

# ONEIDA COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS & SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Oneida County Highway Department Conference Room  
Thursday, April 3, 2025 8:00 a.m.

Attendance:	Present	Excused	Absent
Ted Cushing	X		
Bob Almekinder	X		
Billy Fried	X		
Dan Hess	X		
Robb Jensen	X		

**Present:** Lisa Bauknecht/Solid Waste Director, Alex Hegeman/Highway Commissioner, Scott Holewinski/County Board Chair, Dan Gleason/Highway and Bart Sexton/Sand County Environmental

## 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 a.m. noting the meeting was ADA accessible and posted according to Wisconsin open meetings laws.

## 2. Approve agenda (order of agenda items at Chairperson's discretion)

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

## 3. Elect Vice-Chair Position

Motion by Cushing/Jensen to ask Mr. Almekinder to Vice-Chair.

Motion by Jensen/Cushing to close nominations and cast a unanimous vote for Mr. Almekinder. Motion carried.

## 4. Approve minutes of the Public Works & Solid Waste Committee meeting held March 20, 2025

Motion by Hess/Almekinder to approve as presented for March 20. Motion carried.

## 5. Public comments

None

## 6. Future Meeting Dates:

- April 17, 2025
- May 1, 2025
- May 15, 2025
- May 29, 2025

## 7. Budget to Actual Report and Invoices Paid Report for March

Cushing noted receipt of the reports.

## 8. Fiber Cake Compost and Disposal Options

Bart Sexton reported the paper mill used a group of chemicals in the 1990's and early 2000's to coat food and medical grade paper. Sexton explained those chemicals bio-accumulate and are attracted to the paper sludge known as fiber cake. Sexton commented since the current administration was in the midst of dismantling the EPA there would likely

be no federal standards for at least 6 years but rather left to the states. Sexton explained in Wisconsin there was a proposal to spend hundreds of millions on PFAS, however, the legislature wants concessions in terms of liabilities but the governor wants the money distributed without waivers of liability.

Sexton reported the permit obtained by the Solid Waste Department in 1997 required renewal every 5 years; however, both he and the County missed the last renewal although the director continued to submit the annual reports to the DNR. The prior year the DNR realized there was not a valid permit and issued the letter of non-compliance requiring the operations shutdown. Then as part of the renewal process, testing of the material revealed levels of the compounds PFAS and PFOA at 216 ppm, greater than the limit of 150 ppm considered acceptable for land spreading so the solid waste director ceased the sale of compost. In order to return to compliance, the DNR required the department dispose of the materials in an approved landfill or incinerator.

Sexton estimated 8,000 tons of fiber cake and compost remained on site, and because many landfills were either unable or unwilling to accept fiber cake, he offered the following viable options for disposal:

- If the proposed plan was accepted, the Lincoln County Landfill would probably accept 20 to 40 tons per day, over the course of 1 to 2 years at an estimated cost of \$550,000
- If the KW landfill accepted the material Sexton estimated the cost at \$700,000
- On site disposal would take 2 years and cost between \$1 to \$2 million depending on how long-term-care was handled

Sexton commented those options only addressed the material that was on site and there would be several additional related issues that would need to be addressed in the future noting if regulation reduced the acceptable level of those chemical compounds, they would then be disposing of hazardous waste and costs would increase exponentially.

Holewinski recommended contacting their legislators and find grants to help clean this up noting the DNR was at least partially at fault for issuing their license.

Sexton explained onsite disposal in an industrial landfill might be a consideration especially if there was concern about site contamination that requires cleanup and disposal noting he thought they would need to deal with more than just the current 8,000 tons of material.

Sexton explained there could be good results if an onsite landfill closed within 2 to 3 years, however, the leachate would require monitoring into perpetuity.

Jensen commented the new budget biennium would begin on July 1, 2025 noting they would be looking at funding for removal of material and funding for onsite disposal.

Jensen volunteered to contact the legislators to set up meetings.

Holewinski questioned how they would go about notifying the public noting when they developed the fiber cake compost they were told it would grow everything including vegetables but now there would be concerns about contamination and questioning the County's liability.

Bauknecht noted corporation counsel approved the letter posted in the compost section of solid waste webpage informing the public why the department is no longer selling compost and included links for additional information regarding PFAS.

