

SOLID WASTE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE
MCCARTY, KENNEDY, KOUTNIK, LAPIN, FARWELL
October 21, 2019

Also Present: Karey Foster and Rick Homan of Casella Waste Systems, and Leslie Orzetti of Otsego County Conservation Association (OCCA)

SOLID WASTE- KAREN SULLIVAN and SHANE DIGAN

Karen Sullivan requested approval to ratify the 2020 budget for the BAGS Solid Waste Management District. The BAGS Board of Directors held a public hearing on September 16, 2019, and adopted the budget pending ratification by Chenango, Delaware, and Otsego Counties, which has no local cost to the County. Representative Kennedy moved to ratify the 2020 budget for the BAGS Solid Waste Management District. Seconded, Koutnik. Total: 2,201. Ayes: 2,201. Motion carried.

Karen Sullivan requested a resolution to impose a 5 ¢ paper bag fee to begin on March 1, 2020. Representative Koutnik moved to impose a 5 ¢ paper bag fee. Seconded, Lapin. The Committee discussed reasons to support imposing the 5 ¢ user fee and reasons not to support imposing the 5 ¢ user fee, including but not limited to: Representative McCarty raised concerns about increasing costs for County residents. Representative Koutnik said the 5 ¢ fee is not a fee users will have to pay because they may bring their own reusable bags, rather it is an incentive to not use paper bags. Representative Koutnik also said the ban on plastic bags beginning in 2020 will increase the use of paper bags, which have their own negative environmental impacts. Representative Lapin said in this phase, if the County elects to impose the user fee, data can be collected to create metrics which can be used to draw comparisons and to monitor or justify adjusting the law. The Committee discussed the fact that NYS could modify the law in the future to impose its own state-wide user fee on paper bags with no share of the fee going to the County; and also that without imposing a County paper bag user fee, businesses may choose to pass the cost of purchasing paper bags along to their customers increasing their costs anyway. Representative Kennedy wanted clarification regarding whether or not the paper bag user fee local share (2 ¢) will continue to come to the County once the County has purchased reusable bags and reusable bags have hit a saturation point, will the 2 ¢ County share then go to the NYS general fund? Representative Farwell said that by passing the paper bag 5 ¢ user fee through the Committee, it will allow the full Board of Representatives to vote on the issue. Ms. Sullivan noted the Committee could pass a resolution not to impose the fee instead. Ms. Sullivan said if the resolution to support imposing the 5 ¢ paper bag user fee passes at the Board level, it would initiate creating a local law. Shane Digan and the Committee reviewed a map of NYS counties that have enacted

the paper bag user fee, counties that have elected not to impose a user fee, and those counties who have not decided at this point. The Committee acknowledged there were many questions that were unable to be answered at this time. The Committee voted on whether or not to impose a 5 ¢ paper bag fee to begin on March 1, 2020. Total: 2,201. Ayes: 1,826. Noes: 375- McCarty. Motion carried.

Karen Sullivan requested the following budget transfers;

-Transfer from:	Heat and Lights	8160-4150-A	\$150
-Transfer to:	Materials and Supplies	8160-4500-A	\$150
-Transfer from:	Heat and Lights	8160-4150-A	\$150
-Transfer to:	Mileage	8160-4005-A	\$150

Representative Koutnik moved to approve the budget transfers as listed above. Seconded, Lapin. Total: 2,201. Ayes: 2,201. Motion carried.

Karen Sullivan requested approval to contract with Townsquare Media for the “Trash Talk” Feature, January 1, 2020 – December 29, 2020, in the amount of \$8,280. Representative Lapin moved to approve contracting with Townsquare Media. Seconded, Koutnik. Total: 2,201. Ayes: 2,201. Motion carried.

Karen Sullivan presented and reviewed the following reports:

-Solid Waste Totals: 3,636.54 tons on solid waste was collected in September (up 242.87 tons from last year), with a \$2,158.08 credit to the County

-Recycling Costs for Otsego County: 345.96 tons of recycling were collected in September (down 25.93 from last year) at an average of \$145.15 per ton, total cost of recycling for September is \$50,215.81 including labor

-Mattress collection for September 2019 was 203 mattresses

Shane Digan presented the television advertisement that will air on Spectrum Cable TV.

Karen Sullivan updated the Committee on a catch basin which will need to be constructed at the Northern Transfer Station, Ms. Sullivan said she working with a firm to engineer the catch basin, and working also with Casella Waste Management Systems on the contract.

Karen Sullivan gave the following program updates, including but not limited to:

- glass separation will begin at the Northern Transfer Station
- cardboard is currently being separated at both the Northern and Southern Transfer Stations
- voluntary food waste collection will begin at the Southern Transfer Station
- Delaware County Solid Waste Management Center will host an Open House on Saturday, November 9, 2019

There being no further business to discuss, the Committee set their next meeting date for Thursday, November 21, 2019 at 9:00am at the Meadows and adjourned.