

# ONEIDA COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS & SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Oneida County Highway Department Conference Room  
Thursday, September 18, 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 properly posted.

## 2. Approve agenda

Motion by Jensen/Hess to approve the agenda as presented with the scrivener's error. Motion carried.

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

Motion by Hess/Jensen to approve the minutes as presented for September 4. Motion carried.

## 4. Public comments

None

## 5. Future Meeting Dates:

- October 2, 2025
- October 16, 2025
- October 30, 2025

## 6. 2026 Budget Capital Improvement Project – Leachate PHAS Pre-treatment System

Bauknecht reported she received a letter from the Rhinelander wastewater treatment center stating as of October 1 that they would no longer accept non-treated leachate. Bauknecht commented they could possibly haul it to Merrill but that was not a long-term solution so she proposed purchasing a pretreatment system for approximately \$48,000.

Motion by Hess/Almekinder to approve item number 6 of the agenda. Motion carried.

## 7. 2027 Budget Capital Improvement Project – Blower and Solar Spark Flare

Bauknecht reported a variable speed blower would be installed as a temporary fix and believed this project could be delayed until 2027.

Motion by Jensen/Cushing to approve item number 7 and forward on to the capital improvement process for consideration. Motion carried.

### **8. Compost Update**

Bauknecht reported the test results from the fiber cake sludge came back at around 20 compared to the compost at 250 so they were drafting a letter to the DNR requesting to land spread on their site versus land filling the sludge. Bauknecht noted the compost required retesting and she was waiting to find out if Waste Management in Merrill could accept it.

### **9. Solid Waste Report**

Bauknecht reported:

- She believed the scale operator position was filled and interviews for the yard position were planned for the following week
- The new prices were posted
- A letter was sent with the previous months statements asking to keep the demo items separate
- The concrete wall was poured and the metal would be installed by department staff
- Before receiving a bid of \$40,000 to repair the wall from the company that performed the fire remediation she chose to move forward with having the wall poured at a cost of \$10,000 to protect the equipment
- The insurance company chose to move forward with the company that originally built the wall so she notified the insurance company she had not received their quote before moving forward with the walls construction

### **10. Future Agenda Items**

- Compost update

### **11. Approve Vendor Vouchers**

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

### **12. Budget to Actual Report**

Hegeman reported \$1.4 million was spent on general maintenance through the end of August and although not much was spent of the RMA, they continued to work on the State system on the LFA project. Hegeman noted the invoices for construction would be reflected in the next report.

Cushing noted the committee reviewed the budget to actual report.

### **13. Approve resolution for County Bridge Aid reimbursement request for the Town of Stella**

Hegeman reported the project was complete and the Town submitted the required documentation.

Motion by Jensen/Hess to approve the resolution to reimburse the Town of Stella one-half the cost of installing a culvert over Starks Creek on Stella Lake Road as presented as a consent agenda item and forward on to the full County Board for their consideration. Motion carried.

### **14. Request for Hidden Driveway sign at intersection of CTH G and Summer Lane, Pelican Lake**

Hegeman reported there was approximately 400 feet of sight distance from the hill.

Motion by Hess/Jensen to approve 14 as presented. Motion carried.

**15. Request for to replace Northwoods Community Elementary existing school zone signs with flashing signs on CTH K**

Hegeman reported the quote for two new signs with solar powered, programmable flashing lights was approximately \$8,700.

Cushing noted with the addition of the convention center traffic would likely increase.

Jensen commented the number of parents that pick up their children had increased.

Hess commented if a child ran into the road it would be worth it for the cost.

Motion by Jensen/Almekinder to approve the item as presented. Motion carried.

