

## Public Works Committee Minutes

February 11, 2008 – 4:30 p.m.

Present: Chairman Grattidge; Supervisors Barrett, Connelly Southworth, Thompson, Wright, Jenkins, and Sausville; David Wickerham, County Administrator; Joe Ritchey, Public Works; Joe Miranda, Recycling Coordinator; Press.

Chairman Grattidge called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

**On a motion made by Mrs. Southworth, seconded by Mr. Connelly the minutes of the January 7, 2008 meeting were approved unanimously.**

Mr. Ritchey gave a brief overview of the County Highway standards and sidewalk/multi-use path policies as follows: There are 360 miles of county highway with approximately 20 miles reconstructed every year. All roads are rated on a system from one to ten, taking the worst ones in a two to three mile section. The program is a five-year program, with volume being a priority when two roads are rated the same. When the Long-Range Capital Planning Committee approves the road in a town a letter is sent out to all the residents. Trees will be marked, as it is a liability and considered a roadside hazard if they are left, and the section of road is evaluated to determine what has failed.

When the county began to grow in the 1980's there was interest by some towns to put sidewalks in along county roads. At that time the Board of Supervisors passed a resolution allowing sidewalks, but they thought it should be a local issue. If the town wanted a sidewalk the county would allow it through a permit system. The town would take responsibility for the design, construction and some liability.

One of the reasons the county took over all bridges in the towns that were over 25' was because there was concern that the county might be in competition with the towns. Not only is the county equipped to handle the bridges, but it also eliminated the competition for grants.

Mr. Ritchey said there is a 100% State funded "Safe Routes to School" grant that is available to all municipalities and school systems that want to get to schools where children can use bicycles and walk within a reasonable distance. The grants will be highly competitive with \$13.1 million available for each county.

Mr. Miranda gave a brief overview of the Recycling Program for new committee members as follows: The county began in 1988 in response to a new set of mandates from the New York State DEC. At that time, the county began construction of the first two recycling centers in Corinth and Saratoga Springs, which were completed in 1989. In addition, the county passed one of the first mandatory recycling laws in New York State, which mandated the recycling of metals, and newspapers within the county. This was the kickoff to the recycling era for the Department of Public Works. Three more

recycling centers were completed in 1990 in Clifton Park, Milton and Moreau. During the first three years of the program the county was paying to get rid of most of the papers and most of the metals, anywhere from \$10 to \$20 a ton. At the peak of the recycling volume in 1991, the county recycled almost 7 thousand tons of newspaper for the year and 49 hundred tons of metal. The revenue received for this material in 1991 was minimal or nothing. At today's value, the county would have received \$1,869,000 for that material. In addition to newspapers with inserts and bulk metal the county program now includes magazines, catalogues, junk mail, office papers, hard covered books, telephone directories, corrugated cardboard, soft covered books, all plastic bottles, all glass bottles, tin, steel and aluminum cans, all automotive and household batteries and propane tanks. The county has been the recipient over the years of millions of dollars in recycling grants, which have helped pay for salaries, cleanup containers, trucks, trailers and other capital equipment that the highway department uses today. The county received a \$1 million grant in 1990 to purchase and construct a state of the art glass recycling facility and glass crusher. This has recycled thousands of tons of glass bottles in the past ten years and has been used in conjunction with aggregate as a sub-base for a variety of applications. In addition to the money that has been received in State grants, the Board of Supervisors has invested approximately \$19 million in this program over a 20-year period, which demonstrates a profound commitment to recycling. Not all counties have followed the lead and are still in the recycling business.

Mr. Miranda gave a brief review of the years end recycling report as follows: The County recycling program since 1988 has recycled approximately 177,677 tons, which includes paper, plastic, glass and metal. The seven-year revenue history beginning in 2001 to present has grown from \$146,561 to \$847,300. The four year pricing trend, in the first two months in 2008 started higher than the years 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007, with paper coming in at \$95 and \$101 on a monthly price quote. In the past two months the county received \$242 a ton for metal, which exceeds last years January through February prices of \$176 a ton.

Revenues were up for 2007 at \$847,300, compared to 2006 at \$675,620; tonnage was down in 2007 at 6,581, compared to 2006 at 7,468. As the price goes up, more of the material is taken by private industry.

Saratoga Springs is the number one volume center at 2,025 tons; Clifton Park at 1,691 tons, Moreau at 1,024 tons, Milton at 1,111 tons; and Corinth at 690 tons. Saratoga Springs generated \$253,684 in revenue in 2007; Clifton Park \$187,545, Milton \$180,494, Moreau \$136,115, and Corinth \$89,502.

**On a motion made by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Barrett the meeting was adjourned.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Sansom