

**WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

**MONDAY, JANUARY 23, 2018
3:30 P.M.**

PRESENT: Leigh J. Benton, Chairman
Mike Anagnostakis, Katie Bonelli, Janet Sutherland,
Kevin W. Hines, James M. Kulisek, Michael D. Paduch, Joseph J. Minuta,

ALSO

PRESENT: L. Stephen Brescia, Chairman
Barry J. Cheney, Legislator
Peter V. Tuohy, Legislator
Antoinette Reed, Legislative Counsel
Wayne Booth, Deputy County Executive
Matthew Nothnagle, Chief Asst. County Attorney
James P. Burpoe, Commissioner of General Services
John Tkazyik, Deputy Commissioner of General Services
Karin M. Hablow, Commissioner of Finance
Erik Denega, Commissioner, Dept. of Public Works
Travis B. Ewald, Deputy Commissioner, Engineering Division
James S. Brooks, Deputy Commissioner, Infrastructure Services
Brendan Casey, Commissioner of Emergency Services
Vini Tankasali, Deputy Commissioner of Emergency Services/ Div. of Fire Services
John McCarey, Director, Real Property Tax Service Agency

Chairman Cheney opened the committee meeting at 3:32p.m. by asking everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. All committee members were present with the exception of Legislator O'Donnell who called in via teleconference.

Mr. Minuta moved the request to transfer \$140,000.00 from Contingency to Tourism for costs associated with the Director of Tourism position. This money was moved to Contingency by legislative adjustment during the preparation of the 2018 budget, seconded by Mrs. Bonelli.

Mr. Booth stated this was discussed and passed in the Personnel and Compensation Committee meeting as well as the Education and Economic Development Committee meeting. He is looking to reinstate \$140,000.00 that was put into contingency and putting it back into the Tourism budget for the Director of Tourism position.

Mr. Benton pointed out that this committee is dealing with the money portion of the request, not the position itself.

Mr. Anagnostakis asked what the vote was in the two other committees.

Mr. Booth replied it was unanimous.

Mr. Anagnostakis asked what the \$140,000.00 is for.

Mr. Booth replied it would be for the Director of Tourism. The monies were taken out of the Tourism budget during the budget process and placed into contingency.

Mr. Anagnostakis asked if part of the \$140,000.00 includes support staff.

Mr. Booth replied no, that is the next request.

Mr. Hines asked how the positions of a Director of Economic Development and Senior Secretary and Administrative Assistant for the Tourism Director will work if there is only \$153,000.00.

Mr. Booth replied they would have to transfer some money.

Mr. Hines stated that he is going to vote against this because he would like the person who will become the Economic Development Director to take on these two people as well as Tourism because they should work hand in hand. He added they should do it with one person, save the money and if the person is overwhelmed by next year, he will listen to this again but for now, this is too much all at once.

Mr. Benton commented that he will support this because this position is needed and it was pointed out for other legislators that this person will be reporting to the County Executive, not the Director of Economic Development.

Mr. Anagnostakis asked Mrs. Reed if this presents any issues with the charter and code since this position means working directly for the County Executive.

Mrs. Reed replied no, this will not present an issue. She stated that this allows the position to be classified or an exempt position which falls under the civil service law. It is a desire of the County Executive that this person serve at will and at his pleasure; that is why he/she would report directly to the County Executive.

In regard to the range and the grades of the position, Mrs. Bonelli confirmed that it will not exceed \$140,000.00 which included the secretary position.

Mr. Booth stated that is correct.

Mr. Anagnostakis clarified that the County Executive has say in regard to whether or not the salary range would increase, not the legislature.

Mrs. Reed stated that is correct, the legislature established the grades and salary ranges by resolution in 2003 which is amended from time to time but the County Executive has the authority to hire within the range.

Mr. Anagnostakis asked Mr. Booth if the monies are sufficient for the positions.

Mr. Booth replied they will do their best and if the monies are not sufficient, he will come to the committee with a plan to have the monies taken from somewhere else.

Mr. Benton pointed out that the County Executive still has the authority to move money within departments if needed and if it is more than the total he would address the legislature.

Mr. Paduch commented that he agrees with Mr. Hines in that these positions are not needed right now.

