

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

**Oneida County Highway Department Conference Room
Thursday, March 21, 2024 8:00 a.m.**

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

Present: Lisa Jolin/Solid Waste Director, Alex Hegeman/Highway Commissioner, Karl Jennrich/Planning & Zoning Director, Paul Fiene/Forestry 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/Almekinder to approve the agenda with the chairman's ability to move around. Motion carried.

2. Approve the minutes of the Public Works & Solid Waste Committee meeting held February 22, 2024 and March 7, 2024

Motion by Timmons/Almekinder to approve the minutes of February 22, 2024 and March 7, 2024. Motion carried.

3. Public Comments

None.

4. Future Meeting Date:

- April 4, 2024
- April 18, 2024

SOLID WASTE DEPARTMENT

5. General Business Discussion/Act

A. Monthly Vendor Voucher and Budget to Actual Reports for January

Motion by Timmons to approve the bills and vouchers as presented.

Jolin noted the Vendor Voucher and Budget to Actual Reports were for February not January.

6. Discussion/Act on Credit Account Application for Master of Carpentry

7. Discussion/Act on Credit Account Application for Highland Lakes Real Estate Holdings, LLC

Motion by Almekinder/Timmons to approve the credit account applications for agenda items 6 and 7. Motion carried

8. Discussion/Act on setting a rate for haulers that exceed a certain MSW tonnage per year

Jolin reported she was approached by company that proposed using Solid Waste exclusively if they could receive a lower rate for the remainder of their contract with Waste Management. If not, the company would reopen the transfer station on Hwy 17 taking all of Waste Management along with it. Jolin noted Waste Management owns that transfer station and he would make that part of the contract.

Jolin commented since the fixed operating costs would remain the same, the increased tonnage they received would mean the more they would make and put the department in a better position when the next contract was negotiated.

Jolin reported rather than a contract, corporation counsel recommended keeping things simple. Jolin explained they currently offer a rebate for contractors that bring in 100 tons per year suggesting expanding the amount of the rebate for larger yearly volumes.

Timmons agreed that the rebate was the way to move forward and recommend bringing back a proposal.

9. Solid Waste Report/Discussion

- Interviews for scale operator were complete
- There were a couple of options for the supervisor position
- With the nice weather 8 rows of compost were already laid out
- The recycling processing fee was coming down but she would hold prices until after the road limits came off to recoup the increased trucking costs
- The easement for the tower was approved by County Board
- Met with the volunteer who was coming to pick up garbage for community service

10. Future Agenda Items

- Tiered rate proposal

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

11. General Business Discussion/Act

A. Vendor Vouchers

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

12. Discussion/Act on Closed Session: It is anticipated that the Committee will adjourn to closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat. Sec. 19.85(1)(c) Considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which this body has jurisdiction or responsibility. (Topic: Highway Commissioner Evaluation)

Motion by Timmons/Almekinder to enter into closed session. Row call vote all affirmative. Entered into closed session at 9:32 a.m.

13. It is anticipated the Committee will return to open session to consider the remainder of the meeting agenda

Returned to open session at 10:05 a.m.

14. Announcement of action taken in closed session.

Motion by Timmons/Almekinder to return to open session. Row call vote all affirmative. Ted Cushing excused at 9:55 a.m. Timmons conducted the remainder of the meeting. Review of the highway commissioners reports to be forwarded to LRES.

15. Discussion/Act on Right-of-Way Encroachment, Parcel NO-534-1

Jennrich explained it was discovered during an inspection of a septic system newly installed on CTH N that the system was believed to be within the right-of-way. Jennrich reported enforcement letters were sent to the plumber, owner and Highway Department in 2021, 2022 and 2024 to encourage the owner to rectify the issue by either purchasing property or seeking an easement from Oneida County.

Hegeman reported the options were to order the system be removed from the right-of-way, sell the portion of the right-of-way or offer a revocable occupancy permit. Hegeman noted the owner would need to remove the system at the owner cost if the right-of-way was needed for possible expansion in the future.

Fried questioned the cost of the permit to the owner.

Cushing agreed he felt the revocable occupancy permit might be the easiest route to go.

Roach agreed with the use of the permit as it looked like it was not intentional.

Fiene noted the Forestry Department charged \$3,000 per acre, a \$500 admin fee in addition to the associated costs for surveys and recording fees regardless if the encroachment was intentional or accidental.

Jennrich commented the plumber and owner were not on talking terms so he was following up with the owner. Jennrich confirmed the drawing on the permit indicated the system was not in the right-of-way noting he had the ability to go after the plumber and issue citations.

Almekinder commented he would go after the plumber and offer option 3 to the land owner noting the cost should be large enough to discourage people from doing this.

