



PLANNING & ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE

Monday, November 25, 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 & Environmental Quality Committee meeting was called to order at 01:00 PM on November 25, 2024.

Members Present: Supervisor(s) David Phillips, Daryl Marshall, William Namestnik, John Pruett, Christopher Vastola, Mark Venuti, Andrew Wickham.

Others present in addition to committee members:

- Todd Campbell, BOS Chair
- Chris DeBolt, County Administrator
- Alissa Bub, Deputy County Administrator
- Holly Adams, County Attorney, via WebEx
- Ryan Davis, Economic Developer
- Carla Jordan, Sustainability & Solid Waste Director
- Regina Sousa, Sr. Planner
- Tom Harvey, Planning Director
- Julie Barry, Sr. Planner
- Kyle Ritts, Sr. Planner
- Megan Wesbter, Director of Soil & Water
- Emma Wilson, CCE Ag in the Classroom Coordinator
- Val Knobluach, Visitors Connection President
- Tracey Burkey, Visitors Connection V.P of Desitination Development
- Brain Sanders, Casella General Manager
- Dave Shaw, Reporter
- James Kennedy, City of Geneva Supervisor
- Jared Simpson, Town of Canandaigua Supervisor
- William Wellman, Town of Phelps Supervisor
- Nancy Yacci, City of Canandaigua Supervisor, via WebEx
- Perter Ingalsbe, Town of Farmington Supervisor, via WebEx
- David Baker, City of Canandaigua Supervisor, via WebEx
- Frederick Wille, Town of East Bloomfield Supervisor, via WebEx
- Mary Gates, Finance Director, via WebEx
- Michael Wojcik, Sr. Fiscal Manager, Vva WebEx
- Sue Vary, Econmic Specialist, via WebEx
- Tim Jensen, Associate Planner, via WebEx
- Thomas Lyon, Sr. Planner, via WebEx
- Holly Smith, Grant Coordinator, via WebEx
- Kaitlynn McCumskey, Sustainability Assistant, via WebEx
- Bob Doeblin, via WebEx
- John Brennan
- Several area residents

2. Approval Of Minutes:

Supervisor Mark Venuti motioned to approve the minutes of the November 4, 2024 Planning & Environmental Quality Committee meeting. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Andrew Wickham. The motion passed.

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

3. Team Agency Updates:

Emma Wilson handed out a pamphlet about the Ag in the classroom program. They have had a busy fall with Conservation Day and Fun on the Farm. She is currently working with many of the schools throughout the County. She has done lessons on the pumpkin life cycle, how popcorn grows, and time for Cranberries. In the Spring she will be reading the book The Pie that Molly Grew for agricultural literacy week. In January, she will work in classrooms over four weeks for the Incubation & Embryology course. This allows the children to observe the development from embryo to chick while incubating them in the classroom. Once the chicks are hatched, they spend a few days in the classroom before going to their forever home.

Megan Webster let the committee know that they are still actively putting in projects even though we have gotten snow. The Eelpot Creek project is about wrapped up. They finished two sediment control basins in the town of Canandaigua, and they might get a couple more projects completed this fall. She passed out their newsletter and reviewed some of the items in it.

4. Casella:

Brian Sanders provided the following updates regarding landfill operations:

- * They had no problems after getting 2 1/2" of rain.
- * They started the installation of a flap on the front of the new cell area. This will help reduce the oxygen being pulled in through the vacuum in the gas well lines.
- * They have continued with the vegetation work
- * They are in the testing phase of cell construction.

5. Sustainability & Solid Waste Management:

Carla Jordan let the committee know that last week Kaitlynn McCumiskey from the department gave a presentation about our Can Collector Program at the NYS Association of Reduction, Recycling, and Reuse Conference. It was very well attended and there was great feedback.

6. Economic Development:

Ryan Davis provided the following updates from Economic Development:

- * The IDA and EDC are very busy, and they will be voting to approve many items tonight.
- * The EDC had 7 responses to the RFP for their strategic plan, and they are working on scoring the responses.
- * Last week, the State announced the winners of the V-RIP program and the EDC was awarded 2 M in funding. They will be putting out a RFP for a consultant for that program.

