

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

**OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING**

**DATE:** September 19, 2006

**LOCATION:** MOSA Administrative Complex, Howes Cave

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Rudolph Laguna  
Ray Halgas  
Olga Podmajersky  
Joan Bent

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Gilbert Chichester  
Martha Clarvoe  
Ed Wesnofske  
Glenn Packard  
Terry Bliss

**1. Opening**

Chairman Laguna opened the meeting at 4:23 p.m.

**2. Minutes of Prior Meeting**

Olga Podmajersky motioned to accept the minutes of the prior meeting of August 15, 2006. Joan Bent seconded the motion and on voice call the minutes were unanimously approved.

**3. Oneonta Transfer Station Retrofit**

Mr. Laguna requested that Mr. Chichester review the status of the Oneonta Transfer Station retrofit. Prior to the August 15<sup>th</sup> meeting, the engineers had submitted several possible scenarios for the retrofit for this station and the Committee had focused on Option E. Mr. Chichester reviewed the information that was distributed at the August 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Operations Committee. This consisted of four alternate designs for Option E and cost estimates for two of the options, i.e. alternates #2 and # 4.

Olga Podmajersky indicated that the proposal was to basically construct a new transfer station. She felt that if the Authority was to build a new station that it should be on a different piece of property that would be more conducive to all and meeting the needs of Otsego County. She felt that the size of the site was restrictive and perhaps so much "earth work" would not be necessary and flooding would not be of concern. She also questioned having two tip walls for recycling.

Mr. Halgas indicated that the current way of handling material at the Oneonta Transfer Station was backwards. He felt that updating the station would lead to less equipment maintenance. He further felt that the current plans had been pushed further than necessary. He, too, questioned having two tip walls for recycling. He favored constructing only one tip wall and using the existing building for accumulating

recyclables and loading over the existing push wall. He cited that the station facilitated the processing of 40,000 tons of waste and 3,300 tons of recyclables.

It was pointed out that the project needed to be organized so as to include all the needs and related costs. This entails the incorporation of a tarping station, potentially another set of scales and installing an adequate base for the parking lots along with repaving.

Ms. Podmajersky indicated that staffing needed to be considered also.

The scheduling of the preparation of the bid documents and all subsequent task was discussed with an eye to getting a good estimate for completion. Mr. Halgas indicated that he thought if the project development continued so that bids could be sought for spring 2007 startup, the facility might be ready by January 2008.

There was also discussion relative to billing the county for the handling of recyclables so as to recover some of the construction costs. This would need to be further developed.

Mr. Laguna moved to recommend to the full Board that the Executive Director be directed to continue to develop the project for the construction of a 110 ft. by 110 ft. building along with the other related enhancements. This was seconded by Ms. Bent. Mr. Laguna and Ms. Bent voted in favor while Mr. Halgas and Ms. Podmajersky voted against.

#### **4. Parking Lot Repairs**

At the August 15<sup>th</sup> meeting, Mr. Chichester indicated that staff has the expertise to do this work, but that scheduling would be difficult depending on the scope of the work to be done. 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 reported that cost estimates had been acquired from Cobleskill Stone.

Considerable discussion was had on the scope of work presented by Cobleskill Stone. There were three areas to be given attention as shown on the attached documents from Cobleskill Stone. The other two areas would be considered for Cobleskill Stone to complete. More information was needed as to the cost to pave the area used by Otsego County for recycling.

Mr. Laguna made the motion to bring the Cobleskill Stone proposal before the full Board. Ms. Bent seconded the motion.

Mr. Halgas moved to amend the motion to proceed with area #1 and #2 with Cobleskill Stone and have staff rent equipment to do area #3. Ms. Podmajersky seconded the motion.

All present were in favor of the amendment. All present adopted the amended motion.

