

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

**Oneida County Highway Department Conference Room
Thursday, January 25, 2024 8:00 a.m.**

Attendance:	Present	Excused	Absent
Ted Cushing	X		
Mike Timmons	X		
Bob Almekinder	X		
Mike Roach		X	
Billy Fried	X		

Present: Alex Hegeman/Highway Commissioner, Linnaea Newman/Rhineland (Wards 14, 15 and 16) 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 Fried/Almekinder to approve the amended agenda. Motion carried.

2. Approve the minutes of the Public Works & Solid Waste Committee meeting held January 11, 2024

Motion by Fried/Timmons to approve the minutes of January 11, 2024. Motion carried.

3. Public Comments

None

4. Future Meeting Dates:

- February 8, 2024
- February 22, 2024

Cushing confirmed Fried was excused from both meetings in February

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

5. General Business Discussion/Act

A. Vendor Vouchers

B. Monthly Invoices Paid and Budget to Actual Reports

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

6. Discussion/Act on 6 Foot to 20 Foot Structure Program

Hegeman commented the program was part of the last State budget in order to get an inventory and complete initial inspections of structures between 6 and 20 feet. Hegeman reported towns must to notify the County by April 15th if they are doing the inventory themselves or they are asking the County, or private contractor perform the inventory noting

there would be \$100 provided for every structure that met the criteria with an additional \$350 to perform the inspections. Hegeman commented KBIS had performed the bridge inspections for the previous 6 to 8 years. However, if a county does not have the staff to perform the inspections the WCA will pick the consultant noting none of the counties are happy with that so the WCA, WTA and DOT are looking at adding an option for counties to choose their own. Hegeman reported if a town asked the County to perform the inventory he would ask that a town employee accompany the county employee and likely offer to split the \$100 with the town.

7. Discussion/Act on STP/Bridge Project Update

Hegeman reported the DOT was looking to use CTH L as a detour so the CTH L Bridge project scheduled for 2026 could be moved to 2027. The CTH D Bridge project was running into issues with the boat landing entrance noting the DNR was looking into widening the channel and raising the bridge so they were looking into relocating the entrance to the old road bed. Hegeman reported the Town was not opposed to moving the entrance as long as there was no loss of parking and one of the two adjacent land owners communicated that they did not want to share a driveway with the boat landing. Hegeman reported the pricing would likely increase.

Fried questioned why the County was incurring the extra costs for moving for the driveway and why the Town was not participating in the extra costs noting other towns have shared costs when there were improvements made. Hegeman commented they were going for change management asking the DOT for additional money to cover some of the costs. Hegeman reported surveying was wrapping up for the 2027 CTH C Bridge project and the 2026 CTH P project was pushed back to 2027 noting he was hoping the urban portion of CTH P project would get funding so the projects could be tied together in order to save some money. Hegeman reported there were 3 additional projects in the que and he was hoping to hear back by March or April if any could be added to the list.

8. Discussion/Act on Equipment Updates

Hegeman presented a preliminary report demonstrating the patrol truck fleet lost money noting he attended a Machinery Management Committee meeting that included a discussion about the large increase in costs noting even the counties that perform a lot of construction are unable to keep up with the cost increases. Hegeman reported he discussed the rates with the director of the bureau of highway maintenance citing a recent project where the private contractor charged the DOT \$40 per hour for a one-ton pickup truck when the County only received \$17. Hegeman commented the RMA would need to increase to handle any increases to equipment rates. Hegeman provided an explanation of how depreciation less the overall gain or loss of the equipment affected funds available for future equipment purchases. Hegeman commented the high cost of new trucks would greatly increase depreciation expenses so as a result they would either need to see an increase to the rates or reduce the size of the fleet in an effort to consolidate the hours onto fewer trucks, however, doing so would also reduce the level of service. Hegeman noted both State and County budget amounts have remained approximately the same for the last 10 or 12 years.

9. Discussion/Act on Complaint Status Report

Hegeman reported there few complaints aside from a letter he received the previous day.

10. Discussion/Act on Generator Design Report

Almekinder reported he met with WPS the previous Monday and Tuesday noting the current meter on the main building would accommodate the 1.2 million BTU's with the new generator, however, the meter on the brine building would need to be replaced. Almekinder noted the cost for WPS to disconnect and reconnect the gas would be \$400 in addition to the cost of the meter and the labor to replace it. Almekinder explained the electrical disconnects on the main facility should be outside but he could make it work if he replaced with a combination of the 4 with a meter WPS should approve. However, if not he could still make it work with the addition of a transfer switch and the location of the generator. Almekinder reported the breaker, CT box and meter socket were ancient but everything functioned noting WPS was concerned that the building was on 120/240 vs the current standard of 120/208 but it would be a huge expense as everything would need to be changed to update. Fried questioned if it would make sense to replace the ancient components. Almekinder commented he was looking into the availability of the new items, recommending they purchase the new equipment if available and then include the installation on the bid documents. Almekinder noted running new gas line to the generator near the panel would be less than running electrical wire at \$62 per foot. Fried noted there was a CIP meeting scheduled for March first and the Committee would need to decide if the project would remain in ARPA or move to CIP project if it would not be contracted and expended in time. Almekinder commented he should know if he can get the equipment and if WPS will approve the installation by the next meeting. Almekinder commented if he were doing the projected he estimated the cost of the project should be no more than \$120,000.

11. Discussion/Act on Excavator Purchase

Hegeman reported the current excavator was getting around the time they should begin to consider replacement so they were putting some numbers together for the CIP Committee in the range of \$220,000 to \$230,000 for a used machine. The CAT dealer reached out at the conference regarding machines they were selling from their rental fleet at a price of \$119,000 and a trade-in value of \$50,000 for the department's current machine noting it was everything they were looking for at a much better price. Timmons questioned how long it would take to pay for itself. Hegeman commented he would need to run the numbers but it depends on the number of culverts they replace noting the machine made money in addition to keeping other equipment working. Timmons commented if it's something that's needed and as long as it's used otherwise he would recommend a rental. Cushing commented he felt this was an opportunity. Hegeman reported it was a 2019 model and included a 4 year warranty adding he could bring back a resolution to forward to County Board as the purchase price was over \$100,000. Fried commented he didn't like to direct the department's equipment purchases but questioned why this was a priority over the other requests brought before the CIP Committee. Hegeman anything they purchase is over \$25,000 and was brought up the previous year adding this opportunity came up following the last CIP Committee meeting. Fried commented as long as the money was coming from department funds he agreed it shouldn't need to go through the CIP process. Hegeman confirmed the money was available from the department's equipment fund and benefits the department by offsetting some of the losses incurred from mandated services. Almekinder noted the current excavator was twenty years old and within a couple of years could incur significant expenses. Timmons instructed Hegeman to bring back a resolution.

Motion by Cushing/Timmons to approve the purchase of the excavator at \$69,250 with money to come from the equipment fund and develop a resolution to forward to County Board. Motion carried.

12. Commissioner's Report/Discussion

Hegeman reported he would bring back an updated list of the equipment and how it did for 2023. The crews were cutting tree on CTH N then plan to move onto CTH J with plans to mastic on CTH P when the pavement dried, then CTH J and STH 47.

13. Future Agenda Items

- 6 to 20 Foot Structure Program
- Resolution to purchase excavator
- Equipment updates
- Complaint report
- Generator Project updated design
- Utility Permit and Policy
- Sign Request Policy

14. Public comments

None

15. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 9:24 a.m.

Committee Chairman

Committee Secretary