

**JOINT ONEIDA COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS & SOLID WASTE/PLANNING &  
DEVELOPMENT/LABOR RELATIONS & EMPLOYEE SERVICES COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES**

**Oneida County Highway Department Conference Room  
Thursday, January 11, 2024 8:00 a.m.**

<b>Attendance:</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Excused</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Ted Cushing	X		
Mike Timmons	X		
Bob Almekinder	X		
Mike Roach	<b>Via Zoom</b>		
Billy Fried	X		

**Present:** Alex Hegeman/Highway Commissioner, Lisa Jolin/Solid Waste Director and Dan Gleason/Highway Department.

Chairman Ted Cushing called the Public Works and Solid Waste Committee meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. noting the meeting was ADA accessible and posted according to Wisconsin open meetings laws.

**1. Approve agenda**

Motion by Timmons/Fried to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

**2. Approve the minutes of the Public Works & Solid Waste Committee meeting held December 28, 2023**

Motion by Roach/Almekinder to approve the minutes of December 28, 2023. Motion carried.

**3. Public Comments**

None

**4. Future Meeting Dates:**

- January 25, 2024  
Roach noted he would not be attending the January 25<sup>th</sup> meeting
- February 8, 2024
- February 22, 2024  
Fried noted he would not be attending either meeting in February

**SOLID WASTE DEPARTMENT**

**5. General Business**

- **Monthly Vendor Voucher and Budget to Actual Reports**  
Jolin reported they should have a much better idea by the end of January.  
Motion by Timmons/Cushing to accept the reports. Motion carried.

**6. Discussion/Act on Paving Project Final Cost**

Jolin reported the total project cost came in at \$559,788 of the \$574,336 amount budgeted.

## **7. Discussion/Act on Scale Operator Resignation and possible Department Restructuring**

Jolin explained with the scale operator resigning and with the vacant system technician position she felt there was an opportunity to create a land systems supervisor position and add some of the accounting responsibilities to the scale operator's position that would help free up time for her to focus on more of the admin duties. Jolin commented the supervisor position could be placed at the grade level above the outgoing systems tech and the scale operator could be compensated for the additional accounting responsibilities. Jolin noted it would not have much affect the 2024 budget and if this was something the committee would like to move forward with, she would then work to develop job descriptions. Timmons commented he felt it would help improve safety and maintenance. Fried commented he was also in favor as it would help to make the department more efficient. Jolin confirmed the number of positions would remain the same but it would replace a regular employee with a supervisory position noting the approved LTE position was never filled.

## **8. Solid Waste Report /Discussion**

- **Cell Tower Board of Adjustment Hearing**

Jolin commented the hearing was scheduled for later that day at 11:00 a.m. at the courthouse following the onsite visit. Cushing commented he would attend the meeting.

- **Entrance Gate Issues**

Jolin reported the entrance gate was damaged for the third time when a customer's vehicle collided with the fence. Jolin commented the road surface was maintained so she recommended installing large rocks and signs to protect the gate. Roach recommended installing concrete blocks as a barrier.

## **9. Future Agenda Items**

- **Cell tower update**

## **HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

### **10. General Business Discussion/Act**

#### **A. Vendor Vouchers**

Motion by Timmons/Almekinder to approve the vouchers as presented. Motion carried.

#### **B. Monthly Invoices Paid and Budget to Actual Reports**

Hegeman reported the reports were not yet finalized.

### **11. Discussion/Act on Possible Speed Limit Reduction on CTH A**

Hegeman reported this agenda item was included following the discussion of the petition that was brought before the committee at the previous meeting noting the committee has the authority to lower the limit by 10 mph, however, a larger reduction would require a speed study. Hegeman noted after speaking with several residence of Three Lakes he did not find support for lowering the speed limit. Fried commented he was left with the conclusion they would look at both signage and the shoulders. Hegeman confirmed he was looking into options to do that work but would not have estimates until the asphalt pricing was available. Hegeman commented he counted 12 curve signs in both directions but there might be locations to add chevrons and possibly replace a couple s-curve signs with full curve signs. Hegeman reported requests to lower speed limits on other roads have been denied. Fried commented he felt it was clear the speed limit would not be lowered but there was an expectation the signage would be addressed and shoulders in the future. Hegeman noted there can be too many signs. Roach commented even if lane miles were reduced he would

not anticipate a significant difference, however, the three spots where cars leave the pavement might be addressed in the future. Hegeman confirmed he would look into adding a few additional signs. Fried commented he found chevrons valuable at night and he wanted the constituents to know that their concerns were being looked into. Almekinder noted the accident occurred as a result of slush on a straight portion of the road questioning how a curve sign would have helped. Hegeman stated he would drive the road with the patrol superintendent and the sign coordinator to see what can be done.

## **12. Discussion/Act on Equipment Updates**

Hegeman presented a report highlighting some of the changes to the State equipment rates for 2024 noting some the rates decreased since the formula was based on a five year rolling statewide average. Hegeman explained with the increase to equipment expenses and a mild winter combined with the current rates the patrol trucks would lose money that year.

Hegeman commented since the formula was based on 2022 data, once the 2023 data was factored in the rates may actual go down. However, even if the rates increased the budgets remained the same so less work could get done on the system noting he was struggling to make things work.

Hegeman reported the finance director asked that he put together a list of equipment to purchase for 2024 if there were extra ARPA funds available that would be discussed at the upcoming CIP committee meeting.

Hegeman reported the shop found issues with the underbody of a patrol truck that might require putting money into a 20 year old patrol truck adding there might be other trucks with the same issue.

## **13. Discussion/Act on Complaint Status Report**

Hegeman reported there only a few complaints about some slippery spots noting some of the complaints were becoming rude.

## **14. Discussion/Act on Generator Design Report**

Almekinder reported he was having trouble getting WPS to proceed until he was able to provide the total BTU usage of the building noting the consumption of every gas device in the facility would need to be documented prior to WPS signing off on the incoming line.

## **15. Commissioner's Report/Discussion**

Hegeman reported the crew was on CTH N cutting trees with a brushing crew on CTH Y opening up vision triangles and when the road was clean and dry the crew was finishing up the mastic on CTH P in addition to some signs that were beginning to arrive for installation that summer.

Hegeman reported there was an employee with a work related injury and they were able to accommodate the restriction so there had not been any lost time but noted every year the department was down an available employee for similar reasons.

Hegeman reported the 2023 RMA was about \$290,000 over budget and they were working on the year end numbers for County noting he expected to be over budget on both construction and maintenance.

Hegeman reported both he and the patrol superintendent would be calling into a webinar the following week for the 6 to 20 foot culverts/bridge structures noting the inspector was recommending the towns have the County do their inspections.

Hegeman commented with the temperatures dropping the crew would be out salting Friday, but Saturday morning would be touch and go with a high of 15 degrees so they would switch over to sand on the intersections and curves.

**16. Future Agenda Items**

- Equipment updates
- Complaint report
- Generator Project updated design
- Utility Permit and Policy
- Sign Request Policy

**17. Public comments**

None

**18. Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 9:22 a.m.

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Committee Chairman

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Committee Secretary