

SOLID WASTE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE
MCCARTY, LAPIN, FARWELL, KENNEDY, BROCKWAY
May 18, 2021
1:00 p.m.

Under the current COVID-19 emergency/Executive orders, this committee meeting was not physically open to the public at the County Office Building. The meeting was streamed via facebookLIVE.

Members: Representative McCarty - absent
Representative Lapin – present, via Zoom
Representative Farwell - present, via Zoom
Representative Kennedy – present, via Zoom
Representative Brockway - present, via Zoom

Also present via Zoom: Erik Scrivener and Shane Digan from Planning; Jordan Clements from Soil and Water; Representative Wilber and Allen Ruffles, County Treasurer

Representative Lapin requested approval of the April 20, 2021 minutes as presented. Representative Kennedy moved for approval. Seconded, Farwell. Total: 2,407. Ayes: 2,032; Absent: 375- McCarty. Motion carried.

Representative Lapin introduced a resolution supporting the NYS DEC “opt-in” Legislation for changes to youth hunting. Representative Brockway gave a brief overview of the legislation. Representative Farwell moved for approval. Seconded, Kennedy. Total: 2,407. Ayes: 2,032; Absent: 375- McCarty. Motion carried.

SOLID WASTE – ERIK SCRIVENER and SHANE DIGAN via Zoom

Erik Scrivener requested approval for the 2021 Otsego County Fair registration at a cost of \$150 from the “Other” budget line (A8160.548000). Representative Brockway moved for approval. Seconded, Kennedy. Total: 2,407. Ayes: 2,032; Absent: 375- McCarty. Motion carried.

Shane Digan gave the following recycling and MSW reports for April 2021:

- MSW (trash) – 3,514.5 tons/up 721 tons from last year
- Single Stream Recycling – 324 tons/up almost 50 tons from same month last year/\$105.63 per ton – lowest in a long time due to Casella working out a lower rate with Sierra
- 297 mattresses

- 27 tons of metal
- Electronics – Collected \$1,308 in revenue; spent out about \$3,000
- Cardboard – 2.29 tons at \$80.50 per ton and 2.79 tons at \$68.76 per ton
- Glass – 3.64 tons at \$48.08 per ton
- Food waste – 0.2 on April 1st/\$375 per ton

There was a brief discussion about the new recycling law and after receiving some calls, people are in favor of the law and have asked why this law came to be. The law has been perceived well and the message is getting out.

SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT (SWCD) – JORDAN CLEMENTS via Zoom

Jordan Clements gave updates including but not limited to the following:

- Busy with field season, planting buffers since late April – goal is 8 acres of new buffer
- Received 2 Climate Resiliency grants: Micro Irrigation System and Soil Amendments & Soil Fertility Improvements
- Enviro-thon was all virtual this year; Worcester Central School will be representing Otsego County at the state event
- Tree Program was successful
- Some projects sitting idle due to cost increases – lumber and cement costs have doubled
- Current landowner dispute about a property line
- Plans to start up the Stream Program again
- Working on a program with the Ag Farmland Protection Committee and surrounding counties to attract downstate assemblymen and senators to come up and to learn about current Upstate NY issues with agriculture and the economy (1 day program at the Farmer's Museum, October 2021)

SOLID WASTE CON'T – ERIK SCRIVENER

Erik Scrivener gave an update on the MOSA hauler debt. Mr. Scrivener received the hauler payment agreement from Montgomery County, reviewed it with the Treasurer, it benefits Montgomery County more than Otsego County and Schoharie County is withholding their payment from Montgomery County; it would be in the best interest of Otsego County to make a similar approach. Erik Scrivener requested support from the Committee. Erik Scrivener requested support of the course of action of the MOSA hauler debt plan, to withhold the June payment and direct the County Attorney to draft a letter to that effect. Representative Kennedy moved for approval. Seconded, Brockway. Total: 2,407. Ayes: 2,032; Absent: 375- McCarty. Motion carried.

Erik Scrivener gave updates on the Strategic Plan including but not limited to the following Solid Waste User Fee Formula, Full-time staff member in the Solid Waste Department, feasibility of County owned facilities (a MERF) and expanding our organics-waste diversion program. It was suggested to arrange a site visit with Delaware County to see their recycling program and operations.

NEW BUSINESS

Shane Digan informed the Committee of and explained the Leachate management project. Otsego County manages and is responsible for the eastern landfill through MOSA; and spends about \$10,000 every month MOSA, to administer the landfills. A large part of the expense is trucking leachate from the landfill to the Amsterdam City Wastewater Treatment Plant, which is approximately 10 miles. There has been discussion of installing a pipe to take away trucking expense. In 2015/2016, there was a study done for the cost analysis with an estimate of \$3 million dollars and Otsego County being responsible for \$1.2 million dollars. The question is funding. Otsego County is responsible for 40% of all landfill management expenses. Recently discussion has arose again. Schoharie County proposed we could potentially use money from the American Rescue Plan to fund the pipe or the Consolidated Funding Application and maybe there is a grant we can apply for as three counties and put in our Shared Services Plans for next year.

OTHER

Erik Scrivener mentioned a virtual training with the Department of State on the 239 referral review process, on Thursday, May 20th at 6:00 p.m.

Erik Scrivener mentioned releasing the RFB on May 10th for the northern transfer station for the drainage, electrical and trenching work. The bid is currently open. No contractors came in person for the open meeting. The northern station is anticipated to be closed approximately two weeks in the fall to have the work completed.

Representative Farwell asked about the email sent to the town supervisors about the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Erik Scrivener and Shane Digan gave updates on the composter sale mentioning they received about 80 composter orders and that the event was busy and successful and plan on doing it next year.

There being no further business to discuss, Representative Kennedy motioned to adjourn. Seconded, Farwell. Total: 2,407. Ayes: 2,032; Absent: 375- McCarty. Motion carried.