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Stanton to move recycling site

BY MEGHAN NELSON
DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

STANTON — In an attempt to clean up the city’s recycling area, Stanton’s eight recycling containers could move in the near future. During the July 11 Stanton City Commission meeting, commissioners gave City Manager Elizabeth Pynaert permission to look into options to keep the recycling site clean and usable.

Pynaert attended Montcalm County’s Solid Waste Management Planning Committee and spoke with Municipal Services Manager for Republic Services Matt Biorte and county commissioners about the potential of moving the recycling containers to the city’s Department of Public Works (DPW) property at E. Lake and Mill streets.

During Tuesday evening’s meeting, she proposed the move to city commissioners:

“I think it’d be a good idea to get off (the site) where we have the recycling now,” Mayor Ken Burris said.

Currently, Stanton has four cardboard and three general recycling containers at the city parking lot on the corner of Walnut and Camburn streets. However, the volume of use and frequent dumping has caused the site to be an eyesore for neighbors, and on windy days, adjacent properties become littered with trash.

The move would take the recycling containers a quarter mile away to the DPW property. The new site would include a gravel base with a gate which city employees would lock overnight.

“They (the county’s Solid Waste Committee) thought that was a great idea and to bring back bids to them if the (city) commission so wishes to move the site,” according to Pynaert, the county’s Solid Waste Committee seemed willing to pay for the gravel and gate for the new recycling site, so city commissioners unanimously voted to gather bids for the project.

“I think if they (Montcalm County) don’t pay for it (the gate and gravel), we want to look at it again and see just how much money do we want to do down there,” Burris said. “We might look at going carbide.”

The move would also allow the potential to add security cameras if the city decides they would like them in the future.

The recycling site at the DPW property would be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday and weekends, as long as a DPW employee is working. DPW employees would open the site at 7 a.m., and a police officer would lock the gate at 8 p.m.

Lakeview recently moved its village recycling site from public parking to its DPW facility because of similar complaints. Pynaert talked to Lakeview Village Manager Shari Gallagher, who told her the move has seen no abuse and received few complaints about the limited hours.

“The county actually is really interested in moving ours as well,” Pynaert told city commissioners. “If it’s a success, they might look at doing it (moving recycling containers) in other municipalities.”

Four other recycling centers are available throughout Montcalm County at the following locations:

- Carson City: Department of Public Works, 818 N. Williams St.
- Crystal Township: Crystal Community Center, 206 S. Main St.
- Edmore: Southwest corner of former Hitachi property on Quickwater Lake off Nell Road.
- Lakeview: Department of Public Works, North Street.