



Trash Collection Bid Questions

1. The contract start date is listed as September 1, 2023. Our records indicate that the current agreement between the Town and MTG Disposal expires on June 30, 2024. Will the Town be issuing an Addendum changing the start date to July 1, 2024? **Answer: Yes, dates will be changed to June 30, 2024**
2. Can you please email a copy of the sign-in sheet from today's mandatory pre-bid conference? **Answer: yes**
3. The RFP indicates that the Town can award the refuse and recycling contracts to separate vendors. The Bid Form Pages only provides space for one total rate submission for all services; refuse, recycling and yard waste. Will the Town eliminate the language that they can award the refuse and recycling to separate vendors? **Answer: No Language will stay the same.**
4. Section # 21 under Part I lists the term of the contract and includes additional option years with annual adjustments made for CPI indexes. The Bid Form Page has the vendor listing the annual rates for years 1 through 7. Which rate option will the Town be utilizing for the option years..... The Year rate with adjustments for CPI or the Bid Form Page that lists the annual rates submitted by the Vendor? **Answer: bid Contract Pricing will be honored if CPI escalates then CPI will be honored.**
5. Section 22 under Part III states that the successful bidder can't haul commercial or industrial trash within the Town of North Providence. This is an old clause that was included in previous contracts to avoid the Vendor's use of rear-load style trucks and rear-load style containers with their commercial accounts. Will the Town eliminate this clause in Section # 22 since the current Town residential operations require the utilization of Automated Side Load Style trucks? **Answer: No**
6. Is the Town requesting that the residential recycling carts be collected on a weekly basis? Or every-other-week basis? **Answer: Recycling Collection will be every two weeks.**
7. Sections # 11 & # 12 in Part V state states the vendor is required to advertise the recycling requirements and Holiday schedules in the Providence Journal. The Town has eliminated this requirement in the past for a substitute on the Town and Vendor's websites. Will the Town eliminate the advertising requirements in the Providence Journal for listing these items on the Town and Vendor websites? **Answer: Yes, the advertisements are on the town website and social media as well so the advertisement in the Providence journal can be omitted.**

8. Section # 11 in Part VI states the vendor shall distribute annually notices to households. This section has been eliminated in the past since the Town residents no longer utilizes recycling bins. Will the Town eliminate this clause? **Answer: The town will eliminate this clause.**
9. Section # 11 in Part VI states that the vendor shall advertise in the yellow pages. Will the Town eliminate this clause as it's become obsolete? **Answer: Yes the town will eliminate this clause.**
10. Section # 7 in Part VI states that the vendor shall gather some collection data. This has been eliminated in the past since the Town's residents no longer utilize recycling bins nor their own trash barrels. Will the Town eliminate this clause? **No, Collection of data is required and will remain.**
11. Section # 13 in Part V states that the Vendor shall utilize local radio stations for inclement weather announcements. Will the Town allow for announcements to be made on the Town and Vendor websites as a substitute? **Answer: Yes**

1- Bid closing has been extended to March 3 rd . What is deadline date for questions and date Town is expected to have all questions and clarification answered? **Answer: All Questions will be allowed until Wednesday March 22, 2023 at 12pm and answered by Friday March 24, 2023 at 4pm.**

2- When will contact be awarded? **Answer: Wednesday March 15, 2023**

3- Please confirm start date of contract? **Answer: July 1, 2024**

4- Page 6 Item 21. Term of Contract "The term of the Contract shall be beginning September 1,2023, and expiring June 30, 2024. The Town will have the option to renew for six additional years July 1 through June 30 of each year inclusive. The Town may renew this agreement until absolute expiration of the last day of June year of 2030. The Town may elect to increase or decrease the bid amounts according to CPI index upon extension" Initial term as written currently is 10 months, with an option to renew for 6 additional one-year terms through June 2030. This short initial term poses a significant risk to any potential vendors because of the of the large capital investment in trucks and equipment required to fulfill the obligations of the contract. In addition to the capital investment required, the initial term will not provide enough time to recover any start- up costs necessary to recruit, hire and train staff needed Would Town consider longer initial term with a minimum of 3 years and include options to renew at mutual agreement for 3 additional 1-year terms? **Answer: Start date of contract will begin on July 1, 2024 which will be listed as an addendum on the towns purchasing website and there will be 6 additional one year terms if mutually agreed upon between the town and the vendor.**

