

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

March 26, 2025

8:45 A.M.

| | | |
|------------|---------------|----------------|
| Attendees: | George Haynes | Joe Cetta |
| | Bill Layton | Jerry Vernold |
| | Tina Molé | Jim Thomas |
| | Jared Boice | Lisa Henderson |

GENERAL

• Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- The minutes from the February 26th and March 12th meetings were approved as presented.

• Equipment Authorizations

- JT, We have two. First is a telehandler with forks and a bucket for compost. Budgeted \$150,000, came in at \$85,341.25.

- GH, Is this replacing one?

- JB, I believe so, at compost.

- GH, So where is the old one going?

- JB, I don't know what his plan is.

- Committee approved.

- JT, Next is the replacement pole saw for East Meredith, they dropped a tree on their pole saw and destroyed it. This will come from the small tools budget. That will have a balance of \$3,060 after this purchase.

- Committee approved.

• Authorization to Fill Vacancies

- JT, We have a bunch of these, do you want me to go through them all then we'll approve them?

- GH, Yes.

- JT, OK, first we have 6 Seasonal MEO's, 3 for the north, 3 for the south. This is for mowing and help on the specialty crews.

- TM, Are these easy to fill?

- LH, No, not always. I think the south is good but in the north we only have one coming back I think.

- JT, Next is the seasonal supervisor for the paint truck.

- GH, Did we lose someone?

- LH, No, it's just a seasonal position as that crew only operates in the summer months.

- GH, OK, Do we have the truck up and running?

- JB, No, it's still in pieces but it is our intention to have it ready.

- JT, We also have the seasonal supervisor for the vac truck. This will be a whole new crew this year as we lost everyone with any experience with this truck.

- JT, Next we have 14 seasonal laborers, this is the summer kids. 7 for north, 7 for south. I doubt we'll be able to fill all of these. Paying them \$19/hour.

- JB, Last year I think we got 8.

- JT, Seasonal MEO for Solid Waste.

- JT, Seasonal HEOII for Solid Waste.

- JT, We have an HEOII, Josh Mostert resigned to go back to SuitKote.

- JT, Another HEOII, Alan Warner resigned.

- Committee approved all of these vacancies.

- 4-H Camp
 - JT, Jared got a hold of them and has a meeting set up for tomorrow to see exactly what they need.
- Unadilla 5k
 - JT, I have a request from a Church in Unadilla for a letter supporting their 5K race. It is on no County roads or structures but DOT told them they needed a letter from us. So I will send a letter saying we are fine.
- Cornell Training
 - JT, This is a Cornell Local Roads seminar on Communication. I am sending all of our people who have direct reports as no-one has any supervisory training and this is a good place to start. It's in Broome County and there is no cost other than our time and travel.
- Safety Officer's Report
 - Copy has been given to everyone. Nothing to exciting, we had a couple of small spills. No accidents. (Copy attached)

SOLID WASTE

- Compost
 - JT, They are trying to keep things running. Currently down.
 - GH, Because of the transmission?
 - JT, Yes, I believe so. They sent it out yesterday or today to get rebuilt. They've been fighting that and the agitator. That bid will go out this afternoon.
 - GH, What's the time frame for the transmission rebuild?
 - JT, We won't really know until they get it torn apart.
- Bioreactor replacement
 - This bid is out. We had a the pre-bid meeting. I thought there was good interest for what it is.
 - GH, When is that due?
 - JT, I think the 11th or the 14th, mid-April.
- Cell 1 Reclamation
 - JT, this is going well, they are moving about 5,000 yards a day.
 - GH, And that's on schedule?
 - JT, They are on or ahead of schedule. They found a way to reduce the trucking so they have been moving. The weather has been in their favor, the ground was frozen and then it's been pretty dry.
- Env tech
 - JT, Tyson has interviewed a couple of people, he really liked one.
 - TM, Were they from the outside?
 - JT, Yes. And I have talked to IT and they have a computer, so we won't have to buy that, we just need to move some stuff around office wise here. But we are moving on it.
- FEMA Insurance for Compost Facility
 - JT, We have the flood insurance for the Compost facility. Option A is \$15,167 with \$348,000 coverage for contents, Option B is \$15,296 with \$366,000 coverage for contents. The rest of the coverage and the deductible is the same.

- GH, What does that cover as far as contents?
- JT, Basically the underground stuff, the flood plain gets to the back door where the bioreactor starts and if it gets in there it heads back to the sludge pump.
- Committee approved Option B.

