

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

**Oneida County Courthouse, County Board Meeting Room
Tuesday, July 28, 2020 8:00 a.m.**

Attendance:	Present	Excused	Absent
Ted Cushing	X		
Scott Holewinski	X		
Mike Timmons	X		
Sonny Paszak	X		
Bob Almekinder	X		

Also Present: Bruce Stefonek/Highway Commissioner, Lisa Jolin/Solid Waste, Dan Gleason/Highway, Jeff Verdoorn/Oneida County Economic Development Corporation, Lisa Charbarneau/LRES, Billy Fried/Supervisor – District 17, Robb Jensen/Public.

Committee Chairman Cushing called the Public Works Committee meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. noting the meeting was ADA accessible and properly posted.

1. Approve agenda

Motion by Paszak/Timmons to approve the amended agenda. All 'aye'; motion carried.

2. Approve the minutes of the Public Works Committee meeting held on July 9, 2020.

Motion by Paszak/Holewinski to approve the minutes of the Public Works Committee meetings held on June 25, 2020. All 'aye'; motion carried.

3. Public Comments

Cushing offered both persons present and those participating via Zoom an opportunity to comment. No public comment.

4. General Business Discussion/Act:

A. Solid Waste vendor vouchers

Motion by Timmons/Holewinski to approve the Solid Waste vendor vouchers. All 'aye'; motion carried.

B. Credit Account Application

Motion by Holewinski/Almekinder to approve the credit application for JBM Howard Companies. All 'aye'; motion carried.

5. Solid Waste Report/Discussion

Operations Report

Jolin reported they were working on getting the recycling out and filling the vacancy.

6. Future Agenda Items

- CIP Projects

7. General Business Discussion/Act:

A. Highway Department vendor vouchers

Motion by Holewinski/Paszak to approve the Highway Department vendor vouchers. All 'aye'; motion carried.

8. Discussion/Act on Community Development Block Grant - Close Program presentation : Jeff Verdoorn, Interim Director of the Oneida County Economic Development Corporation

Verdoorn explained he was looking for projects that fit the criteria of the Community Development Block Grant Close Program. Currently there are approximately ten projects that will be brought to the Administration Committee then narrowed to projects that qualify for the program.

Verdoorn reported that by the end of the year the County must return \$770,000 to the State. However, the County has until July of 2021 to apply to bring that money back without competition or matching funds.

Verdoorn noted the City of Rhinelander meets the original National CDBG Objectives and a new Highway facility would satisfy two of the criteria as both a Public Facility and for Economic Development.

Holewinski stated he had no interest in the program because of the money already invested into the current building adding he was more interested in getting the roads up to date, the wages and benefits of the employees, and the equipment.

Verdoorn commented the buildings would come from a completely separate fund noting either would be a borrowing project. Verdoorn added there was not much difference from the four-to-five million dollars planned for the current facility less the value of the land.

Verdoorn noted it affected more than the just the highway department but also the tax base and economic development for both the City and the County.

Timmons expressed concern there were other projects could benefit from the program.

Verdoorn explained he felt the new facility was the best fit based upon the program requirements and the project type. Verdoorn felt this project had the best chance of approval.

Timmons commented in his opinion it was very low on the need versus some of the other projects.

Verdoorn commented there were many issues with the current facility including employee safety, protection of the equipment and the accommodation of newer larger vehicles, utility savings and environmental concerns noting the current facility's proximity to the river.

Paszak questioned how much money had already been put into the updates at the current facility.

Stefonek reported approximately \$260,000 was put into the back shop over the last two years, however, there were other projects in process noting the new brine building will cost about \$500,000; the new fuel system will be close to \$400,000, the front HVAC around \$225,000 and the magnetic locks \$20,000.

Timmons question how they would get the money back if they borrowed money to build a new facility, less the value of the land, noting they were currently addressing the issues of utility efficiency and employee safety.

Verdoorn commented they currently have a sixty-five year old facility that's not modern, can't handle new trucks with five million dollars budgeted to be spent over the next five years.

Verdoorn questioned what would happen five years later, noting they will lose the opportunity for the \$770,000 if they do not move forward with this.

Almekinder commented they would need to stop the projects underway and the money they spent now would be thrown away.

