ONEIDA COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS & SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Oneida County Highway Department Conference Room
Thursday, April 17, 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 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 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 Secretary Position**
   Motion by Cushing/Hess to nominate Mr. Fried.
   Motion by Hess/Almekinder to close nominations. Motion carried.

4. **Approve minutes of the Public Works & Solid Waste Committee meeting held April 3, 2025**
   Motion by Fried/Almekinder to approve the minutes from April 3rd as presented. Motion carried.

5. **Public comments**
   None

6. **Future Meeting Dates:**
   - May 1, 2025
   - May 15, 2025
   - May 29, 2025

7. **Resolution to authorize Public Works Committee to approve Fire Remediation Invoices**
   Bauknecht reported they did not need the resolution as there was an exemption for insurance claims, however, since the initial payment was delayed the contractor requested payment in full.

8. **Specifications for Single Axle Hook Truck**
   Bauknecht commented she did not know if they were required request bids for the truck. Hess noted it was not required if purchased using GSA pricing.

Bauknecht reported the since they would no longer deliver compost, roll offs were down and the cost of the truck would likely be more than anticipated they may look at purchasing a used truck adding she would bring back prices of used with the results of the bids.

9. LTE Scale Operator Vacancy

Bauknecht reported the scale operator turned in their notice the previous Monday noting although it was not part of the budget she would also like to add a seasonal position for the busiest times using the savings from the vacant mechanic position.
Motion by Hess/Almekinder to approve the LTE Scale Operator Vacancy to be filled and the seasonal position to be approved and sent to the executive committee. Motion carried.

10. Update on Fiber Cake

Bauknecht reported she met with the DNR to discuss disposing of the fiber cake including a request to compost the remaining fiber cake so it could be disposed of more easily questioning if the cost of the additional position needed to turn and monitor that compost could be included as part of the request for funds from the State.
Cushing commented they needed to address the prior sales of compost noting a notice should be placed in the paper to inform the public.
Bauknecht commented she was working with corporation counsel noting they might be a need to involve an environmental lawyer. Bauknecht added they do not know the levels from previous years nor do they know from which year the fiber cake originated.
Cushing directed Bauknecht to work with corporation counsel to develop a procedure and ensure they remain as transparent as possible.

11. Solid Waste Report

Bauknecht reported:

- The concrete was complete for the transfer station and work had started on the outside estimating it would be complete in about a month.
- The concrete wall for the recycling center was complete at a total cost of $25,400 for everything.
- Both the conveyor and bailer were removed creating another eight by five foot hole, which was filled with concrete at a cost of approximately $1,800.

12. Future agenda items

- Hook Truck Bid Results
- Fiber Cake Update

13. Vendor Vouchers

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

14. March Budget to Actual and Invoices Paid Reports

Hegeman noted both reports were available for review in addition to the general maintenance report and both the State and County input reports noting the ice storm from the end of March would be included in the April reports.
Cushing noted review of the reports.

15. Out of County Travel:

A. WCHA Summer Road School for Committee Members and Commissioner in Wisconsin Dells, June 2 - 4, 2025

B. TDA Drive-In for Commissioner in Madison, May 19 - 20, 2025

C. Highway Safety Days in Oshkosh for Operator on May 20, 2025 and in Langlade County for Commissioner, Superintendents, Mechanics and Operators on May 21, 2025

Motion by Cushing/Almekinder to approve items under A, B and C. Motion carried; Fried not present.

16. Prioritize Facility Upgrades and Schedule

Hegeman commented the spreadsheet was filtered to include only upgrades to the original building.
Almekinder commented the proposed costs included in the spreadsheet were much more than he thought the work would cost questioning if the all the proposed upgrades were necessary and if the estimated costs were accurate.
Hegeman noted estimated costs were based on projects from the previous year.
Hess commented although the estimates were on the high-end, until they bid out the projects it would provide an estimate of costs for the projects they brought forward for 2026.
Almekinder noted they should address the exterior of the building to ensure the building does not fall apart and then develop a plan for the next ten years.
Hegeman commented if the decision was to remain at the current facility his top three priorities were the electrical system, the shop drains and the fire suppression system noting there had been multiple equipment fires and other counties that had lost shops.
Cushing noted the importance of the automated wash bay to preserve the equipment.
Fried commented he felt it was the intent to commit to putting $2 to $3 million per year with the idea a lot of money was already spent, but by using the those numbers there will be those that will want to stop putting money into the current facility.
Almekinder recommended prioritizing the upgrades to the electrical system to bring it up to code first and continue with the remainder over time.
Hegeman noted there was $100,000 from the general fund set aside in 2025 for engineering design questioning if it made sense to break apart the electrical upgrades.
Almekinder recommended replacing the Quonset hut with an additional building with heated storage for trucks and that included the automated wash bay on the end.
Cushing recommended beginning with $5 million for 2026 that included electrical upgrades.
Almekinder recommended Hegeman develop a plan for $5 million for 2026 followed by another $2 to $3 million per year for what he felt was critical.
Hess commented the finance director should provide a number per $100K on a $25M loan.
Fried noted the Transit Commission was looking at property owned by both the County and the City to put up a building on STH 47 across from the DOT questioning if it would make sense to put up a building for cold storage on the property.
Hegeman noted having storage spread out was already an issue for other departments.
Almekinder noted it was important to have the cost to the County for a $25M loan as part of the presentation.

17. Equipment Updates

Hegeman reported:

- Revenues for April would be down as tree cleanup and brushing does not utilize much equipment
- The first plow truck was torn down for summer
- The new engine for the Cat skid steer was covered under warranty
- The new truck most recently ordered from Truck County was assessed a $3,000 tariff fee

18. Complaint Status Report

Hegeman noted there were reports of potholes and downed trees.

19. Commissioner's Report

Hegeman reported:

- Tree cleanup continued
- A crew would be going to Forest County to help with tree cleanup the following week
- They were beginning to close the outside shops and cover the sand piles noting that the next week would be the last opportunity provide a tour to committee members of the outside shops while still the shops were full
- All of the County's 6 to 20 foot structure inspections were complete with inspectors now working on Town structures noting they were working through issues with one structure
- The preliminary schedule for the CTH L Project begins at the end of July with the bridge and the roadway portion going through the end of October
- The sixty percent cost estimate for the CTH C Bridge was within budget
- The sixty percent cost estimate for the CTH D Bridge was about $250K over budget with additional funding denied, however, they would submit a second request for additional funds
- Frost was out the tubes on CTH Y, J, and A so weight limits would be coming off soon
- An employee was hired for the Minocqua shop but an employee working out of the Three Lakes shop quit without notice leaving the department down one employee
- He would be out of the office on Thursday and Friday of the following week

20. Future Agenda Items

- Proposed Facility Upgrades and Schedule

21. Public comments

None

22. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

_____ _____

Committee Chairman Committee Secretary