

GENERAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
November 19, 2024

Present: Andrea Moroughan, Chair; Josh Leviker, Vice-Chair; Herb Frost; Thomas Kalamas; and Jeff Nellenback.

Legislator Moroughan called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Legislator Moroughan moved to approve the October 15, 2024 committee meeting minutes as recorded, seconded by Legislator Frost, and carried.

Solid Waste Stronger Diversion Plan – Kip Turck, Director of Solid Waste

Waste Diversion is any material being sent/recycled some place other than the Rodman landfill. Examples include household recyclables, steel, e-waste, clothing, tires, and batteries. Due to Department of Environmental Conservation regulations instead of having 30% contamination levels in garbage, it can only be 20% now. This can be achieved relatively easily. The Development Authority of the North Country (DANC) tracks and compiles all this data.

Most of the contamination (materials being sent/recycled somewhere else) in garbage is received from open top boxes that are set out for property cleanouts, construction sites, remodeling projects, and big industry waste. Pictures from DANC showing examples of this violation were shown and you can clearly see cardboard boxes, metal, and plastics mixed in with actual garbage. Another picture was shown of a load dumped at the Solid Waste Facility in Lowville, where 75% of the load was recyclables and it took the staff over 20 minutes to sort it and cleanup the load.

Some of the solutions to help address this new regulation are to educate the haulers by setting up meetings with them and to educate the public with announcements. Lewis County Solid Waste has already partnered with DANC like many other surrounding counties for assistance with the education piece. Lewis County Solid Waste already has a letter ready to be sent out to all the haulers explain the new regulation. Another solution will be to monitor dumping at the facilities, which should catch it before the load is dumped and compacted. The third solution is to create a fine violation system, similar to what DANC will be implementing.

The Lewis County Fine System will be effective April 1, 2025 for haulers who violate the recyclable and prohibitive waste inspection. The first level is a warning with a \$100 reload fee, the second level is a First Offense with a \$100 fine and a \$100 reload fee, the third level is a Second Offense with a \$300 fine, the fourth level is a Third Offense with a \$500 fine, and the fourth level is a 30-day suspension from dumping at the Lewis County Solid Waste facilities. The County Attorney

recommends putting the Solid Waste Fine System into a Local Law before April 1, 2025.

It was pointed out that everyone should be using clear plastic bags for trash so it can easily be monitored for contaminations. Lewis County Solid Waste is also proposing an increase in the Municipal Solid Waste from \$100 per ton up to \$103 per ton; and the bulk tires 20" or less from \$200 per ton to \$240 per ton. These increases are reflective of the increases that DANC will be taking effective January 1, 2025. Legislator Moser voiced her concern that there aren't good quality clear garbage bags on the market that don't rip easily, Kip Turck responded that Solid Waste Transfer stations actually sell a good quality clear plastic bag if anyone wants to purchase some.

There was continued discussion on the new Fine System and how it will be relayed to the public and haulers. Kip Turck had confidence that through education the decrease in contamination in garbage will be obtainable. County Attorney Joan McNichol clarified that basically people need to recycle more than what they currently do and pay attention to what they are putting out as garbage versus recyclables. Kip Turck explained that he would like to implement the Fine System with the DANC ticket system he is currently using. Legislator Osborne recommended that there be more information sent out of publicized about what is and is not recyclable.

The following draft resolutions were reviewed:

1. Introductory Local Law No. 4-2024 "A Local Law Permitting All-Terrain Vehicle/Off-Highway Vehicle Operation on Approximately 0.6 miles of a certain Portion of County Road 42 (Brantingham Road) in the Town of Greig, to Connect the Existing OHV Trail System from County Property Near the North-South Road to and Through the Raven Acres/Micheal E. Dolhof Property; and setting the public hearing for December 19, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.
AYE 5 NAY 0
2. Directing the Demolition and Removal of an Unsafe Building pursuant to Local Law No. 2-2007, at 6357 East Main Street, Village of Turin.
AYE 5 NAY 0
3. Appropriating \$111,000.00 to recognize additional revenue received from the sale of surplus equipment into the Highway Department account lines.
AYE 5 NAY 0
4. Fixing the date of a public hearing for comment regarding the proposed addition of approximately 0.19 miles of multi-use trail to the Lewis County OHV Trail System for December 19, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.
AYE 5 NAY 0

5. Fixing the date of a public hearing for comment regarding the proposed addition of approximately 1.6 miles of multi-use trail to the Lewis County OHV Trail System for December 19, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.
AYE 5 NAY 0
6. Appropriating the 2024-2025 Snowmobile Award in the amount of \$173,000.00 in the Snowmobile Trail accounts.
AYE 5 NAY 0
7. Authorizing and approving the fee schedule changes to the Solid Waste Department Tipping Fees by increasing Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) fees from \$100/ton to \$103/ton and bulk tire hauling from \$200/ton to \$240/ton effective January 1, 2025.
AYE 5 NAY 0

County Manager Tim Hunt reported that there will be a resolution for awarding the bid for the sale of timber on 25 acres of the Southwest portion of County Lot 229.00-02.10 located on the Pine Grove Road in the Town of Watson. The bid opening is scheduled for Tuesday, November 26th at 11:00 a.m. He went on to recognize the monthly report from Recreation, Forestry & Parks and noted that the three-day passes have increased from 1,775 this same time last year to 1,830. This is a positive trend and shows that more people are visiting this area.

There being no other business to come before the committee, Legislator Kalamas moved to adjourn at 1:29 p.m., seconded by Legislator Nellenback, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Cassandra Moser, Clerk of the Board