Mr. Hines stated that contrary to what the county has done to save money the past two years by creating, abolishing, and combining departments and positions, there is no rush to do this.

Mr. Booth reminded the committee that the County Executive tries to do everything as economically as possible because the goal at the end of the year is to return as much money as he can back to the fund balance. He stated they will do their best not to exceed the salary range.

Mr. Benton commented that there is a concern of too much of a workload on employees and there not being enough people to help.

Mr. Booth stated this is a unique opportunity to extend the tourism dollars and he would like to make sure they do it right the first time.

Via teleconference, Mr. O'Donnell commented that this is a "homerun" for everyone and is not taking away from the Orange County Partnership, it enhances their ability.

Motion carried 5-3-1. All in favor with Legislators Anagnostakis, Bonelli, Sutherland, Minuta and Benton voting in favor of, Legislators Hines, Kulisek, and Paduch voting against and Legislator O'Donnell was absent.

Mr. Minuta moved the request to transfer \$153,000.00 from Contingency to County Executive for costs associated with the new positions Director of Economic Development and Senior Secretary and Administrative Assistant. This money was moved to Contingency by legislative adjustment during the preparation of the 2018 budget, seconded by Mrs. Bonelli.

Mr. Hines stated that he will support this because it is necessary.

Mr. Anagnostakis asked Mr. Booth if he will be coming back to the committee to request more money because these monies will not cover it.

Mr. Booth replied no, but if more monies are needed he will request it for next year's budget.

Motion carried. All in favor with the exception of Legislator O'Donnell who was absent.

Mr. Hines moved to approve the request for supplemental appropriation of proposed Capital Project No. 62 in the amount of \$800,000.00

for Phase One of the Renovations and Improvements to the Emergency Services Center and Fire Training Center (bonding), seconded by Mr. Minuta.

Mr. Casey stated this first proposal is part of a five-year plan for the Fire Training Center to update the facility as well as the Emergency Services Center. The upgrades are mostly for recapping the parking lots and the driving surfaces. There are also monies for upgrading the Fire Training Center bathrooms along with painting and possible cement repairs at the Emergency Services Center.

Motion carried. All in favor with the exception of Legislator O'Donnell who was absent.

Mr. Kulisek moved to approve the request for supplemental appropriation of proposed Capital Project No. 61 in the amount of \$700,000.00 for Hazmat Truck Replacement (bonding), seconded by Mr. Anagnostakis.

Mr. Casey stated that the truck is approaching 20 years old and it takes about a year to build a new one; therefore, they need to release the funds, get the specifications and order it.

Motion carried. All in favor with the exception of Legislator O'Donnell who was absent.

Mrs. Bonelli moved to adopt a resolution making a supplemental appropriation to the Capital Projects budget for Strength Paving, \$1,300,000.00 (bonding), seconded by Ms. Sutherland.

Mr. Denega stated this is an annual paving request for strength paving in the amount of \$1,300,000.00 to maintain the county roads.

Mr. Hines clarified that the roads are done every ten years.

Mr. Ewald stated that is correct, they are done every ten years unless there is a road in a bad location by which it would need to be done more often.

Mr. Hines then clarified that they were able to get a lot more roads done last year than they normally do.

Mr. Ewald stated that is correct. The price of asphalt decreased so they were able to pave more roads.

Mr. Denega added that they never know whether the price of asphalt will increase or decrease so they try to get done as much as possible when they can.

Motion carried. All in favor with the exception of Legislator O'Donnell who was absent.

Mr. Kulisek moved to adopt a resolution making a supplemental appropriation to the Capital Projects budget for Contaminated Soil Removal at various Orange County locations, \$100,000.00 (bonding), seconded by Mr. Hines.

Mr. Denega explained this is an annual request for contaminated soil removal at various Orange County locations but is primarily used for the Department of Public Works location. He added that this is mainly for the DPW parking lot area where old oil tanks were leaking years ago.

Mr. Paduch asked if there are remaining funds from last year.

Mr. Denega replied yes, and eventually there will be an end to the remediation.

Motion carried. All in favor with the exception of Legislator O'Donnell who was absent.

Mrs. Bonelli moved to adopt a resolution making a supplemental appropriation to the Capital Projects budget for Building Equipment Replacement at various Orange County locations, \$150,000.00 (bonding), seconded by Mr. Kulisek.

