



PLANNING & ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE

Monday, November 4, 2024, Time: 1:00 PM
74 Ontario Street, Committee Room 213, 2nd floor
Canandaigua, NY 14424

Committee Members

David Phillips, Chair
Daryl Marshall
William Namestnik
John Pruett
Christopher Vastola
Mark Venuti
Andrew Wickham

1. Call To Order:

The Planning and Environmental Quality Committee meeting was called to order at 01:00 PM on November 4, 2024.

Members Present: Supervisor(s) David Phillips, William Namestnik, John Pruett, Christopher Vastola, Andrew Wickham. Necessarily Absent: Supervisor(s) Daryl Marshall. Present via WebEx, not Voting: Supervisor Mark Venuti.

Others present in addition to committee members:

- Todd Campbell, BOS Chair
- Chris DeBolt, County Administrator
- Alissa Bub, Deputy County Administrator
- Holly Adams, County Attorney
- Carla Jordan, Sustainability & Solid Waste Director
- Regina Sousa, Sr. Planner
- Thomas Lyon, Sr. Planner
- Tom Harvey, Planning Director
- Ryan Davis, Economic Developer
- Mo Tidball, CCE Director
- Megan Webster, Soil & Water Director
- Brian Sanders, Casella General Manager
- Theresa VanWormer, Visitors Connection
- Mary Gates, Finance Director, via WebEx
- Julie Barry, Sr. Planner, via WebEx
- Michael Wojcik, Sr. Fiscal Manager, via WebEx
- Jack Marren, Town of Victor Supervisor
- Bill Wellman, Town of Phelps Supervisor
- Dale Stell, Town of Gorham Supervisor
- Jared Simpson, Town of Canandaigua Supervisor
- Mark Venuti, Town of Geneva Supervisor, via WebEx
- Jim Kennedy, City of Geneva Supervisor, via WebEx
- Peter Ingalsbe, Town of Farmington Supervisor, via WebEx
- Dave Shaw, Report
- Tim Jensen, Associate Planner, via WebEx
- Linda Phillips, Sr. Planner, via WebEx
- Kaitlynn McCumiskey, Sustainability Assistant, via WebEx

2. Approval Of Minutes:

Supervisor Andrew Wickham motioned to approve the minutes of the October 15, 2024, Planning and Environmental Quality Committee meeting. The motion was seconded by Supervisor John Pruett. The motion passed.

Yes: Supervisor(s): David Phillips, William Namestnik, John Pruett, Christopher Vastola, Andrew Wickham. No: Supervisor(s): None. Abstain: Supervisor(s): None.

3. Team Agency Updates:

Mo Tidball let the committee know that they should have received an email with the Dietetic Survey flyer and link. She encouraged them to take the survey and share it with their residents. They have already received 2000 responses. They have hired an individual for the Geneva after-school program. They start November 14th and will also help with the Ag in the Classroom program in Geneva. The Supervisors are invited to attend their annual meeting on November 14th.

Megan Webster presented a slide show of a few of the water quality improvement projects that they worked on this year. The projects included Vernal Pools, Linear diversion and a water sediment control basin, and successive retention areas for capturing water flow.

4. Casella:

Brian Sanders, Casella General Manager, provided the following updates:

- The bulk of cell construction is complete, and they are now entering the testing phase.
- They are hoping to have approval to go into that cell by March of next year.
- The Ventury project broke down twice after it was turned on. They are working on getting a stainless steel or aluminum housing since the plastic flange keeps breaking.
- A lot of seeding and erosion control blankets have been put down in the last few weeks.

5. Sustainability & Solid Waste Management:

Carla Jordan reminded everyone that they are getting to the end of their event season. They held a fall organics collection event this past weekend and will have one more next week. They are still working with schools to do waste assessments and almost all the schools have completed their assessments.