Language also indicates the “Town may elect to increase or decrease the bid amounts according to the CPI index upon extension?” Will Town strike this language? Vendors are required to include each year’s pricing on the bid proposal sheets so CPI adjustments would not apply. **Answer: Preexisting language will remain.**

5- Page 11 PART III Specifications for residential refuse and recyclable collection services Item 1 state “If residential refuse collection service and recyclables collection service are performed by two (2) different Contractors, and if a dispute arises between the Contractors as to which Contractor is responsible for collecting a material(s) set out to the curbside, the Director of Public Works shall determine which Contractor is responsible for collecting said material(s) and that Contractor shall collect the disputed material(s).” Can/Will this contract be awarded to 2 different vendors and what would cause Town to make the decision to award this contract this way? **Answer: Clause is for emergency service based on the contractor’s failure to produce service at the time needed. Therefore, the language will remain the same.**

6- PAGE 12 PART III Specifications for residential refuse and recyclable collection services Item 2A States “The Contractor shall be required to service new eligible residential units constructed during the term of the Contract at no additional cost above what is stated in his/her "BID PROPOSAL" form.” Can Town quantify historical growth in previous years and expected growth or estimated number of additional households that would be eligible for collection in future years? **Answer: The town is currently at a 98% buildout of complete zoning map. Whereas residential population is 32,743 residents currently.**

7- Page 15 Specifications for residential refuse and recyclable collection services Item 15 – states “All collection equipment shall be clearly identified by affixing the following items prominently and conspicuously to each side of the equipment Contractor’s Name, Contractor’s Toll-Free Telephone Number, Vehicle Identification Number (for landfill use), Town of North Providence.” Can the requirement of having “Town of North Providence” as signage on the frontline vehicles be removed? **Answer: Yes. Town of North Providence is not requiring. However, Unsure if RIRRC may require.** Although, we will always do our best to utilize the same vehicles in Town each week, as you know situations do arise whereby, we may need to move vehicles around.

8- Page 16 Specifications for residential refuse and recyclable collection services Item 16 B. "The Contractor shall weigh each vehicle load of materials which have been collected as part of this Contract and submit scale receipts to the Town on the fifth (5th) day of each month." Since Town is invoiced for disposal directly through RIRRC a to reduce paper, will Town accept a monthly weight ticket report each month that includes date, truck number, ticket # tonnage information to reconcile the RIRRC disposal invoice and if requested by the Town the vendor would supply a copy of any individual scale tickets if needed? **Answer: Yes**

9- Page 17 Specifications for residential refuse and recyclable collection services Item 22 states "Industrial/Commercial Trash Successful bidder must not be a company, which hauls industrial/commercial trash within the Town of North Providence" Please explain what is meant by this section. Is Town suggesting that the successful bidder is not allowed to collect any other commercial or industrial establishments in Town under separate contract if awarded this contract or that the successful bidder of this contract shall not mix the trash and recycling collected from other establishments with what is collected under this contract?

Answer: This clause is to avoid trash collection within the Town of North Providence regarding commercial accounts, Industrial accounts inter mingling with town refuse.

10- Page 17 Specifications for residential refuse and recyclable collection services Item 23. Equipment Age: "All trucks used to perform said services described herein shall be no older than five years from date of production. Vehicles for the first 90 days of year one of contract can be a maximum 10 model years old" Normal life span of a collection truck is 10 years; vehicles are currently replaced when they reach the end of their life span. In addition, truck manufacturers are booking further out for the purchase of new collection vehicles which could take up to 18 months. Will Town revise this truck requirement to state: "Vehicles used for collection shall be no more than 10 years old for the duration of the contract The contractor shall not operate any collection equipment within the Town with known mechanical or structural body damage that may cause littering of solid waste and /or leakage of liquids. The Town reserves the right to direct the contractor to remove defective collection equipment from service until satisfactory repairs are made. **Answer: Language will remain.**

11- Page 18 PART 1V ITEM 2. Service Area: B. Condominium complexes A few of the condominium complexes listed do not have size and frequency of service please advise, are vendors to assume these are collected with carts? **Answer:**

Collection will be the same as the rest of the town. Recyclables are carts, trash is in dumpsters.

