

Notes from meeting on March 21, 2022
With George Landry, Director of Public Utilities & Solid Waste, St. Lucie County
Board members in attendance: Jim Grubb and David Hershberger

Mr. Landry acknowledged some equipment problems experienced by Waste Pro in the past.

Waste Pro is currently negotiating with the County to purchase one or two clam trucks. Currently there is a 12 to 20 week waiting period for delivery.

We discussed the possibility of “sharing” equipment and methods with the utility crews. Mr. Landry felt this was a positive suggestion worthy of further study.

We expressed our appreciation for employing subcontractors and their efforts in catching up our yard waste.

Waste Pro has implemented several changes in method and schedule, agreed upon with the local union representatives, however, individual employees continue to file grievances.

Mr. Landry reviewed with us some of the proposals and ideas that have been discussed with Waste Pro such as four ten-hour workdays, with a 6-day service schedule. While this might improve service to the customers, it would require a sixth workday at the landfill and place additional cost on the county. Employee abuse of the 4-10 work week was also discussed.

We learned that the earning potential for Waste Pro employees was more than fair and livable: Heavy equipment operators can earn upward of \$70,000 per year. CDL truck drivers can earn upward of \$50,000 per year. New employees begin at \$25,000-\$30,000 per year.

Waste Pro has experienced top level management changes and Mr. Landry has noticed improvements within the company and has high expectations.

Another idea we had heard about and discussed, was the use of incarcerated people for labor. It is legally permissible; however, the Sheriff’s Department is not amenable for various valid reasons.

Director Landry has added controls and accountability by asking his subordinates to report on ‘end of shift’ status and a priority list for tomorrow’s assignments. He is considering larger cans, how to distribute them to keep the trucks running and how to keep the trucks moving and removing solid waste from the community he serves.

There are 20,490 customers on the county’s assessment rolls. Portofino Shores is 519 of these.

Director Landry is a very direct speaker. He spoke with knowledge of all the numbers and situations that are barriers to the service we expect. He has used his own pick up truck when there have been emergency needs. He knows the situations in the waste collection, having tried several potential improvements. He seemed open-minded and directed toward solving the issues. He has also agreed to speak to our board/owners if that would be helpful.