#### **5. Western Transfer Station**

**Accident --**

Mr. Chichester reported to the Committee that there had been an incident on August 22<sup>nd</sup> wherein a customer had fallen over the tip wall at this station and fell sixteen (16) feet to the bottom of the pit. He explained that the Director of Operations and Safety, Glenn Packard, had handled the situation by ascertaining the facts of the matter, contacting the victim and his family, encouraging that the victim be seen at an emergency room and that the Authority's insurance company would handle the costs.

The victim did go to an emergency room and the Authority's insurance company has followed up with the family and it has been indicated that the family has an attorney who is handling the situation.

There were written procedures in place directing that when an employee is not on the tip floor chains are to be put across the doorways and warning signage is to be in place. Some warning signs were in place on the backside of the tip wall but the chains were not in place.

Mr. Packard has taken steps to install chains at all sites and signs have been ordered and will be in place as soon as received. Mr. Packard also reported that he is preparing safety flyers to be distributed to all customers. Additional training will also be implemented with all staff.

**Scales --**

It was reported to the Committee that the scales at the Western Transfer Station are failing and may not pass the inspection of the Sealer of Weights and Measures who is scheduled to be on site on September 26<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Chichester and Mr. Packard are in the process of preparing specifications for the replacement of the scales. As soon as complete bids will be solicited. If the scales are declared to be out of compliance and unable to be brought into compliance, temporary scales will have to be set up.

Mr. Chichester also reported that when the scales are being replaced, it is appropriate to construct a short extension of the driveway so that the tractor trailers may drive off the scales directly to the staging area instead of having to back off the scales and up the driveway used by other customers and staff to get to the staging area.

**Temporary Tip Wall Modifications --**

Mr. Chichester indicated that based upon the interest of the City of Amsterdam and potentially other Montgomery County municipalities, he has worked with E.T. Environmental, the engineering firm working on the Oneonta Transfer Station Retrofit, to get estimates for covering the temporary tip wall at the Western Transfer Station.

**Household Hazardous Waste --**

It was reported that there would be a HHW event at the Western Transfer Station on October 7, 2006. Mr. Packard will be working with staff to facilitate this event.

**6. Eastern Landfill**

Mr. Chichester indicated that staff is working on completing work recommended by Barton and Loguidice, P.E. to update pumps and controls at the landfill. Additionally, the cleaning of the leachate lines will also be scheduled.

**7. Schoharie Transfer Stations**

It was reported that the HHW event that occurred on Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup> was a success. There were between 300 and 400 cars processed. The e-waste part of the event was well received.

**8. Amsterdam Transfer Station**

Mr. Chichester and Mr. Halgas updated the Committee on the cleanup to take place in the City of Amsterdam between October 2<sup>nd</sup> and October 28<sup>th</sup>.

Additionally, the committee discussed the activity around the AMR C & D landfill proposed by AMR in the City of Amsterdam.

**9. Buildings and Grounds Activity**

There was brief discussion around the activities of this department. It is anticipated that more detailed reports will be made in the future.

**10. Equipment Maintenance Activity**

Mr. Chichester indicated the Equipment Maintenance Supervisor will be retiring in December. He will be working with the Personnel Committee relative to a replacement.

**11. Safety**

Mr. Chichester indicated Mr. Packard had been getting oriented to the organization over the past couple of months. He anticipated that Mr. Packard would be developing detailed safety activities that will be discussed with the Committee in the future.

**12. Site Tour**

An attempt will be made to organize a tour of Montgomery County Solid Waste Facilities for the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in October. It was decided to invite the Mayor and City Council Members from the City of Amsterdam along with the City Engineer as well as

the members of the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors.

**13. Phone Services**

Mr. Laguna spoke to being approached by a firm known as Pragmanta Networks relative to providing phone and Internet services to the Authority. Mr. Chichester indicated that he has met with representatives from the firm and has provided them with information in regard to the Authority's current phone costs.

Mr. Laguna will invite representatives to the next solid waste Committee meeting.

**14. Closing**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gilbert L. Chichester,  
Executive Director