7. Tourism:

Val Knoblauch showed a sample of what the new blue signs and QR code plaques for the virtual museum will look like. They will have 67 new signs completed by April 25th, which is the national historical marker day. The QR plaques will be added below the blue signs. She showed a sample of the bronze plaques that will be placed at locations that showcase statues/rocks. They will come back to committee for permission to place the sign/plaques for the ones that will be on county property. The full project will be finished by December 2025.

Val Knoblauch said that she will be retiring next year. Tracey Burkey will be the liaison for the search committee to find a new President for the Visitors Connection. The search committee will consist of six people from their board and two community members. The committee has completed the job

description and hopes to have someone in place by April to allow for training prior to Val's official retirement date.

8. Planning Department

Julie Barry, presented a resolution entitled, "Acceptance of SFY 2024-2025 New York State Snowmobile Trail Grant-in-Aid Funds".

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

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

Tom Harvey explained what the access management, complete streets, and resiliency project is going to do. He noted that they are working with the department of Public Works and received \$127,500 in grant funding from Genesee Regional Transportation Council. They are creating a steering committee for this project and Mr. Harvey has asked for a Committee member from the Planning & Environmental Quality and Public Works Committees to be on the committee. Supervisors Vastola and Marshall voiced their interest in serving on the steering committee.

Linda Phillips, presented the following two resolutions entitled:

- Reappointment of Lisa Fitzgerald to the Ontario County Agricultural Enhancement Board
- Reappointment of Elizabeth Newbold to the Ontario County Agricultural Enhancement Board

Supervisor Christopher Vastola motioned to approve these two resolutions, as presented as a block. The motion was seconded by Supervisor John Pruett. The motion passed.

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

Supervisor Marshall noted that he is concerned about the impact of the NYS DEC acquiring more and more farm land. The Agricultural Enhancement Board should be advocating for the land to continue being farm land.

9. County Administrator:

Christopher DeBolt, presented a resolution entitled, "2025 Funding Source for Tourism Promotion in Ontario County".

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

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

Christopher DeBolt, presented a Resolution entitled, "Memorializing Ontario County's Commitment to Ending Landfill Operations at the County-Owned Landfill Following the Expiration of the County's Operations Management and Lease Agreement with Casella at the End of 2028".

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

Yes: Supervisor(s): David Phillips, John Pruett, Mark Venuti, Andrew Wickham. No: Supervisor(s):

Daryl Marshall, William Namestnik, Christopher Vastola. Abstain: Supervisor(s): None.

Supervisors Marshall, Namestnik, and Vastola noted that they voted "NO" due to not having enough information.

A lengthy discussion was had by the committee with all supervisors expressing their thoughts on the closing of the landfill at the end of the contract with Casella on December 31, 2028.

Supervisor Marshall asked the committee why are we in a hurry to close? We need to base this decision on facts. He would like to put out a resolution for a RFI to manage the landfill post 2028 for our residents only. He feels there are a lot of misperceptions about landfill. He feels we need to provide an affordable and controllable solution for waste that our residents create. We live in a throwaway society, and we need to look at all of our options and facts, not just open or close.

Supervisor Namestnik said that he still hasn't decided yet on how he will vote. He feels he needs more information to form a decision on true facts, not misperceptions. He is seeking additional facts on the health and environmental impacts. He knows that we need to get diversion up as high as we can no matter what decision we make. He is also concerned if we have enough in reserves from lease payments to increase diversion and education. He would like to know if we can take a parallel path with diversion and do more research on whether closure is the correct path. He passed out to the committee an email that he would like a response to regarding why the vote needs to happen on 12/5. He feels if there is a timeline on paper, then he would feel more comfortable. He passed out another paper to supervisors with questions and statements he wanted the committee to have. He feels we need answers to those questions before making a decision. The only thing he feels we really know is that the cost of solid waste disposal will go up if the landfill closes. He is concerned about where the human sludge containing human waste and commercial chemicals (PFAS's) will be going if the landfill closes. He also thinks that if we close the landfill there will be more roadside dumping and residents will go back to having a burn barrels. The above referenced email and handout from Supervisor Namestnik have been attached to the minutes.

