

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: PUBLIC WORKS

DATE: JUNE 22, 2016

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS SIMPSON
CONOVER
FRASIER
SOKOL
WOOD
MACDONALD

OTHERS PRESENT:

JEFFERY TENNYSON, SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
PAUL BUTLER, DIRECTOR, PARKS, RECREATION & RAILROAD
REPRESENTING SARATOGA & NORTH CREEK RAILWAY:
JUSTIN GONYO, GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT
NATALIE GERARDI, MANAGER, PASSENGER SERVICES
BRIAN REICHENBACH, COUNTY ATTORNEY
SARAH MCLENITHAN, DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD
FRANK THOMAS, BUDGET OFFICER

COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:

SUPERVISORS DICKINSON
MERLINO
VANSELOW

SUPERVISORS LEGGETT
MONTESI
SEEBER
DON LEHMAN, *THE POST STAR*
CHRISTINE SCANLON, *SUN COMMUNITY NEWS*
SAMANTHA HOGAN, SENIOR LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

Please note, the following contains a summarization of the June 22, 2016 meeting of the Public Works Committee; the meeting in its entirety can be viewed on the Warren County website using the following link: <http://www.warrencountyny.gov/gov/comm/Archive/2016/works/>

Mr. Simpson called the meeting of the Public Works Committee to order at 11:53 a.m.

Motion was made by Mrs. Frasier, seconded by Ms. Wood and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the last Committee meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Copies of the Parks, Recreation & Railroad and DPW Agendas were distributed to the Committee members, copies of same 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, *Saratoga & North Creek Railway (SNCR) General Superintendent*, to provide an update on SNCR operations. Mr. Gonyo informed he had a number of maintenance items to review with the Committee today, the first of which concerned damage along the northern portion of the roof at Riverside Station. He apprised due to the inclement weather today they would be completing the necessary repairs tomorrow. He mentioned the entire roof at Riverside Station would need to be replaced which he estimated would cost around \$15,000.

In regards to bridges and culverts, Mr. Gonyo stated that SNCR had completed an abundant amount of vegetation management and general repairs as prescribed by the bridge management plan along the entire railroad. He said as part of this work they became aware of two bridges that required re-decking, one of which would be done this year and the other the following year. He said the work that would be completed this year was on the bridge that crossed over North Creek in the Village of North Creek at mile post 94.19. He estimated the cost for this work to be about \$50,000 without including any labor, as SNCR would absorb this cost. He said the other bridge requiring re-decking was located in the Town of Thurman crossing over 9 Mile Brook at mile post 71.1. He informed the repairs to this bridge would likely be completed next year for a similar cost as the one located in the Town of North Creek. He indicated there were about three years of usable life remaining for the deck of the Hadley Trestle that crossed over the Sacandaga River which was located at mile post 59.06. He noted this would be a rather large project. He advised they had to install a culvert just north of the Hadley Station and the weed spray for vegetation management had occurred on June 13-14, 2016. He indicated that would be sure to keep Paul Butler, *Director of the Parks, Recreation & Railroad Division*, and Jeffery Tennyson,.

Superintendent of the Department of Public Works, apprised of when the 2016 bridge inspection would occur, which he estimated to be some time in the fall, as well as the Sperry Rail Inspection for the rail flaw detection. He said completing these inspections during the fall allowed them to complete any necessary repairs during the winter months.

In regards to the Thurman caboose, Mr. Gonyo informed the custom window that was ordered for it was scheduled to be delivered today. He indicated for obvious reasons they had held off moving any equipment into the caboose until the window was installed. He said the other item they were working on for the caboose was receiving approval by the NYSDOH (*New York State Department of Health*) that the well at the Thurman Station could be used as a public water source.

Mr. Gonyo advised the North End Local service would commence July 1st, noting that they had added departures on Monday which was in addition to the Friday, Saturday and Sunday service. He mentioned the number of passengers was increasing as they inched closer to the summer season.

Mr. Gonyo informed as noted in an article featured in *The Post Star* last week, the Renegade Rail Riders company had taken a step back due to the fact that the regulatory process required of them in order to commence service with the Federal Rail Administration was taking longer than originally anticipated. He advised that they would be fully operational in 2017 but would be doing some demonstrations for local businesses and testing the new design for their rail bike which had recently been developed. He encouraged anyone with questions regarding the Renegade Rail Riders operation to contact him so he could put them in touch with the company,

Mr. Gonyo advised the General Manager from NARCA (*North Atlantic Rail Car Association*) indicated to him they would be returning to the railroad this year to offer tours in the fall during peak leaf season. He remarked this was a good event for the region, as it was a two-day tour wherein the individuals who partook in it booked hotel rooms in the area. He apprised the Upper Valley Wine Trail had confirmed their event for August 20, 2016 in North Creek. He said the event was pairing up with the Cycle Adirondacks event in Hadley, New York by offering a ticket on the train to North Creek so the patrons could enjoy both events.

Supervisor Simpson questioned whether the issue at the Barton Mines crossing had been addressed and Mr. Gonyo replied that they would be paving the road to address the issues with potholes. Supervisor Conover questioned whether the roof repair on the Riverside Station would be a joint effort between the County and SNCR and Mr. Tennyson responded that he was unsure, as he would have to review the terms within the contract. He mentioned there may be some grant funds available through the First Wilderness Heritage Corridor to assist with the costs of those repairs.

