ONEIDA COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS & SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Oneida County Highway Department Conference Room
Thursday, May 1, 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, Linnaea Newman/Rhinelander (Wards 14, 15 and 16), Lisa Charbarneau/LRES via phone 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 Jensen/Hess to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

3. **Approve minutes of the Public Works & Solid Waste Committee meeting held April 17, 2025**
   Motion by Hess/Almekinder to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

4. **Public comments**
   None

5. **Future Meeting Dates:**
   - May 15, 2025 – Cushing noted he would not be present
   - May 29, 2025 – If needed

6. **Credit Account Application for Don Berger Construction**
   Motion by Jensen/Almekinder to approve the credit account application for Don Berger Construction. Motion carried..

7. **Uncovered Load Fee**
   Bauknecht reported in an effort to reduce litter on CTH K, rather than turning away uncovered loads she reached out to the Sheriff's Office regarding issuing warnings and was considering adding an uncovered load fee noting the signage located on CTH K and at the entrance was not effective. Hess agreed with adding a fee to the customer's bill. Jensen questioned the amount that would change the behavior recommending starting with a warning followed by a $10 fee that increased by $10 for following violations. Fried recommended adding signs warning the fee with a date it would go into effect and suggested stamping the receipts reminding customers to cover their loads. Jensen recommended implementing the fee before the spring-cleaning push. Bauknecht noted it

would be difficult to implement a graduated fee, as there was no way to track prior violations.
Motion by Jensen/Hess to apply a $10 uncovered load fee for the Solid Waste department to go into effect May 15 with leeway. Motion carried.

8. Update on Fiber Cake

Bauknecht reported the PFAS communication was published in the paper on April 25 and on again on May 1. Bauknecht noted the plan of operation to compost the remaining fiber cake prior to disposal would be submitted to the DNR at a cost of about $3,000, however, if approved it would save money over landfilling the fiber cake.

9. Solid Waste Report

- Fire remediation project: Most of the building was resided and work was to begin on the inside including the push and sidewalls the following week
- She anticipated the LTE Scale Operator position to post soon
- The Seasonal Scale Operator positon was sent to the Executive Committee for consideration

10. Future agenda items

- Hook Truck Bid Results
- Fiber Cake Update

11. Vendor Vouchers

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

12. WisDOT State/Municipal Maintenance Agreement for USH 8

Hegeman explained the agreement outlined the County's and the State's responsibility in terms of plowing, signing, striping and drainage for the round-a-bout projects on USH 8 at STH 17 and CTH G intersections noting he did not have any concerns.
Motion by Hess/Cushing to approve item 12 of the agenda. Motion carried.

13. Prioritize Facility Upgrades and Schedule

Hegeman reported he prioritized the upgrades as presented according to the committee's thoughts and recommendations beginning in 2025 with engineering and design studies for the electrical and underground drainage systems followed by repairs and upgrades tentatively scheduled for 2026 at $4.7M, 2027 at $2.0M and 2028 at $3.4M.
Jensen noted his concern regarding needed improvements to the woman's locker room and potentially falling out of ADA compliance as upgrades were completed.
Hegeman confirmed an elevator was not part of his plan adding a retention pond might be required if the impervious surface area increased from improvements such as the dedicated wash bay with equipment storage planned for 2026.
Almekinder noted there might be exemptions for property with the City limits.
Hegeman explained he would like to develop a long-range plan so that future upgrades would not require additional engineering and design costs.
Jensen questioned how the proposed upgrades would be financed.
Hegeman reported he reached out to the finance director for the estimated cost for bonding and the impact to taxes noting she was in the process of working to with Ehlers to develop those figures. Hegeman explained he provided the finance director with the cost estimates

for security cameras and the committee recommended cost for the dedicated wash bay with additional heated storage but used the estimates as provided by Kraus-Anderson everything else. Hegeman added the cost of the new facility at Green Lake County came in at approximately $31.5M for everything including brine and salt storage.
Jensen questioned if they had an estimation of how long the upgrades would extend the like of the building. Hegeman commented he did not have an answer; however, the spreadsheet provided by Kraus-Anderson included the life expectancy of the current facilities and systems.
Cushing noted the committee now had want it needed to present to the executive committee.
Jensen commented he wanted to be certain the proposed upgrades would meet the future needs of the highway department.
Fried noted it was also a priority of the county chair to include how much money was already spent upgrading the current facility since the Barrientos study in addition to the department's current needs as part of the presentation.

14. Equipment Updates

Hegeman reported:

- The patch trailer started on fire so it was sent out for repair
- Plow trucks continue to get set up for summer
- The new loader was delivered to the dealer while expecting the new stacking conveyor to arrive at the same dealer the following week
- The new single-axle patrol truck was delivered, however, seven chassis were still waiting to be built at other builders

15. Complaint Status Report

Hegeman reported:

- There were on a couple trees reported downed following the last storm
- There was a request to remove the passing zone near Prairie Rapids Road on CTH L
- He received a voicemail regarding poor signing by utility contractors and the department so he reached out to the contractor, however, the crew was doing everything they could to increase safety including using rumble strips

16. Additional LTE Staffing for Summer Work

Hegeman reported they were down 2 full time employees and based on the amount of time it takes to fill those positions he would like to request adding an additional 4 LTE's for summer work noting the LRES director indicated he would need permission from this committee.
Motion by Jensen/Cushing to approve additional LTE staffing for summer work at the discretion of the commissioner not to exceed current budgeted amount and forward onto the executive committee if needed. Motion carried.

17. It is anticipated that the committee will go into closed session pursuant to section 19.85(1)(c) for purposes of considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee. Topic: Highway Foreperson employment, performance evaluation data and compensation.

Motion by Hess/Fried to go into closed session. Roll call vote; all aye. Motion carried at 9:00 a.m.

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

Motion by Jensen/Hess to return to open session. Roll call vote; all aye. Motion carried at 9:16 a.m.

19. Announcement of action taken in closed session

Discussion only with no action taken.

20. Commissioner's Report

Hegeman reported:

- An employee hired in March submitted their notice of resignation
- Storm cleanup continued
- Storm clean-up help in Forest County compete after 2 weeks with another 2 weeks of clean-up anticipated on the County system
- Snow fence removal was planned for the current day
- Bridge washing and patching on the State system would begin the following Monday
- They were working on the schedule for the CTH D Bridge noting the DNR was not allowing closure of the channel

21. Future Agenda Items

22. Public comments

None

23. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

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Committee Chairman Committee Secretary