

## **Telfair gets set to take out the trash**

*-County to handle solid waste pick-up*

By: Jamie Hussey

Telfair County trash pick-up has been a sore subject since the previous board of commissioners opted to do away with county dumpsters, but current Telfair County commissioners believe they have found a viable solution to many of the inherent problems involved with this hot-button topic. County officials have decided to discontinue their agreement with Republic — the company currently in charge of picking up garbage at residences in Telfair — and make solid waste pick-up a county operation from start to finish.

“I feel with this process in the hands of our landfill and our county employees, we’ll have a whole lot more control and we will be able to deliver a lot better service to the residents of the county,” explains Telfair County Commissioner Neal Stanley. “I think the citizens will be a whole lot happier and I don’t foresee a lot of changes as far as pricing at this point.”

Stanley talked briefly about the financing for the project.

“The money came from the Land Fill USDA RD loan in conjunction with a grant that had been in the works for putting in the new cell at the land fill. Between the grant and the loan we were able to put in the new cell at the land fill, buy a thousand carts for the county, buy one used garbage truck and one new garbage truck with that money. I know that we utilized every penny of that land fill money and put it back into garbage collection for the county.”

The board chairman reports that the county is very close to being ready to take on the project and hopes the change will prove to be an easy transition.

“We’ve already have one used garbage truck bought and delivered, and another new truck will be here probably in the first week of June. I’m hoping by mid-June we’re going to be in good shape to consider to start our own pick-up.”

The commissioner went on to assert that the county maintains a good relationship with Republic and says the company has assured the commission that they will help through the initial time period it takes to hand over the service to Telfair County operations.

“Republic is in agreement to service us till mid-July if we need them,” said Stanley. “By then we should be in good shape to handle it ourselves. I can’t give you a definite date that we’re going to start picking it up right now, but I can say that we are going to be able to start in the next 60 to 90 days, no doubt.”



**Cutline for photo:** Telfair’s current garbage truck is pictured above. A brand new 2020 Mack garbage truck with a Heil DuraPack body is expected to be delivered in approximately four weeks. Upon arrival, the new truck will handle the bulk of garbage pick-up for the county with the above truck in operation as a back up.