

**MONTGOMERY-OTSEGO-SCHOHARIE SOLID WASTE
MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY**

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

DATE: November 10, 2005

LOCATION: MOSA Administrative Complex, Howes Cave

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Donald Lindberg
Edward Wesnofske
Charles Buck

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Raymond Hargas

OTHERS PRESENT:

William Strevy
Gilbert Chichester
Melissa Morlang
Olga Podmajersky
Bud Ingraham
Larry Nellis
Terry Bliss

1. Opening

Chairman Lindberg opened the meeting at 8:34 a.m.

2. Minutes of Prior Meeting

Edward Wesnofske motioned to accept the minutes of the prior meeting of September 15, 2005. Charles Buck seconded the motion and on voice call the minutes were unanimously approved.

3. ATS Scale Installation

The new scale at the Amsterdam Transfer Station has been installed, certified and is now operational.

4. Landfill Repair Update

The repairs to the Eastern Landfill have been completed. Gilbert Chichester and Paul Dudden from Barton and Loguidice performed a walk through and concluded that the repairs performed were acceptable. They did note another area on the landfill that appeared to be much wetter than it should be. A wash out had not yet occurred in this area. If a slide does occur the repairs will follow that same process as was recently followed.

Mr. Dudden and Mr. Chichester also reviewed the Central Landfill. Gulleys have formed on the berms that go across the landfill such that the water is not draining appropriately. It was anticipated that the contractor performing the repairs at ELF would also do the maintenance work at CLF. The contractor felt that the work required at CLF was more than originally anticipated. Mr. Dudden and Mr. Chichester feel that by installing ditches and stone the water issue and be remediated. If major changes were made the berm it is likely that the cap would be compromised. Mr. Chichester stated that he would anticipate Authority staff doing the work.

There is one area in particular where a ditch has formed through a berm. Mr. Chichester is hoping to be able to repair that this fall with the remainder of the work to be done next year.

5. Backhoe Purchase

Although a backhoe was scheduled to be replaced in 2006, the Board authorized its replacement for late in 2005 to facilitate winter maintenance. The Authority issued a bid and received two responses as attached hereto. One of the two bid responses, a Komatsu was also available on State Contract and had to be rejected.

In addition to the proposals received a Case Backhoe is available on State Contract. Both Bud Ingraham and Larry Nellis felt that the Case was a better machine.

Edward Wesnofske asked about the estimated useful life of the backhoe. Mr. Chichester responded that it would be scheduled for replacement after 5 years of active use. Upon its replacement it will likely serve as a backup in the system.

After review by the operations committee of the proposals to determine which piece of equipment will best serve the needs of the Authority, Edward Wesnofske motioned seconded by Charles Buck to authorize the Executive Director to purchase the Case Backhoe off State Contract as presented. All three members present voted in favor.

6. Equipment Maintenance Vehicle Needs

Mr. Chichester stated that the equipment maintenance function currently has a large service truck equipped with a crane and welder. The Maintenance function has a need for an additional vehicle to serve as a lube truck. Mr. Ingraham and Mr. Nellis presented information on a Chevy and a Ford version of the truck as attached hereto. The staff recommendation was to purchase the Ford diesel.

Edward Wesnofske motioned seconded by Charles Buck to recommend to the Full Board the purchase of a 2006 Ford F350 with a covered body. All three members present voted in favor.

7. Northern Transfer Station Customer Service

Mr. Chichester reported that he had received a letter from Carl Higgins, Chairman of the Otsego County Board dated October 27, 2005. The County is requesting the Northern Transfer Station be open to allow for the deliver of waste via trailers.

Mr. Chichester stated that the current issue facing the Authority related to safety and traffic flow when trailers are being changed during operating hours. In addition, the Department of Labor is pressing the Authority to move in a direction of tarping the trailers without walking on the loads. The second issue is a problem at all Authority facilities.

Mr. Chichester stated that he had been looking at options other than building a tarping station for the site. The Equipment Maintenance staff checked into the compactor that is at the station and have determined that it is operational. The compactor could be used with push out trailers or compactor boxes. Both of these containers would need to be purchased and have limitations as to what can be put in them relative to C&D material.

All aspects of the options need to be ascertained including but not limited to the potential need for additional staff and the cost of purchasing and operating the different types of equipment.

The Committee directed the Executive Director to research the details relative to the different options available for operating the Northern Transfer Station and present it at the next committee meeting.

8. Tarping Stations

The Department of Labor is requiring the Authority to develop a means of tarping the trailers such that the employees do not walk onto of the loads. Developing tarping stations is a possible solution. Mr. Chichester has contacted two companies that build tarping stations and the rough price quote is between sixty and seventy thousand dollars. Mr. Chichester has also contacted another vendor who may be able to construct a station at a reduced price.

The Department of Labor is expecting this issue to be resolved by the end of the year. Mr. Chichester will continue to seek options relative to a tarping station.

9. Pigeon Guano Cleanup

The Department of Labor's (DOL) requirement to clean the pigeon guano at the Oneonta Transfer Station must be completed by the end of the year. Mr. Chichester has contacted vendors to perform the work and it is very expensive.

Mr. Chichester is now considering having the Buildings and Grounds supervisor, Dan Herrick, be trained in the use of a respirator at a cost of approximately \$2,000. The greatest area of concern for the DOL is the area around the electrical box where staff is likely to come in contact with the pigeon guano. Mr. Herrick could clean the area and confine the area to prevent further infestation.

10. Snow Handling at NTS & STS

Otsego County will continue to do what it can to clear the snow from the Northern Transfer Station. There is a backhoe at the station but it does not have a plow. Purchasing a plow for the backhoe is one option to dealing with the plowing aspect. The biggest problem is dealing with the ice storms and on going snowstorms such that the site needs to be cleaned throughout the day when it is operational.

At the Schoharie Transfer Station the site equipment has a plow and handling the snow is not an issue. The ice storms present a problem in that there is no means of sanding and salting the site. Dan Herrick uses the dump truck and sands and salts the Montgomery County end of the system and then does the Schoharie Transfer Station. The timing is the issue.

Mr. Chichester has contacted vendors with the proper equipment but he has not found the right match. Terry Bliss suggested that Lee Winney may be a source of manpower to plow, sand and salt but he would have to look into what equipment would be available.

Mr. Chichester stated that he continues to assess the situation.

11. Safety Agenda

Operations Committee Meeting

November 10, 2005

Page 4 of 4

Edward Wesnofske asked Mr. Chichester how close the Authority was to being sited for the violations issued by the Department of Labor. Mr. Chichester stated that the safety manual is currently being worked on and Safety training will be conducted on December 6th and 8th.

These trainings will bring the Authority into compliance with the required safety programs. At the same time, two major issues remain outstanding. First is the pigeon problem. By training Dan Herrick and providing appropriate equipment, the clean up may well occur in a timely fashion. It is hoped that the exclusion of the pigeons will be addressed as part of a retrofit of the Oneonta Transfer Station. Second, the requirement to tarp trailers without walking on the load must be addressed. Without a plan by the end of the year, penalties may be imposed.

12. Other Business

There was no other business to discuss.

13. Closing

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Morlang
Director of Finance and Administration