

**SOLID WASTE & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
MCCARTY, LAPIN, FARWELL, KENNEDY, BROCKWAY
May 12, 2020
9:00am**

This meeting was streamed on Facebook Live and recorded.

Please note the meeting attendance as follows:

Present in person at the Otsego County Office Building Board Chambers,
197 Main Street, Cooperstown, NY 13326:

Representative Kennedy

Present remotely via video conference:

Representative Lapin

Representative Farwell

Representative Brockway

Representative Basile

Treasurer Allen Ruffles

Karen Sullivan, Director of Solid Waste

Shane Digan, Recycling Coordinator

Lorry O'Brien-DuBois, Administrative Aide

Lonnie O'Bryan, General Manager, Casella Waste Systems

SOLID WASTE—KAREN SULLIVAN and SHANE DIGAN

Karen Sullivan, Director of Solid Waste, emailed to the Committee prior to the meeting and requested approval of the April 14, 2020 Solid Waste & Environmental Concerns Committee minutes. Representative Brockway motioned to approve the minutes. Seconded, Lapin. Roll call vote. Total: 2,407. Ayes: 2,407. Motion carried.

Karen Sullivan, and Shane Digan, Recycling Coordinator, presented and reviewed the following reports:

- Solid Waste Totals—2,792.95 tons of solid waste collected in April (down 654 tons from last year), \$12,058.02 credit to the County
- Recycling Costs for Otsego County—275.22 tons collected in April at an average of \$148.90 per ton (up 81.82 tons from last

April), total costs of recycling including labor for April is \$40,979.38

- Mattress collection for April 2020 was 163 mattresses

Shane Digan gave an update about this year's film plastic recycling competition, stating that Gilbertsville Mount Upton School collected the most film plastic on the elementary school level, with a total of 786 pounds. Morris Central School collected the most film plastic on the high school level, with a total of 246 pounds. Shane Digan said the schools have been issued certificates and the competition winners were covered by the local press, but the normal award ceremony is unable to take place due to COVID-19 school closures and social distancing guidelines.

Karen Sullivan briefed the Committee on the results of a 2016 study conducted by the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to evaluate the need for flood risk management projects in the Upper Susquehanna River Basin. The study concluded that the criteria was not met for a federally funded flood risk management project, however the study did identify six potential local projects including but not limited to a need for a closure at Main Street in Oneonta and automatic check valves along Interstate 88 to prevent backflow issues.

Karen Sullivan and the Committee discussed the Sheriff's department's need to dispose of 100 mattresses from the Jail, including but not limited to: the mattresses were not recycled in previous years but treated as regular solid waste, the items should be recycled, Triad has agreed to reduce the recycling fee in this instance from \$25 per mattress unit to \$12 per unit, the expense was not budgeted for in 2020. Karen Sullivan proposed to pay the expense this year from the credit from Casella to Solid Waste, however noted that the Sheriff's department should budget for this expense in the future. Representative Kennedy motioned to approve paying the department of Corrections expense to recycle the mattresses from the credit from Casella funds. Seconded, Lapin. Roll call vote. Total: 2,407. Ayes: 2,407. Motion carried.

The Committee discussed financial concerns with regard to the 2020 Household Hazardous Waste Days and evolving budgetary concerns related to COVID-19. Karen Sullivan and the Committee discussed the possibility that NYS DEC funding support for the program may be not be available this year, causing a funding gap of approximately \$25,000. The Committee was in consensus to wait to make a final decision about whether or not to hold the event this year.

The Committee discussed budget cuts as related to the COVID-19 economic crisis, including but not limited to cuts to personnel.

The Committee did not set a date for their next meeting, and was in consensus that the date would be determined at a later time. The Committee adjourned.