

ONEIDA COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS & SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Oneida County Highway Department Conference Room
Thursday, April 2, 2026 8:00 a.m.

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

Also Present: Lisa Bauknecht/Solid Waste Director, Ben Rich/Interim Highway Commissioner, Jennifer Lueneburg/LRES Director and Dan Gleason/Highway

1. Call to order and Chairperson's announcements

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. Motion carried.

3. Approve minutes of the Public Works & Solid Waste Committee meetings held March 19, 2026 and March 30, 2026

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

4. Public comments

None

5. Future Meeting Dates:

- April 16, 2026
- April 30, 2026

6. Credit Account Application for Sleep Central, LLC

Motion by Jensen/Hess to approve the credit account application for Sleep Central, LLC. Motion carried.

7. Leachate Prefiltration System

Bauknecht reported they have been shipping the leachate to Merrill since the Rhinelander facility stopped accepting it the previous fall, however, Merrill now requires PFAS testing as well. The leachate was being hauled to Medford but have since switch to Big Blue to buy some time. Bauknecht reported the pre-filtration system was originally planned for 2027 but explained it was needed sooner. The estimated cost of the system was \$77,000 but some of the labor cost could be saved if the department staff was used.

8. Aging Accounts Receivable Review

Bauknecht provided the report to the committee for their review.

9. End of Year Financial Comparisons

Bauknecht provided a report that compared the department financials for the last seven years.

10. Damage to Trash Compactor and Trucking Company Trailer

Bauknecht reported a large piece of steel was run through the compactor causing significant damage to the trucking company's trailer in the amount of \$7,300.

11. Transfer Station Floor

Bauknecht reported the transfer station floor was in need of repair noting rebar was beginning to come through the surface.

12. Repair Estimates on Equipment

Bauknecht reported Legacy Lift serviced all of the department equipment including the safety inspections adding there 6 pieces of equipment requiring repairs which she would repair in order of importance.

13. Compost Update

Bauknecht reported corporation counsel approved the hauling of the compost but suggested the committee approve as well noting the expenses would be tracked.

Motion by Hess/Jensen to start hauling compost.

Bauknecht confirmed they do not have the funding to pay for the hauling and corporation counsel advised they keep track of the expenses.

Cushing noted they did not have funding to move all of the material but they still need to do a couple of trial runs to confirm they would accept it.

Bauknecht commented she believed corporation counsel was looking into potential funding from the State.

Motion amended by Hess/Jensen to include two trial runs and then bring back.

Jensen recommended bringing back with the estimated costs.

Amended motion carried.

14. Solid Waste Report

Bauknecht reported:

- The welder was coming to repair the past damage to the transfer station wall.
- The department Facebook page was taken down but she would work IT to get it restored.

15. Future Agenda Items

16. Approve Vendor Vouchers

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

17. Invoices Paid and Budget to Actual Reports

Rich reported winter maintenance for the DOT was at 126 percent and the County was similar if not more.

Jensen commented the committee knew the increased maintenance would be more money but they would find a way to fund it.

18. Out of County Travel for:

A. Sign Coordinator, Signing, Marking & Work Zone Vendor Day, April 30, 2026, Madison

Motion by Cushing/Hess to approve the out of county travel for the sign coordinator. Motion carried.

B. Committee and Commissioner, Summer Highway Conference, June 8-10, 2026, Wisconsin Dells

Motion by Jensen/Hess to approve the committee and commissioner's summer highway conference attendance, June 8 - 10 funded through the department budget. Motion carried.

19. Resolution to Appoint Highway Commissioner

Lueneburg reported following interviews the position was offered to Ben Rich contingent on County Board approval.

Motion by Jensen/Cushing to approve the resolution to elect Benjamin Rich to the Highway Commissioner position. Motion Carried.

20. Request for Jurisdictional Transfer of Willow Road, Town of Lynne to Oneida County Highway System

Almekinder reported the Town of Lynn requested the County take over the road but it would also require a request from the Town of Minocqua to be considered. Almekinder noted Holewinski was not in favor of taking over the road. Almekinder suggested bringing the item back after the Town of Minocqua made a decision.

Motion by Jensen/Hess to postpone this item until a further date. Motion carried.

21. Winter Maintenance Procedures for State and County Highways

Rich noted there was nothing to update and the item could be removed from future agendas if the committee agreed.

The committee agreed it could be removed and future updates could be part of the commissioner's report.

22. Sand Lake Boat Landing Updates

Rich reported it would cost \$1,200 to run power to the landing according to WPS. Rich explained that according to State Statute the County could not vacate the landing without the approval of the DNR.

23. Sign Request – CTH C

Rich explained he spoke with Bowen's Bus Service who reported there were numerous close calls at this bus stop noting the bus driver reported nearly being rear ended six times this season. Rich explained the total cost for two signs was approximately \$600.

Motion by Jensen/Cushing to approve the county highway sign request form for CTH C as presented. Motion carried.

24. Equipment Updates

Rich reported:

- There were currently no spare trucks because of several recent breakdowns.
- The new fifth-wheel tractor was delivered and being set up.

25. Complaint Status Report

Rich reported there was not much new and most of the previous complaints were resolved, however, a car blew two tires after going around the patch crew and hitting a pothole on CTH K.

26. Commissioner's Report

Rich reported at the preconstruction meeting he attended for concrete repair on USH 51:

- The Town of Nokomis requested better signage both north and south of the Windmill noting the advisory was the same as the actual speed limit.
- The DNR manager of the Bearskin Trail requested bicycle route signs for the three-quarters of a mile that the bicycle trail is on CTH L.
- The Town of Nokomis requested a weight limit on CTH L to prevent trucks from using it as a detour; however, he did not feel comfortable because it was an old state road that was well built.

Rich reported:

- The crew was filling holes on CTH K whenever possible.
- The crew was chipping the trees cut along CTH G and he was checking with corporation counsel about offering the chips to the public.
- The outside shops should be closed with the crews returning to the Rhinelander shop on April 13.
- The Town of Pelican submitted a bridge aid request for the Haymeadow Bridge for the overage not covered by the SMA but he did not have all of the information at that time.

27. Future Agenda Items

- Staffing Update
- Highway department campus projects
- Crew and office work schedules

28. Public comments

None

29. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 am

Committee Chairman

Committee Secretary