

**JOINT ONEIDA COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS & SOLID WASTE/PLANNING &  
DEVELOPMENT/LABOR RELATIONS & EMPLOYEE SERVICES COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES**

**Oneida County Courthouse County Board Meeting Room  
Thursday, December 28, 2023 8:00 a.m.**

<b>Attendance:</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Excused</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Ted Cushing	X		
Mike Timmons	X		
Bob Almekinder	X		
Mike Roach	X		
Billy Fried	X		

**Present:** Alex Hegeman/Highway Commissioner, Lisa Jolin/Solid Waste Director, Dan Gleason/Highway Department and Collette Sorgel/District 13 (Three Lakes Wards 1 & 3). Public as signed-in or by public comment: Kelly Keating, Donna Keating, Janet McCabe, Lillian Liebscher, Samantha Healy and Mary Elizabeth Vent.

Chairman 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.

**1. Approve agenda**

Motion by Timmons/Almekinder to approve the agenda. Motion carried; Roach not present.

**2. Approve the minutes of the Public Works & Solid Waste Committee meeting held December 7, 2023**

Motion by Almekinder/Fried to approve the minutes of December 7, 2023. Motion carried; Roach not present.

**3. Public Comments**

Kelly Keating expressed their concerns were with the winter driving conditions on CTH A. Keating commented there were several fatal accidents and accidents in general noting it was a highly populated road with high school students, teachers and busses on the highway. Keating noted there were no speed limit signs nor enough arrows indicating upcoming turns, there were wash-outs on the shoulders and calls to clear the road with sand or salt were told no and that they would be out later. Keating commented there was always slush on the road noting the use of the road by emergency services in addition to concerns about the road width. Keating referenced a fatal accident on February 21<sup>st</sup> involving her mother, stepfather and 2 other residents of Three Lakes commenting the plow trucks come through during accident scenes when it should be prior, adding they were looking at safety concerns for everybody.

Donna Keating commented that both she and her husband have life-long injuries but the other 2 did not make it questioning if the speed limit could be lowered and the road widened. Mary Elizabeth Vent commented she was making a statement on behalf of her husband, a delivery driver who traveled CTH A 2 to 3 times per week over the past 3 years, in regard to an article in which some of the comments indicated the concerns from the petition may not

have been taken seriously. Vent commented her husband was on the road the day following the accident and the road was still snow covered and icy and it appeared that there were no visible signs of sand or salt that day. Vent commented typically after snow storms her husband goes through late in the mornings and the road appears to be in worse condition than other east/west county roads noting her husband hears similar comments from other contractors that drive CTH A.

Collette Sorgel commented she had heard from many in Three Lakes noting she lives right off of CTH A and tends to travel early in the morning right after the plow comes through so she doesn't see those conditions that were referred to during the day but does sometimes later in the day. Sorgel agreed some drive too fast when it's snowing and asked that they do whatever they can to make sure the roads are maintained, they're safe and they can see the white lines so they do not go off on the gravel citing the safety of everyone including the school buses and the many residents who work between Rhinelander, Sugar Camp and Three Lakes that travel the road daily.

#### **4. Future Meeting Dates:**

- January 11, 2024
- January 25, 2024
- February 8, 2024
- February 22, 2024

Fried commented he would likely not be available to attend either meeting in February.

### **SOLID WASTE DEPARTMENT**

#### **5. Discussion/Act on Board of Adjustment Hearing on proposed Tower at Solid Waste**

Jolin reported the hearing was scheduled for January 11<sup>th</sup> but she did not know at what time.

#### **6. Solid Waste Report /Discussion**

Jolin commented she had nothing additional to report.

#### **7. Future Agenda Items**

### **HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

#### **8. General Business Discussion/Act**

##### **A. Vendor Vouchers**

Motion by Timmons/Almekinder to approve the vouchers as presented. Motion carried;  
Roach not present.

#### **9. Discussion/Act on CTH A Winter Maintenance Petition**

Hegeman reported CTH A to STH 17 and back to Three Lakes was the first portion done before reloading with sand then continuing on to highways D, H and O. Hegeman reported the route takes from three and one-half to four hours noting it is the third longest route. Responding to questions from Supervisor Fried, Hegeman confirmed the Committee has the jurisdiction to lower the speed limit by up to 10 mph but anything more required a speed study and additional signage for corners could be looked at.

Hegeman stated more time is spent on the shoulders of CTH A than any other road and he was working with the patrol superintendent on ideas including possibly paving the inside corners of the problem areas. Hegeman noted the road was widened from 22 feet to between 24 to 26 feet when the road was recently redone five or six years earlier. Hegeman

