

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: PUBLIC WORKS

DATE: AUGUST 31, 2015

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS MERLINO
CONOVER
WOOD
TAYLOR
FRASIER
DICKINSON
SIMPSON
SOKOL

OTHERS PRESENT:

JEFFERY TENNYSON, SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
JUSTIN GONYO, GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT, SARATOGA & NORTH CREEK RAILWAY
MATT SPROW, ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ADMINISTRATOR, UP YONDA FARM
KEVIN GERAGHTY, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
PAUL DUSEK, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
AMANDA ALLEN, CLERK OF THE BOARD
FRANK THOMAS, BUDGET OFFICER
SUPERVISORS BEATY
BROCK
SEEBER
TRAVIS WHITEHEAD, TOWN OF QUEENSBURY RESIDENT
DON LEHMAN, *THE POST STAR*
THOM RANDALL, *ADIRONDACK JOURNAL*
SAMANTHA HOGAN, SECRETARY TO THE CLERK OF THE BOARD

COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:

SUPERVISOR VANSELOW

Mr. Merlino called the meeting of the Public Works Committee to order at 10:00 a.m.

Motion was made by Ms. Wood, seconded by Mr. Taylor and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the prior Committee meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Jeffery Tennyson, *Superintendent of Public Works*, who distributed copies of the Parks, Recreation & Railroad and DPW Agendas to the Committee members; *copies of both Agendas are on file with the meeting minutes.*

Commencing the review of the Parks, Recreation & Railroad Agenda, privilege of the floor was extended to Justin Gonyo, *General Superintendent of the Saratoga & North Creek Railway (SNCR)*, who provided an update on SNCR operations. Mr. Gonyo stated the rail inspection had been completed between the Saratoga Springs and North Creek Stations; he advised the inspection went well, as anticipated, and the final report should be delivered to the Department of Public Works shortly.

Mr. Gonyo informed SNCR had added two F-40 locomotives to their service on August 7, 2015, both of which had been performing wonderfully. He also announced the Hadley-Luzerne Station was been selected to host the Fall Foliage Festival. He noted this would serve as the annual event required by contract in lieu of Day Out with Thomas event. With regards to SNCR's station beatification projects, Mr. Gonyo apprised apple trees were being planted at the North Creek Station and the lights were being installed at the Hadley-Luzerne Station. He displayed one of the new SNCR signs which would be placed at the North Creek, Hadley-Luzerne and Thurman Stations, as well as Corinth Station once it was constructed. Mr. Gonyo provided an update on freight operations, reporting that during the month of August one boxcar load of granite had been sent to Louisiana and 1,900 tons of stone had been delivered to Tauten, MA; he added that an additional ton of stone would be transported to Tauten, MA in September.

Mr. Merlino asked when the Fall Festival would be held and Mr. Gonyo answered the event was scheduled for October 17th & 18th.

Mr. Simpson inquired about concerns with the Route 28 crossing structure in the Town of Johnsbury, asking if this matter had been addressed. Mr. Gonyo replied SNCR staff had visited this site and determined a cold patch was required. He advised this was not work that SNCR staff could complete

and they would need to hire a contractor to do the work; he added this work would need to be done in coordination with the New York State Department of Transportation (NYS DOT) because the crossing was located on a State road.

Mr. Tennyson called for discussion on the matter of SNCR transporting and storing tanker cars, noting that a resolution previously approved by the Public Works Committee, *proposed Resolution No. 385, Consenting to the Request of Saratoga and North Creek Railway, LLC to Generate Revenue by Storing Railway Cars in Tahawus on the Condition that the Cars are Inspected and Determined to Contain Only Residual Amounts of Oil*, had been tabled at the August 21st Board Meeting and referred back to Committee.

Paul Dusek, *County Administrator*, advised that before discussing this issue he would request more time for the County Attorney to review and determine the County's legal obligations as owner of the railroad in relation to this matter. He noted the storage itself would not occur on the County-owned railroad; however, he said, the tanker cars with residual amounts of oil in them would be crossing the County's rail line and that was why SNCR was seeking the County's consent. Mr. Dusek opined it would be premature to hold this discussion before Martin Auffredou, *County Attorney*, had time to complete his research and opine upon on the County's obligations in this area.

Following a brief discussion, Mr. Merlino advised this matter would be tabled for discussion at a future Committee meeting once the County Attorney had an opportunity to research and opine on the matter.

Next, privilege of the floor was extended to Matt Sprow, *Environmental Education Administrator, Up Yonda Farm*, who distributed copies of photos he had taken of the 2015 Summer season; *copies of the photos are on file with the minutes*. Mr. Sprow announced it had been a busy year at Up Yonda Farms, noting new exhibits had been added at the facility, such as Alice's Sensory Garden which was named in honor of John and Alice Scott who had donated the property to Warren County. He said this was a handicap accessible children's sensory garden and was portrayed in the pictures he had distributed. Mr. Sprow explained the process from concept to introduction of an exhibit was a lengthy one that involved many volunteer hours; however, he stated, the feedback on the garden had all been positive. He continued to review the photos, pointing out pictures of the new Welcome Center and Gift Shop. Mr. Sprow advised Up Yonda would be holding an open house event on October 24th, and they would also be repeating the "Trunk or Treat" event held last year which was very well received.

Mr. Tennyson commented Mr. Sprow and the rest of the Up Yonda Staff, stating that he appreciated their hard work and dedication to the facility.