Supervisor Venuti noted that, as he has stated many times, he is in favor of closing the landfill. He doesn't think the desire for more information will ever be quenched. Truck traffic that comes through the County also needs to be considered and be mindful that not all the communities in the County are impacted the same by the landfill. When the County originally contracted Casella to operate the landfill, 3 years later they came back to the Board to increase their daily tonnage limit by 300,000+ to make it so Casella would be able to make money. This shows that no company would be able to make money by taking only Ontario County waste. He doesn't feel bad about sending our waste out as we have taken others for many years. The upcoming four years provide time for us to get things in place to lessen the burden on our residents prior to expiration of the Casella contract at the end of 2028. Our residents need to be educated that the less you throw away, the less you will spend. The reason we need to make the decision now is because if we want to continue with the landfill it takes about 4 years to go through the permitting process. Also, the MSW report shows that if we want to continue landfiling it would need to be done at a different site. Locations for a different site would have to go in the western and southern parts of the County.

Supervisor Pruett supports the resolutions, but he would also like to have a timeline prior to making a decision. He knows that it is not feasible to have a comprehensive plan at this point, but we need to start someplace. He also feels that our decision should take into account what the State has put into their Solid Waste Master Plan. He spoke about issues that residents in Seneca Falls are having from their landfill. He thinks that Casella manages our landfill well, but he wants a vote on this resolution and then, start modeling how we can have a revised facility to handle our waste stream. This resolution

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just says we will let the Casella contract expire and use the next few years to get things in order. Increasing our diversion and figuring out what our residents need. We need to transition to managing our waste and not throwing it all away.

Supervisor Wickham reminded the committee that the Town of Seneca does not want to continue landfill operations, and he will support that and the resolution.

Supervisor Vastola is concerned that if residents have to pay for recycling, then they won't recycle, and the environmental impacts of closure. He doesn't feel that the landfill affects tourism. He thinks that there will be a greater impact on economic development and the cost of business will go up if we close the landfill. He would like to see a referendum go to the voters on whether the landfill should open or close. He would also like to see a timeline.

Supervisor Philips noted that they asked the DEC for a timeline, and they couldn't provide it. The last time the County got a permit it took 5 years to complete the process and we only have 4 years.

Supervisor Campbell explained why the vote needs to take place in December. If we don't, then nothing will happen till it's too late. He noted that the Board has known about this for 25 years, and they have pushed the subject off for years. As Supervisor Pruett said, we need to put a stake in the ground and start making decisions to prepare for the expiration of the lease with Casella on December, 31, 2028. We need to have enough time to react and prepare for whatever the Board chooses to do.

Supervisor Simpson feels we need to move forward due to us running out of time. He would support looking at parallel tracks and if no one wants to do it, then we know we have no choice. We need to have a full board discussion.

Supervisor Wellman agrees with Supervisor Simpson and the Town of Phelps is worried about the contamination of Flint Creek and drinking water.

Supervisor Marren is happy to hear the opinions of Supervisors and also wants a full board discussion.

Supervisor Kennedy supports this resolution. We need to stop accepting that we are a throwaway society. We are underestimating our residents and their ability to change. We need to keep the entire County in mind.

Supervisor Yacci supports this resolution. We need to take this as an opportunity to educate our residents and be a leader in the State for reducing our waste.

Supervisor Ingalsbe would like a whole board discussion and would like to see the landfill close at the end of 2028.

Supervisor Wille supports closing the landfill. He wrote an editorial regarding it. He doesn't want to put profit over public health.

Supervisor Phillips said that there is not enough space to keep accepting waste at our current rate. We need to properly divert our waste and recyclables. He talked about the idea of going back to separating our recyclables at our transfer stations. It would be better diversion and provide the County with more options. The low cost of getting rid of our waste hasn't motivated our residents to stop throwing everything away.

Supervisor Marshall noted that all towns have landfills that are unlined and closed. What have

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Supervisors done to to investigate and make those landfills safe for their town residents? We all have various odors and truck traffic in all the communities.

Christopher DeBolt, presented a resolution entitled, "Directing the Ontario County Department of Sustainability and Solid Waste Management to Continue and Advance Efforts to Reduce the Generation of Municipal Solid Waste Within Ontario County and Increase Waste Diversion Efforts".

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

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

10. Unfinished Business:

Supervisor Marshall asked, County Administrator, Chris DeBolt to look into pursuing parallel paths of closing the landfill and finding out if a company would be interested in running the landfill for County waste after the expiration of Casella's contract.

