

The Town of Springfield is currently weighing our options regarding the status of the Landfill. There are currently three options that we have been considering.

The first, and easiest, option would be to close the landfill in 2021. This option would be the best use of town finances, as all expenses, with the exception of post-closure costs and recycling fees, would dramatically decrease. This would cause the maintenance fee that all town residents pay, currently at \$12.00 monthly, to decrease to roughly \$5.00 monthly. All residents would either have to choose a commercial hauler, or transport their own trash to an out-of-county landfill.

The second option would be to continue handling the landfill as we are, high-piling our trash and covering with dirt. This could only last up to five years, however. If choosing this option, the Town would need to increase the current tipping fees and maintenance fees. The town resident's maintenance fee would have to increase \$18.00 monthly to a total of \$30.00 per month. This would cover current expenses and would purchase a desperately needed set of scales for the landfill. The landfill is only capable of high-piling trash for approximately another five years, with current amount of trash being collected. After that time, the town would have to look at other options.

The third, and costliest, option would be to keep the landfill open and get a \$700,000 loan that would allow the town to dig another trash cell and install the appropriate cell liner that is required by the State of Colorado. This trash cell will only last a maximum of 10 years and would require a new cell (and loan) every 10 years. Over the life of that loan, the Town will pay an estimated \$90,000 annual loan payment, totaling \$900,000 every 10 years. In doing this, all tipping fees and maintenance fees would have to substantially increase even more than the estimated increased rates mentioned above. This could potentially quadruple the current tipping fees and maintenance fees.

All of these options are assuming that the current equipment, which are all nearing the end of their lifespan, continue working properly. If any of this equipment goes down and is not fixable, expenses only increase more. Another issue the town is taking into consideration is the availability of dirt. Dirt is a rare commodity, even in Baca County. Dirt would need to be hauled in, which is costly in itself.

The town is also looking at water rate increases coming in the near future. Some of the town's water wells are not usable and we will be required to tie them into a single filtration system. This project alone will be well over a million-dollar project and will be absolutely necessary. These rate increases, if coupled with trash rate increases, could cause a substantial financial burden to town residents.

The Town realizes that none of these options are ideal, but this is the reality of the challenges that the Town faces. We must not only do what the State of Colorado requires, but also be the best financial stewards of town resources while doing so.

Please call Springfield Town Hall with any questions that you may have at 719-523-4528.