This concluded the review of the Parks, Recreation & Railroad Agenda Commencing. Mr. Tennyson commenced the review of the DPW Agenda review, advising the first two requests listed were repeats of those presented last month; he explained the previously approved resolutions had been held by the County Attorney's Office in order to separate and simplify the requests. Mr. Tennyson outlined the requests, as follows:

- Page 1 - Request to decrease Capital Project No. H277, *Beach Road Reconstruction*, in the amount of \$318,240.15, to reconcile funding shares for final NYSDOT grant project costs and transfer surplus local match funds to the Debt Service Fund
- Page 2 - Request to increase Capital Project No. H277, *Beach Road Reconstruction*, in the amount of \$181,111.00 in anticipation of New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation (NYSEFC) Green Innovation Grant Program (GIGP) grant eligible monitoring work.

Motion was made by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Sokol and carried unanimously to approve both requests, as outlined above, and refer same to the Finance Committee. *Copies of the resolution request forms are on file with the minutes*.

Moving on to pages 3-5, Mr. Tennyson presented a lengthy request for transfer of funds between various codes totaling \$352,830.19. He advised the purpose of the transfer was to cover unforeseen field conditions due to winter damage which were more extensive than anticipated. Mr. Tennyson reported he had been working with NYSDOT and the Consolidated Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) Coordinator on addressing larger projects that do not exceed the CHIPS funding limit of \$250,000 for any particular project.

Motion was made by Mr. Simpson, seconded by Mr. Dickinson and carried unanimously to approve the requests for transfer of funds, as outlined above, and refer same to the Finance Committee. *A copy of the request is on file with the minutes.*

Mr. Tennyson directed the Committee members to Agenda Page 6 which consisted of his recommendations for the 2016 Municipal Contract which provided reimbursements to the towns for roads they maintained on behalf of the County. He advised he had made some changes in the calculations that used for the 2015 Municipal Contract (*copy included on Agenda Page 9*) for comparison purposes. He noted the recalculation rate was an increase from the 2015 figures, and explained this was due to the harshness of the past winter. Mr. Tennyson noted the County would no longer pay stipends to aide municipalities for difficult road maintenance, and instead would use those funds to subsidize the purchase of new equipment by the towns which would modify their plow trucks in an effort to reduce salt use. Mr. Tennyson continued with his review of the 2016 Municipal Contract, during which he advised the 2016 Municipal Contract amounts suggested reflected an increase of \$161,861.76 over the 2015 Contract.

Mr. Taylor asked whether there was a way to measure the savings that could be attained by implementing the new equipment referenced. Mr. Tennyson answered it was difficult to measure salt use from year to year and he noted that because the towns did have the latest technologies available to them, they were unable to identify and track the amount of material used during each storm. Mr. Tennyson outfitting each town's fleet equipment with the upgraded equipment would benefit the County as a whole. Mr. Merlino apprised he had attended a meeting in Lake George earlier in the year with other DPW Superintendents where a gentleman from Massachusetts had explained how these equipment upgrades to the equipment saved money for the towns and counties, as well as for the State.

A discussion ensued, at the close of which Chairman Geraghty advised the figures listed in the 2016 Municipal Contract for the Town of Warrensburg needed to be adjusted to account for reimbursement due for mowing work.

Motion was made by Mr. Conover, seconded by Ms. Wood and carried unanimously to approve the 2016 Municipal Contract, to include amendments to adjust the figures for Town of Warrensburg, as well as any other similar adjustments identified, and the necessary resolution was authorized for the September 18th Board Meeting. *A copy of the agreement is on file with the minutes.*

Next, Mr. Tennyson requested authorization to fill the Confidential Assistant to the Superintendent of Public Works Position with an annual salary to be determined pending a salary review (*current annual salary \$41,770*), due to resignation. He advised he was seeking Committee approval for this request prior to the completion of the salary study because it was a critical position within the DPW.

Motion was made by Mr. Dickinson, seconded by Mr. Simpson and carried unanimously to fill the vacant position and refer same to the Personnel Committee for reporting purposes. *A copy of the Notice of Intent to Fill Vacant Position form is on file with the minutes.*

Moving on to Referrals/Pending Items, Mr. Tennyson advised he was still awaiting the amended scope for the Palisades Road Bridge project grant.

Continuing to the Information for Discussion/Review portion of the Agenda, Mr. Tennyson circulated several photographs depicting county projects including the Combs Road Bridge and Back to Sodom Road Bridge amongst the Committee members; *copies of the photos reviewed are on file with the meeting minutes*. He provided a brief overview of the Combs Road Bridge replacement project which was located on a Town of Thurman road, indicating that the County had been able to complete the replacement project using grant funds in connection with the County's adjacent Valley Road Bridge reconstruction project. Mr. Tennyson advised such grant funding use was permissible because Combs Road was to be used as a detour route for the County's Valley Road Bridge reconstruction project. He continued that through this initiative, they had been able to replace a bridge for the Town of Thurman, rather than construct a temporary structure for use during the Valley Road Bridge project.

Ms. Wood stated this had been a large effort on behalf of the DPW staff, and she advised the Thurman Highway Department had nothing but nice things to say about the County DPW organization and their experience working with them. She stated that while some Thurman residents were happy to have been living on what was essentially a dead end road, the majority were happy to have Combs Road reopened.

Mr. Tennyson provided an update on the Market Street Bridge Replacement Project, reporting that the structure review had been completed and some of the abutments needed to be reconstructed above the waterline.

Concluding the DPW Agenda review, Mr. Tennyson advised he had attached the Overtime and Fuel Reports for the Committee's perusal.

There being no further business to come before the Public Works Committee, on motion made by Mr. Conover seconded by Ms. Wood, Mr. Merlino adjourned the meeting at 10:56 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Samantha Hogan, Secretary to the Clerk of the Board