ROAD

• Delaware North & South

- Postings removed
- Cutting Brush, north focused on CR 18 and CR 30.
- New plow frame installed on the new truck that had a crack so we have that back now.
- GH, We had a new truck with a cracked plow frame?
- JB, Yes. Right where it lifts the head plow.
- GH, Poor weld or poor design?
- JB, A combination of both.
- JT, It was down for a week or two.
- GH, And we still have 4 trucks on order right? Do we have any to order this year?
- JB, No, we can't even order any right now.
- GH, Why?
- JB, The State has mandated that they sell one electric truck for every 10 they sell and there still isn't an electric dump truck that works. And they are so far behind to start with we knew we weren't going to be able to get them, they won't even give you a number.
- GH, What about rolloff trucks? We have them budgeted don't we?
- JB, Nope. He has some coming but no new ones to order.
- GH, OK. When do they expect that to change?
- JB, I don't know. Tracey Road and Tenco have over 200 trucks they are working on to get caught up. They have been after legislators to get the electric thing changed but haven't seen anything yet.
- GH, Can you buy them in Pennsylvania?
- JT, Cleaning lots getting ready for oil and stone. Carver was low on the stone, they have been bought out, they say they are going to be much better this year. We will see, we are going to start in the South where they were much cheaper. If they can't/don't get it done, they were only a penny cheaper in the North so we will use that for justification to not use them.
- GH, Who bought them out?
- JB, I can't remember the name. (It's Heidelberg)
- JT, With our salt we are at 112.26% for the year. So we should be able to stay under the 120%. We did draw the sheds down quite a bit to stay under the 120% so hopefully the price doesn't go up too much.

BRIDGE

• BR 136 BridgeNY Round 3

- JT, Has been shut down for winter, hoping to start back up around April 14th.
- JT, We will have a supplemental coming for construction inspection. Still under budget, just more for inspection than we planned.

• BR 7-3 BridgeNY Round 4 (\$5.3 million)

- JT, Design underway. We are going to have to do some work on it before we get to the project. There's a big hole right on the centerline that we need to fix. It's on the joint, we've been patching it all winter but it needs to be addressed.

- JB, So when you hear screaming the CR 7 is closed it's me. We're going to try not to but we won't know what's there until we start digging.

- BridgeNY Round 5 - ~\$6.6 million

41-2 and BR 5 (Corbett)

- JT, Had a kickoff meeting for BR5 yesterday. I'm sure BR 41-2 won't be too far behind.

- Bridge Crew

- JT, have most things moved.

- JB, Yup, still moving things around, finding things stuffed in corners, trying to find a place for it so we know where things are.

- JT, We are trying to train crane operators. We only have one certified crane operator, we worked with Cara to get him bumped up to Bridge Crew Leader, not a big raise but something so he can work on getting some people certified. Our only other operator is retiring later this year so we need to do something. Hopefully we can get someone else certified.

- JB, The problem is we struggle to get them the hours they need.

- Fish Creek bridge with FUDR

- JT, I had heard from someone down stairs that Delhi was very unhappy with the two projects they had with FUDR. I talked to Daren Evans and he said that while there were some issue he would do it again. They got the projects done and they got the promised reimbursement. So it really depends on who you talk to what story you get.

- GH, and some of these projects go on private property, how does that work?

- JT, Soil and Water can go on private property.

- JV, I wouldn't count on this Fish Creek project going.

- JT, Why not?

- JV, Because of FUDR mostly, they are supposed to be coming up with \$400,000, I wouldn't believe them until you get the money. They're going to let you spend the money and then not pay you. Last night, we had a taskforce meeting, we have reactivated the taskforce from a few years ago, it is me, Becky Walley, Art Merrill, Bill and Graydon, FUDR isn't allowed to do anything without task force approval that way we know we have a control over them. If you are going to move forward we need to make sure we have their money first because if you don't they probably won't pay. Nick Carbone is going to send them a letter telling them that they have to run everything by the taskforce.

- DCSWCD \$3 million grant

- JT, Graydon called me last week that they had a grant from DEC, through DEP to Soil and Water for some kind of structure replacement \$3 million dollars. Now he said it wasn't for Mead Street but all of the paperwork he sent me said it was. He assured me that the Village wasn't in favor of the Mead Street project either and that it could be used for anything in the Watershed. So we are looking to see what we might have. Soil & Water has their annual meeting tomorrow so I'm going to go to that and talk to them and try to get some more details.

- BR 130 (Sidney)

- JT, As reported at the last meeting we have a red flag so we are working on a fix for that. Will work with Otsego County to get that taken care of. At some point we need to get that bridge on the program. That's going to be a major undertaking.

- Engineers
 - Working on In-house designs and whatever comes up.
- LDSA
 - JT, Every three years we have to go through this process and rate all the engineering firms in the State, we did ours and we rated Modjeski and Masters as our top pick and McFarland-Johnson as our second. We rated down up to 20. Once you are done you send it to the Region, we have always gone with the short list. Well our rankings are based 50% on our votes and 50% on the rest of the Region. Well Modjeski and Masters didn't make the short list. So for the next three years we can't hire them for any of our Federal Aid Projects.
 - GH, Who runs this to decide who we can or can't pick?
 - JT, The State DOT, ours is for Region 9.