Verdoorn stated he was worried the money the money spent on the old facility would be thrown away and they were walking away from an opportunity to take a piece of property

with tremendous economic value that could add to the tax base for the City and County for years and years to come.

Timmons questioned how the sale of the property and the \$770,000 would recover the money borrowed and cover everything they have just done.

Verdoorn explained the new facility would fully cost \$9 to \$10 million, less the \$2.5 to \$3 million for the sale of the property plus the \$770,000 CDBG-Close money. The project would be very similar to what you would have to do to the old facility over the next five years and that money would need to be borrowed. Verdoorn commented to him it did not make any sense to invest \$5 million into the old facility over five years versus going new and having a very large tax base improvement over the course of the five years for the County.

Almekinder commented if a Kwik Trip went there, you would put two others out of business. Verdoorn commented whether Kwik Trip was still interested, someone will want to develop that property.

Cushing commented there was overwhelming majority of the County Board supervisors not in favor of borrowing money.

Verdoorn explained that would be for the Board to decide if they brought a project to them that looks attractive yet provided economic benefit, tax base and benefits the Highway Department.

Cushing questioned the committee if they wanted to use the current projects and apply with those. Holewinski questioned if those projects listed for \$1.2 million were for 2020 adding they did not discuss borrowing money for the improvements and if they did not have the money he doubted some of the project would go ahead. Holewinski commented he was not willing to make a motion to proceed with the application noting the ten other applicants including the well for Rhineland.

Timmons commented it was want versus need.

Holewinski commented he though the people would rather borrow money to fix the roads rather than build a new facility noting there was other land that could be developed.

Verdoorn commented no one wants to build a facility for retail without good access to the road and it was the access to STH 47 and USH 8 that made the property extremely valuable from a business perspective.

Cushing commented the committee should go on record to either do something with it or not.

Verdoorn commented they did not need to apply at that time he was only asking for support to further investigate the options as part of the process.

Cushing commented they needed an updated cost, as the estimate was five-years old.

Fried commented it was good for the County to get a list of the projects that might qualify and then go on to Admin and County Board noting it may not go any further.

Timmons stated the Committee made a decision to move forward with the improvements including the brine building and the fuel system.

Verdoorn agreed that may be what is best for the department at this time but questioned if it was best for the County and the City. Verdoorn noted the process would be resolved in the next sixty to ninety days.

Cushing questioned why road construction could not be considered economic development.

Verdoorn confirmed based on HUD rules road construction was a viable project as long as it served a specific economic development project or a LMI population base.

Verdoorn asked the committee to review the project.

Cushing commented they would review the hand out and bring back to the next meeting.

9. Discussion/Act on 2020 Garage/Brine Mixing Facility Concrete Work bid results and award of bid

Stefonek reported one bid was received; however, the bidder would not be able to complete the project by the completion date. Stefonek commented it was the advice of Brian Desmond to not accept the bid. Stefonek added he felt as though there was interest and if rebid the project could maintain its current timeframe.

Motion by Holewinski/Cushing to reject the bid from Altmann Construction Company in the amount of \$172,000 based on the contract timeframe could not be met. All 'aye'; motion carried.

Motion by Holewinski/Paszak to rebid the concrete work for the Garage/Brine Mixing Facility with a bid date of August 11. All 'aye'; motion carried.

10. Discussion/Act on 2020 Garage/Brine Mixing Facility Building Construction bid results and award of bid

Stefonek recommended approving the low bid. Holewinski commented he did not want to approve the bids piece-by-piece in case the project was over budget. Holewinski recommended not approving the building construction until they have an estimate of the plumbing, electrical and HVAC costs. Cushing recommended taking no action until they have as many of the numbers as they can.

11. Discussion/Act on Sand for 2020 Salt Sand bid results and award of bid for Rhinelander

Motion by Timmons/Cushing to close all bids for sand for 2020 Salt Sand. All 'aye'; motion carried

Company	Pit Location	Rhinelander or Western Oneida County	Unit Price per Ton	Quantity Available (Tons)
James Peterson Son's, Inc.	A-Frame Pit North of Rocky	Western or Both	\$2.45	
Musson Bors., Inc.	Lund Pit 3277 CTH N, Rhinelander	Rhinelander	\$2.62	
Pitlik & Wick, Inc.	4641 4551 Cassian Rocky Run Pit	Both	\$2.50	8,000
Pitlik & Wick, Inc.	Blue Lake Rd. Minnocqua Richardson Pit	West	\$2.50	3,000
Pitlik & Wick, Inc.	CTH K Rhinelander Klaver Pit	Rhinelander	\$2.50	2,500

Stefonek reported the county has some sand available at both County pits and would like to rent a screener to produce sand then purchase the balance from Pitlik and Wick at the Klaver pit.

