

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

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

DATE: September 15, 2005

LOCATION: MOSA Administrative Complex, Howes Cave

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Donald Lindberg
Edward Wesnofske
Charles Buck
Raymond Halgas

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT:

William Strevy
Gilbert Chichester
Melissa Morlang

1. Opening

Chairman Lindberg opened the meeting at 4:15 p.m.

2. Minutes of Prior Meeting

Edward Wesnofske motioned to accept the minutes of the prior meeting of July 28, 2005. Charles Buck seconded the motion and on voice call the minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Eastern Landfill Repairs

Gilbert Chichester distributed a summary of the bid results for the Eastern Landfill Erosion & Capping System Repairs as attached hereto. There were two bidders. Marcy Excavation bid \$102,250 and Rifenburg Construction bid \$166,900. Mr. Chichester recommended that the bid be awarded to Marcy Excavation.

There will be a pre-construction meeting at the landfill with Marcy Excavation on Wednesday, September 21st. Mr. Chichester has been in contact with FEMA and they have indicated that they will fund the repairs to be made. There was a Resolution already adopted authorizing the Executive Director to proceed with the project after reviewing such bids with the Operations Committee.

4. Scales at ATS

Gilbert Chichester distributed a summary of the three bids received for the replacement of the Amsterdam Transfer Station inbound scales as attached hereto. JB Brady bid \$69,870, Pro-Tech Scale bid \$67,550 and Scale Service bid \$64,682. Mr. Chichester contacted Scale

Service, the low bidder, to obtain additional information on their bid. He has determined that Scale Service will not have a scale that fits on the existing piers as required by the bid specifications. They also are not providing the appropriate lightening protection. The scale should be a single point grounding system such as that at the Oneonta Transfer Station. In Mr. Chichester's opinion the bid clearly did not meet the specifications and should be disqualified.

The Authority currently has three Mettler Toledo scales in the system, which have performed well. One is located at the Schoharie Transfer Station and the other two are located at the Oneonta Transfer Station. Mr. Chichester pointed out that both JB Brady and Pro-Tech have some deviations to the bid specifications. JB Brady bid a Mettler Toledo scale but they cannot meet the 15-year warranty on the weighbridge. Pro-Tech bid a Weigh-Tronix Scale and will meet the 15-year warranty on the weighbridge.

An R factor had to be met in accordance with the specifications. The R factor was developed for the strength of the weighbridge. Weigh-Tronix constructs its weighbridge along the line of bridge construction by using I-beams. JB Brady did not want to talk about R factors but related to CLC (Certified Load Capacity). Their scales are constructed somewhat like cardboard where there is a top and a bottom that is welded together on the sides and is corrugated in the middle. There are no I-beams. Over time the weighbridge will warp between opposite corners. It can be corrected but it is not as strong of a weighbridge. Each scale has different load cells. Pro-Tech will single point ground the scale and will also convert the existing scale at the Amsterdam Transfer Station to a single point ground.

Mr. Chichester recommended Pro-Tech Scale be awarded the bid. He pointed out that Pro-Tech currently maintains the scales at the Schoharie, Western and Amsterdam Transfer Stations. He understands that Pro-Tech does all the maintenance on scales for Montgomery, Fulton and Schoharie Counties.

Mr. Chichester pointed out that Scale Service is pushing the Emery Hydraulic Scales, which cost significantly more than electronic scales. The Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Authority is using hydraulic scales as well as Colonie. The advantage of a hydraulic scale is there is no worry about lightening. Mr. Chichester felt there is not enough experience with the function and reliability of hydraulic scale at this time. He also pointed out that lighting problems experienced in the past seem to have been brought under control through the single point grounding system.

Edward Wesnofske motioned, seconded by Charles Buck, to award the bid for the new scale to Pro-Tech. On voice the motion was unanimously approved.

5. OTS Retrofit Update

Mr. Chichester reported that he met with Ernie Rugert, the Engineering Technician working with Golder Associates, who are reviewing the Oneonta Transfer Station retrofit. Four different scenarios were reviewed which will be put forward once they are formalized.

6. Northern Transfer Station Operational Changes

Mr. Chichester reported that he received a letter from the Otsego County Solid Waste Committee requesting that the Authority reconsider the ban on trailers at the Northern Transfer Station. They also requested that the station be open an additional day during the week.

Ms. Morlang presented a report showing the amount of bag tickets and non-bag tickets that came into the site before and after the ban on trailers. The average daily deliveries for non-bag tickets was about a ton less after the ban. Mr. Chichester pointed out that the waste flow at the station would be decreasing around November due to seasonal residents leaving the Cooperstown area. At this time a trailer is not being traded out in the middle of the day. If the station is open to trailer traffic, etc. more than likely it will be necessary to trade a trailer out in the middle of the day.

If the station is open an additional day it will take time for residents to become aware of it. Full time personnel will be required rather than part time personnel.

The site generates about 200 bags tickets and 40 non-bag tickets per day. The average non-bag weight per day before August was 7.64 tons. Once trailers were prohibited the average non-bag weight per day is 6.46 tons. Bag waste is estimated at 25 pounds per bag.

