



PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE

Time: 1:30 PM

Location: WebEx and 74 Ontario St., 2nd Floor Committee Room 213

November 8, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT

In Person: Supervisors Kris Singer, Ted Bateman, Fred Lightfoote, David Phillips, and Mark Venuti.

Via WebEx: Supervisor Lou Guard and Drew Wickham.

OTHERS PRESENT

In Person: Supervisors Baker and Ingalsbe, County Administrator Chris DeBolt, County Attorney Holly Adams, Finance Director Mary Gates, Planning Director Tom Harvey, Sustainability and Solid Waste Director Carla Jordan, Human Resources Director Michele Smith, Sr. Planner Betsy Landre, Sr. Fiscal Manager Michael Wojcik, Economic Developer Mike Manikowski, Economic Specialist Sue Vary, Casella General Manager Brian Sanders, Charlotte Love from Casella, Jim Armstrong, Rob Solenne, and Clerk to the Board Kristin Mueller.

Via WebEx: Sr. Planner Regina Sousa, Associate Planner Tim Jensen, Sr. Planner Linda Phillips, Confidential Secretary to the County Administrator Cindy Abraszek, Outside Counsel Jeff Stravino, Mike Davis, and Cornell Cooperative Extension Director.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Planning & Environmental Quality Committee was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Chair Singer.

MINUTES

Supervisor Bateman made a motion to approve the minutes of the Planning and Environmental Quality Committee meeting on October 18, 2021. Supervisor Phillips seconded the motion. The motion carried.

CASELLA

♦ Update

Ms. Jordan talked about the three Notice of Violations that were issued to the landfill recently. The first one was for stormwater, the second for freeboard, and the third was for stormwater freeboard issues.

Mr. Sanders was present to provide the following details on the Notice of Violations. The first one was from turning the dewatering system back on and pumping a substantial amount of liquid over that weekend. On Monday they had to turn the system off as they were slightly over the freeboard limit. They were able to get extra trucks in to get the lagoon pumped down to resolve the freeboard issue quickly. The second was from a series of issues that occurred. It started with getting 3.7

inches of rain in a 48-hour period and lagoon levels were higher than they would have normal have been because they didn't enough places that would take the stormwater that was already in the lagoon. Then an additional 2-2.5 inches of rain came that Friday and Saturday causing the lagoons to rise rapidly. With this additional rain they had to shut down the primary leachate pumps to avoid overflowing the lagoons. They contacted the DEC on Monday and reported what had occurred. This is when the second violation was issued for the lagoon levels and shutting the primary pumps off. Mr. Sanders said they started doing some investigations due to normally with rain events you don't get instant impact to the lagoon like what happened this time. It was found that there was signification infiltration directly into the drainage layer of a cell built in 2019. This cause 353,000 gallons of leachate/rainwater to be pumped into the lagoons in a 24-hour period. The lagoons have 14 inches of freeboard and it took 33 inches in that 24-hour period. They found two sources of issues and are working to corrected the issues. They slowly started to turn the pumps on as they could get the leachate trucked out of the lagoons. They are now back on and fully working. They are working with the DEC to make modifications to the aeration system in the lagoons to provide for more freeboard space. Mr. Sanders then answered a few more of committee's questions.

Chair Singer thanked Mr. Sanders and his staff for being proactive with the issue and for contacting the DEC.

Ms. Jordan also noted that the department has requested that the landfill provide an analysis on how much water they are actually creating from all sources at the site. This will let everyone know how much leachate capacity is needed at the site to prevent this from happening again.

SUSTAINABILITY AND SOLID WASTE

♦ Department Update

Ms. Jordan attended the Solid Waste Association of North America conference recently. She is on Board of Directors for the New York Chapter. National she wanted the committee to know that the infrastructure bill that was passed contained 15 million a year that is designated for recycling activities. They are requesting an increase in this funding as it is not enough as some cities spend this much on their own for recycling activities. The reconciliation bill offset this amount to 750 million. She will be keeping an eye on these funds as they become available. The EPA has also started the process to classify 2 PFAS chemicals as carcinogens. We will have to see how the EPA proceeded with is as we may have to monitor our landfill to see if we have any of them present.

Ms. Sousa reported that the 1st pumpkin event had a good turn out and the next event is this Saturday from 8-10 am. This will be the last event

of the season. A new education video about the gas to energy plant at the landfill was played for committee and will be uploaded on to the website soon. In the coming year two videos will be created one for paint care and one for organics. After January 1st of 2022 you will be able to return paint cans back to the place they were purchased at any time.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

♦ *Presentation*

Mike Manikowski introduce business retention specialist, Jim Armstrong. In the course of a year he calls on about 300 or more businesses in Ontario County. Additionally, he provides a report weekly to Economic Development.

Mr. Armstrong calls on non-retail companies and try to help them through programs that they have available. Some programs are energy and tax opportunities. They help with leases, employee shortages, and succession planning. He shared comments that he had received from businesses this past year. Some of the challenges that companies are facing right now:

- A shortage of supplies and available workforce
- Companies have too much space now that a more of the workforce is working from home
- Material costs are very high

Chair Singer asked if there is a shortage of people that want to work verses a shortage of jobs. Mr. Armstrong responded this is correct. There are more jobs than qualified applications. Companies are providing bonuses and other incentives but can't get qualified persons to apply.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

♦ *Resolutions*

Sr. Planner, Betsy Landre, presented a resolution entitled, "Authorizing Contract with the Town of Canadice for Manpower – Honeoye Lake Aquatic Vegetation Management"

Supervisor Venuti motioned to approve the contract with the Town of Canadice. Supervisor Lightfoote seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Planning Director, Tom Harvey, presented a resolution entitled, "Resolution of Recognition and Appreciation – Marty Avila"

Supervisor Venuti motioned to approve the resolution of recognition and appreciation for Mary Avila. Supervisor Bateman seconded the motion. The motion carried.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

♦ *Update*

County Administrator, Chris DeBolt, gave the following updates:

- There has been an increase in COVID cases over the last two weeks
- Hospitalization have come down
- All school districts have testing up and running
- The vaccine mandate from the federal level will apply to the County
- The County welcomed Sheriff Povero back today

**CORNELL COOPERATIVE
EXTENSION**

♦ *Update*

Mr. Davis gave the following updates:

- They will be hosting a workshop on farm finances
- 4-H harvest food fest will be held next week, these include nonverbal presentations
- Their annual meeting is coming up on November 16th

QUESTIONS/UPDATES

Supervisor Lightfoote asked if with the legalization of cannabis will this effect CDL driver passing the physical? County Attorney, Holly Adams, let committee that she doesn't know yet how they are going to continue with the physical for CDL drivers. They have to come up with better testing for this. There currently isn't much information out yet regarding this.

Ms. Jordan also let the committee know that hydrogen sulfide exceedances are back, and she expects to see violations from the DEC for these exceedances.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 2:33 PM, Supervisor Bateman made the motion, seconded by Supervisor Phillips, to go into executive session regarding discussion on the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation, and to confer with counsel; motion carried.

At 3:20 PM, Supervisor Phillips made the motion, seconded by Supervisor Bateman, to leave executive session; motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Supervisor Venuti seconded by Supervisor Lightfoote, the meeting was adjourned at 3:21 pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Kristin Mueller, Clerk to the Board