Motion by Holewinski/Cushing for the Rhinelander area to use the bid that is most advantageous utilizing the County sand piles. All 'aye'; motion carried.

12. Discussion/Act on Sand for 2020 Salt Sand bid results and award of bid for Western Oneida County

Motion by Timmons/Cushing to work with Pitlik and Wick in the Richardson pit off of Blue Lake Road and James Peterson and Sons in the North Rocky Run Pit at \$2.45 and \$2.50 with trucking considered for the difference. All 'aye'; motion carried.

13. Discussion/Act on 2020 Blade and Hardware Quotes for Snow Plows, Wings and Underbody Scrapers

Motion by Paszak/Timmons to approve the low quotes as indicated for the blades and hardware for the snowplows, wings and underbody scrapers. All 'aye'; motion carried.

14. Discussion/Act on Future Highway Department Capital Improvement Program Projects

Stefonek reported the four CIP projects needed to be rated for the CIP Committee noting the roads need to be replaced at a rate of 6.88 miles per year at a cost of \$1.3 million, however, they were asking for \$1.2 million.

Holewinski suggested taking the information from the bottom of the handout, enlarging it and moving it to the front page.

Motion by Timmons/Paszak to rate the projects as:

- Highway Construction A Priority 1
- Fuel System A Priority 1
- Brine Building A Priority 1
- Skid Steer Purchase BC Priority 4

Stefonek commented they were asking for an additional \$90,000 over the amount approved for 2020, an additional \$150,000 to complete the brine building, \$85,000 for the new skid steer and \$1.1 million in addition to the \$100,000 from the tax levy. All 'aye'; motion carried.

~~**15. Discussion/Act on Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Close Program**~~

16. Discussion/Act on Approve hiring Corre, Inc for Engineering Services for CTH O over the Wisconsin River for Deck Repairs

Stefonek reported the deck and curb were in need of repair and the bridge sufficiency rating was over 50 so there are no other dollars available. Stefonek contacted Corre Engineering to develop the presented proposal.

Motion by Holewinski/Timmons to hire Corre Engineering for the bridge over the Wisconsin River on CTH O as presented in the amount of \$8,180. All 'aye'; motion carried.

17. Discussion/Act on Closed Session: It is anticipated that the committee will go into closed session pursuant section 19.85(1) (f) considering financial, medical, social or personal histories or disciplinary data of specific person, preliminary consideration of specific personnel problems or the investigation of specific charges, which, if discussed in public, would likely have a substantial adverse effect on the reputation

of the person referred to in such data (Topics: Highway Department Employee Medical Leave).

Motion by Holewinski/Paszak to enter into closed session per item 17 of the agenda. Roll call vote all 'aye'; motion carried at 9:17 a.m.

18. Discussion/Act on Return to Open Session and Announcements from Closed Session

Motion by Holewinski/Paszak to return to open session at 9:24 a.m. No other action taken in closed session.

19. Discussion/Act on Approve Request for Temporary Additional Equipment Operator Position

Motion by Holewinski/Almekinder to approve the request for the temporary additional equipment operator with the additional position to be eliminated through attrition and forward to the LRES Committee. All 'aye'; motion carried.

**20. Commissioner Report/Discussion:
Operations Report**

Stefonek reported they were working on the new pad for the salt sand pile, shouldering on CTH G and Q, and continuing with crack filling for as long as possible.

21. Future meeting dates

- August 13, 2020
- August 27, 2020

22. Future Agenda Items

- Brine building concrete work bid results
- Policy for tree cutting based upon height and width
- CTH Y project progress update
- USH 51 project progress update

23. Public comments

No public comments

24. Adjourn

Adjourned meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Committee Chairman

Committee Secretary