



City of Middletown

SANITARY DISPOSAL DISTRICT COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, March 3rd, 2026
Time: 4:30 PM

Members Present: John Porter, Commissioner
Stephan Allison, Commissioner
Edward McKeon, Commissioner
Jen Kleindienst, Commissioner

Staff Present: Lisa Liesener, Recycling & Sustainability Coordinator
Brian Gartner, Acting Deputy Director of Public Works
Bobby Russo, Acting Public Works Director

- 1. Chair opens meeting:** The meeting was called to order at 4:32 PM by John Porter.
- 2. Review of minutes from the February 3rd, 2026 meeting:** After review, it was determined by the members that sections of the minutes did not clearly reflect the discussion at the past meeting. The minutes were not approved and will be reviewed after correction at April's meeting.
- 3. Status of sanitation contract:** Acting Director Russo reported that the sanitation resolution allowing the City to enter into a contract with Murphy Road Recycling was approved by the Common Council on 3/2/26 and that the internal process for putting a contract in place had begun the next day. This contract will be in place by the end of the month and delivery of Sanitation District trash to Murphy Road's facility on Industrial Park Road will begin on April 1st.
- 4. Receivables from DEEP – Status:** Lisa Liesener reported the receipt of final invoices from WasteZero for program management that still need to be submitted for DEEP reimbursement. These invoices also include one for approx. \$4,000 for a 3-month supply of bags that WasteZero was holding as stipulated in the City's contract with them. Once paid for, these bags will be sent to City Hall. Liesener attempted to find out if WasteZero could use these bags for other municipalities in order to avoid the unnecessary expense as well as receiving a large number of bags that are not needed now that the program has ended, but WasteZero denied this request. John Porter recommended referring the matter to the City's lawyers seeing as how WasteZero knew that the program would be ending in December 2025 and should have been able to use up existing inventory in order to prevent this from occurring. Liesener agreed to pass the matter on to the legal department.
- 5. Status of organics collection proposal/evaluation:** Lisa Liesener presented the work she and the Waste Reduction and Litter Assistant have done to price out options for food scrap collection services and options including curb-side collection service and adding rodent-safe

centralized food scrap collection locations to Sanitation District area as well as the City at large. The Commission members expressed more enthusiasm for the idea of centralized collection bins compared to curbside collection service. Expense and complexity were cited as the main reasons for tabling the inquiries into this option for the time being. Jen Kleindienst expressed interest in helping with the collection bin project and will connect with Liesener to work on this. Liesener will continue to explore options and gather prices and keep the Commission updated via email in addition to at monthly Commission meetings.

6. Review of 2026 Budget: Russo reported that the 2027 proposed budget would be provided by the Mayor later in the week. McKeon would like a report about sanitation accounts that are in arrears as well as projected income for the upcoming fiscal year from sanitation fees.
7. **Adjournment:** Stephan Allison made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Ed McKeon. The meeting was adjourned at 5:28pm.