

Ontario County
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE MINUTES
March 19, 2014

Committee Members: *BAKER*, Angelo, Evangelista, Sheppard, Singer, and Venuti

Attendees:

Committee Members: All present except Supervisor Baker, whom was necessarily absent.

Staff: Tom Harvey, John Garvey, Darlys McDonough, Tim Jensen, Andrea Schoeneman, and Nellie Puma.

Consultants/Guests: Jerry Leone and Bob Walls from Casella Waste Management.

Vice Chairman Sheppard called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: *Motion was made by Supervisor Singer, seconded by Supervisor Venuti to approve the minutes of the 2/12/2014 meeting as presented.* Motion carried unanimously of members present.

Privilege of the Floor: None

360 Expansion Permit:

Jerry Leone gave a brief presentation on the status of the permit review indicating Casella and Barton and Loguidice are in the process of addressing NYSDEC's concerns. Casella has acquired noise easements for parcels adjoining the proposed expansion area. As required by law NYSDEC has sent letters to the Seneca Indian Nation requesting feedback regarding the proposed expansion.

Tom Harvey and Tim Jensen gave a presentation on the overall construction schedule for the proposed expansion which included the various phases, year of construction and available airspace. A copy of the map and information used is on file with the official copy of the minutes in the office of Clerk of the Board of Supervisors.

The closure process, how it is regulated by NYS DEC, what Casella's responsibilities are pursuant to the OML, and financial sureties were also discussed. Part 4.7 of the expansion permit application describes in detail the plans for final cover, maintenance of leachate and gas collection systems, closure and post closure procedures and monitoring for 30 years. Appendix A of the permit application describes closure and post closure costs including sampling from monitoring wells, post closure leachate collection and treatment, and many other items. NYSDEC regulations require the operator (in this case Casella) to file financial sureties to cover the closure and post closure costs. NYSDEC regulations have specific guidelines for the amounts that have to be set aside, and NYSDEC is required to review and update those requirements on an annual basis. Casella must include documentation of the surety amounts as part of its annual report.

Solid Waste Management Plan:

Tom Harvey gave a summary of the procedural requirements for reviewing and adopting the draft Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP). A copy of the steps and schedule are on file with the official copy of the minutes in the office of the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors. The County has to conduct an environmental review under the State Environmental Quality Review Act first. After the environmental review is complete, the county must adopt the SWMP and commit to implementing the solid waste management programs, projects and plans as identified in the SWMP, and submit it to DEC for final acceptance. Mr. Harvey stated that the Board of Supervisors had the option of delegating the responsibility for holding the public hearing to staff, this committee, or the entire Board. After a brief discussion the committee recommended that a public hearing be held in front of the full Board of Supervisors on April 17th. This would allow for the BOS to formally adopt the plan in May. A question was asked regarding who is responsible for monitoring progress on plan implementation. The law requires the county to submit a progress report to NYSDEC every two years. Mr. Harvey stated that County staff will prepare the progress report and submit it for approval through this committee.

A Motion to submit the latest draft of the resolution entitled, “INITIATING SEQR PROCESS FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE ONTARIO COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN” was made by Supervisor Sheppard, seconded by Supervisor Angelo. Motion carried.

Landfill Operational Update:

Jerry Leone and Bob Walls updated the EQC on the latest happenings at the landfill. There have been no odor complaints since the last meeting. Casella is in the process of installing new gas collection wells and completing a small area of construction of the south slope of Phase III. Supervisor Vedora asked what type of monitoring was done on waste accepted at the landfill. Bob Walls briefly described the training Casella staff receives on how to identify non-compliant waste. Jerry Leone also indicated that NYSDEC monitors are on site on a weekly basis and engineers from Barton & Loguidice are there regularly as well. Supervisor Vedora asked if any spot checking was done on the contents of black garbage bags, as you can't tell what is in them without opening them. Mr. Leone responded that they are not required to do such checking, and that many bags break open as the garbage is being compacted on the active face of the landfill. Their operators and the inspectors are trained on what to look for. Leachate is also analyzed regularly. To reduce the temptation of citizens to put items into the waste stream coming into the landfill that don't belong there, Casella sponsors an annual household hazardous waste disposal day where various hazardous household waste is taken in and disposed of at no charge. Mr. Leone also pointed out that since Casella has taken over operations of the landfill there have been no fines assessed by the NYSDEC for acceptance of non-compliant waste.

At 4:35 p.m. a motion made by Supervisor Evangelista, seconded by Supervisor Singer to enter into executive session to confer with council concerning the terms of the existing Operations and Maintenance Lease for the Landfill, passed unanimously by the members present.

At 4: 59 p.m. a motion made by Supervisor Venuti, seconded by Supervisor Evangelista to exit from Executive Session passed unanimously by the members present.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the committee, motion was made by Supervisor Singer and seconded by Supervisor Evangelista, to adjourn at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Jensen, Associate Planner

Tom Harvey, Director