

SOLID WASTE & ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE
MCCARTY, KENNEDY, KOUTNIK, LAPIN, FARWELL
September 23, 2019

Also Present: Shane Digan, Planner Trainee, Lonnie O'Bryan of Casella Waste Systems, Leslie Orzetti of Otsego County Conservation Association, and Deputy Treasurer Andrew Crisman

SOLID WASTE- KAREN SULLIVAN

Karen Sullivan, Director of Solid Waste, requested an amendment to the Solid Waste contract with Casella to include charges for the collection of electronics, specifically TV monitors and commercial grade electronics in the amount of \$12 per unit. Representative Kennedy moved to amend the contract to include the charges. Seconded, Koutnik. Ms. Sullivan noted this cost was calculated based on actual charges to cover the cost of disposing of the material. Representative Farwell clarified that smaller electronics will continue to be collected for free. Ms. Sullivan said the department would plan to implement this in November. Total: 2,201. Ayes: 2,201. Motion carried.

CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION (CCE)- JIM BARBER

Jim Barber, Ag Implementation Specialist (AIS), distributed copies of the AIS Mid-Year Progress report. Jim Barber gave the following program updates, including but not limited to the following:

- NYS Grown and Certified Program: food safety grants designed to help participation in the program in order to address GAP certification, 2 rounds of applications, the first round yielded an award of \$50,000 and the second round yielded two awards in the amounts of \$40,000 and \$42,000, the funds in this program are currently depleted

- Source Otsego app: project evolved, finding drop-off sites was difficult because businesses didn't want to monitor the sites, however, near the end of July, secured three drop-off sites at ARC, Pathfinder Village and the Richfield Springs Co-op (and eventually Clark Sports Center), piloting the program through the holidays, the app needed to be reconfigured due to changes on the app platform, now using What's Good?, with plan to launch October 17, 2019, and continue every Thursday

- working with the Oneonta Farmer's Market to find a "permanent home," seeking funding and possible partnerships

-Guide to Farming in Otsego County: (Mr. Barber passed a draft copy around for review), lists agencies, organizations, and non-profits categorized by services, listing federal and state agencies in the back of the guide, and a quick reference table (which is hyperlinked in the online version), how to apply for licenses, in the final draft phase

-talked with individuals who are becoming farmers

Ms. Sullivan noted the Ag Implementation meetings are held the first Thursday of every month at 1:00pm at CCE and invited interested individuals to attend.

Deputy Treasurer Andrew Crisman entered the meeting during the above discussion.

Jim Barber exited the meeting.

OTSEGO COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT (OCSWCD)- JORDAN CLEMENTS

Also Present: Deputy Treasurer Andrew Crisman

Representative McCarty introduced Deputy Treasurer Andrew Crisman, who was in attendance to discuss proposed 2020 budgets. Jordan Clements, District Manager, said that he has requested additional County appropriations in the proposed 2020 budget. Representative Koutnik inquired what the additional appropriation would be used for. Mr. Clements said he would continue to serve the constituents of the 14 districts, including but not limited to using funds for staff to continue and expand the programming. Representative Lapin said he would support an increase for the department appropriation, especially if presented with a plan with deliverables. Representative Farwell said she would like to see an appropriation that would factor in the cost of living increase. The Committee recommended that Mr. Clements please present to the upcoming Budget Committee meeting scheduled for Thursday, September 26, 2019 and Mr. Clements agreed he would be in attendance to present to the Budget Committee.

SOLID WASTE- KAREN SULLIVAN (cont'd)

Karen Sullivan and the Committee discussed the proposed 2020 Solid Waste budget. Ms. Sullivan presented a spreadsheet featuring models and comparisons of budget configurations with options including but not limited to increasing the tip fee, user fee, and/or the fees for recycling. Ms. Sullivan and the Committee discussed considerations including but not limited to solid waste costs continuing to increase and unlikely decrease, the loss of overseas markets

for recyclables, transportation of waste costs are increasing, and landfills are at capacity and being closed down. Representatives Lapin and Koutnik requested that the Solid Waste and Environmental Concerns Committee look seriously at long-term planning for the future of these challenges. The Committee continued discussion regarding waste costs and the County budget.

