

**SOLID WASTE & ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE  
MCCARTY, KENNEDY, KOUTNIK, LAPIN, FARWELL  
December 12, 2019**

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

**SOLID WASTE- KAREN SULLIVAN and SHANE DIGAN**

Karen Sullivan requested approval of the November 21, 2019 Solid Waste & Environmental Concerns Committee minutes. Representative Farwell moved to approve the minutes. Seconded, Lapin. Total: 2,201. Ayes: 2,201. Motion carried.

Karen Sullivan reported the department has received an additional invoice from Montgomery County for leachate removal due to rainy weather conditions in the spring. Ms. Sullivan requested the following budget transfer:

-Transfer from:	Maintenance & Repairs	8160-4560-A	\$35,000
-Transfer to:	Post Closure	8160-4902-A	\$35,000

Representative Farwell moved to approve the budget transfer. Seconded, Koutnik. Total: 2,201. Ayes: 2,201. Motion carried.

Karen Sullivan requested approval to extend the current electronic recycling contract with Evolution Recycling for 2020, as established in the contract of 2018, which allows for two 1-year extensions and is as stated: "The term of this contract shall commence January 1, 2018 and shall continue until December 31, 2018, with two (2) optional one-year extensions." Representative Kennedy moved to extend the electronic recycling contract. Seconded, Lapin. Total: 2,201. Ayes: 2,201. Motion carried.

Karen Sullivan requested approval to create a part-time temporary transfer station attendant position. This does not require a budget increase as it will be used to substitute a worker on medical leave. Representative Farwell moved to create the position. Seconded, Koutnik. Total: 2,201. Ayes: 2,201. Motion carried.

**OTSEGO COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

Jordan Clements, District Manager, gave the following program updates, including but not limited to:

- work continuing on the manure storage facility in Morris, NY

- Ag Non-Point Source grant: waiting for the release of new applications, due in March 2020
- Ag Environmental Management Program: in its 16th year providing resources and technical assistance to farmers, next meeting scheduled for January 13, 2019 from 9:00am-10:30am

Representative Farwell and Mr. Clements clarified that the final documentation for the OCSWCD micro-grant program needs to be submitted by the end of the calendar year. Mr. Clements also noted applications for the micro-grant program will be available again in March of 2020.

**SOLID WASTE (cont'd)- KAREN SULLIVAN and SHANE DIGAN**

Karen Sullivan presented and reviewed the following solid waste reports:

- Solid Waste Totals—3,055.2 tons of solid waste collected in November (down 53 tons from last year), \$1,396.45 credit to the County

- Recycling Costs for Otsego County—327.31 tons collected in November at an average cost of \$142.17 per ton (down 36.56 tons from last November), total costs of recycling including labor for November is \$46,535.08

- Mattress collection: 182 mattresses in November

Representative Farwell inquired about overall trends in solid waste and Karen Sullivan said solid waste has been consistent for the last 15 years, although the tonnage of recycling has decreased slightly; the decrease may be due to fewer items being made with glass and more items being made with plastic (which is lighter).

Shane Digan presented and reviewed a draft copy of a letter expressing the Committee's concerns to the NYS legislature regarding the option for counties to implement a 5¢ user fee on paper bags as part of the NYS Bag Waste Reduction Act. The Committee discussed concerns, including but not limited to:

- the legislation does not address other single use items/ materials
- due to a portion of the 5¢ fee going back to NYS, the counties who impose a fee will pay for or "subsidize" counties that do not
- the legislation fails to compensate business owners for their increased costs associated with switching from plastic to paper bags
- keeping any fees collected on paper bags locally would better serve local recycling and waste management programs

- paper bags have a greater carbon footprint than plastic bags, and also less potential for reuse
- Karen Sullivan said the comment period on the legislation is open until February 2, 2020

The Committee discussed policies and procedures for the closure of the transfer stations in the event of inclement weather, especially if/and/or when there are road closures or the County closes. Karen Sullivan said the Solid Waste department notifies the radio, and updates their website and social media. Karey Foster said Casella auto-calls customer accounts to notify customers of closures, and Karen Sullivan discussed commercial haulers who may need to be notified individually.

Karen Sullivan reported on NYS's recent notification that NYS will be allocating grant funding for census outreach to interested counties. Ms. Sullivan requested the Committee send ideas, comments, or interested persons to be incorporated into planning to expend the funds, as the timeframe for planning is brief.

### **OTSEGO COUNTY CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION- LESLIE ORZETTI and AMY WYANT**

Karen Sullivan introduced Amy Wyant, the new Executive Director of the Otsego County Conservation Association.

Amy Wyant reported that the Climate Smart Communities initiative will receive notification whether or not the program was funded on or around December 19, 2019. If funded, Ms. Wyant plans to continue to work through OCCA and the Mohawk Valley Economic Development District (MVEDD) to register climate smart communities with the DEC, create community "road-maps," and other planning and actions; and if not funded, communities will still focus on these actions, although without funding progress may be slower.

### **SOLID WASTE (cont'd)- KAREN SULLIVAN**

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

- Tammie Harris attended the Landfill Oversight Committee meeting on December 10, 2019
- the Source Otsego app piloted this fall and the program will continue in the spring
- the annual engineers report from Montgomery County is available to view in Ms. Sullivan's office, please contact for an appointment to view

There being no further business to discuss, the Committee adjourned.