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**Worcester Telegram**

**Landfill articles to draw crowd**

Templeton gears up for town meeting

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**TEMPLETON-** With articles on the warrant relating to a controversial landfill project, a large crowd is expected to attend tomorrow's special town meeting and the doors will open early.

Doors open at 5:15 p.m. and the meeting starts at 7 p.m. in the Narragansett Regional Middle School.

Two of the four articles on the warrant deal with the landfill.

The first article asks if the town will revoke the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws to abolish a board of health sanitary landfill enterprise fund that began with fiscal 2004.

The second article asks if the town will delete amended language in a town sanitary landfill bylaw to restore the bylaw to its original state. The change means the town would not allow commercial haulers to bring in waste from outside Templeton.

This is a key point for New England Waste Services, a subsidiary of Casella Waste Systems, which signed a contract last year with the town's board of health to clean up the old town landfill off Route 202 and build a new one.

The old, unlined landfill takes up about 12 acres and is near wetlands. The company wants to excavate the old dump and relocate material to a new, double-lined landfill that would be built next to the old one and take up about 26 acres.

Garbage from inside and outside of Templeton would be brought to the new facility. The contract lasts for a minimum of 20 years and provides for one lump sum payment of $500,000 to the town during the first four years along with a minimum annual payment of $1.1 million.

The contract has drawn both support and criticism. Those favoring the deal cite the revenue it would bring and the clean-up of the old dump. Those against it raise concerns about traffic, bad odors and the potential effect on residents' health.

Both of these articles were requested by petition from an anti-landfill group.

The two remaining articles on the warrant are:

 A request by the fire chief to see whether the town will transfer money from the sale of the former fire station buildings on Main Street, Otter River, and North Main Street, East Templeton, into a capital improvement account. Part of the money - $11,600 - would be used for matching funds for the Federal Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program. The remainder - $260,000 - would be used to buy a new pumper engine for Fire Station 2 in Baldwinville.

 A request by the highway superintendent to see whether the town will transfer $16,700 from the highway expenses account to the machinery maintenance expenses account.