6. Economic Development:

Ryan Davis reported the following on the IDA and EDC:

- The IDA remains busy. They just voted to approve a project in the Town of Seneca.
- They have two public hearings coming up and more projects in the pipeline.
- The EDC will be launching the small business loan program this month.
- They have had several property owners reaching out to them regarding the V-RIP program.
- Both the IDA and EDC passed their 2025 budgets.
- They are working with five other IDA's on a new railroad PILOT agreement.
- The IDA has commissioned a study from McFarland-Johnson on airport management.
- The RFP for the updating of the EDC strategic plan has been released.
- He is continuing conversations regarding utilities with NYSEG & RG&E and other stakeholders.

7. Tourism:

Theresa VanWormer presented an article by a travel writer that was published in Forbes magazine. They hosted this writer earlier this year, touring her around the Canandaigua and Naples area per her request. These types of tours are called Fam Tours. The article highlights the NY Kitchen Wine and Culinary center. This past year they have done 11 Fam Tours and 24 articles have been written about the sites they visited on these tours. They spent about \$17,000 on these tours and got about \$100,000 in return on investment from the articles written after those tours. This is more economical with a better return on investment than just advertising in magazines.

8. Planning Department

Thomas Lyon, updated the committee on the Local Government Efficiency Grant. The County has selected a new contract/purchasing software. Once the County has their new software in place, they will be surveying the municipalities to see if they are still interested in contract software. If they still are, they will look at if an RFP needs to be put out for the municipalities contract needs or if they can piggyback off the County's contract.

9. County Administrator:

Alissa Bub reviewed the quarterly update on the ARPA grants. The Harrison Group is actively working with all the recipients. The projects that are highlighted in yellow the consultant is trying to get more information on the status of their project. For the two that are red, the Town Supervisors along with the Harrison Group are trying to get them to sign their contracts. These two recipients will be receiving a letter soon stating that if they don't sign their contract then they will forfeit their funding, so we can try to redistribute it by the end of the year.

Alissa Bub reminded everyone that they received an email regarding the kick-off of the United Way campaign. This runs through December 2nd.

Christopher DeBolt, presented a resolution entitled, "Reappointment of Carla M. Jordan - Director of Sustainability and Solid Waste Management".

Supervisor Andrew Wickham motioned to approve the resolution as presented. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Christopher Vastola. The motion passed.

Yes: Supervisor(s): David Phillips, William Namestnik, John Pruett, Christopher Vastola, Andrew Wickham. No: Supervisor(s): None. Abstain: Supervisor(s): None.

10. Board Of Supervisors:

Chairman Philips thanked everyone for their responses after the last meeting.

A few questions have been asked since the last committee meeting. Chris DeBolt responded to the following questions.

- Q. What are the environmental impacts of closing the landfill, specifically truck traffic? A. If our landfill were to close, the truck traffic would not end, it would just change the routes and they would become longer.

- Q. What will happen to recycling fees, and will they become so high they become a disincentive for residents to recycle? A. The recycling fees will get more expensive because Casella is currently obligated to take recyclables for free. Currently, there is not a way to provide what the new recycling fee would be post 2028.

- Q. What is the opportunity cost benefit if the county continued to run the landfill at certain levels vs. close the landfill? A. There is no way to really understand how much revenue there would be for the Town of Seneca and the County if the landfill continued at different levels, since there are so many different variables.

Supervisor Namestnik did some comparisons of continuing operating the landfill at the current revenue rate of roughly 6.7 million, 5 million, and 3 million per year for the next 10 and 20 years. Also, his calculations show we should have about 11-13M in reserves from landfill revenue to fund diversion and recycling education and programs. He feels revenue from keeping the landfill open would allow the County to have a safety net fund if the State keeps lowering reimbursements on State mandated programs.

Supervisor Pruett stated that the three most important things that we need to figure out are the environmental factors, logistics, and the fiscal impact of closing the landfill. We need to figure out the logistics of our next steps first. Should we need to keep Casella in some capacity to keep them responsible for post-closure management. He thinks that we need to come up with a fully circular module. We need to take care of our own waste not ship it somewhere else. He feels we need two modules for post closure to choose from. Also, he thinks that combining hauling to have fewer haulers is a good idea. He suggested looking to other counties, to see if we could modify one of their modules to meet our needs.

