

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: PUBLIC WORKS

DATE: OCTOBER 21, 2019

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS SIMPSON
MERLINO
FRASIER
DICKINSON
DIAMOND
LOEB
HYDE
MAGOWAN
WILD
HOGAN
GERAGHTY

OTHERS PRESENT:

KEVIN HAJOS, SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
TIM BENWAY, DIRECTOR, PARKS, RECREATION & RAILROAD
RONALD CONOVER, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
RYAN MOORE, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
MARY ELIZABETH KISSANE, COUNTY ATTORNEY
AMANDA ALLEN, CLERK OF THE BOARD
FRANK THOMAS, BUDGET OFFICER
SUPERVISORS BRAYMER
LEGGETT
SOKOL
TAMMIE DELORENZO, ASSISTANT TO THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
DON LEHMAN, *THE POST STAR*
SARAH MCLENITHAN, DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD

Please note, the following contains a summarization of the October 21, 2019 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/2019/works/>

Mr. Simpson called the meeting of the Public Works Committee to order at 11:31 a.m.

Copies of the Parks, Recreation & Railroad and DPW agendas were distributed to the Committee members and copies of same are on file with the meeting minutes.

Motion was made by Mr. Geraghty, seconded by Ms. Hogan and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the last Committee meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Commencing the review of the Parks, Recreation & Railroad agenda, Tim Benway, *Director, Parks, Recreation & Railroad*, re-presented the request for an agreement with Thurman Connection Snowmobile Club for snowmobile use on Railroad Right-of-Way MP68.30 to MP72.85 that the Committee had delayed making a decision on during the August 20th Committee meeting.

Mr. Loeb asked what the purpose of the request was, as he could not recall the discussion that had occurred at the previous Committee meeting, and Mr. Benway responded he had notified the Committee at the August 20th Committee meeting about a request he had received from the Thurman Connection Snowmobile Club to use the County Railroad property this winter from the Stony Creek Ranch to the Thurman Station, but the Committee decided to hold off on making a decision due to uncertainty with the future of the County Railroad. Kevin Hajos, *Superintendent of Public Works*, advised the purpose of the request was to allow the Thurman Connection Snowmobile Club to use the railroad tracks as part of their snowmobile trails.

A discussion ensued following which a motion was made by Mr. Magowan, seconded by Mr. Loeb and carried unanimously to approve the request, as outlined above, and the necessary resolution was authorized for the November 15th Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Moving along, Mr. Benway advised the average growth of the 350 rainbow trout stocked this year was between 12.2" and 12.5"; he added this had occurred as a result of a seminar he had attended with the Fish Hatchery Manager which indicated that fishermen preferred to have quality fish versus quantity. He stated all of the stocking for the heritage program was complete, with the remainder of their own

stocking scheduled to be completed tomorrow. He mentioned to date they had handled a total of 101,347 through the Fish Hatchery growth and stocking program and the process would be starting over again with them taking in eggs over the next few weeks. He referred to the graph included in the agenda which provided a comparison of the stocking levels each year; he noted last year's figures were significantly higher as a result of partnering with the State on the Heritage Program.

A discussion ensued.

Mr. Benway distributed photographs of the rehabilitation project for the Fish Hatchery Office; *copies of the photos are file with the minutes.*

Mr. Dickinson entered the meeting at 11:39 a.m.

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

- Page 2- Request to fill the vacant position of MEO (L) #3, *Grade 7, Base Annual Salary \$33,600, due to resignation.*
- Page 3- Request to fill the vacant position of MEO- Medium #8, *Grade 9, Base Annual Salary \$36,214, due to resignation.*
- Page 4 - Request to fill the vacant position of Highway Manager #2, *Annual Salary \$78,991, due to resignation.*

Motion was made by Mr. Loeb, seconded by Mr. Geraghty and carried unanimously to approve the requests as outlined above and forward same to the Personnel & Higher Education Committee for reporting purposes. *Copies of the Notices of Intent to Fill Vacant Position forms are on file with the minutes.*

- Page 5- Request for transfers of funds between various Budget Codes totaling \$56,224.28.

Motion was made by Mr. Magowan, seconded by Mr. Loeb and carried unanimously to approve the request and forward same to the Finance Committee. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

- Page 6 - Request for a transfer of funds in the amount of \$65.17 from Budget Code DM.5130 110, *Machinery, Salaries-Regular*, to Budget Code DM.5130 120, *Machinery, Salaries-Overtime.*

Motion was made by Mr. Magowan, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously to approve the request and forward same to the Finance Committee. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

- Page 7 - Request for a new contract with Wood Waste Reduction Services for Waste Wood Reduction pursuant to the terms and provisions of the specifications (WC 63-19) and proposal for a term commencing January 1, 2020 and terminating December 31, 2020, with the option to renew for up to two one-year extensions.

