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THE SOLID WASTE SERVICE FEE -An Explanation-

The Pope/Douglas Solid Waste Management Board adopted an Amendment to the Solid Waste Ordinance which enables the Board to collect revenue for solid waste management purposes via a service fee.

This authority has been granted to the counties, along with the substantial responsibilities in solid waste management by Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 400. Since adoption of the Waste Management Act of 1980 by the Minnesota Legislature, counties all across the State have been contending with new concepts in solid waste management and how to deal with them. The Pope/Douglas Solid Waste Management Board adopted a progressive stand toward solving solid waste problems with the attitude that it is better to resolve them now than to put off until later what might be an even more expensive solution.

The solid waste service fee generates revenues needed by the service area to fund the operations of solid waste systems including, but not limited to, the following:

- Confidential Document Destruction for Pope/Douglas County Households
- Recycling Education Programs
- Operation of Mobile Recycling Units
- Operation of a Recycling Center and Material Recycling Facility
- Household Hazardous Waste Education Programs
- Operation of a Permanent Site Household Hazardous Waste Facility
- Yard Waste Collection and Education
- Solid Waste Abatement Education
- Collection of Oil Filters for Recycling
- Collection Site for Used Motor Oil
- Collection Site for Metals to be Recycled
- Administer Christmas Tree Recycling Project
- Pesticide Container Collection Event

All of these programs are being developed jointly between Pope and Douglas counties because economies of scale would prohibit either county from doing it alone. As in other capital projects, such as streets and highways, it is entirely possible that some property owners or residents will find the solid waste system more useful than others. Regardless of how the solid waste management system is used, it is necessary that all property owners and residents realize that it is available to them and the initiative to use it is the responsibility of the individual.

The annual service fee will be assessed on all properties with a building value of \$5,000 or more. Most individuals will see the service fee as an additional line item on their property tax statement in the amount of \$49.00. Those property owners who own multiple family, mobile homes, or apartment units will see this line item as a lump sum figure which has been arrived at by multiplying the number of units by \$49.00. Commercial/Industrial buildings with a building value of more than \$5,000 will also be assessed the solid waste service fee.

It is important to note that the service fee is not a tax - it is a fee for services which the Board has provided to satisfy the laws of the State of Minnesota.

If you have any questions regarding the service fee or any part of the solid waste program, please call me at (320)763-9340 or 1/800/972-6318.

Peter A. Olmscheid, Executive Director
Pope/Douglas Solid Waste Management Board

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