

Trash

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tion, West Chicago does not own land or have much to do with it. West Chicago is just a community, Dean said. Its relationship with Groot is similar to a municipality's relationship with a utility provider.

If Batavia decides to go forward with the project, it would ask a private contractor to run the station and probably lease the land from a company.

"We will demand the highest standards of environmental responsibility from our contractor," Schielke said.

The city purchased a two-year option, with a possible six-month extension, for \$10. The property is currently valued at about \$1.09 million, officials said.

Schielke estimated a transfer station could earn the city as much as \$300,000 to \$600,000 a year based on what other communities are doing. West Chicago collects \$100 for every ton of garbage that passes through the station, which is licensed to operate at 1,500 tons a day.

"Most communities do get a host-community benefit," Schielke said. These monetary benefits go their way back to the residents, he said.

Residents of West Chicago who have not had a garbage sticker pay a fee increase in two years, although a different company collects garbage from the neighborhoods. The city also has added a garbage "party" day for residents, when they can dispose of their junk items without a sticker.

With the nearby Settler's Hill landfill expected to be full in one or four years, Schielke said he expects Batavia will "hit the ground running" to reach a decision about the waste transfer station.

"It would probably take a lot of money from a large area, but having a transfer station in Batavia certainly is not going to hurt our garbage business," Schielke said, "because we always have a place to send it."