Supervisor Wickham said that we need to decide whether we keep the landfill open or close it before we can look at a module. He feels that the County shouldn't be in the waste business and the Town of Seneca feels the same. The Town doesn't want the Ag community to suffer, and they don't want the landfill to continue.

Supervisor Venuti noted that MSW report didn't get into what the opportunities are to reduce waste. Environmental and health wise, the landfill poses risks. He is looking at long-term risks vs. short-term risks as the liner will fail eventually. He feels that we need to let the agreement with Casella expire in 2028 and let Casella handle the closure and monitoring for the next 30 years. We need to spend the next four years getting our residents to reduce waste, and we shouldn't feel bad about shipping our waste, since we have taken everyone's waste for so long.

Supervisor Vastola said that closing the landfill will have a negative impact. Everything will go west and come back to us in emissions in our rain and snow. As for recycling, once the incentive for free recycling goes away, the recycling the residents once did will also go away. He is also concerned about the greater impact on County roads. He feels that we need a much better plan to make a decision.

Supervisor Kennedy feels we need to keep Casella obligated to their commitment to closure and post-closure management of the landfill. We also, need to increase our sustainability efforts. He agrees that looking at other counties modules would be a good idea and find out what other counties will be impacted by our decision.

Supervisor Ingalsbe feels long-term, we shouldn't be running the landfill. We need to talk to haulers and find out what their options for disposal will be once we close. We also need to do a better job at getting residents to recycle, including the possibility of mandating recycling.

Supervisor Stell feels we need to close in 2028. We need to deal with what we have built and keep Casella performing the 30-year post closure maintenance. We should look at some of the European landfill modules.

Supervisor Wellman is concerned about Flint Creek. We need to look at closing and pushing education on diversion and recycling between now and 2028.

Supervisor Campbell is in favor of letting the contract expire. Continuing operations at the landfill would require a new RFP and there are no guarantees anyone would answer it. We need to keep Casella managing post-closure activities for the next 30 years, and focus on possible effects on agricultural products.

Supervisor Simpson thinks that the only way to keep the landfill open is if Casella would run it at 50% of the capacity that they are now, still honor their 30-year-post closure management obligation, and keep recyclables free for Ontario County residents. Knowing that is not really an option, we need to look at ways to close the landfill on time in 2028. Using the next few years to research alternatives and improvements for transfer stations around the county.

Supervisor Namestnik noted that many people talk about the environmental and health effects of the landfill. He would like to know what we know and don't know about these impacts. Have any studies of these impacts been done?

It was asked by committee if the Board took no action what would happen? County Administrator, DeBolt, said that if the Board takes no action, then the contract will expire and the landfill will close in 2028, and Casella will be responsible for the 30-year post-closure maintenance.

Supervisor Vastola feels that our County is continuing to grow with tourism and that the landfill is not negatively impacting tourism. He agrees that there should be fewer haulers, so there are not multiple haulers on the same roads on the same days.

Chairman Philippi thinks we need to enhance all our diversion efforts starting immediately. The urgent decision that we need to make is do we try to continue landfill operations past 2028 or stop operations in 2028.

Supervisor Wickham asked staff to prepare a resolution to honor the expiration of the contract with Casella in 2028 and direct the Sustainability and Solid Waste department to focus on increasing sustainability efforts.

Supervisor Pruett asked if we could look into doing a diminished closure and use the recycling center. We should also look at the effects of farmers putting in digesters. He also feels we will need to legislate people into sustainable efforts.

Supervisor Vastola asked that we have the resolution that Supervisor Wickham asked to have staff prepare split into two resolutions. One to honor the expiration of the contract with Casella and one to direct the Sustainability and Solid Waste department to focus on increasing sustainability efforts.

11. Unfinished Business:

There was no unfinished Business.

12. Next Meeting Date And Time:

November 25, 2024 at 1:00 PM.

13. Adjournment:

Approved Minutes

On a motion of Supervisor Christopher Vastola, seconded by Supervisor William Namestnik, the Planning and Environmental Quality Committee meeting was adjourned at 02:59 PM.

Respectfully Submitted, Kristin A. Voss, Clerk