Fried recommended a minimum of \$1,000 but up to \$3,000 per acre plus fees.

Roach commented he felt \$500 would be sufficient but stated he would be okay the committees decision.

Fried commented the owner could go after the contractor for the costs.

Motion by Fried/Almekinder to authorize the commission to enter into a revocable occupancy permit on the property discussed and assessing a fee of \$1,000 in addition to any other costs incurred by the County.

Almekinder questioned if they should go after the plumber. Fried noted that would be left to the Zoning Committee or department.

Motion carried; Roach opposed.

16. Discussion/Act on Equipment Updates

Hegeman reported the truck sent to Minocqua for repair was complete at a cost of about \$4,100 as anticipated. Build dates for the 2 triaxles and the tandem were March 20th, June 3rd and 4th noting a build time of about a month for each. However, the body builders were out 9 to 12 months. Hegeman noted the attachments were paid for and on site for the first 5 trucks.

17. Discussion/Act on Complaint Status Report

Hegeman reported he had received 3 or 4 complaints that spring regarding the trash along CTH K noting there were 3 sections of adopt a highway including the landfill and the courthouse union. Roach questioned if there were signs for groups that should be taken down if they were not picking up trash. Hegeman commented a list was maintained with the expectation the groups clean up in both the spring and fall noting he did not have the staff to walk ditches cleaning trash.

Hegeman commented he intended to talk with the solid waste director about adding a surcharge for uncovered loads. Timmons recommended reaching out to town boards and other organizations that might be interested in adopting available sections.

18. Discussion/Act on Generator Project

Hegeman reported the project was advertised noting he already met with a contractor and would be meeting with a second the following day. Hegeman commented the completion date of October 31st might be an issue for the 100k generator for the main shop, which might be as much as a year out. Hegeman commented he would bring back the bids to the April 4th meeting and prepare a resolution for the April 8th Admin meeting for the April County Board meeting.

19. Upcoming Capital Improvement Projects

Hegeman reported building upgrades were on hold following the construction of the brine building and installation of the new fuel system. Hegeman referenced the facility evaluation from the time they were looking into the new facility compiling a list of proposed upgrades and which were completed. Timmons commented at the time under the former commissioner, the crew was going to work to address some of those issues. Fried commented he thought following the receipt of that report, the county was going to spend \$1 million or more to resolve those issues. Hegeman confirmed over the previous 5 or 6 years approximately \$2 million was spent on upgrading the front and back HVAC, the brine building, the fuel system and sealing of the main facility's roof. Discussion of the anticipated needs for the department and how much should be invested based upon the expected life of the current facility.

Hegeman provided a list of the equipment he expected would need to be replaced over the next five years including replacement of the skid steer forestry head, F-550 shop truck, F-550 mini dump truck, flagger trucks and semi.

20. Discussion/Act on Approval of Walking Trail for Town Line Lake Park in CTH K Right of Way

Fiene explained the proposal was to reestablish a walking trail from the boat landing to the beach area that would lie within about 500 feet of the right-of-way.

Motion by Timmons/Almekinder to approve a walking trail per item 20 of the current agenda to meet shore land standards. Motion carried.

21. Discussion/Act on WisDOT RMA Funding Analysis

Hegeman reported this was intended to be a continuation of the previous discussion to address any questions the committee may have. Hegeman provided a further analysis of the patrol trucks including a breakdown of revenues compared to expenses and a percentage of

where the trucks were primarily used on County, State or as back-ups. Hegeman noted the majority of new trucks are used on State beats then transitioned to County beats and finally used as spares. Hegeman provided an explanation of outlying expenses for select trucks based upon repairs performed partially as a result of limited replacement availability. Hegeman noted they attempt to utilize trucks in other capacities that generate additional revenue to help ensure those truck don't lose money. Hegeman noted they have looked at all department equipment but focused on the patrol trucks for this report as those are the largest cost drivers.

22. Commissioner's Report/Discussion

Hegeman reported:

- Trees were cut on CTH J and Y with trees on CTH E and CTH H to be addressed following
- Salt sand orders from towns were down from previous years as expected
- 1900 tons of County salt yet to be delivered
- Road limits remain in effect until the weather breaks noting 40 inches of frost remain in Vilas County
- For the 6 to 20 foot structure program, Counties may hire their own inspectors but Towns are required to use the inspector as designated by the WCA and WTA
- GIS interviews with 5 or 6 promising candidates were scheduled for the following Monday
- When the next mechanic retires he planned on requesting some overlap
- The department had gone a full year without an employee terminating their employment

23. Future Agenda Items

- Review of previous years' chipseal projects and effects of the mild winter
- Equipment updates
- Complaint report
- Generator Project

24. Public comments

None

25. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 10:18 a.m.

Committee Chairman

Committee Secretary