

# ONEIDA COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS & SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Oneida County Highway Department Conference Room  
Thursday, October 2, 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:** Alex Hegeman/Highway Commissioner, Jeri Cooper/Highway, Sara Chiamulera/Land Information Director, Barb Newman/Northwoods Transit Connections Director and Glenn Speich/Cross County Cruisers

## 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. Motion carried.

## 3. Approve minutes of the Public Works & Solid Waste Committee meeting held September 18, 2025

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

## 4. Public comments

None

## 5. Future Meeting Dates:

- October 16, 2025
- November 6, 2025
- November 20, 2025

## 6. Approve Vendor Vouchers

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

## 7. Invoices Paid Report

Cushing noted the committee reviewed the report.

## 8. Worker's Compensation Report

Hegeman reported the department has not had any claims since April.

## 9. Request from Cross Country Cruisers to Submit STH 70 ROW Permit Application on Club's Behalf

Speich explained there was a 1.9-mile gap in the trail between the Black Bear and Sheri's Pub and the request to move the trail to the south side of STH 70 was part of a long-range plan to extend the trail to Hwy 13. Speich noted the DOT approved the trail but required the permit to be submitted by a municipality.

Hegeman confirmed he did not have any concerns noting he discussed the issue with Rich Handrick at the DOT.

Motion by Hess/Jensen to approve item 9 as presented and have the commissioner sign off on the permit application. Motion carried.

#### **10. No Engine Braking Sign Request on CTH A**

Hegeman reported there were no engine braking signs located before entering the town along USH 45 from both the north and south so the Town of Three Lakes was requesting another sign for CTH A before entering the town. Hegeman noted he informed the Town the committee had denied previous requests on the county system.

Motion by Cushing/Almekinder to reject the request for no engine braking sign on CTH A. Motion carried.

#### **11. Review CIP Requests Discussion from Executive Committee Meetings**

Hegeman reported since the CTH C and CTH D Bridge projects moved to 2028, funding for the projects also moved to 2028.

Hegeman commented the committee felt funding for the patrol truck purchase should use either department funds or a loan rather than a general fund transfer. Hegeman reported since the department was already paying \$125,000 to \$135,000 per year for a \$1.2 million loan they were considering not purchasing a truck in 2026. Hegeman commented 2026 would be the year to skip because they were anticipating having two additional trucks delivered this year and three more the following year. Hegeman reported a survey was circulated earlier that week asking how counties were funding their truck purchases. Hegeman commented the effect of not purchasing a truck would not be felt in 2026 or 2027 but would be in ten years.

Fried commented this committee could elect to get a general fund loan in order to keep the department on schedule while giving the County an opportunity to figure it out.

Hegeman explained the current loan payment already reduced the funds available for equipment noting they do not know how much money is available annually until the following year when the audit is complete.

Fried questioned if the committee wanted the department to stay on schedule and would support the commissioner requesting the funding for the 2026 truck purchase be part of the following year's budget with financing to be determined.

Hegeman explained Truck Equipment stated it would be a minimum of two years to deliver a truck after they receive the chassis.

Both Fried and Cushing directed Hegeman to request the general fund transfer and if not, request a loan.

Hegeman reported most of the building upgrades were deferred to 2027 and 2028 with the exception of phase 1 of the electrical upgrades.

Fried commented the other upgrades were postponed until a space needs study was completed in order to justify those upgrades to the county board.

#### **12. Highway Facility Space Needs Study**

Hegeman reported work on the study would begin as soon as he reported its approval by the committee.

Motion by Hess/Jensen to approve item 12 as presented to move forward with the space study for \$17,000. Motion carried.

### **13. Highway Department and Oneida/Vilas Transit Interest of Parcel PE-69**

Newman explained they were looking at using 3 acres of parcel PE-69 to build a facility. Chiamulera commented she believed an environmental assessment was completed when the site was considered for a new highway facility. Chiamulera explained, although a survey would need to be done she believed if the highway decided to relocate there would be room for both.

Newman explained she was requesting the committee's approval noting they would need a certified survey map, a government appraisal and a NEPA study before finalizing.

Chiamulera explained Land Information would need to work with Planning & Zoning to determine the requirements for splitting the property noting they would likely split off a 3 to 5 acre piece of the southwest corner for transit.

Hegeman commented he believed there could be adequate space for both if the highway facility was relocated in the future.

Jensen commented other counties have looked combining their highway and forestry departments into one facility questioning if 15.69 be enough to that.

Hess noted if transit only required 3 acres they should reduce the area requested to 4 acres. Newman confirmed 4 acres would be enough.

Motion by Fried/Jensen to forward the transits interest to the land records committee in the portion of PE-69 as discussed for land records to further move forward with transit in the process. Motion carried.

### **14. Equipment Updates**

Hegeman reported the third new truck should be delivered the following week.

### **15. Complaint Status Report**

Hegeman reported:

- A complaint was received regarding the gravel that was used to shoulder rather than the red granite used in the driveway
- Regarding the State right-of-way, the DOT utility coordinator determines how issues with utility contractors are resolved

### **16. Commissioner's Report**

Hegeman reported:

- Work on the mill and fill on STH 32 was complete noting the LFA was for an additional \$100,000
- The other crew was finishing a snowmobile trail for Forestry and should be complete later that day
- Salt sand production would begin on the following Monday
- The paving, shouldering and guardrail on CTH L should be complete the following Friday
- There were two accepted offers for the two vacant positions. One is a current LTE, however, since he did not a CDL he would be sent to school later that month
- The department's budget hearing was scheduled for the following Wednesday
- He met with Kraus Anderson regarding the scope development for the drains, electrical and fire suppression
- The RMA was increased by \$71,000 for 2026
- He would be out of the office on Monday and Tuesday for Commissioner training

**17. Future Agenda Items**

- 2026 RMA approval
- Equipment funding survey results

**18. Public comments**

None

**19. Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 9:01 a.m.

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Committee Chairman

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Committee Secretary