Mr. Hajos advised this contract was used when they removed trees that had fallen on County Roads which required them to be transported to the Toney Pit in the Town of Warrensburg to allow a contractor to grind them up into mulch for the County.

A motion was made by Mr. Dickinson and seconded by Mr. Geraghty to approve the request for a new contract as presented.

Mr. Loeb questioned if the contractor traveled directly to where the trees were down to grind them up and Mr. Hajos replied sometimes the DPW staff left wood on the side of the road for anyone to take, but if no one was interested the DPW staff would transport it to the Toney Pit where it would remain until the contractor was on site to grind them. Mr. Hajos stated they had tried to leave the chips outside the facility for anyone to take, but no one had taken them.

A discussion ensued following which Mr. Simpson called the question and the motion to approve the request for a new contract with Wood Waste Reduction Services was carried unanimously and the necessary resolution was authorized for the November 15th Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

- Page 9 - Request to amend the County Budget to increase Budget Code D.9950 910, *Transfers-Capital Projects*, in the amount of \$19,805.61 in accordance with transfers of surplus local match funds from various capital projects back to funding source.

Motion was made by Mr. Geraghty, seconded by Mr. Dickinson and carried unanimously to approve the request and forward same to the Finance Committee. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

- Page 10 - Request to establish Capital Project H392, *Sunnyside Road (CR 54) Pavement Rehabilitation*, in the amount of \$41,186.07.
- Page 11 - Request to establish Capital Project No. H393, *Johnsburg Bridges (Glen Creek Road & Dippikill Road over Glen Creek)*, in the amount of \$21,250.
- Page 12 - Request to establish Capital Project No. H394, *Olmstedville Road (CR 19) Reconstruction*, in the amount of \$16,000.
- Page 13 - Request to increase Capital Project No. H395, *Oxbow Hill & Moon Hill Road (CR 63) Reconstruction*, in the amount of \$6,650.
- Page 14 - Request to increase Capital Project No. H396, *East River Drive (CR16) & Call Street (CR 32) Rehabilitation*, in the amount of \$8,150.

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

- Page 15 - Request for an extension of the contract with Warrensburg Collision Services, Inc. for Auto Body Repair Services pursuant to the terms and provisions of the specifications (WC 75-18) and proposal for a term commencing January 1, 2020 and terminating December 31, 2020, with the option for an additional one-year extension.

Motion was made by Mr. Magowan, seconded by Mr. Dickinson and carried unanimously to approve the request as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the November 15th Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Mr. Hajos pointed out the DPW Overtime and Fuel Usage Reports were included in the agenda packet. He distributed photographs of the completed paving projects, apprising the only remaining project was Federal Hill Road, which would be completed this week; *copies of the photos are file with the minutes.*

Mr. Simpson offered privilege of the floor to anyone present wishing to address the Committee on any matter.

Mr. Wild requested an update regarding the negotiations with the potential Railroad operator. Ryan Moore, *County Administrator*, advised that he had received no response to the multiple requests he had made for United Railway to quantify what they felt an acceptable range would be concerning the types of metrics the County should be using regarding performance given their knowledge of the business and what they were looking to accomplish here. Mr. Wild inquired how long the County should wait to receive a response and Mr. Moore responded this was a decision for the Committee and the negotiating team. Mr. Wild suggested the negotiating team meet for a few minutes following the conclusion of this meeting.

Mr Leggett asked if freight was still being considered and Mr. Moore replied there was a filing last Friday by the State Attorney General's Office to the STB (*Surface Transportation Board*) which indicated that SNCR (*Saratoga & North Creek Railway*) was working with the New York State on an interim trail use agreement for the portion of the railroad they owned located north of North Creek. He added that SNCR had no objection to proceeding with the pending abandonment on a voluntary basis, nor did they oppose the State's abandonment application now or in the future, and they agreed the public convenience and necessity favored abandonment of the subject line. He said this essentially meant that SNCR was not interested in running freight and was supportive of the abandonment of the line.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the abandonment proceeding and how it impacted the future of the Warren County Railroad, including the negotiations with the potential Railroad operator.

Prior to adjourning, Mr. Simpson announced that the Park Operations & Management Committee meeting scheduled for October 22nd at 10:00 a.m. was being cancelled and the time for Occupancy Tax Coordination Committee meeting would be moved up to 10:00 a.m.

There being no further business to come before the Public Works Committee, on motion made by Mr. Dickinson and seconded by Mr. Wild, Mr. Simpson adjourned the meeting at 11:54 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah McLenithan, Deputy Clerk of the Board