling bill to my mortgage company?

A. You would need to discuss that with your bank, mortgage or finance company.

Q. When this was a part of my real estate taxes I could deduct it from my income tax. Can I still deduct it?

A. You would need to discuss that with your tax professional.

Q. I am a Senior Citizen, is there a discount?

A. The cost of trash & recycling was equally divided amongst all individuals who are being provided the service within the Township.

Q. Where do I file complaints about the service?

A. Contact the Trash and Recycling contractor, J.P. Mascaro & Sons at 800.333.4624. If you are not satisfied feel free to contact the Township offices.

Q. What happens if I sell my property?

A. Your attorney, abstract or settlement company will need to contact the Township Offices so that you can collect the appropriate prepaid fees from the buyer at closing.

Q. The amount of my real estate tax was reduced but it didn't cover the entire amount of the trash & recycling bill.

A. The fact is that for the fiscal year 2008 *property taxes* only comprise 21.952% of all revenue coming into the Township. In that context, only 21.952% or \$58.18 (of the \$265 average cost of waste collection) would have been supported by property tax revenue. The remainder of the waste collection cost (\$202.25) would have come from other revenue sources, not property taxes. We can not assume that property taxes supported waste collection since 1991. Unfortunately, costs have been escalating for all services (road and park maintenance, public safety, etc.), accordingly the Township has been under the same inflationary pressures (rising fuel, gas & electric, equipment and payroll costs) that affect all of us in our personal and business lives.

Q. I still have questions and want to talk further about this, what do I do?

A. Please contact the Township Offices at 610.866.1140 and we will either answer your questions immediately or research it and get back to you.