12- Page 25 PART V SPECIFICATIONS FOR RESIDENTIAL REFUSE COLLECTION SERVICE – This section seems to be the scope of work for manual collection and not currently the scope of work in Town Please confirm that vendors will be required to perform automated collection for trash and recycling service this contract.

- Is trash currently collected weekly in carts? **Answer: Yes**
- If so, what size are the trash carts and who owns the carts? **Answer: 95-gallon Trash Carts. The town owns the carts.**
- Will vendor need to supply trash collection carts for this contract? **Answer: No, vendor will need to replace carts based on damage for in kind match.**
 - Is recycling currently collected every other week in carts? **Answer: Yes**
 - If so, what size are the recycling carts and who owns the carts? **Answer: 95 Gallon carts and the town owns them.**
- Will vendor need to supply recycling collection carts for this contract? **Answer: No, vendor will need to replace carts based on damage for in kind match.**
- Is there a limit on How many trash or recycling carts each residential unit can set out for collection if so, how many? **Answer: 1 Trash, 1 Recycling is issued by the town but a resident can purchase additional units.**
- Is vendor required to repair, deliver, or remove carts during the term of the contract? **Answer: Upon damage by automated pickup collection, vendor would be required to replace in kind matching unit.**
 - Please confirm that vendor is required to collect Bulk Items such as large furniture collected as part of this contract. **Answer: yes, 1 item per scheduled pickup day.**
 - How often is vendor required to collect bulk items such as large furniture? **Answer: 1 item per pickup day per residence.**
- Does Town provide a list of bulk items that need to be collected to the vendor each week? **Answer: no**

- How many bulk items were scheduled for collection last year? **Answer: List is on the website.**
- Please confirm that vendor is required to collect White Good Items such as appliances collected as part of this contract. **Answer: Town collects white good items.**
- How often is vendor required to collect white good items? **Answer: not required.**
- Does Town provide a list of white good items that need to be collected to the vendor each week? **Answer: Not required**
- How many white good items were scheduled for collection last year? **Answer: N/A**
- Is vendor required to collect TV's and electronics as part of this contract? **Answer: No**
- If vendor is required to collect TV's and electronics as part of this contract where is Towns dedicated disposal site for these items? **Answer: N/A**
- Are Yard waste and Christmas trees delivered to RIRRC under towns cap for this contract? **Answer: Portion of yard waste is required which the dates are supplied by the vendor. Christmas trees are the responsibility of the town.**

13- The scope of services indicates that vendor is to supply multiple 30 yard roll offs though out the term of the agreement and Town estimated the number of pulls to include in lump sum cost proposal, these include: One (1) 30 yard roll off - All year DPW on call – town estimates 60 hauls per year One/Two (1 or 2) 30-yard roll offs December 26 - January 31 of each year for trees Ten (10) 30- yard roll offs - Earth Day activities – during the Month of April Three (3) 30-yard roll offs for yard waste Estimating a number pulls per year as part of the contract cost may result in unnecessary spending to the Town because vendor would have to include at minimum 60 hauls as cited as the estimate plus additional hauls above and beyond the cited 60 hauls in their proposal cost to cover their costs in the event additional hauls are required. To avoid additional, spend to the Town. Can vendors provide a cost per haul for each pull requested by the Town and invoice for each haul rather than including the cost for roll off activity in the lump sum price? f Town will not allow a separate price; Can Town please quantify how many roll off hauls in total were performed in 2022? **Answer: Language will stay the same. Pricing is required as listed and additional pricing must be listed per haul.**

14- Page 29 item 11. Annual Advertisement of Residential Refuse, Yard Waste, and Recyclable's collection schedules and set-out rules: state "One week prior to the commencement of work under the Contract and every March thereafter during the term of the Contract, the Residential Refuse Collection Contractor shall, at his/her sole expense, place in the "Northwest Edition" of the Providence Journal-Bulletin an advertisement. Given technology today and other means of public outreach can this advertisement requirement be eliminated and if not, Can Town provide a sample of last year's advertisement as reference as what is expected from vendors each year? **Answer: yes, language can be changed to be published in the North Providence section of the Valley Breeze.**

