

**Facilities and Infrastructure Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 15, 2009
3:30 p.m.
Scott Heyman Conference Room**

Approved 11/19/09

Present: L. McBean-Clairborne, Chair, D. Kiefer, M. Sigler,
Excused: K. Luz Herrera, D. Randall
Staff: C. Nelson, Public Works Administrator; B. Eckstrom, Solid Waste Division; N. Jayne, County Administration; W. Sczesny, J. Lampman, Highway Division; T. Rudy, Airport; K. Fuller, Deputy Clerk
Guest: Stacy Shackford, *The Ithaca Journal*

Call to Order

Mrs. McBean-Clairborne, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.

Agenda Additions and Deletions

It was MOVED by Mr. Sigler, seconded by Ms. Kiefer, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to add the following item to the agenda:

- Resolution – Establishing a Unit Charge for the 2010 Solid Waste Annual Fee

The Commissioner of Planning and Public Works discussion regarding Highway Access Law was withdrawn.

Persons Wishing to Address the Committee

No one wished to address the Committee.

Chair's Report

Mrs. McBean-Clairborne requested the Committee be provided written information regarding the Highway Access Law.

Airport

It was MOVED by Ms. Kiefer, seconded by Mr. Sigler, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to approve the following Committee only resolution. MOTION CARRIED.

RESOLUTION NO. – AUDIT OF FINAL PAYMENT TO RITTER & PARATORE CONTRACTING INC., HANGAR DEMOLITION FOR APRON EXPANSION – ITHACA TOMPKINS REGIONAL AIRPORT

WHEREAS, Ritter & Paratore Contracting, Inc., has completed the demolition of the old Taughannock Aviation hangar to allow for future apron expansion at the Ithaca Tompkins Regional Airport to the satisfaction of the County, and all Prime and Sub-Contractors' Labor Law Certification forms, executed Lien Affidavit and Consent of Surety to Final Payment have been received, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Facilities and Infrastructure Committee, That the following claim against the County of Tompkins, be and hereby is audited by the Tompkins County Legislature:

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Payment Requested</u>	<u>Account No.</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Ritter & Paratore .	4 (and Final)	HT. 5601.59239	\$ 11,676.65

RESOLVED, further, That the Finance Director be and hereby is authorized and directed to pay said claim from Account No. HT. 5601.59239.

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Highway Division

Highway Capital Projects Status Report

The Committee reviewed the report and noted the following:

- Ellis Hollow Road – the field survey is complete and in the process of being plotted. With regard to ditches, it was noted the additional cost to cover storm sewers included within the budget. Mr. Sczesny said the reason for moving the centerline of the road in different areas is to minimize the cost of the project.
- Bridge Painting – the consultant for the project is Barton and Loguidice.
- Peruville Road – originally approved for the construction of an overpass, the project has been reworded to safety and road improvements. *Mr. Sczesny will check to see if the project is included within the Project Approval Requests (PAR).*
- Red Mill Road Bridge – Ms. Kiefer expressed interest in seeing a null alternative option included for the project.
- Hanshaw Road Highway Reconstruction – it was noted that funding from Cornell University will reduce the County share for this project; the adjustment will be reflected on the next Capital Project Status Report.
- McLean-Cortland Road and Bridge – upon agreement from the State regarding the funding for the project, the excess funding for the project will be put back into the Highway Fund.

Solid Waste Division

Recycling and Solid Waste Center Request for Proposal Comments

Ms. Eckstrom said the draft Request for Proposals (RFP) has been issued and comments received from two national recycling companies, Casella Waste and Metro Waste Paper Recovery from Buffalo. Following meetings with Mr. Wood, County Attorney, a preliminary response to the comments (a very technical document) has been drafted and will be included in the final RFPs. Mr. Wood does not believe any of the comments will require Committee review. The goal is to have the RFP completed by the end of the month, and the proposals back by January 12, 2010 for review and analyzing. There are four national vendors indicating interest, with one anticipated to submit a proposal using the Solid Waste Facility (Greenstar) rather than transporting the commodities. Copies of the RFP will be located at the Legislature office.

Resolution – Solid Waste Annual Fee

It was MOVED by Mr. Sigler, seconded by Ms. Kiefer, to approve and submit the following resolution to the full Legislature. Ms. Kiefer suggested adding an additional “WHEREAS” indicating that at this time it is the “best-guess” that the fee will remain flat for [the appropriate number to be filled in] years.

