

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

DATE: February 17, 2010
LOCATION: MOSA Administrative Complex, Howes Cave

Members Present:

David Parker
Philip Skowfoe, Chair
John Thayer

Others Present:

John Mattas
Olga Podmajersky
Dennis Heaton

Sam Dubbin, OC
Karen Sullivan, OC
Tim Steinhofer, OC

1. Opening

Chairman Skowfoe called the meeting to order at 12:28 p.m. and apologized to the committee for arriving late.

2. Minutes of Prior Meeting – September 30, 2009

Chairman Skowfoe asked for a motion to approve the September 30, 2009 minutes. Mr. Parker so moved, Mr. Thayer seconded and on voice call the minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Approve Agenda

Chairman Skowfoe asked if there were any amendments to the agenda; as there were none, he asked for a motion to adopt the agenda. Mr. Parker so moved, Mr. Thayer seconded and on voice call the agenda was adopted.

4. NTS Reopening

Chairman Skowfoe asked Mr. Heaton to outline the situation at the Northern Transfer Station. Mr. Heaton noted the following:

- ✓ Otsego County has requested the site be open to commercial haulers for some time now.
- ✓ Maintenance staff evaluated the facility and equipment; it was determined that opening the site to commercial truck traffic was possible.
- ✓ From a purely financial point of view, it isn't the best idea; however, from a providing service standpoint it is worth doing.
- ✓ The reopening can be done within the current budget.
- ✓ Estimated additional operating costs are approximately \$21,000 per year. However, there are some costs that will decrease at both the Oneonta and Schoharie Transfer Stations as staff is moved around to accommodate the increased hours of operation at the NTS.
- ✓ Repairs necessary to be made prior to reopening are estimated at \$7,000 - \$10,000.

Mr. Heaton recommended to the committee that the site be reopened in response to Otsego County's request and advised that adjustments had been made in the budget to offset the cost of the reopening.

Mr. Thayer asked what the scope of the repairs was. Mr. Heaton advised that the scales need re-decking (this is a budgeted item), the compactor needs a new control box and operator controls, a small amount of steel work around the compactor exit, the fixed gate needs to be changed to a hinged gate and fueling consideration.

Mr. Thayer remarked that the fuel usage should be about the same because some of what is now going to Oneonta will be coming to Northern; there may be a small increase, but not significant. Mr. Heaton agreed.

Mr. Heaton continued his overview noting that:

- ✓ Currently, STS is overstaffed by one full time person.
- ✓ Currently, staffing NTS with two part time employees on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

- ✓ At the present time, 72 man hours per week for labor are needed at the NTS and with extended hours 80 hours per week will be required.
- ✓ Suggested days of operation are Tuesday through Saturday with Saturdays being for residential customers only.

Mr. Thayer asked what was generating the mileage costs of \$900. Mr. Heaton advised mileage costs were for bank deposit runs. Mr. Skowfoe noted that it was not mandatory to pay the same mileage reimbursement as the government reimbursement rate; the rate could be adjusted downward.

Mr. Parker remarked that the 125 tons/week reduction at the OTS sounded too low and asked if the same ratio was expected to go to the NTS. Mr. Heaton advised that staff at the OTS had performed a survey of commercial haulers and that is how the estimate was arrived at. Mr. Parker said he was concerned about getting backed up at the site if the numbers were underestimated. Mr. Heaton remarked that he believed the estimate was not far off the mark.

Mr. Parker noted his other concern was what would happen in the case of a compactor jam or failure. Mr. Thayer remarked that the outside tip wall could be used in an emergency. Mr. Parker responded that his concern about using the outside tip wall was that garbage might end up getting blown around the site, causing public concern; he advised that Mr. Heaton had suggested sending haulers to Oneonta in the case of a compactor breakdown. After further discussion on the issue, the consensus was that in an absolute emergency the outside tip wall could be used, but only temporarily; if the equipment was to be down for an extended period of time, customers would be directed to the Oneonta Transfer Station.

