

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: PUBLIC WORKS

DATE: AUGUST 10, 2018

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS SIMPSON
MERLINO
FRASIER
DICKINSON
LOEB
HYDE
MAGOWAN
WILD

OTHERS PRESENT:

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 BEATY
BRAYMER
DRISCOLL
GERAGHTY
HOGAN
MCDEVITT
SOKOL
DICK LUCIA, SUPERVISOR, TOWN OF CORINTH
BOB HAFNER, LEGAL COUNSEL, TOWN OF CORINTH
KURT AUSTIN, WARREN COUNTY RESIDENT
THOM RANDALL, ADIRONDACK JOURNAL
SARAH MCLENITHAN, DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD

COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:

SUPERVISOR DIAMOND

Please note, the following contains a summarization of the August 10, 2018 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/2018/works/>

Mr. Simpson called the meeting of the Public Works Committee to order at 9:30 a.m.

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

Mr. Simpson announced an executive session was required to discuss the proposed acquisition, sale or lease of real property. Ms. Braymer interjected she believed they should discuss what the plan was for the Railroad corridor and what they had already been contemplating prior to entering into an executive session. Mr. Simpson pointed out they had notified the public the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the potential disposition or lease of County property, adding that there had been no discussions concerning what direction they would like to move forward in with the property. Mr. Dickinson suggested they hold off on dialogue regarding how they would like to move forward until after the executive session, noting no decisions would be made during closed session. Mr. Simpson added additional meetings would be scheduled for the purpose of discussing the future of the County Railroad, but this one was specific to this particular matter. Mr. Magowan remarked they should determine what was being offered today to assist them with determining how to move forward.

Motion was made by Mr. Dickinson, seconded by Mr. Wild and carried unanimously to enter into executive session pursuant to Section 105(h) of the Public Officers Law.

Executive session was held from 9:33 a.m. until 12:08 p.m.; Mr. Merlino exited the meeting during the executive session.

Upon reconvening, Mr. Simpson announced no action was taken during the executive session.

Ms. Braymer stated she felt it was necessary for them to have a broader discussion pertaining to what

they felt was the appropriate way to move forward with the County Railroad, as it was one of the main fixtures of the First Wilderness Corridor. She said while she understood the perspective of those whose desire was for the County to sell the railroad, similar to how they had sold the former County Nursing Home, she felt it was imperative for them to determine whether the Railroad added any value to the County. She continued that if there was no value, it should be spelled out in legal terms that there was no further use for the Railroad following which an RFP could be released to sell the line to the most responsible operator and/or owner. She mentioned one of the first steps Ulster County took was to commission a highest and best use study, adding she would recommend that they move forward with a study to determine whether it was more valuable to move forward with a railroad, a railroad and a multi-use trail or simply a multi-use trail.

Motion was made by Mr. Dickinson to direct the County Administrator to draft an RFP (*Request for Proposal*) for the sale or lease of the County Railroad for the purpose of using the responses received to assist with determining how they would like to move forward; however, there was no second to the motion.

A lengthy discussion ensued following which it was the consensus of the Committee to have the County Administrator and the Purchasing Agent draft an RFP to lease the County Railroad, as well as one to sell the line.

During the discussion Dick Lucia, *Supervisor, Town of Corinth*, indicated the Town of Corinth was not interested in selling their portion of the Railroad, as their hope was that another operator would be willing to enter into a lease. He added he would like the Town of Corinth to be included in the RFP process to lease the line.

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 12:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah McLenithan, Deputy Clerk of the Board