DPW BLDG PROJECT

- Construction status report
 - J&K claims - settled.
 - DiGesare call – LD's, closeout
 - JT, Matthew wants us to drop their liquidated damages and then they will drop their claim and it will wash out.
 - JT, My problem is that then we have dropped them for both of the real problem contractors and kept them for the contractors who really didn't have delays. That doesn't set well with me.
 - JT, At the last meeting the 2nd floor trap not working again, they came and worked on it and it seems to be working again.

Wakin survey

- JT, The survey is done. I have submitted it to Village for boundary line adjustment, we are on the agenda for the April 1st planning board meeting. Kent and maybe I will be there.

- Walton shop relocation
 - JT, What do you want us to do here?
 - After a brief discussion we will work on getting a solid estimate together for all three shops to present to Finance to see if they are in favor of funding it and moving forward. If we can do one design and save on engineering that would be a good thing.
- County salaries
 - JT, I have put together a brief comparison of our pay rates vs the towns (copy attached). As you can see, in 2025 we are at the bottom of the scale, that only gets worse over the next few years. I'm not sure what the answer is but something has to be done, this is not sustainable. It gets worse when you look at what they bring home because our Health Insurance contribution is so much higher than what they pay at the town level.
 - TM, This has been a problem for years.
 - GH, Yes and it just keeps getting worse. And even at the Town level with what we are paying we lose people. But at the County level we have lost 5 people in the last two meetings. And it hurts, you don't have the depth in your staff, the guys have been out 30 or 40 days plowing because there is no one else to do it. We need to do something.
 - TM, We do have to do something.
 - JT, And when I talked to Cara, she was like we can do the HEOIIs, but that just pushes them closer to the foreman and that creates problems.
 - GH, You can't blame the guys for leaving.

- LH, No, you can't.
- JT, I can blame 19 people.
- GH, You're not wrong.
- JC, It's not like we didn't try.
- GH, We are going to have to try harder.
- JC, But we can't approach the union.
- LH, I can't believe there's a law that says you as the Board can't tell the union you want to pay people more money.
- GH, Can I get copies of this summary to take to finance?
- LH, Yes, how many do you want?
- GH, 10 please.

BL, Have we heard anything on CHIPS yet?

LH, No. But the State hasn't passed the budget yet so you won't.

DELAWARE COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
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JAMES D. THOMAS P.E.
COMMISSIONER

MAIN OFFICE & YARD
2 BRIDGE STREET
DELHI, NY 13753

To: File
From: Tawny Meres
Safety & Training Manager
Re: Safety Office Report
Date: 3/25/2025

The following is an update to the activities of the Safety Office from 2/25/2025 to 3/25/2025.

1. Accidents

- None Reported

2. Spills

- 4-25. 2/26/2025. SWMC. While on location at the Harpersfield Transfer Station, truck #843, a 2018 Freightliner, had a hydraulic line fail. Prior to the Safety Officer's arrival, Transfer Station attendee, Louis, had cleaned up the area where the hydraulic line failed. DPW personnel addressed lost oil that reached the paved surface of the roadway at the facility where the vehicle was parked until repair was completed. Due to small amount of oil being lost and full clean up completed, spill was not reported to DEC. Louie stated he was satisfied with DPW's address of the spill.
- 5-25. 3/5/2025. SWMC. While offloading a box container with vehicle #843, at the SWMC, a hydraulic line failed. It was determined that less than 5 gallons of oil was lost on to the hard packed surface. Speedy dry was applied to the area. SWMC personnel obtained a loader and scraped the ground surface. Spill not reported to DEC.

3. Facilities

- Fyr Fyter conducted annual fire extinguisher inspections. Fire extinguishers removed for service in some locations still need to be returned.
- Hearing tests continue. To date 177 hearing tests have been administered.
- Safety Committee meeting has been scheduled for 4/2/2025 to review SH-900 logs.
- Annual Workplace Violence Committee meeting has been scheduled for 3/27/2025.
- EAP's have been distributed to new construction facilities. Copy also provided to the Planning Department in the new Administrative building.
- ELDT – 6 employees on list. One driver ready for road test.
- Changed solution in portable eyewash stations in Bloomville. This has to be done every 120 days.

Safety Office Report 3-25-2025.docx

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Solid Waste Management Center: 607-865-5805 Fax 607-865-2216*

4. Near Future Objectives

- Finalize animal carcass procedures for SWMC.
- Update Workplace Violence policy following meeting.
- Walk throughs of patrol buildings
- Set up new training room on Neale Road to begin holding meetings and trainings