Mr. Heaton noted that the maintenance staff was responsive and quick in repairing any damages or breakdowns. Mr. Thayer remarked that even though the equipment is old, it is hydraulic and not much can go wrong with it. Mr. Skowfoe and Mr. Heaton agreed.

Mr. Parker requested that Mr. Heaton cost out a push wall and three side walls with a roof to help keep garbage from blowing around the facility if it fell out of the trailer.

Mr. Parker made a motion to recommend reopening the NTS to the Board for approval; Mr. Thayer seconded and on voice call the motion carried.

Ms. Podmajersky asked if there were scales at the site or if the trailers would have to go to the Western Transfer Station to be weighed and tarped. Mr. Heaton replied there were scales at the site and the trailers would be weighed and tarped at the NTS. Ms. Podmajersky asked why the trailers were going to Western currently. Mr. Heaton remarked that he was currently in discussions regarding that situation with Mr. Riccelli.

5. Review of Detailed Equipment Replacement Schedule

Chairman Skowfoe asked Mr. Heaton to review the equipment replacement schedule. Mr. Heaton advised the following:

- ✓ The equipment replacement schedule goes out to 2014.
- ✓ The schedule was reviewed with Mr. Rothrock, Fleet and Facilities Manager, and Ms. Corrigan in an effort to stretch out the life of the equipment as much as possible in lieu of the 2014 date.

- ✓ Items on the list do not necessarily have to be replaced when noted; however, a basic schedule is needed to work from.

Chairman Skowfoe noted that the ATS scales were listed for replacement this year and asked what was wrong with them. Ms. Podmajersky remarked that she thought the scale was replaced recently at ATS. Mr. Heaton noted there are two scales at ATS and that nothing was currently wrong with them; they may not be replaced this year. He went on to say that nothing is carved in stone and items will only be replaced if necessary.

Mr. Thayer remarked there may be other options to replacing trucks with trucks and that yard horses may be a better option. Mr. Skowfoe and Mr. Heaton agreed with his observation. Mr. Skowfoe noted that good, used or surplus equipment could be obtained at military or government sites for a reasonable cost. Mr. Heaton noted that both Fulton County and Oneida/Herkimer obtain equipment in this manner.

Mr. Parker inquired if scale replacement was scheduled at any other site. Mr. Thayer noted the OTS scales are scheduled for replacement in 2014.

6. **Other Business**

Chairman Skowfoe asked if there was any other business; none was brought forth.

Chairman Skowfoe remarked that he had taken a trip to the OTS recently. He was under the impression that repairs to the trusses in the recycling building were to have been turned into the haulers insurance company some time ago. Chairman Skowfoe noted that no repairs had been done; only netting had been put up to keep the pigeons out. His recollection was that Mr. Parker was going to bring the issue up to the Otsego County Solid Waste Committee. Mr. Parker stated he wasn't sure how they left it. Chairman Skowfoe read from the minutes of the July 22, 2009 Board meeting in which Mr. Parker stated that he would be talking about these issues tomorrow at the Solid Waste meeting.

As Mr. Dubben, Otsego County Chairman, was present at today's meeting, Chairman Skowfoe asked him to comment on the issue. Mr. Dubben advised that at the time it was brought up, Mr. Chichester was in attendance at the meeting and had advised Otsego County to let it go because MOSA was in the process of raising their rent on the recycling building. Mr. Mattas commented that damages to the building and raising the rent were two entirely different issues. Mr. Dubben agreed with his comments. Chairman Skowfoe remarked that it is not Otsego County's responsibility; it is the responsibility of the contractor who caused the damage.

Mr. Dubben stated there was a Solid Waste meeting scheduled for next week and that he would bring up the issue with Mr. Reed; if his people caused the damage he needs to have it repaired. Chairman Skowfoe thanked Mr. Dubben for his help in resolving the issue.

7. **Closing**

Mr. Thayer made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Parker seconded and on voice call the meeting was adjourned at 12:52 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Judith Beeler,
Confidential Secretary