

**MONTGOMERY-OTSEGO-SCHOHARIE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT  
AUTHORITY  
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING**

**DATE:** April 25, 2008

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

**Committee  
Members**

David Parker  
Philip Skowfoe  
John Thayer

**Other Board  
Members**

Olga Podmajersky  
John Mattas

**Others**

Gilbert Chichester  
Glenn Packard  
Barbara Corrigan

Chairman Parker called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

**1. Staffing --**

Mr. Parker requested that the information that he had previously requested relative to overtime and part time expenses be shared with the committee.

Barbara Corrigan indicated that in 2007 reported that in 2007, the cost of all overtime for the transfer stations was \$96,122. Of that \$6,639 was in the Buildings and Grounds Department and \$6,842 was in the Equipment Maintenance Department.

Management staff provided information relative to the staffing needs for ongoing operations. It was indicated that three positions had been approved in the 2008 budget. However, due to the diminished flow of waste the positions had not been filled earlier in the year. It was reported that one Transfer Station Operator and one Weigh Station Operator was being hired. The Transfer Station Supervisor position will not be filled at this time.

**2. Northern Transfer Station –**

Mr. Parker had requested that a report be given as to the activity relative to retrofitting the Northern Transfer Station. Mr. Chichester reported that if the station is opened as a full service station, there would be significant expense. The scales will need to be replaced given their age and condition. This will likely cost approximately \$120,000. With an increase in the waste flow through the station, trailers will need to be changed, which will require a yard tractor with an estimated cost of \$30,000 on site along with the construction of a tarping station with an estimated cost of \$150,000.

It was pointed out that the existing compactor is obsolete and is not compatible with walking floor trailers. If the existing tip wall is used, it would need to be enclosed and some type of leachate collection system would need to be installed. Mr. Chichester further indicated that the site is small and in order to accommodate both commercial haulers and homeowners, the site would need to be significantly reconfigured in addition to relating to the above known expenses. Staffing would need to be changed from part time to full time. If the current building is to be used, it will require a thorough cleaning to address the deposits of pigeon dung.

In addition to the site specific points, Mr. Chichester then related to the Otsego County solid waste system. He pointed out that there are currently 11 locations throughout Otsego County where solid waste is collected. In 10 of those sites, both MSW and recyclables are collected, Unadilla being the only one where only recyclables are collected. In addition, both MSW and recyclables are collected at the Northern Transfer Station and the Oneonta Transfer Station. Therefore there are 12 locations that accept waste and recyclables.

In addition to the collection sites, there are numerous collection routes throughout the county. In the northern part of Otsego County there are three major haulers operating; Vet's Disposal, Russ Smith and Mike Wheelock. It was pointed out that any route run by Vet's Disposal would end in Oneonta where their base of operation exists. Of the two remaining haulers, Mike Wheelock has requested that the Northern Transfer Station be reopened for haulers. He speaks to the increased cost due to the price of fuel as well as the need to consolidated material collected in roll-off containers. He feels that if the station is not reopened for haulers that he will need to construct some system to allow for him to economize by way of consolidation.

Mr. Chichester related to the systems known to be in neighboring Counties where drop-off locations are provided at town locations throughout the county and feed back into a central location. This is true in Schoharie County, Delaware County and Fulton County.

The conclusion presented by Mr. Chichester was that the Northern Transfer Station could be made more efficient and effective for the use by the greater Cooperstown area, but that the needed expense for the limited quantity of waste that would be put through the Northern Transfer Station did not justify the expense.

Mr. Parker requested that Mr. Chichester to convey his observations and conclusions to the Otsego County Solid Waste Committee during the upcoming tour.

### **3. Tarping Stations –**

It was reported that further discussion had taken place with the engineers relative to the construction of the tarping stations and that bid specification were being developed. Mr. Chichester explained that the bids would have options for the construction of roadways to facilitate safer operations.

Mr. Mattas raised questions relative to why the tarping station was not put immediately outside the transfer station. After discussion on the point, Mr. Chichester indicated that he would have that design revisited by the engineers.

### **4. Gas-Boy System Replacement –**

It was reported that the vendor that has been servicing the Gas-Boy system has recommended that the system be replaced and upgraded. Increasing amounts are being spent to maintain the system that was installed at the inception of the Authority's operations.

The committee recommended that the necessary steps be taken to replace the current system at four locations – Oneonta, Randall, Amsterdam and Schoharie.

### **5. Equipment Replacement –**

Glenn Packard reviewed the equipment scheduled for replacement.

Philip Skowfoe asked if the International tractors would be sold along with the other surplus equipment going to auction in June. After discussion, it was left to Steve Rothrock as to his ability to provide equipment for ongoing operations without the ongoing use of the tractors to be replaced.

It was pointed out that in the past, used trucks were acquired from the Amsterdam Truck Center.

Discussion next centered upon the replacement of the 1974 Butler tanker. It was explained that the cost of repairing and certifying the Butler was not cost effective. The Fruehauf tanker will become the backup. Steve Rothrock explained that the leachate is very caustic and that he would be looking into coating the inside of the tank to extend its life. The leachate affects both the aluminum and stainless steel tanks.

Relative to the replacement of the Dixie Chopper, it was determined that it was cost effective to buy a new mower and have one at each of the sites so as to avoid the ongoing cost of transporting equipment between sites.

The committee recommended the full list of equipment , as presented, be brought to the Governing Board for approval.

John Thayer raised question relative to the amount of staff available to handle equipment maintenance and buildings and grounds.

Glenn Packard reviewed the plan that he has been discussion with Steve Rothrock. The need to manage both functional areas is clear. Currently, Steve spends considerable time managing the equipment replacement function with Matt left to do most of the mechanical work. Dan is the only person available for buildings and grounds work throughout the system. It is felt that it would be more effective to have Steve managing both functions, hire a full time class A mechanic to be the primary person for equipment maintenance, have Dan focus on doing buildings and grounds maintenance with Matt supporting both functions as scheduled work requires.

The committee requested that Glenn Packard and Steve Rothrock develop a formal proposal to include costs and funding.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gilbert L. Chichester  
Executive Director