

DRAFT

AUTHORITY MEETING MINUTES

May 12, 2025

Board Members Present: Chairman Kenneth Long, Vice Chairman Vincent Bono, Treasurer Richard Redmond, Steven Boucher, Robert Comis, James D’Onofrio, James Franco, Barbara Freeman (via Zoom), Nancy Novak (via Zoom), and James Williams

Authority Staff Present: Joshua Olbrys, Jodi Tuttle, Hailey Hutchinson, Eileen Brinck, Justin Fitch, and Pat Lisandrelli

Others Present: Authority Counsel Kevin Martin

Chairman Kenneth Long called the May 12, 2025, Authority Board meeting to order at 4:30 PM and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Mr. Comis, seconded by Mr. Williams, and passed to approve the March 17, 2025, Authority Minutes. [10 Ayes; 0 Nays]

There were no speakers or comments received for the public comment period.

Executive Director Josh Olbrys stated that Resolutions No. 12 through No. 16 were regarding applications for Reduced Tip Fees for Disposal of Disaster Debris from various public entities in Oneida and Herkimer Counties. These entities all sustained damage to either their own properties, or properties within their jurisdiction, due to the severe weather in our area over the past year. The Reduced Tip Fee Program would allow applicants to dispose of disaster debris related to these severe weather events at a significantly reduced cost of \$42.00 per ton.

Resolution No. 12 was introduced by Mr. Franco, seconded by Mr. D’Onofrio, and passed to approve the Village of Camden’s application for Reduced Tip Fees for Disposal of Disaster Debris caused by the winter storms that occurred in February 2025. [10 Ayes; 0 Nays]

Resolution No. 13 was introduced by Mr. Bono, seconded by Mr. Redmond, and passed to approve the Village of Ilion’s application for Reduced Tip Fees for Disposal of Disaster Debris caused by the severe winds that occurred in July 2024. [10 Ayes; 0 Nays]

Resolution No. 14 was introduced by Mr. Boucher, seconded by Mr. Comis, and passed to approve the City of Rome’s application for Reduced Tip Fees for Disposal of Disaster Debris caused by the tornado that occurred on July 16, 2024. [10 Ayes; 0 Nays]

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Joshua J. Olbrys
Executive Director

Jodi M. Tuttle
Authority Board Secretary

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Resolution No. 15 was introduced by Mr. D’Onofrio, seconded by Mr. Franco, and passed to approve the Volunteer Fire Co. of Western, Inc.’s application for Reduced Tip Fees for Disposal of Disaster Debris caused by the winter storms that occurred in February 2025. [10 Ayes; 0 Nays]

Resolution No. 16 was introduced by Mr. Boucher, seconded by Mr. Bono, and passed to approve the Town of Annsville’s application for Reduced Tip Fees for Disposal of Disaster Debris caused by the winter storms that occurred in February 2025. [10 Ayes; 0 Nays]

Recycling Coordinator Eileen Brinck provided an update on the Authority’s public education efforts. She reported that the Authority held its annual Earth Day event, in partnership with Senator Griffo, on Saturday, April 26th from 10 AM to 2 PM at the Oneida-Herkimer Recycling Center. Approximately 1,000 vehicles delivered a total of 11.28 tons of e-waste, 300 pounds of pharmaceuticals and 12.43 tons of confidential documents/paper for shredding at the event. These figures seem to be trending upward with each event. Ms. Brinck also stated that the Authority is holding a contest called “Binny Mini”, in honor of Earth Day, and the Authority’s recycling mascot, “Binny.” Applicants have until May 19th to submit a 30 to 60-second video on how we can care for the Earth. There will be first, second, and third prize winners in each age group. Each winner will receive an Amazon gift card. The Authority had 16 total orders from the compost bin and rain barrel sale. There were only a few bins/barrels left, which will be sold on a first come, first serve basis.

Mr. Olbrys spoke more about the Authority’s reduced tip fee programs which offer natural disaster relief to municipalities and assistance to the Industrial Development Agency [IDA] and developers related to Brownfield clean-up/IDA projects. The programs were established in 2020 to assist municipalities with disposal of disaster debris caused by natural disasters such as flooding, tornados, extreme wind, storms, etc. Both programs require applications for Authority Board approval. The Brownfield/IDA program is limited to 5,000 tons per year. The programs reduce the tip fee from \$80 per ton to \$42 per ton. Since the establishment of the programs, the Authority has accepted about 13,000 tons of debris from 10 municipalities at a reduced rate and saved municipalities roughly \$500,000 in total for disposal expenses. Mr. Olbrys commended former Executive Director Bill Rabbia and the Board for establishing and approving the program back in 2020.

Mr. Olbrys provided an update on the Authority’s upcoming stormwater project at its Utica complex. Currently, Authority stormwater is being discharged to a basin at the Oneida County Sewage Treatment Plant, causing Authority stormwater to be tied in with Oneida County’s. With sections of the Authority’s stormwater pipe needing to be replaced, the Authority will be able to move and separate its discharges from being tied in with the County’s and instead discharge stormwater into a new, 175-foot culvert, allowing for more accurate stormwater samples. The Authority budgeted \$600,000 for this project. As of now, the project cost is looking to be closer to \$400,000. Mr. Olbrys stated that this project is an unlisted action under SEQR [State Environmental Quality Review Act]. Approval by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation for work in the adjacent wetland area and a City of Utica Flood Plain Development Permit are required. Mr. Olbrys noted that there are no concerns about threatened or endangered species or historic preservation.

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At 4:59 PM, with no further business, a motion was made by Mr. D'Onofrio, seconded by Mr. Bono, and passed to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Jodi M. Tuttle
Authority Secretary