Trash man cometh with good deal

Last week, Pottstown Council awarded a three-year trash pick-up contract to J.P. Mascaro for $8 million, more per year than the borough’s previous five-year contract with the same company.

The new contract will hike quarterly residential bills about 15 percent, from $68.50 today to $78.80 next year.

However, prior to 2015, quarterly bills were $76, so the cost is still below the rate of inflation since 2014.

In addition, Mascaro will pick up one free bulk item per week, which is not part of the current contract.

Our trash collectors have one of the most difficult and dangerous jobs in the borough.

They spend their days literally running from curb to curb on our streets, lugging 96-gallon trash bins and 65-gallon recycling bins to the back of the trucks.

They are out in all sorts of weather, from bitter cold to sweltering heat and in the midst of drizzles and downpours.

According to the federal Bureau of Labor, they have the fifth most hazardous job in the country. Trash bins and bags can be filled with all sorts of dangerous materials which can cause cuts, burns, and infections.

Trash compactors can cause serious injury and death if not used properly.

But the most dangerous aspect is moving vehicles, especially since trash collectors run in and out of traffic constantly and frequently hang off the side of moving trucks.

It’s no surprise J. P. Mascaro has a recruiting office on High Street. It’s tough finding people with the work ethic and stamina for the job.