Mr. Halgas asked if the Authority was meeting its obligations under the Service Agreement by having the Station open only two days per week. Mr. Chichester responded that the Authority does have a presence in the northern part of the Otsego County, which is called for in the Service Agreement.

Mr. Chichester reminded the Committee that the Authority received written notification from the Department of Labor that it is unsafe for personnel to be walking on top of the trailers. Mr. Chichester pointed out that in combination with the pigeon problem at the site it might be better to retrofit the site by taking the building down and using the differential in elevation to put in a couple of compactor boxes. Residents can throw their garbage into a hopper, which can be compacted and hauled away with a roll-off truck. This would eliminate the need to walk on trailers and no trapping would be involved. It would provide services to the public and possibly the Authority could provide a better surface for residents to walk on while throwing their recyclables into the roll-offs. The plan would require the Authority to purchase a compactor because the compactor that is there now is not appropriate for this purpose unless special trailer are purchased.

The Committee discussed the possibility of segregating C&D waste by using the tip wall only for C&D while using compactors for the household waste.

Mr. Wesnofske stated that the Authority has to make it clear to the public what is prohibited and why it is prohibited.

Mr. Lindberg pointed out that by making adjustments to the Cooperstown Station it sends more traffic to the Oneonta Transfer Station. He felt that by allowing pickup trucks into the facility bigger and bulkier items are still coming into the facility, which is the same material that was being brought in the trailers. He indicated that the trailers might even be bringing in less waste than what is being brought in on pickup trucks. He stated that it did not make sense to allow one and not the other.

Mr. Chichester stated that it comes down to a service issue. What services should the Authority provide? If the Authority is trying to accommodate the homeowner there is an issue of travel and distance. For the Authority to provide a better service perhaps it needs to do it closer to the neighborhood.

Mr. Buck suggested that it might be less expensive to buy two compactor trailers rather than a compactor system.

Mr. Chichester pointed out the inconvenience and safety issues relative to changing out a trailer in the middle of the day. He suggested that the Authority might want to restrict the type of material accepted rather than restricting certain vehicles.

After further discussion relative to compactors and their costs, use of roll-off boxes, allowing or disallowing trailers into the facility and changing the facility hours, etc., Mr. Wesnofske motioned to continue with the current policy until a more thorough review can be made of the different options that were presented during the meeting. Raymond Halgas seconded the motion and on voice call was approved with three members voting "aye" and one member (Lindberg) voting "nay".

7. Snow Handling for STS and NTS

Mr. Chichester stated that snow handling at the Schoharie and Cooperstown Transfer Stations is an open item, which has been discussed by the Committee in the past. The issue is salting and sanding. Mr. Chichester asked staff to research the matter. Once he has met with staff and reviewed their findings he will bring a recommendation back to the Committee.

8. Other Business

Safety

Northern Transfer Station

Mr. Chichester stated that he met with safety inspectors at the Oneonta and Northern Transfer Stations. There are a number of issues to deal with relative to the inspections, which are going to take quite a while to address.

Regarding the issue with the pigeon dung at the Northern Transfer Station, Mr. Chichester recommended that the Otsego County employee not be allowed in the building, which would eliminate the need to spend \$11,000 to clean it up. Mr. Buck suggested that the County construct a small 10'X12' building to house their employee. Mr. Chichester stated that the message should be sent to the County that the Authority is trying to act responsibly by not spending \$11,000 foolishly, while still trying to work with the County. The problem only becomes an issue if the County cannot work along with the Authority by allowing time for consideration of other options.

Oneonta Transfer Station

Mr. Chichester stated that putting mesh around the Oneonta Transfer Station building would not totally solve the problem with the pigeon infestation. The pigeons are all around in the soffit and are laying eggs. Staff has indicated that they closed the doors to keep the pigeons out but the pigeons beat against the soffit and knocked it out to get in. Mr. Chichester felt that the problem should be looked at in conjunction with the retrofit. Mr. Chichester can ask for an abatement from the Department of Labor to gain additional time to address the problem.

Mr. Strevy suggested that the Buildings and Grounds Supervisor do the job of installing the mesh. Mr. Chichester stated that it would take more than one person to do the job plus a lift would have to be rented. Mr. Lindberg suggested that tin be used instead of chicken wire or mesh. Mr. Chichester stated the soffit should be taken care of first to remove the pigeons before installing any wire. Mr. Chichester pointed out that there is only one person to deal with the Authority's buildings. Mr. Chichester asked Mr. Lindberg if the County might agree to an inter-municipal agreement to install the mesh in the building. Mr. Lindberg stated that it might be possible during the winter months.

Personnel

Part Time Weigh Station Operator

Mr. Chichester stated that he is looking to convert the part time Transfer Station Operator position at the Northern Transfer Station to a part time Weigh Station Operator position

for flexibility. There would be no financial impact. The Operations Committee was in agreement. Mr. Chichester will address the issue with the Board.

Equipment Replacement Fund

Mr. Chichester stated that the Committee should deal with the Equipment Replacement Fund at some point in the near future. He stated that he is currently writing specifications for the replacement of a backhoe, which will be coming out of the Equipment Replacement Fund.

Riccelli Contract

Mr. Chichester updated the Committee relative to several issues that transpired with Riccelli Enterprises regarding their contract obligations.

9. Closing

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Loske
Confidential Secretary