

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

**Oneida County Highway Department, 730 West Kemp Street, Rhinelander WI
Wednesday, September 26, 2019 at 8:00 a.m.**

Attendance:	Present	Excused	Absent
Robb Jensen, Chair	X		
Scott Holewinski, Vice-Chair	X		
Mike Timmons, Secretary	X		
Ted Cushing	X		
Sonny Paszak	X		

Also Present: Bruce Stefonek/Highway, Dan Gleason/Highway, Fred Williston/Lakeland Times, Tom Jerrow and Steven Schreier.

Call the Meeting to Order & Roll Call

Committee Chair Jensen called the Public Works Committee meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

1. Approve Agenda

Action: Motion by Cushing/Paszak to approve the agenda.

Vote: All 'aye', motion carried. Holewinski not present.

2. Approve the Minutes of the Public Works Committee meeting held on September 11, 2019.

Action: Motion by Paszak/Jensen to approve the minutes of the Public Works Committee meeting held on September 11, 2019.

Vote: All 'aye', motion carried.

3. Chairman's Announcements

• **North Central Region Fall Meeting October 18, 2019**

Jensen requested committee members notify Dan Gleason if they planned on attending.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

4. General Business Discussion/Act

A. Highway Department Vendor Vouchers

Action: Motion by Cushing/Paszak to approve the Highway Department vendor vouchers as presented.

Vote: All 'aye', motion carried.

B. Out of County Travel:

a. Previously Approved Attendance for Commissioner for the North Central Region Commissioner Meeting

Discussion: Stefonek reported he did not attend the last meeting, as there was a committee meeting scheduled for the same day.

b. Wood County Open House and Winter Tech Talk at Mid-State Technical College on October 29, 2019 in Wisconsin Rapids for the Commissioner, Patrol Superintendent and Foreman

Discussion: Stefonek commented since he had previously attended other winter tech talks he felt it would be better to have an Equipment Operator attend.

Action: Motion by Paszak/Cushing to have three people attend the Wood County Open House and Winter Tech Talk at Mid-State Technical College on October 29, 2019.

Vote: All 'aye', motion carried.

5. Discussion/Act on Kemp Street Speed Limit

Discussion: Stefonek reported according to the plan submitted by Ayres and Associates there were two advisory signs located between Culvers and the Marathon station. Jensen commented the 25 mph speed zone was moved to before Sutliff Avenue and questioned why the two lanes merged rather than creating a turn lane onto Sutliff Avenue. Stefonek stated Ayres designed the lanes adding the police chief noted traffic had slowed significantly at the entrance of the bridge. Jensen stated he received comments from his constituents who felt as though the speed limit dropped to 25 mph far too early.

Action: Motion by Timmons/Paszak to leave the speed limits as they are currently marked and then review with the police chief and sheriff after the first of the year.

Discussion: Stefonek noted the final 45 mph sign is necessary but commented the sign should be placed further before the advisory signs.

Public Comment: Regarding the Kemp Street Speed limit, Tom Jerrow commented moving the speed limit sign along with the new striping had helped slow traffic and was a big improvement. Jerrow added, however, the city council voted and public safety recommended reducing the speed limit to 35 mph.

Steven Schreier commented he trusted the observations of the police chief noting the changes have helped to slow traffic on the other side of the bridge which was the really the main reason they requested the reduction in speed. Scheier added he understood in the future signs would be added indicating there was a crosswalk on the other side of the bridge.

Jerrow commented he would be requesting the radar sign indicating the speed of traffic because it did the most good.

Vote: All 'aye', motion carried.

6. Discussion/Act on Giving the Highway Commissioner the Authority to Release Excess Right of Way

Discussion: Jensen reported following an email clarifying the intention from Romportl, Corporation Counsel had not yet responded regarding its recommendation. Jensen recommended postponing the item until a later meeting.

7. Discussion/Act on Town Bridge Aid Policy

Discussion: Stefonek reported the guidelines developed were based upon other counties policies. Stefonek suggested sending a letter to the towns in the fall asking for requests for the following year so the commissioner could assess the culvert if necessary. Following project approval in the spring and the completion of the project, invoices would need to be submitted to the department by mid-August so the reimbursements could be included in the following year's budget for reimbursement in January or February of the following year. Timmons expressed concern if the project was unable to be completed by the due date in August, the town would not be reimbursed for another year. Gleason noted language could be included indicating the work must be contracted to be completed within the year to be eligible for reimbursement. Stefonek added if approved, the recommendations would not take effect until the following year since the 2020 budget was complete and the projects previously approved would be reimbursed as before. Holewinski commented the policy did

not account for emergencies and should be included in the policy. The committee requested the commissioner draft a policy to bring back to a future meeting for consideration.

8. Commissioner Report/Discussion

Operations Report

- **Kemp Street**

Stefonek reported Kemp Street was almost complete, however, the roundabout ramps will not be open until all signs and lighting were received and installed. Stefonek noted some of the catch basins did not match the pipe underneath so there would be a small overrun. Discussion of who should be responsible for the cost associated with the change order.

- **2019 Gravel Crushing**

Stefonek reported he explained to all bidders where the crushing was to start, however, the awarded bidder did not want to begin at the specified location nor did they start the project before the deadline voiding the contract. Holewinski recommended rebidding now with the dates for next year.

- **Rhineland Facility Heating, Ventilating, Air Exchange Project**

Stefonek reported work began on the back shop and the project should be completed by the following month.

- **Department of Transportation Routine Maintenance Agreement Update**

Stefonek reported just under \$1.6 million of work was done for the state so far with more to be done noting they have been working with other counties to help complete the work.

9. Future Meeting Dates

- October 11, 2019
- October 24, 2019
- November 7, 2019
- November 21, 2019

10. Future agenda items

- By-Pass speed limit
- Town Bridge Aid policy
- ATV/UTV Route Applications
- Authorization for the Commissioner to approve the Land Records Committees recommendations of county highway right-of-way acquisition requests

11. Public Comments

See agenda item 5.

12. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 8:43 a.m.

Committee Chairperson

Committee Secretary