11. Next Meeting Date And Time:

December 9, 2024 at 1:00 PM.

12. Adjournment:

On a motion of Supervisor Christopher Vastola, seconded by Supervisor Mark Venuti, the Planning & Environmental Quality Committee meeting was adjourned at 02:51 PM.

Respectfully Submitted, Kristin A. Voss, Clerk

From: Namestnik, William B <William.Namestnik@ontariocountyny.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, November 19, 2024 12:24 PM
To: supervisor@townofhopewell.org
Subject: Fwd: Landfill

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Namestnik, William B" <William.Namestnik@ontariocountyny.gov>
Date: November 12, 2024 at 10:53:47 AM EST
To: "Phillips, David W" <David.Phillips@ontariocountyny.gov>
Cc: "Marshall, Daryl G" <Daryl.Marshall@ontariocountyny.gov>, "Pruett, John L" <John.Pruett@ontariocountyny.gov>, "Vastola, Christopher R" <Christopher.Vastola@ontariocountyny.gov>, "Venuti, Mark A" <Mark.Venuti@ontariocountyny.gov>, "Wickham, Andrew" <Andrew.Wickham@ontariocountyny.gov>, "Campbell, Todd D" <Todd.Campbell@ontariocountyny.gov>, DeBolt Christopher P <Christopher.DeBolt@ontariocountyny.gov>
Subject: Landfill

Hi Dave,

I am trying to understand the need to have a final decision regarding landfill close/open decision at the 12/05/24 Board meeting. Comments have been provided in favor of the 12/05/24 decision date as well as not in favor of the 12/05/24 decision date. Looking back at our discussions, it is difficult to sort through what is factual, what is emotional and what is germane to the process of closure/open. I think a visual timeline of the process that identifies key steps, deadlines, anticipated response times from regulatory bodies etc. would be very helpful. Maybe one already exists and if so does the PEQ Committee have it? If it does not exist, please consider having one developed for the PEQ Committee. Timelines often are very enlightening and serves to provide an objective picture of what is being considered. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Best regards,

Bill

Sent from my iPadHi

"This message may contain confidential, sensitive and/or proprietary information and is intended for the person/entity to whom it was originally addressed. Any use by others is strictly prohibited."

ONTARIO COUNTY LANDFILL DECISION

Close/Open Considerations

Decision Premises

- Environmental and Health Determinants
- Fiscal Factors
- Overall County Residents Impact

What We Know and What We Do Not Know

Environmental and Health Determinants:

- There was not any environmental impact study done that is specifically germane to the Ontario County Landfill.
- There was not any population health study i.e. geocoding /GIS specifically germane to the Ontario County Landfill.
- Without this information, no conclusion either way i.e. close vs. open can be made. Why were no environmental/health studies done?

Fiscal Factors:

- Current Lease yields \$6.7 million/year to County residents
 - \$2mil to County; \$2mil to Town of Seneca
 - \$3.7mil to in provision of no cost waste/recycling disposal and various other items i.e. scholarship funds.
 - If Close end of 2028, County will have approximately \$8mil in lease payments and Town of Seneca approximately \$8mil in lease payments.
 - If Open beyond 2028 for 10 years, County will have additional \$20mil in lease payments as well as the Town of Seneca. For 20 years, \$40mil respectively.
- Opportunity Costs at Current Lease Amounts to County Residents and Lessor Amounts:
 - \$6.7mil X 10 years = \$67mil
 - \$6.7mil X 20 years = \$134mil

- \$5mil X 10 years = 50mil
- \$5mil X 20 years = 100mil

- \$3mil X 10 years = \$30mil
- \$3mil X 20 years = \$60mil

- Potential for Reserving Funds for all alternative waste management systems/capital projects without incurring debt.
- Potential to establish a Safety Net Program for residents in future years for when NYS not able to sufficiently fund programs i.e. housing, food, prescriptions (donut holes), job training. Investment in the overall well being of residents.

Overall County Residents Impact:

- Without the Environmental/Health studies directly related to the Ontario County Landfill, the only sure thing we can anticipate for the residents if it closes is increased costs for disposing of their waste/recyclables.