

**MONTGOMERY-OTSEGO-SCHOHARIE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT
AUTHORITY
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING #4**

DATE: May 19, 2005

LOCATION: Howes Cave Administrative Complex

Members Present

Charles Buck
Donald Lindberg
Meredith McNeil
Olga Podmajersky
James Powers
William Strevy
Edward Wesnofske

Members Absent

Raymond Halgas

Others Present

Gilbert Chichester
Melissa Morlang
Robin Loske
Marijeanne Broadwell
Terry Bliss Otsego Co.
Chris Chale
Press
Public

1. Opening

Chairman Wesnofske opened the meeting at 9:40 a.m.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Charles Buck motioned, seconded by Donald Lindberg, to adopt the Agenda. On voice call the Agenda was unanimously approved.

3. Resolution Number 12 Authorizing the Executive Director to Execute an Agreement with an Engineering Firm for the Design Work Relating to the Oneonta Transfer Station} Sponsored by Charles Buck – Seconded by James Powers

Donald Lindberg reported that the Operations Committee recommended the firm of Golder Associates to perform the tasks as outlined in their proposal for the work associated with the Oneonta Transfer Station. The Committee felt that the firm knew what they were talking about and would work with the existing facility rather than demolish it and start from scratch.

Mr. Wesnofske felt that Golder would be more creative when looking for solutions and is willing to work with what is already there.

Mr. Wesnofske stated that he had just attended the NYS Solid Waste Management Association seminar and learned that there is a potential of transporting solid waste, in the next ten years, by rail rather than trucking it. It was pointed out that 200 miles is the economic limit for transporting solid waste via truck.

Mr. Wesnofske reported that DEC is worried about hydrogen sulfide in landfills for two reasons: The first is DEC wants landfills to recover methane gas for energy purposes and hydrogen sulfide impedes that purpose and the second is the landfill workers are in danger of the hydrogen sulfide gas. One of the major sources of the hydrogen sulfide is construction and demolition material, especially wallboard. They are advising landfills to keep C&D materials separate if they can. The materials should be put in the driest area possible in order to reduce the creation of hydrogen sulfide.

Olga Podmajersky stated DEC indicated that Transfer Stations should dump C&D loads on the floor for inspection prior to dumping it in the trailer.

Mr. Buck asked what DEC suggested for disposing of the wallboard. Ms. Podmajersky stated that DEC did not offer a solution to the problem. Mr. Chichester pointed out that the State of Vermont segregates every piece of a building. It is dealt with in a way that does not create problems and the material does not go into the landfill. He also pointed out that the Town of Colonie does a lot of shredding. This saves a lot of space in the landfill.

Mr. Lindberg stated that the representative from Golder liked the tip wall at the Oneonta Transfer Station because material has to be lifted up and over it. He indicated that there have been lawsuits due to people falling off the tip walls.

Ms. Podmajersky stated that she is not in favor of the resolution. She felt that the Authority should deal with just the known problems. One is the safety problem dealing with separating residential traffic from the commercial traffic. Ms. Podmajersky stated that the other problem deals with the tip floor. She felt that major changes are being discussed and felt that only the specific problems should be dealt with. She indicated that before major changes are implemented at the site it might be better to build a new facility at a different site. The current site is not big enough to expand on to provide additional programs such as composting. There is also a problem with the elevation and location of the site.

Mr. Powers responded that the possibility of a new site was discussed with the engineers. The engineers felt it would be best to stick with the current site because it is already permitted. The engineers suggested that more bays be built so that when one floor needs repair there is another one that could be used.

Mr. Chichester stated that the engineers emphasized the need for planning for 20 years or more to have effective and efficient operations. Mr. Chichester pointed out that another problem that should be looked at is tarping stations.

Ms. Podmajersky felt that no one firm could offer optimum solutions for all the different problems. Mr. Chichester pointed out that the Authority has to stay actively involved and raise questions to force the engineers to think about potential problems that the Authority has learned about in other areas. He stated that he plans to be in touch with Rockland County because he liked the presentation given at the recent solid waste conference, which might be helpful in this project.

Mr. McNeil pointed out that previous studies have been done on the Oneonta Transfer Station. He stated that the present engineers did not spend a lot of time at the site. He felt that once they look at it in detail they might decide that the site is not going to accommodate the proposed changes.

On roll call vote the Resolution was adopted with five members voting “aye”, two members (Podmajersky, Strevy) voting “nay” and one member (Halgas) “absent”.

4. Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of a Request for Proposal for Transportation and Disposal Services} Sponsored by James Powers – Seconded by William Strevy

Donald Lindberg motioned to go into executive session to discuss the proposed RFP for Transportation and Disposal. The motion was seconded by Meredith McNeil and unanimously approved on voice call.

James Powers motioned, seconded by William Strevy, to come out of executive session. The motion was unanimously approved on voice call.

The meeting reconvened at 11:00 a.m.

Chairman Wesnofske stated that the Board was in agreement to move forward with the RFP. The RFP will be ready for distribution on May 26th and the responses will be due back on June 23rd.

On voice call the Resolution was adopted with seven members voting “aye” and one member (Halgas) “absent”.

As the responses come in for the RFP, Ms. Chale advised the Authority and the Counties to begin discussions on ways to enforce the flow of the waste.

5. Special Waste

Mr. Chichester reported that representatives from the Highland Facility gave a presentation to the site supervisors relative to identifying, tracking and handling special waste that is delivered to their facility from the Authority.

Mr. Chichester informed the Board that a blue powder was delivered to the Western Transfer Station from a warehouse that was formally used by Sentinel Products. This material was delivered once before to the Western Transfer Station. The landfill would not accept the material because there were no MSDS sheets to verify the contents of blue powder. The hauler who delivered the material was notified to remove the material. The next day the hauler did reload the material and hauled it away. In the process he was covered with the fine blue particles, which is what happened to Authority staff the last time it was delivered. Mr. Chichester felt that it sent a message that haulers have to be more sensitive to what they are picking up and dumping at the transfer stations. Mr. Chichester stated that he

contemplated calling in a cleanup company to remove the material and charge the cost to the hauler. He did not do this because the Authority was familiar with the material from dealing with it before.

Mr. Chichester pointed out that the incident relates to the need for an extra staff member to deal with safety issues and relate to the industrial customers relative to what they send to the transfer stations.

An interesting point was that the Waste Management driver that was also using the transfer station when the material was delivered became concerned when he learned that the hauler was being required to remove the material. He went back to his company and told them about the material, which resulted in Waste Management calling Mr. Chichester to ascertain any possible exposure issues.

Mr. Chichester stated that staff has been directed not to accept any suspicious material. In the future, it may be necessary to call in a hazardous material team for cleanup. He also indicated that he is working with legal counsel relative to establishing a formal protocol for dealing with such situations.

Next Meeting

Mr. Wesnofske asked Ms. Morlang when she would have the draft 2006 GAT document prepared. She indicated that the report should be prepared by the middle of June. Once it is completed she will mail the draft to the members.

Because of the timing of the GAT report and the RFP responses the next Board meeting was scheduled for July 7, 2005 at 9:30 a.m.

Closing

Edward Wesnofske motioned to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by James Powers and was unanimously approved on voice call.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robin Loske
Confidential Secretary