

ONEIDA COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS & SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Oneida County Highway Department Conference Room
Thursday, January 22, 2026 8:00 a.m.

Committee members:	Present	Excused	Absent
Ted Cushing	X		
Bob Almekinder	X		
Billy Fried	Phone		
Dan Hess	X		
Robb Jensen	X		

Also Present: Lisa Bauknecht/Solid Waste Director, Alex Hegeman/Highway Commissioner, Jenifer Lueneburg/LRES Director, Scott Holewinski/County Board Chair, Linnaea Newman/County Board Supervisor and Dan Gleason/Highway

1. Call to order and Chairperson's announcements

Committee Chair Ted Cushing called the Public Works and Solid Waste Committee meeting to order at 8:00 am noting the meeting was properly posted and ADA accessible.

2. Approve agenda

Motion by Jensen/Hess to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

3. Approve minutes of the Public Works & Solid Waste Committee meeting held January 7, 2026

Motion by Hess/Almekinder to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

4. Public comments

None

5. Future Meeting Dates:

- February 5, 2026
- February 19, 2026

6. December Monthly Vendor Vouchers and Budget to Actual Reports

Bauknecht presented the reports to the committee for review.

7. Compost Update

Bauknecht commented she continued to submit the monthly update letters noting copies of the letters were emailed to corporation counsel.

8. Solid Waste Report

Bauknecht reported:

- She would be looking at a yard jockey to purchase the following Wednesday
- She would begin working on line item transfers once payables were in
- She requested \$40,000 for release from long term care noting \$20,000 was released for 2025
- The household waste and the electronics program reports were submitted

- The draft of the closed landfill report was complete
- She will send drafts of the waste materials fiber cake management and WPDES discharge report to Sand Creek for review prior to submitting final reports
- She planned to complete and send in the RU report next

9. Future Agenda Items

10. Approve Vendor Vouchers

Motion by Hess/Jensen to approve the vendor vouchers as presented. Motion carried.

11. Invoices Paid Report

Hegeman presented the report to the committee for review.

12. Crew and Office Work Schedules

Hegeman reported the executive committee approved the recommendation to return to a four-day workweek temporarily until this committee can make a formal recommendation. Hegeman explained they were in the process of collecting historical data and hoped to have a comprehensive review for the next meeting. Hegeman reported the crew was now working Monday through Thursday and the office was open Monday through Friday from 8 am to 4:30 pm.

Lueneburg commented there was discussion at the executive committee meeting to return to the four-day workweek but giving the commissioner the flexibility adjust the days worked if there was a storm forecast for Friday. Lueneburg explained the executive committee was only able to approve the motion as this committee sent it forth so it was coming back to this committee to add that flexibility to the four-tens.

Jensen commented hopefully that they would be ready on February 5 to get closure and forward on to the executive committee.

Holewinski questioned if working four-tens was a good business decision because on December 5, the call pay was \$1,028, regular pay was \$574, overtime was \$906 and comp-time was \$2,043 for a total of \$4,552. Holewinski commented at an average of 14 out of 30 Fridays it costs an extra \$64,000 and 13.6 percent for benefits totals \$72,000 noting he did not feel it needed more study. Holewinski commented in addition to costing more the level of service is worse but the four-ten rotating actually saves money and was better than four-eights.

Hess commented he thought four-tens would require the week to begin on Tuesday so if they are called in on Monday its easy to put it back to the week.

Jensen commented if the crew was already out for 14 hours on both Monday and Tuesday, Friday would still be overtime. Jensen explained recruiting and retaining employees was a business decision noting the challenge of getting people.

Hess commented he felt it was better public safety and the service was better working five-eight's in the winter.

Lueneburg commented regardless of their decision she did not feel public safety would ever be sacrificed adding she though it was a balance of taxpayer dollars and keeping employees happy. Lueneburg commented ensuring the commissioner has some flexibility to meet the needs yet still to save on overtime wherever he can is the ideal situation.

Hegeman commented he felt the best schedule operationally was from 7 am to 3 pm if the crew was working five-eight's. Hegeman confirmed half of the crew was called in early so they would be going home early after reaching ten hours.

Motion by Hess/Almekinder to move the highway crew to five eight hour workdays, hours dependent on the commissioners request, to be put in the county code flexing the hours on the five day workweek to be forwarded on to executive committee to include the summer hours of four ten hour days Monday through Thursday at the commissioners request with the switchover spring and fall to be on the commissioners decision based on weather. Jensen commented it seemed throughout the state four tens throughout the winter was the preference and would like to know why those counties made that business decision. Fried questioned how much money it would cost and how many people were hired with the expectation of working four tens. Fried commented he did not think it was fair to move to five eights without the commissioner bringing back numbers and thoughts on a strategy so the committee can make a good decision with a proper timeframe if they make the change. Hegeman reported the state pays approximately sixty to seventy percent of the overtime. Almekinder commented he would like to see what the costs are to the county noting money was one thing and retaining critical employees was other because of the time it takes to train employees. All opposed; motion defeated.

13. Winter Maintenance Policies and Procedures for State and County Highways

Hegeman reported he did not have any updates for the committee.

14. Review and Approve Patrol Truck Attachment Proposals

Vendor	Base Quote	Add-On's	Total
Phoenix Bodyworx	\$ 218,652.97	\$ -	\$ 218,652.97
Casper's Truck Equipment	\$ 270,058.84	\$ -	\$ 270,058.84
Monroe Truck Equipment	\$ 221,710.00	\$ 1,712.00	\$ 223,422.00

Hegeman recommended moving forward with Phoenix Bodyworx noting he would draft a resolution to bring back to the next meeting.

Motion by Jensen/Almekinder to approve the attachment quote from Phoenix Bodyworx at \$218,652.97. Motion carried.

15. Resolution for the Order to Convey Highway Right of Way Title to State (Wisconsin Department of Transportation) over parcels of County Highway L (CTH L) highway right-of-way

Hegeman reported the resolution was approved by land records and reviewed by corporation counsel.

Motion by Hess/Jensen to approve fifteen as presented and send it to county board. Motion carried.

16. Sign Request for CTH Y at Willow Dam Road

Hegeman reported the request was from the DNR to place signs for campsites at both intersections of Willow Dam Road and CTH Y.

Motion by Cushing/Almekinder to approve the sign request for CTH Y and Willow Dam Road. Motion carried.

17. Equipment Updates

Hegeman reported the mechanics remained busy doing their best keep everything running and on the road.

18. Complaint Status Report

Hegeman reported they were doing their best to keep the highway 8 bypass together.

19. Commissioner's Report

Hegeman reported the crew was busy making salt sand and hauling to towns noting there was approximately another 5,000 tons to make. Hegeman reported there were salt shortages across the state but they started receiving the DOT salt and should be done that day. Hegeman commented he had heard the docks were no longer selling to private companies because they were worried about a shortage for the municipalities noting the DOT had a meeting scheduled to discuss shifting the vendor reserve from the southern to the northern half of the state. Hegeman reported he would inquire into where the county salt is the following week noting they would go through the remaining inventory quickly making another 5,000 tons of salt sand.

Hegeman reported in the future, there would likely be a non-binding resolution from all 72 counties requesting additional road transportation funding.

20. Future Agenda Items

- Highway department campus projects
- CTH D boat landing update
- Crew and office work schedules
- Update on winter maintenance procedures

21. Public comments

None

22. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 9:49 am

Committee Chairman

Committee Secretary