**16. County Bridge Condition Report**

Hegeman explained that as part of the process of applying for funding for bridge projects he was providing the committee an update. Hegeman reported the CTH L Bridge was completed and opened but the program had run out of funding for 2026 and 2027 so the DOT requested the CTH D project scheduled for 2026 and the CTH C project scheduled for 2027 be rescheduled for 2028. Hegeman noted because the programs were out of funding they would likely not receive the additional \$200,000 they requested for the CTH D project unless it was pushed back to 2028. The CTH O Bridge was on the eligibility list for deck replacement so he was applying for funding, however, both the CTH K and CTH W structures were unexpectedly not on the list so the bridge inspector was submitting a report to the DOT for both structures to be included. Hegeman noted although the CTH Y Bridge was eligible for deck overlay it would be something they would try to look at for the next cycle. Hegeman reported they were trying to get CTH O into 2028 so it could combined with CTH D since there was only 3.5 miles separating the projects. Hegeman noted the CTH H project scheduled for 2028 would then need to be moved to 2029 because it would be a detour route for the CTH D project.

**17. Potential Load Posting of CTH W Bridge B-43-0022 over Thunder Lake**

Hegeman reported there were open rails and the edges were deteriorating. Hegeman reported the DOT did a load rating at no cost and recommended either installing jersey barriers and relocating the guardrails or posting it at 20 tons. Hegeman recommended moving forward with the jersey barriers noting CTH W gets quite a bit of truck traffic and load posting the bridge would likely trigger other things including possible federal involvement. Motion by Hess/Cushing to approve putting jersey barriers on the CTH W Bridge. Motion carried.

**18. CTH B Storm Sewer Options**

Hegeman reported the DOT camera they planned to use to televise the drains would not fit but based upon what was seen at other locations, the metal piping was failing. Hegeman proposed keeping the existing drain in the parking lot and rerouting the sewer to the east property line then north up to the manhole where the two lines connect and then angle it back to the corner using the existing easement. Hegeman reported he developed an RFP to get an engineer involved to figure out elevations and sizing because he would like to replace the pipe under CTH B, the catch basin and the driveway culverts. Hegeman commented he was not comfortable with the department performing the work for safety reasons citing the depth of the trench noting the department did not have shoring or trench boxes. Hegeman recommended doing an RFP to put a bid package together for the project.

Jensen excused at 8:31 a.m.

### **19. Request for Gravel for Road Maintenance on Blue Jay Lane**

Hegeman explained the department does not use Blue Jay Lane to access the gravel pit because it was located off-of North Rifle Road, which was posted with a 20-ton weight limit. Hegeman explained the department uses Klaver Road off-of CTH K to access the pit from the north. Hegeman reported he received a letter from some landowners requesting the department donate gravel to maintain the road. Hegeman commented if North Rifle Road was not posted and Blue Jay Lane was used to access the pit he would agree with maintaining that portion. Hegeman noted they did access the pit twice that summer for chainsaw training using Blue Jay Lane. No action was taken.

### **20. Equipment Updates**

Hegeman reported:

- The previous year had the most hours put on equipment in either six or seven years and 2025 was on track to exceed 2024
- There would likely be another auction to sell unused equipment the following week

### **21. Complaint Status Report**

Hegeman reported:

- A vision triangle was cut on CTH P
- A pothole was patched on CTH L before the start of the fall ride
- They were making a list of some smaller potholes to patch while hot mix was available
- A crew was putting a skim coat on two culverts on CTH G

### **22. Commissioner's Report**

Hegeman reported:

- CTH L was being milled and paved with completion planned for mid-October
- The construction projects on CTH G and CTH Q were completed
- The shouldering attachment worked well with shouldering completed in two and one-half days
- The crew continued to work on the mill and fill project on STH 32
- The crew would start working on a Forestry Trail project the following week
- Salt sand production would begin on October 6
- The Legislative Breakfast was scheduled for November 7 in Stevens Point
- The application deadline for the two open positons was the following Tuesday

### **23. Future Agenda Items**

### **24. Public comments**

None

### **25. Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 a.m.

---

Committee Chairman

---

Committee Secretary