15- Page 31 PART V1 SPECIFICATIONS FOR RECYCLABLE COLLECTION Recycling Item 5. Hauling Destination state "Criteria will be established for acceptance of loads deemed unsuitable for processing at the MRF. When the Contractor's collection vehicle enters the MRF with a load, it will be dumped on the tipping floor and sorted with the use of a front-end loader. If the load contains is not in accordance with the requirements of Rhode Island Resource Recovery, meaning items not listed as recyclables by the Contract, the MRF will not accept these materials and the Contractor will reload the collection vehicle with his/her personnel and equipment at his/her expense. It will then be the responsibility of the Contractor to dispose of the recyclables in a suitable manner Any non – recyclables material collected by the contractor and rejected by the MRF shall be disposed of by and at the expense of the contractor If recycling is collected in carts Contractor may be able identify some contamination through visual observation and can agree not to collect carts set out curbside if contamination is visible to the driver. Contractor can provide the Town City with a list of addresses where contamination is found. However, driver would not be able to visually identify contamination that is inside of the carts. Therefore, can this section be revised to state "In the event a load is rejected by the Towns designated disposal site, Contractor shall alert the Town immediately and make arrangement to transport the rejected load to an alternate disposal site at the Town would be responsible for any additional transportation or disposal costs. **Answer: Language will stay the same.**

16- How many recycling loads were rejected by RIRRC in 2022? **Answer: plus/minus 75**

17- Page 33 Item 10 PART V1 SPECIFICATIONS FOR RECYCLABLE COLLECTION Recyclables Collection Equipment Requirements: A. Operational Characteristics: The bodies of recyclables collection vehicles will have separate compartments, which segregate all recyclables streams from each other and refuse; and adequately protect recyclables from the weather RIRRC is a single stream facility, so separation of recyclable material is not necessary. Will Town

remove this requirement? **Answer: Language will remain the same based on RIRRC's requirements.**

18- PART VII CONTRACT PAGE 38 ITEM B. The town reserves the right to terminate this contract on thirty (30) days' notice to the Contractor if any event or condition occurs that the Town considers to be material and/or in its best interest.

Termination should be for cause only. Will town revise this language that termination shall be for cause only and will allow the contractor a 30-day opportunity to cure? **Answer: to equate a 30-day action will be for material loss and the towns best interest. A 30 day stay upon action taken to cure just cause would be adequate.**

19- PART VII CONTRACT PAGE 46 ITEM 32. Contract Renegotiation: Any contract entered by and between the Town and a selected Bidder, may be renegotiated by the Contractor awarded the Contract in the event that the United States of America is involved in a war which affects the price and/or allocation of fuel. In the event the Town and the Contractor cannot reach an amicable agreement as to said negotiations, the Town and the Contractor agree that they will submit the matter to arbitration through the American Arbitration Association. The decision of the arbitrator shall be final and binding on the parties. Contract Price negotiations, in the event that the Town exercises its option to renew this agreement beyond one year the contract price may be negotiated based upon the Towns evaluation of the Cost of Living Price Index (CPI) as published by the Department of Labor, Bureau of Statistics, Boston Labor Division of the Northeast Region. Request for negotiations must be made prior to renewing this contract Will Town strike the above language; vendor has provided prices for all renewal years on the bid proposal pages. **Answer: Yes, this language will be removed in its entirety.**

20- The Solicitation does not allow for any type of fuel adjustment. Because of this, potential vendors would have to assume the risk of higher fuel prices than planned when we submit our bid, with no way to recover said costs. If a fuel adjustment was allowed, it would mitigate this risk for which neither of us can necessarily control. Would Town consider a separate fuel adjustment for this contract? **Answer: The town is already accepting a fuel adjustment based on CPI.**

Below is suggested language you could incorporate to alleviate higher costs:

FUEL COST ADJUSTMENTS Contractors shall include clauses for fuel cost adjustments (escalation and de-escalation) in their proposals. The following information, at a minimum, should be provided: type(s) of fuel to be used by the Contractor's vehicles under this contract; a US Department of Energy index for

each fuel (to serve as a baseline cost for fuel at the start of the contract); and the estimated number of gallons of each fuel used monthly under this contract.

