

**ONEIDA COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES**

**Oneida County Highway Department Conference Room
Thursday, May 14, 2026 8:00 a.m.**

Committee members:	Present	Excused	Absent
Ted Cushing	X		
Bob Almekinder	X		
Billy Fried	X		
Dan Hess	X		
Greg Oettinger	X		

Also Present: Ben Rich/Highway Commissioner, Dan Gleason/Highway and Brian Jopek/Lakeland Times

1. Call to order and Chairperson's announcements

Chair Ted Cushing called the Public Works Committee meeting to order at 8:00 am noting the meeting was properly posted and ADA accessible.

2. Approve agenda

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

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

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

4. Public comments

None

5. Future Meeting Dates:

- May 28, 2026
- June 11, 2026
- June 25, 2026

6. Approve Vendor Vouchers

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

7. Award of 2026 Construction Projects:

A. CTH E Project

	Pitlik & Wick	Northeast Asphalt	American Asphalt
Total	\$ 442,157.90	\$ 465,012.00	\$ 434,833.00

B. CTH K Project

	Pitlik & Wick	Northeast Asphalt	American Asphalt
Total	\$ 600,588.75	\$ 625,705.00	\$ 616,198.00

C. CTH N Project

	Pitlik & Wick	Northeast Asphalt
*Total with RR	\$ 161,267.55	\$ 159,384.00

Motion by Fried/Almekinder to accept the American Asphalt bid for CTH E Project, the Pitlik bid for CTH K Project and Northeast Asphalt for CTH N Project as presented – all three were low bidders for each project. Motion carried.

8. Award of 2026 Design Services Proposal for the Rhinelander Facility Electrical Upgrades

Excel	Clark Dietz	Salas O'Brien
\$ 35,325.00	\$ 57,500.00	\$ 65,000.00

Motion by Hess/Almekinder to award 2026 design service proposal for the Rhinelander facility electrical upgrades phase 1 and phase 2 to excel at a cost of \$35,325.00. Motion carried.

9. Review Letter to the Transportation Secretary Requesting RMA Funding Increase

Fried recommended updating the letter to reflect the current date and costs. Fried suggested rather than recreating the letter make some minor changes with current numbers. Oettinger commented the update should reflect cost increases.

10. Request for Jurisdictional Transfer of Willow Road, Town of Lynne and Pine Lake Road and Squirrel Lake Road, Town of Minocqua to the Oneida County Highway System update

Rich reported he was in the process of collecting the cost figures but did not have any additional information at that time.

Almekinder suggested keeping this item on the agenda until the commissioner was ready. Fried and Almekinder agreed the committee should meet with both towns prior to forwarding the request to the county board.

11. Request for Radar Speed Signs on CTH L near Windmill Ice Cream Shoppe

Rich reported the town chair of Nokomis contacted him asking if the County would install the signs on either side of the Windmill area. Rich explained they updated the pedestrian signs and added flags, however, the chair feels it was not enough. Rich commented the signs used by both Rhinelander and Lake Tomahawk are no longer WMUTCD compliant adding the speed limit does not change where the signs are requested. Rich explained the cost per sign was \$3,219 noting two signs would likely be requested. Rich recommend against adding the signs because there was adequate signage. Rich noted if the County would not pay for the signs, the Town would likely make a request to install the signs at their own cost. Motion by Fried/Almekinder to deny the funding request for radar speed signs on CTH L near the Windmill Shoppe as presented. Motion carried.

12. Equipment Updates

Rich reported the finance commissioner confirmed the additional funds needed to purchase the commissioner truck did not require approval as the purchase was less than \$100,000.

13. Complaint Status Report

Rich reported the DOT approved 6 days of patching on STH 70 but crew was on day 7 noting a combination of hot mix and mastic was used that required a crew of up to eight people. Rich explained the DOT maintenance coordinator assesses the complaints about damage caused by utility contractors on State roads.

14. Commissioner's Report

Rich reported:

- Sand was screened in the Klaver pit for two weeks and operations would be moved to the Scheidigger pit the following week.
- The crew would continue to patch on STH 70 as long as the DOT would allow.
- Most of the County and State bridges were washed except those bridges in construction zones.
- The patrol superintendent position was filled internally by Taylor Miles.
- He was working with the DOT to understand what was required for a jurisdictional transfer noting the towns would be lose lot of money but the County would not receive any additional funding because GTA funding was based on a five-year spending average.

15. Future Agenda Items

- Jurisdictional transfer request update

16. Public comments

None

17. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 9:02 am

Committee Chairman

Committee Secretary