## **9. July 4th Holiday Hours**

Bauknecht request the department remain closed on Saturday, July 5 following the closure day on Friday, July 4 to allow employees to have the same days off as other county staff.

Motion by Cushing/Hess to approve the closing of the landfill on July 5. Motion carried.

#### 10. Update on Transfer Station Fire Remediation

Bauknecht reported the contractor would be on site to begin work the following Tuesday noting she anticipated the project would be completed by the end of April.

#### 11. Solid Waste Report

Bauknecht noted she had nothing additional to report.

#### 12. Future agenda items

- Fiber Cake Compost

#### 13. Vendor Vouchers

Motion by Jensen/Almekinder to approve the highway department vendor vouchers as presented. Motion carried.

#### 14. Award 2025 Construction Projects:

##### A. CTH Q Phase I

	Pitlik & Wick	Northeast Asphalt	American Asphalt
Pulverize & Shape	\$ 25,875.00	\$ 11,250.00	\$ 18,351.00
Grade Addt Gravel	\$ 1.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 500.00
Binder HMA	\$ 250,120.00	\$ 240,130.00	\$ 260,739.00
Surface HMA	\$ 206,277.00	\$ 194,880.00	\$ 204,363.00
Tack	\$ 4,575.00	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,860.00
Total	\$ 486,848.00	\$ 450,810.00	\$ 488,813.00

##### B. CTH Q Phase II

	Pitlik & Wick	Northeast Asphalt	American Asphalt
Pulverize & Shape	\$ 5,200.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 3,264.00
Grade Addt Gravel	\$ 0.15	\$ 7.50	\$ 75.00
Binder HMA	\$ 38,065.50	\$ 41,360.00	\$ 42,284.00
Surface HMA	\$ 38,912.50	\$ 41,360.00	\$ 40,166.50
Tack	\$ 1,143.75	\$ 1,218.75	\$ 1,342.50
Total	\$ 83,321.90	\$ 85,946.25	\$ 87,132.00

##### C. CTH G

	Pitlik & Wick	Northeast Asphalt	American Asphalt
Pulverize & Shape	\$ 49,410.00	\$ 22,500.00	\$ 36,702.00
Grade Addt Gravel	\$ 1.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 500.00
Binder HMA	\$ 491,144.00	\$ 470,850.00	\$ 502,751.00
Surface HMA	\$ 395,523.00	\$ 382,470.00	\$ 392,559.00
Tack	\$ 8,845.00	\$ 8,700.00	\$ 10,817.00
Total	\$ 944,923.00	\$ 884,570.00	\$ 943,329.00

Motion by Almekinder/Hess to give Northeast Asphalt all three projects. Motion carried.

#### 15. Prioritize Facility Upgrades and Schedule

Almekinder commented the projects list on the spreadsheet were to fix existing problems and did not include the improvements the committee discussed.

Jensen commented the spreadsheet could be sorted using various criteria but added he felt the executive committee was still looking at all of the options including expanding this facility or building a new facility.

Fried noted the direction at the joint executive committee meeting was to identify the costs of upgrading the current facility.

Hegeman noted the line addressing the cost to upgrade the maintenance bay was included on line 75 and the cost for the dedicated wash bay was on line 100 of the spreadsheet.

Hegeman comment he would bring back the spreadsheet organized by building and ranked by the criticality rating and current condition.

#### **16. Equipment Updates**

Hegeman reported:

- A new trailer that was ordered the previous year was received
- The Cat skid steer was only 2 years old was already having a new engine installed presumably under warranty
- The patrol trucks handled the last storm well without many issues

#### **17. Complaint Status Report**

Hegeman reported things had been quiet; however, a vehicle was damaged by chunks of asphalt kicked up from a pothole by the blade of a County truck he was following.

#### **18. Commissioner's Report**

Hegeman reported prior to the storm the crew was crack sealing bridge approaches and doing some mastic work on CTH O, on CTH K and some on the State system. Following the storm the crew was working to clean up downed trees on both the County and State systems noting the State was working to fund the cleanup through a DMA but the amount of damage on the County system would not qualify for emergency funding.

Hegeman reported use of 600 tons of salt between State and County.

#### **19. Future Agenda Items**

- Prioritize Facility Upgrades and Schedule

#### **20. Public comments**

None

#### **21. Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 9:32 a.m.

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Committee Chairman

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Committee Secretary