ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMITTEE MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 22, 2026 GREGG ERIKSEN, CHAIR

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Eriksen, Mr. Garland, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Thompson, Mr. Meaker
ALSO PRESENT: Leader May, Mr. Romeo, Ms. Denton, Mr. Brown; also see attached

Chair Eriksen called the meeting to order at 10:50 a.m., and the previous meeting's minutes were approved.

1. **WATER ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION:** Odean D. Dyer, Commissioner
   a. 2026 Transfer Resolution

- Amending the 2026 county budget to provide for the transfer of funds to pay for additional costs associated with the sludge/biosolids disposal

Questions/Comments:

- Talked a good deal about the sludge dryer over the past several months; these are the expenses talked about previously; nothing new
  - Correct
- With the 1.8 put into contingency and only using 1.2 of it, does that extra 600,000 float there in contingency?
  - Will stay in contingency at this point; would ultimately go back into fund balance if not needed for any other additional expenses
- At the end of the year, goes into fund balance; doesn't carry over?
  - Correct
- The additional 650, if additional costs associated with the sludge dryer this year, would still be available for any additional sludge dryer costs?
  - Correct

A motion was made by Mr. Meaker, seconded by Mr. Thompson, to approve this item; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

   b. A Resolution Adopting an Amended Schedule of Sewer Rents for the Onondaga County Sanitary District

(Attachment No. 1: Commissioner's Report)

- Pertaining to the change in gallons; document sent over included the commissioner's hearing

Questions/Comments:

- Two different numbers in the budget for the sewer unit charge, 107 million and then 105; will look into the page and come back

- Whatever you're looking at would be what's going to be collected, independent of the gallons; just changing the gallons from 85 to 70

A motion was made by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Garland, to approve this item; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

c. Approving and Authorizing the Industrial Wastewater Surcharge Billing Rates and Amending Resolution No. 136-2025

- Proposing a 20% increase in high strength surcharge rates
- Rates industrial users pay, above and beyond the sanitary rates
- Does not include any residential changes

Questions/Comments:

- A line where this shows up in the budget?
  - Revenue account; can get the actual account
  - List of fees by department, reviewed annually for the cost to provide those services; this one hadn't been updated until last year from 2012, 2013
  - Escalators in supplies and the chemicals; right size the fee along with the cost of treating the system
- Estimate of what percentage this is going up?
  - 20%; incrementally increasing over the next few years
- Last time it was increased was 2012?
  - Before last year, 2012
- Projection?
  - Department now reviewing these annually to keep up moving forward
- Showing up under the direct revenues line in the budget?
  - Correct
- Amount of debt WEP will be taking on; impact on the rate in the future?
  - Incrementally bring on debt service; total number of units, actual cost per unit, and debt service
  - Impact mitigated partly by additional units coming on with the growth in the community
- Discussed during budget that a lot of the debt in this area is excepted from indebtedness; does that account in the bond ratings?
  - Doesn't necessarily in the bond ratings per se; helps impact total indebtedness; helps with the exclusions

A motion was made by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Garland, to approve this item; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. <u>COUNTY LEGISLATURE:</u>

a. DISCUSSION: Budget Discussion & Follow-Up Items

- Fleet inventory for WEP; which vehicles getting close to the end of their life in the next three to five years
  - Working on compiling; by the end of the day or early tomorrow; doing it for all departments
- Solvay waste beds and the western shore of Onondaga Lake; more definite answer on any financial exposure to the county?
  - Spoke with environmental and law departments; county doesn't have the financial exposure; all through Honeywell and New York State DEC
  - Not county area or jurisdiction; Honeywell working with the state agencies, DEC, and probably federal

- Accident and safety incident data for WEP over the last calendar year, a year over year comparison; can we expect it?
  - Compiling; will send it over; some of the data before the end of the year
- Correction on the board; Jeff Brown, not Jeff Davis
- Miller Strategies contract in the WEP budget; timeline for transitioning that contract to a different line?
  - All work to date wastewater related; if engaged for other types of service, charged to the appropriate department
- Monitored as their scope of services continues?
  - Correct
- Celebrate the investments made to welcome the semiconductor cluster to Central New York, the Town of Clay, the 14th district; continue to grow, build new housing, generate the revenue to fund county operations

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Meaker, seconded by Mr. Thompson, to adjourn the meeting; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:02 a.m.



Respectfully submitted,
HASSINA K. ADAMS, Clerk
Onondaga County Legislature

ATTENDANCE

MEETING: **BUDGET REVIEW DAY NO. 6,**
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING

DATE: **SEPTEMBER 22, 2026**

SPEAKER NAME (Please Print)	DEPT/AGENCY/ORGANIZATION
ODEAN DYER	CCDOWEP