

AUTHORITY MEETING MINUTES November 17, 2025

DRAFT

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

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

Others Present: Authority Counsel Kevin Martin

Vice Chairman Bono called the November 17, 2025, Authority Board meeting to order at 4:30 PM and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Mr. Redmond, seconded by Ms. Freeman, and passed to approve the September 15, 2025, Authority Minutes. [10 Ayes; 0 Nays]

At 4:32 PM, Vice Chairman Bono opened the Public Hearing on the Authority’s Proposed 2026 Budget.

Executive Director Joshua Olbrys and Comptroller Joseph Artessa presented an overview of the proposed 2026 budget through a PowerPoint presentation. Mr. Olbrys was pleased to announce that the Authority will maintain tipping fees for municipal solid waste, sludge, local solid waste and source separated organics/food waste for 2026. Tipping fees for bulk tires will be increasing from \$190 per ton to \$260 per ton, due to an increase in contracted fees. The Authority will continue to offer two reduced tip fee programs to assist Oneida-Herkimer Counties and its municipalities for disposal of debris following a disaster, such as a flood, and will assist Industrial Development Agencies related to Brownfield clean-up and IDA projects. Mr. Olbrys attributed the ability to keep tipping fees low to the Authority having very minimal debt and other various revenue sources. Mr. Olbrys announced that there will be no fee for recycling for the 35th consecutive year and commended the Board for its dedication to making recycling free for residents a priority. Mr. Olbrys stated that 2026 waste volumes are expected to remain consistent with 2025 waste volumes. Mr. Olbrys reviewed recycling revenue by commodity. Tipping fees continue to be the main driver of Authority revenue.

Authority Comptroller Joseph Artessa presented the Authority’s proposed 2026 budget expenditures. Mr. Artessa noted an increase to the allocation of funds for the Recycling Center due to the need for facility updates and repairs. The 2026 administrative budget request is lower due to a very minimal health insurance increase of 2%.

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James A. Franco

Barbara Freeman
Nancy A. Novak
James M. Williams

Joshua J. Olbrys
Executive Director

Jodi M. Tuttle
Authority Board Secretary

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Mr. Artessa stated that the Regional Landfill, Eastern Transfer Station, and Western Transfer Station will all see slight decreases which can be attributed to both health insurance participation/minimal 2% premium increases, and less planned facility projects. Mr. Artessa stated that overall, the Authority is requesting \$50,000 less in system expenditures for 2026. The Authority's proposed capital plan is \$4,571,000 with a total proposed budget of approximately \$30,750,000.

Mr. Olbrys reported that the 2026 proposed budgeted landfill reserves total \$1,600,000.

Authority Board Secretary Jodi Tuttle confirmed that there were no public comments received on the proposed 2026 budget.

At 5:14 PM, Vice Chairman Bono closed the Public Hearing on the Authority's Proposed 2026 Budget and re-opened the regular meeting of the Authority.

There were no public comments received for the regular public comment period.

Mr. Olbrys said that Resolution No. 23 would authorize the Executive Director to submit/certify the Short Environmental Assessment (SEAF) form, as required by the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA), for construction of the stormwater outfall project at the Authority's Eastern Transfer Station.

Resolution No. 23 was introduced by Mr. Comis, seconded by Mr. Redmond, and passed to approve the Executive Director to submit/certify the SEAF form, as required by SEQRA. [10 Ayes; 0 Nays]

At approximately 5:17 PM, Mr. D'Onofrio excused himself from the meeting.

Recycling Coordinator Eileen Brinck presented the winners of the Authority's recent "Green Halloween" costume contest, which challenges students to create their own costumes using recycled or re-used materials. Three winners were announced on the Authority's website and Facebook page on November 5th. Prizes included a \$200 Amazon gift card, \$100 Amazon gift card, and an Authority swag bag.

Ms. Brinck also discussed the Authority's "Fall School Challenge", in honor of America Recycles Day on November 15th. Students will be challenged to design a "Binny Badge" inspired by how recycling conserves resources, saves time/energy/money, or helps protect the environment. A winner will be chosen in each of the three categories. Winners will have their design transformed into a badge to match Binny's and a Binny visit with goodies for their classroom.

Ms. Brinck, along with C&D Advertising, have been working on a new educational video of the Authority's Recycling Center, which she played for the Board. This video will eventually be posted on the Authority's website and social media pages and will be a helpful tool for educational outreach. The Board commended Ms. Brinck on a job well done.

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Mr. Olbrys stated that the Authority's current 5-year contract for the transportation of non-recyclable materials to the Landfill is set to expire in October of 2026. Mr. Olbrys explained that the bid process will begin in January and will involve the collection of draft bids and company negotiations. The last bid was in 2020, and at that time the Authority received a total of 4 bids. Mr. Olbrys stated that company financials, experience, and access to company vehicle maintenance within a certain distance from Authority facilities will be some of the determining factors in selecting the best candidate/bidder.

At 5:32 PM, a motion was made by Ms. Freeman, seconded by Mr. Boucher, and passed to go into executive session to discuss contract negotiations. Vice Chairman Bono noted that there would be no public business conducted following executive session.

At 6:04 PM, a motion was made by Mr. Comis, seconded by Mr. Boucher, and passed to come out of executive session.

With no further business, at 6:04 PM, a motion was made by Mr. Redmond, seconded by Mr. Comis, and passed to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Jodi M. Tuttle
Authority Secretary