confirmed many of the existing county roads were still 22 feet but were being looked at when redone where conditions, such as right-of-way, ditch lines and costs allowed. Hegeman commented traffic counts on the route were from 1,200 to 1,500 compared to counts on highways C, P, and W which ranged from 1,500 to 4,500. Hegeman commented it would be difficult to break apart the route and reload with different materials in addition to the refreezing that can happen when salt is used on roads with shaded areas because the sun cannot reach those areas to keep the salt working. Roach questioned how the road compared to the width of other county roads, how the commissioner would rate the road compared to other county roads, what time the snow removal started and if it would be possible to shorten the beat by creating an eighth route. Hegeman commented the width was average and has far as overall structure, although there was some winter heaving, the road was in the upper half confirming the road was crack sealed twice, brushed and was mowed back as far as they could to the tree lines. Roach commented after driving CTH A, he felt the road was in good condition and was one of the best roads in the County as far as the structure. Hegeman reported CTH A is typically plowed starting between 4:00 and 4:30 and additional snow can accumulate by the time the operator returns from the remainder of the route. If an eighth beat were created and CTH O was eliminated from beat 10 it would reduce the length from 51.6 to 45.5 miles while shortening the length of the two longest County beats. Hegeman confirmed there were approximately 3 areas where traffic leaves the pavement, likely from traveling too fast, resulting in low shoulders commenting they were looking into solutions. Hegeman commented 20 years earlier operators were on their beats every day to take care of pot holes, trees and low shoulders noting he drives CTH A daily but they may not be on some of the beats for two months. Hegeman noted although they were looking into digging out some of the gravel and widening the pavement of those areas he did not have an estimated cost at that time. Timmons commented even on STH 47 he was unable to see the fog line and encountered areas of black ice in those shaded areas on CTH J as well as STH 47 and USH 51 around 7:00 when it just froze noting whether brined, salted or sanded it made no difference when the sun went down. Cushing commented they could address the signage, discuss the speed limit and come up with a solution for where vehicles are running off of the road and if it means moving some money around to get it fixed they should do it.

#### **10. Discussion/Act on Foreman Truck Chassis Purchase**

Hegeman reported pricing was received from a couple of vendors with Langlade Ford offering the lowest price, however, pricing could not be held so Committee Chair Ted Cushing was contacted and gave the permission to place the order. Motion by Fried/Cushing to approve the purchase of the F-450 as presented for \$56,590. Motion carried.

#### **11. Discussion/Act on Supervisor Truck Purchase**

Hegeman reported they opted to move forward with the higher bid from Brickner in Merrill as the low bid from Ewald was in Milwaukee and the cost to send 2 employees would eat up the cost difference. Fried questioned if they delivered. Hegeman noted pricing was also only held to the previous week. Motion by Timmons/Roach to approve the purchase of the Supervisor Truck as presented from Brickner. Motion carried; Fried opposed.

**12. Discussion/Act on resolution for Patrol Truck Chassis and Attachments Purchase**

Hegeman reported the resolution was to approve the purchase of the 2 tri-axle trucks from Quality Truck, the single axle truck from Mid-State with the attachments for all three from Casper's using a loan from the General Fund noting the cost came in lower than the approved amount.

Motion by Cushing/Roach to approve the resolution for the purchase of the trucks and forward to County Board for consideration. Motion carried.

**13. Discussion/Act on approval of resolution to reimburse the Town of Little Rice for one-half the cost of installing a culvert over Brown Creek on Brown Creek Road**

Hegeman reported a significant portion of the cost was covered by the DOT through the Disaster Aid Program so the County portion was approximately \$2,200.

Motion by Timmons/Cushing to forward to County Board for final approval. Motion carried.

**14. Discussion/Act on Complaint Status Report**

Hegeman reported aside from a few slippery spots there was a complaint that the forestry head left a tree splintered and scraggly on CTH N so the crew clean it up when they go by.

**15. Discussion/Act on Generator Design Report**

Almekinder reported the state inspector wanted public service to be involved so he was in the process of coordinating the meeting.

**16. Discussion/Act on 2024 Long Range Plan**

Hegeman reported the plan was updated based upon comments made at the previous meeting by Fried. Hegeman confirmed a section of pavement widths on CTH K would be expanded from 22 to 26 feet because of the truck traffic, however, the low amount of traffic on CTH Q and CTH N did not warrant expanding the width and would require quite a bit of earthwork and grading. Roach questioned if Hegeman was targeting areas specifically where accidents occurred or focused on areas of poor design regardless of whether or not accidents occur there. Hegeman explained the reason the pavement was being expanded on CTH K was because of the heavy truck traffic and since trucks have difficulty staying on narrow pavement it can cause drop-offs of 4 to 6 inches to form which was a safety issue. Motion by Timmons/Roach to approve the 2024 Long Range Plan. Motion carried.

**17. Commissioner's Report/Discussion**

Hegeman reported the crew finished the mastic on STH 70 and STH 17 and were continuing back to CTH P in anticipation of the USH 8 construction project noting there was a STP application submitted for CTH P. Hegeman explained mastic does a good job of filling large cracks and holding pavement together but can get ripped out by a plow if the pavement next to it fails. The crew was cutting trees on CTH N and the forestry head was being used on USH 8 west. Flagger training and recertification took place the prior week and WPS would come the following week to train for work around power lines and storm cleanup. Hegeman reminded the committee this would be the last day to register for Winter Road School. Roach question if anything was moving forward with the CTH O Bridge. Hegeman commented even though the deck was shot the sufficiency rating was over 80 and was not eligible for bridge aid so he was pushing the DOT and WCHA to get the statute rewritten. Hegeman confirmed they have been keeping up with crack sealing and reported they crack sealed between 70 to 80 miles the previous year noting the 2 year cycle on CTH A.

**18. Future Agenda Items**

- Equipment updates
- Complaint report
- Generator Project updated design
- Utility Permit and Policy
- Sign Request Policy

**19. Public comments**

None

**20. Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 9:12 a.m.

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Committee Chairman

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Committee Secretary