

ONEIDA COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS & SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Oneida County Highway Department Conference Room
Thursday, November 6, 2025 8:00 a.m.

Committee members:	Present	Excused	Absent
Ted Cushing	X		
Bob Almekinder	X		
Billy Fried	X		
Dan Hess		X	
Robb Jensen		X	
Student Representative:			
Matthew Carpenter	X		

Also 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 Hess/Fried to approve the agenda. Motion carried with student representative voting aye.

3. Approve minutes of the Public Works & Solid Waste Committee meetings held October 16, 2025 and October 30, 2025

Motion by Fried/Hess to approve the minutes from October 16, 2025 and October 30, 2025 as provided. Motion carried with student representative voting aye.

4. Public comments

None

5. Future Meeting Dates:

- November 20, 2025
- December 4, 2025
- December 18, 2025
- January 8, 2026
- January 22, 2026

6. October Monthly Vendor Voucher and Budget to Actual Report

Cushing noted receipt of the reports.

7. Letters of Credit for Demo 4 Closure and Demo 4 Long-term Care

Motion by Cushing/Hess to approve the letters of credit for demo 4 closure and demo 4 long-term care and forward to the executive committee for consideration. Motion carried with student representative voting aye.

8. Staffing Update

Bauknecht reported as of Monday the department was fully staffed.

9. Compost Update

Bauknecht reported Merrill would try accepting the compost adding she was now looking into trucking. Bauknecht commented there was a meeting of the Wisconsin Counties Solid Waste Management Association noting there was a bill in the works asking to suspend the environmental fees paid to the DNR in order to use those funds to cover costs.

Fried directed Bauknecht to consult corporation counsel regarding potential litigation and report back to the committee before committing any money to anything.

10. Solid Waste Report

Bauknecht reported the software upgrade was performed the day earlier noting everything went smoothly.

11. Future Agenda Items

- Compost update

12. Approve Vendor Vouchers

Motion by Fried/Hess to approve the highway vouchers as presented. Motion carried with student representative voting aye.

13. Invoices Paid Report

Cushing noted receipt of the reports.

14. Out of County Travel for Committee Members, Commissioner and Patrol Superintendent to the WCHA 2026 Winter Highway Conference in La Crosse, January 13 -15, 2026

Cushing confirmed he would be attending.

Fried asked that hotel rooms be reserved at the Radisson for him and Jensen.

Motion by Cushing/Fried to approve the out of county travel. Motion carried with student representative voting aye.

15. Resolution to reimburse the Town of Newbold one-half of the cost of installing a culvert over Twin Creek on Muskellunge Lake Road

Motion by Fried/Cushing to approve the resolution to reimburse the Town of Newbold one-half of the cost of installing a culvert and forward on to the County Board as consent agenda. Motion carried with student representative voting aye.

16. Equipment Updates

Hegeman reported that as of the end of October the equipment fund was positive. Hegeman explained depreciation was an expense in the current year, which becomes a revenue the following year, however, they would not know the exact fund balance until the audit was finished in August of the following year. Hegeman commented the high cost of the new trucks results in large increase to the depreciation expense noting the new single axle patrol truck requires 350 hours just to break even on the depreciation before accounting for the expenses for fuel, tires and grease.

Hegeman reported the recently approved increases to the 2026 equipment rates for patrol trucks was good for the equipment fund but there also needs to be sufficient funds budgeted for road maintenance to utilize the trucks enough. Hegeman explained the rates are determined using the state formula, which by state statute must reimburse counties actual costs, using the average expenses of 72 counties each with hundreds of pieces of equipment. Hegeman commented the increased equipment rates would eat up the \$70,000 added to the 2026 state maintenance budget. Hegeman reported some counties increase the rates charged by fifty percent when performing work for towns or on the county system. Hegeman noted based on the current year's hours, the single axle patrol trucks would cost county or state budgets an additional \$14,000 to perform the same work.

Fried questioned if they could decrease the rate charged for work on the county system in order to reduce the amount levied.

Hegeman explained the county pays the department to perform maintenance on the county system and since the revenue from equipment is how the department generates the funds to repair and replace equipment, the amount levied for road maintenance should increase.

17. Complaint Status Report

Hegeman reported there were a few adopt-a-highway pickups and someone questioned the methods used to pull shoulders.

18. Commissioner's Report

Hegeman reported the crew was wrapping up two projects for the forestry department in addition to working on:

- Mill and fill on CTH K
- Crack sealing for the Town of Hazelhurst
- Sealing patches on STH 32
- Mastic on short CTH B
- Some sidewalk work on the Minocqua Bridge

Hegeman reported the crew installed Jersey barriers on the CTH W Bridge since it was deemed not eligible for DOT Local Bridge Program funding. Hegeman reported applications were submitted for two STP Rural projects, one STP Urban project and one bridge deck replacement at total cost of \$13.5 million if all four of the projects were approved.

19. Future Agenda Items

- 2026 RMA approval

20. Public comments

None

21. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 8:38 a.m.

Committee Chairman

Committee Secretary