

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

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

DATE: August 15, 2006

LOCATION: MOSA Administrative Complex, Howes Cave

MEMBERS PRESENT: MEMBERS ABSENT: OTHERS PRESENT:

Rudolph Laguna
Ray Halgas
Olga Podmajersky

Joan Bent

Gilbert Chichester

1. Opening

Chairman Laguna opened the meeting at 4:45 p.m.

2. Minutes of Prior Meeting

Ray Halgas motioned to accept the minutes of the prior meeting of June 8, 2006. Olga Podmajersky seconded the motion and on voice call the minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Oneonta Transfer Station Retrofit

Mr. Chichester had sent copies of the tow different cost estimates for retrofitting the Oneonta Transfer Station to the committee members either by the U.S. Postal Service or by way of e-mail.

Additionally, during the meeting, Mr. Chichester distributed a copy of a memo received from Ernie Ruckert with four alternative drawings attached.

The question of how a project of this nature would be finance was raised. Mr. Chichester indicated that as the scope of the project is refined, a financing plan would be developed.

Mr Halgas indicated that he thought each member should take the information home for review and the discussion on the retrofit could then continue at the next committee meeting. All agree.

4. Parking Lot Repairs

Mr. Chichester brought the committee up to date on improving the condition of the

parking lot used for staging the Riccelli trailers. He indicated that he had met with an engineer and a representative from Cobleskill Stone on sight. Drainage is an issue as is the lack of sufficient base.

Mr. Chichester indicated that he did not feel it would be appropriate to pave the lot until all the details of the Oneonta Transfer Station Retrofit were worked out. This could impact the way the trailers are parked and thus the location of the pad for the landing gear. The project could require some modification to or the replacement of the existing drainage catch basins and piping.

To that end, he suggested that attention be given to the entrance and adjoining areas that need to be dug up so as to provide for an adequate base. Additionally the area needs to be regraded to improve the ability for the site to drain. Mr. Chichester indicated that staff has the expertise to do this work, but that scheduling would be difficult. He suggested that further inquiry be made of Cobleskill Stone as to the amount of work that can be done under existing state contracts. He is to report back at the next committee meeting.

5. Recycling Area Grading

Mr. Chichester indicated that this was another area with poor drainage. He felt that draining this area was difficult to deal with due to the extension of Silas Lane, the ramp to the trailer pit. It was felt that it would be best to try to drain the area toward the tree line and provide for further drainage toward the river.

Mr. Halgas indicated that the State was looking for places to take millings that would be taken up from the Thruway. He was going to check with Lancaster as to the availability of this material for projects such as ours.

6. Northern Transfer Station

Mr. Chichester indicated that he had been in touch with the engineer that had visited the site and that he had not done any other work due to medical issues. Mr. Chichester indicated that he felt that he would need to go back to the companies that sell the compactor boxes and develop a plan.

It was reported that there had been discussions with Riccelli relative to putting compacting trailers at the NTS. This need to be pursued and progress reported at a subsequent meeting.

7. City of Amsterdam Recycling Needs

Mr. Strevy requested that the committee move to considering the needs of the City of Amsterdam. He indicated that he needed to leave the meeting soon. The Committee accommodated his need and Mr. Halgas proceeded to explain the sequence of events

leading up to the City's current needs.

Mr. Halgas indicated that the City had shipped 960.78 tons of recyclables to Canada last year for \$41,313.54. This amounts to about \$43 per ton, which does not include labor or equipment cost since that represents a fixed cost for the City.

The City had looked at the old incinerator site opposite the existing Amsterdam Transfer Station and found it to be too costly.

The contract for both recycling pickup and processing is set to expire on December 19, 2006. Given the program that the Authority is operating at the Schoharie Transfer Station, the City decided to look to MOSA to handle transfer and transportation of the City's recyclables.

A meeting of the City Counsel was held with the City Supervisors and MOSA representatives on the concept. It was felt that the whole county could benefit from the use of the Western Transfer Station for the handling of recyclables. Therefore, the City was looking for the County to approach the Authority on the concept.

It is not apparent as to what other Montgomery County municipalities will be interested. Many may be in agreements that might not allow for immediate change. In any event, it appears that the City views MOSA as their best option.

The committee discussed the staffing needs with any increased activity at the Western Transfer Station. Additionally, it was agreed that the Authority would have to modify the outside tip wall so as to be able to accommodate this project.

Raymond Halgas moved that the Executive Director be given the authority to engage an engineering firm to evaluate the site and develop a plan for modifying the outside tip wall at the Western Transfer Station for the acceptance of recyclables, which would include an estimation of costs. This was seconded by Rudolph Laguna and agreed to by all.

Mr. Halgas also indicated that the City would be running a clean up during the month of October, from October 2 through October 27. Mr. Chichester indicated that the outside tip wall would need to be dedicated to this cleanup.

8. Tarping Stations

Mr. Chichester indicated that he had further investigated the tarping stations that were constructed by Casella at their sites. He indicated that Tim Cretney had indicated that many of the transporters had gone to remote controlled tarping systems. Therefore the tarping stations were not used a lot.

Mr. Cretney indicated that he had observed that some of the haulers had been standing on the railing to facilitate the untarping of the trailers. This was viewed to be as unsafe as the other untarping methods they were trying to avoid.

The wooden tarping stations cost between \$40,000 and \$60,000 when considering design, materials and labor.

Mr. Chichester also spoke to the system at the Schenectady Transfer Station where they used true yard tractors. It was due to the use of the yard tractors that the scaffolding could be placed closer together providing for a safe environment.

Mr. Chichester indicated that he would be trying to get in touch with a fabricator from St. Johnsville to explore the possibility of local construction of a system that would allow for movable scaffolding. He will report on his findings.

9. Fire Risks – Alarm and Security Systems

Mr. Chichester reported that this was still under development.

10. Scrap Metal Collection

Mr. Chichester indicated that the relationship with Freedman had not materialized. He will be looking at other options.

Mr. Halgas indicated that the City stockpiles the material and then goes to bid for a vendor to come in and load out the material. This way the interested vendors can see exactly what is being sold. This eliminates a lot of travel costs.

11. Buildings and Grounds “To Do” List

Mr. Chichester indicated that not a lot on the list was being accomplished given the need to cover for leave time during the summer and the loss of a weigh station operator.

It was felt that the manhole work at the Eastern Landfill should be accomplished this year.

12. Equipment Replacement Fund

Mr. Chichester indicated that the schedule needed to be revisited. He indicated that the roll off trucks need to be replaced. This will be discussed in greater detail at a subsequent meeting.

13. Site Tour

The last scheduled tour was cancelled due to flooding. It was suggested that the Montgomery County Transfer Station be visited with the Mayor of Amsterdam so that all could consider the above mentioned recycling project.

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It was decided to schedule this part of the tour for a Saturday in September.

14. Closing

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gilbert L. Chichester,
Executive Director