A brief discussion followed regarding the Solid Waste Division Budget presentation and Ms. Eckstrom said that as a result of the modified budget and use of fund balance money, it was expected there would be a \$250,000 deficit for 2009. However, the market has picked up in the last sixty days and the deficit is now anticipated to be \$120,000. Ms. Eckstrom said she is not comfortable with the suggested amendment by Ms. Kiefer as she has no control over market rates and expenses and does not know if it would be a meaningful

statement. Although she does not anticipate the need to increase the fee for the next two years, the situation could change due to unforeseen factors.

Mr. Sigler spoke of his concerns regarding yard waste being handled at the Solid Waste Facility. Ms. Eckstrom said the Solid Waste Division does not take in yard waste as it would create a loss in revenue. She is working with Cooperative Extension and the City of Ithaca regarding their waste and is assisting them to find a more sustainable disposal site for yard waste. In addition, she would like to recommend to Mr. Engman at the Town of Ithaca, and City of Ithaca Mayor Peterson, a possible collaboration that would utilize highway property for yard waste disposal.

Mr. Sigler asked why Ithaca College’s annual fee has decreased; Ms. Eckstrom noted it is due to the reduction of recycling and disposal waste as a result of their programs.

Ms. Eckstrom said at the present time she anticipates the market to hold steady for six to nine months. In the interim she has cut back on promotions to reduce expenses. Mixed paper, which had been stored in trailers due to no price for the commodity, is now at \$60 a ton.

Ms. Kiefer explained her proposed suggestion is to provide information to Legislators that Ms. Eckstrom had previously stated she thought the fee could be flat for a two-year period. Mr. Sigler did not find Ms. Kiefer’s request friendly. Ms. Eckstrom again stressed that with the proposals for single-stream not having been received, it would not be wise to indicate the fee would be flat. In addition, the State Department of Environmental Conservation has the draft Solid Waste Management Plan for the next ten years; amended requirements to the Plan may add costs to the operation.

Mrs. McBean-Clairborne said a question is always asked at the Legislature level that the Solid Waste Annual Fee was intended to be short-term and eliminated at a future date. Ms. Eckstrom explained the fee is to assist in overall waste reduction, if eliminated, the cost would have to be shifted to the County and paid through property taxes.

A voice vote on the resolution resulted as follows: Ayes – 3; Noes – 0; Excused – 2 (Legislators Herrera and Randall). RESOLUTION CARRIED.

RESOLUTION NO. - ESTABLISHING A UNIT CHARGE FOR THE 2010 SOLID WASTE ANNUAL FEE

WHEREAS, the unit charge for the 2010 Solid Waste Annual Fee has been recommended by the Facilities and Infrastructure Committee, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Facilities and Infrastructure Committee, That the Unit Charge for the 2010 Solid Waste Annual Fee be established at \$56.00 per billing unit, which is \$2 more per unit than the 2009 Solid Waste Annual Fee.

ATTACHMENT A: SCHEDULE OF RATES

PROPERTY CLASS ‘USED AS’ CODE

(A)		
Single-family residences	210,240,241,242,250,280	
Mobile Homes	270,271,416	
Churches		Z32
Unit Charge:	One billing unit per Church or living unit	

(B)



(I)	
No fee assessed:	
Row storage	F05
Small Churches (under 20 weekly attendance)	
Non-contributive area	Z98
Local government - all tax-exempt parcels owned by the city, towns, villages, and county within Tompkins County.	

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

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Proposed Bottle Bill Amendments

Mr. Sigler asked how the proposed amendments to the New York State “Bottle Bill” would affect Solid Waste Facility operations. Ms. Eckstrom estimated plastic water bottles account for 200 tons of recycling per year, resulting in approximately \$15,000-\$20,000 in revenue. She believes the reuse is more important than the revenue and the new bill would also assist in reaching the County’s waste reduction goals by increasing recycled use of these containers.

Capital Payment Summary

It was noted the work being completed by Barton and Loguidice is partially funded by a Federal grant and will determine the feasibility of on-site treatment of leachate at Caswell Landfill. If on-site treatment is possible it would result in a large savings compared to transporting leachate from the site to a waste facility.

Approval of Minutes of September 17, 2009

It was MOVED by Mr. Sigler, seconded by Ms. Kiefer, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to approve the minutes of September 17, 2009, as presented. MINUTES APPROVED.

Adjournment

On motion the meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Karen Fuller, Deputy Clerk