In conclusion, Mr. Gonyo stated that over the next six months he would be introducing a different manager from SNCR at each meeting to ensure the Committee members were aware there were more employees than himself at SNCR. He introduced Natalie Gerardi, *Manager, Passenger Services*, advising she was from the Town of Lake Luzerne. She said her job required her to work on anything that was passenger related including food service orders, staff training and special event planning. Ms. Seeber questioned whether they had gotten much response from the advertisement they recently placed on travelzoom and Ms. Gerardi responded that it was too soon to tell, as the advertisement had only been running for about a week. Ms. Seeber commented that she felt this was great marketing and hoped they would garner a good response from it. Mr. Montesi questioned what the most frequent request was from customers and Ms. Gerardo replied that it was for tours of the galley kitchens.

Mr. Butler introduced Ed Zibro, *Founder and Event Coordinator of the Warrensburg Bike Rally*, which was an annual event that took place this year from June 1-13, 2016 at the Warren County Fairgrounds. Mr. Zibro apprised their rally continued to grow each year while others declined. He reviewed the traffic

reports over the past few years which displayed a steady increase in participants. He said since they did not charge an admission fee there was no formal record of the number of attendees. In regards to the notion that the number of bikers was decreasing due to their age, Mr. Zibro apprised he did not believe that was the case, as older individuals purchased kits to convert their motorcycles to trikes to allow them to continue to ride. He provided an overview of this years events, as well as what their plans were for next year and he encouraged anyone who would like their businesses promoted there to contact him. He said he had submitted a request for the use of the Warren County Fairgrounds for the event for ten years, as next year was the final year of the current agreement he had in place with the County.

Mr. Simpson commented that he had seen an increase in the number of motorcycles in Brant Lake during the event. Mr. Conover asked whether Brian Reichenbach, *County Attorney*, knew off hand the terms of the current contract and Mr. Reichenbach replied in the negative. Mr. Tennyson interjected that the terms for that current contract was five years. He added that it had been a pleasure to work with Mr. Zibro, as he had no concerns from his perspective with their event.

Resuming the Parks, Recreation & Railroad Agenda review, Mr. Butler presented a request to authorize a new contract with Lyme Adirondack Timberlands I, LLC in the amount of \$3,120 for use of an approximately six-mile snowmobile trail located in the Town of Hague for the term commencing December 1, 2016 and terminating November 30, 2017.

Motion was made by Ms. Wood, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously to approve the request and the necessary resolution was authorized for the July 15, 2016 Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Concluding the Agenda review, Mr. Butler requested authorization to extend the existing contract with the South Warren Snowmobile Club Inc. and the City of Glens Falls to provide licensing use of trails in the City of Glens Falls and trail development and maintenance for the term commencing July 1, 2016 and terminating June 30, 2017.

Motion was made by Ms. Wood, seconded by Mr. Sokol and carried unanimously to approve the request and the necessary resolution was authorized for the July 15, 2016 Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Commencing the review of the DPW Agenda, Mr. Tennyson presented the following requests:

Page 1- Request to close Capital Project No. H298, *Stony Creek Bridge Projects*, and return remaining funds estimated to be \$1,244 to the General Fund.

Motion was made by Mr. Conover, seconded by Ms. Wood and carried unanimously to approve the request and forward same to the Finance, Personnel & Higher Education Committee. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Page 2- Request to amend the County Budget in the amount of \$31,526.26 to reflect the receipt of insurance recovery funds for repair of a 2000 Champion grinder.

Motion was made by Mr. Conover, seconded by Mr. Sokol and carried unanimously to approve the request and forward same to the Finance, Personnel & Higher Education Committee. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Page 4- Request to fill vacant position of Highway Construction Supervisor II #5, *Annual Base Salary of \$39,979, Grade 16*, due to resignation.

Motion was made by Mrs. Frasier, seconded by Mr. Conover and carried unanimously to approve the request and forward same to the Finance, Personnel & Higher Education Committee. *A copy of the Notice of Intent to Fill Vacant Position is on file with the minutes.*

Page 5- Request for transfer of funds between various budget codes totaling \$1,414.70 for various road projects.

Motion was made by Mr. Conover, seconded by Mr. MacDonald and carried unanimously to approve the request and forward same to the Finance, Personnel & Higher Education Committee. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Moving on to the Referral/Pending Items section of the agenda, Mr. Tennyson apprised he had no updates regarding the grant funds for the household hazardous waste collections. Mr. Tennyson advised the household hazardous waste collection event that took place in the Town of Queensbury went very smoothly, with a total of about 278 vehicles participating. He stated he would report back when the total cost of the two events was calculated, as well as when the grant funding from the NYSDEC (*New York State Department of Environmental Conservation*) was received. He said he was seeking input from the Committee as to how the events should be handled in future years. He recommended holding another two events at the same locations next spring and then reassess whether the events should be held annually or every other year, based upon demand.

Moving along, Mr. Tennyson distributed photographs of some paving project as well as the construction on the Market Street Bridge in the Town of Horicon; *copies of which are on file with the minutes.*

Concluding the agenda review, Mr. Tennyson pointed out the DPW Overtime, Salt Usage Tracker and DPW Fuel Usage Reports included in the agenda packet. Mr. Conover suggested Mr. Tennyson use a medium measure throughout the extremes rather than an average.

Mr. Thomas remarked that he felt the paving work being done this year had improved over what was done in previous years.

There being no further business to come before the Public Works Committee, on motion made by Mr. Conover and seconded by Ms. Wood, Mr. Simpson adjourned the meeting at 12:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Samantha Hogan, Senior Legislative Office Specialist
As transcribed by Sarah McLenithan, Deputy Clerk of the Board