Representative Kennedy moved to increase the tip fee to \$87 per ton for solid waste, maintain the user fee at \$20, and increase the recycling fee for commercial haulers to \$75 per ton. Seconded, Koutnik. Total: 2,201. Ayes: 2,201. Motion carried.

Ms. Sullivan said she would update the proposed 2020 budget and send changes to the Treasurer.

OCSWCD- JORDAN CLEMENTS (cont'd)

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

- expecting to receive the results of 3 grant applications by the end of October
- Farm Tour: scheduled for October 4th
- the hydroseeder is available to borrow
- staff are attending technical classes in Cortland County

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

Karen Sullivan requested the Committee establish Representatives to serve on the Butternut Watershed Steering Committee. Representative McCarty moved to establish Representatives from District 2, 5, and 10 to the Butternut Watershed Steering Committee. Seconded, Kennedy. The district Representatives were chosen because the districts are located in the Butternut Watershed. Total: 2,201. Ayes: 2,201. Motion carried.

Karen Sullivan requested approval to award the Agency Housing solar contract to Revolution Solar. Representative Koutnik moved to approve awarding the contract. Seconded, Kennedy. Total: 2,201. Ayes: 2,201. Motion carried.

Karen Sullivan requested approval to purchase advertising from Spectrum Advertisement in the amount of \$9,980. Shane Digan showed a sample commercial. Representative Farwell moved to purchase the advertising. Seconded, Kennedy. Total: 2,201. Ayes: 2,201. Motion carried.

Ms. Sullivan reported the following Solid Waste totals for the month of August:

-Solid Waste Totals- 4,032.15 tons of solid waste collected in August (up 134.85 tons from last year), \$1,755.15 credit to the County

-Recycling Costs for Otsego County—385.63 tons collected in August at an average of \$148.04 per ton (down 58.49 tons from last August), total costs of recycling including labor for August is \$57,088.32 (Total year-to-date: \$346,291.95)

-Mattress collection for August 2019 was 269 mattresses

Shane Digan reported that he has attended Town Board meetings to present on the 2020 NYS ban on plastic bags. Representative Kennedy inquired whether or not if the County imposes a 5¢ user fee on paper bags, considering the NYS/County split of the fee (3¢ to NYS/2¢ to the County), where will the funds the County collects go if the County does not expense all the funds? Back to NYS, or can that piece stay local? Representative Lapin said that it is important to collect data if County imposes a 5¢ user fee on paper bags in order to track any impact and for use in substantiating future requests for changes to the legislation. Mr. Digan, Ms. Sullivan, and the Committee continued to discuss various aspects of the plastic bag ban and paper bag user fee. Ms. Sullivan requested the Board prepare to make a decision regarding the 5¢ paper bag user fee before the end of the year.

Karen Sullivan reported on this year's Household Hazardous Waste Days (HHW Days) held on September 20-21, 2019. Ms. Sullivan said that although she does not have exact totals at this point, the amount of waste collected is estimated at 37 tons, 13 barrels of paint, 6,700 linear feet of light bulbs, e-waste including TVs and batteries, and much more. Ms. Sullivan estimated the participation in this year's HHW Days has doubled over last year. Cost totals will be forthcoming. Ms. Sullivan thanked the staff and volunteers, and said the department will review and make changes for next year's event.

Karen Sullivan inquired whether the Committee would support the department's participation in Clean Air NY through use of the department's social media accounts. The Committee agreed.

The Committee set their next meeting date for Monday, October 21, 2019 at 9:00am at the Meadows.

Representative Kennedy moved to enter into executive session to discuss the matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person. Seconded, Lapin. Total: 2,201. Ayes: 2,201. Motion carried.

The Committee adjourned while in executive session.