Answer: See previous answer.

- Would the Town move the bid due date to March 10 so that responsive, complete, and thorough bids can be prepared and submitted? **Answer: No, bid closing will remain.**
- Would the Town provide the bid document in Word so that the bid sheets can be completed in Word? **Answer: Yes**
- Will the Town distribute all the bid question responses to all Bidders to the Bidders that attended the Pre Bid meeting? **Answer: Yes, it will be posted on the towns purchasing website.**
- What are the current annual collection contract rates? **Answer: Will also be posted on the town's purchasing website.**
- Can the Town confirm the number of units by day that are currently being serviced? **Answer: 2,000 plus or minus.**
- What are the most recent twelve month volumes for Refuse, Recyclables, Yard waste and Bulky? **Answer:**
- Item 21: The current bid specs are for a ten month contract term that ends on June 30, 2024; the ten month term does not allow enough time for Bidders to generate an adequate return on capital. Due to the significant commitment and outlay of capital to service the Town, will the Town consider changing the term to 5 five years with a two-year mutual option to extend? **Answer: Start date of contract will begin on July 1, 2024 which will be listed as an addendum on the towns purchasing website and there will be 6 additional one year terms if mutually agreed upon between the town and the vendor.**
- Please confirm if the Town will change all extension year options to be mutually agreed to by the Town and Contractor. **Answer: Yes**
- Item 21: Includes a provision that the Town may elect to increase or decrease the bid amounts according to CPI index upon extension. This is confusing. The Part VI Bid Proposal sheet requires an annual amount for each of the seven years covered by the RFP; it is difficult for Contractors to project costs over seven years and anticipate how that projection will then be impacted by a CPI adjustment; this provision may result in higher year one bid prices. Will the Town remove the provision in Item 21 so that bid prices can be prepared based on the projected cost of service and capital without an adjustment for CPI? An alternative would be to bid a first year price only that would be adjusted annually by the CPI Water Sewer Trash index which is reflective of the annual changes in the cost of service for refuse and recyclables collections. **Answer: Pricing will be submitted by vendor per year and can be adjusted based on current year CPI figures.**
- Performance bond of 100% of annual revenue: In order to reduce the cost of service and bid prices, will the Town consider reducing the bond amount to 50% of annual revenue? **Answer: No**
- Item 4 Residential Units requires the Bidder to verify the number of residential units requiring service; that verification requires additional time to complete. Will the Town consider an annual adjustment for changes in the unit count? **Answer: No**

- Item 3 requires that units will be required to be serviced on the same day of the week they are currently serviced and Appendix B displays the current collections routes by day. Statement 7 of Part VIII Information To Accompany Bid Proposal requires a map of the collection routes. Can this be removed as a bid requirement as the Town provided the route maps in the RFP? **Answer: Yes**
- Could the Town change the above provision to the Bidder providing route maps if the service days are to change, subject to the approval of the Town? **Answer: Yes**
- Item 10 Customer Information and Complaint Resolution: Sections requires a telephone recorder for afterhours requests and complaints; would the Town allow for alternatives to messages such as apps that allow residents to records requests on line 24/7? **Answer: yes**
- Please confirm if curbside is carts contents only and no items outside the carts. **Answer: No, bulky items may need to be picked up as well**
- Please confirm the service frequency of refuse and recyclables collections service: weekly or every other week? **Answer: Trash is weekly. Recyclables are Bi-weekly.**
- Please confirm who is responsible for cart replacements – the Town or the Contractor. **Answer: Contractor will be responsible for damage due to automated pickup with in kind match. Town will be responsible for replacement for any other reason.**
- The Bid document does not include a Fuel adjustment provision; Bidders will therefore need to project fuel costs for the next seven years. It is likely the Town would receive a lower first year bid price if there was a quarterly Fuel adjustment. Would the Town consider including a quarterly Fuel adjustment based on the change in the IEA Diesel price per gallon for New England vs the current IEA price multiplied by the monthly gallons? **Answer: CPI will control fuel price adjustments.**