Mr. Brooks stated this year the plans are to provide a new grinder system at the jail because there has been a constant problem with items that the inmates flush down the toilet which ends up causing havoc in the Florida Treatment Center. He is proposing a new grinder system with enclosed shed above the existing pit and the DPW staff will assist in building it. Furthermore, he would like to spend \$15,000.00 to upgrade the control panels at the jail.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Minuta moved to adopt a resolution making a supplemental appropriation to the Capital Projects budget for Building Capital Improvements, \$500,000.00 (bonding), seconded by Ms. Sutherland.

Mr. Brooks explained there are a few improvements that he would like to get done. Some of the larger improvements are to move out of Fulton Plaza as well as 18 Seward Ave so space can be renovated and to upgrade the HVAC system. The other items that need to be replaced are the RTU's at the Surrogate Court because they are 25 years old and breaking down and the cooling tower at the court house. He pointed out that the cooling tower is deteriorated and the metal is rusting.

Motion carried. All in favor with the exception of Legislator O'Donnell who was absent.

Mr. Minuta moved to adopt a resolution making supplemental appropriation to the Capital Projects budget for Asbestos and Lead Removal, \$50,000.00 (bonding), seconded by Mr. Kulisek.

Mr. Brooks stated the county has been funding this request every year and most of the expenditures have been at Emergency Housing or 18 Seward Avenue and there is \$2,300.00 left in the account from last year.

Motion carried. All in favor with the exception of Legislator O'Donnell who was absent.

Mr. Hines moved the request for supplemental appropriation of \$1,500,000.00 to create proposed Capital Project No. 64 in the 2018 approved Capital Plan for ongoing technology updates (bonding), seconded by Mrs. Bonelli.

Mr. Benton pointed out to the committee that this is an annual project from Mr. Burpoe's department for all the necessary technologies such as new equipment since some are worn out.

Mr. Burpoe stated he is here to request the appropriation of \$1.5 million for the approved capital project for 2018 for ongoing technology. He provided the committee with a breakdown of everything for the departments which the equipment will be going as well as the price and the quantity. Before reviewing a power point presentation (see original minutes), Mr. Burpoe pointed out that it has been 24 months since the two departments were merged. The Oracle system is stabilized, there are new computer systems throughout the county that are faster and streamlined, all systems and mobile devices are now encrypted, all systems will soon be on the same operating system and mail exchange, the network is faster, there is new wi-fi public wi-fi which is safe and secure, cyber network security is being worked on, 400 computers have been installed in this new building, and copiers, printers have been installed. Furthermore, this was huge undertaking and he is glad his department has been in the building to help others. They are also working on creating new employee badges so everyone gets access to other departments. He then presented the **2018 Capital Projects Plan** for ongoing technology updates which included the Mission Statement, Major Services Provided, Technology Footprint Serviced, Identified Challenges, Proposed Solutions, and 2018 Projected Budget.

Mr. Anagnostakis thanked Mr. Burpoe for the presentation and suggested that the committee amend the resolution to be \$1,407,000.00 so that \$93,000.00 comes out of the VOIP services for Valley View to offset their reimbursement rates.

Mr. Anagnostakis moved to amend the resolution by decreasing the bond amount to \$1,407,000.00, seconded by Mr. Paduch.

Motion carried. All in favor with the exception of Legislator O'Donnell who was absent.

Mr. Kulisek moved the request for supplemental appropriation to the Capital Project's budget in the amount of \$392,000.00 for the acquisition of software with many enhanced features for the collection of unpaid taxes. This project has not been approved under the 2018 Capital Plan and

will increase Capital Project No. 241, 2011 Tax Collection System. Upon approval, funds will be added to existing Capital Project No. 241 which has been approved for \$100,000.00 and has a remaining balance of \$93,000.00. Upon approval, the total project budget will be \$492,000.00 with \$485,000.00 remaining to be spent under Capital Project No. 241 (bonding), seconded by Mr. Benton.

Ms. Hablow explained this is a request to be able to award a bid to update the current tax collection system which is the legacy system. The system has reached the end of its useful life and poses a significant risk to the county in that, if there is any kind of bug or virus, there are no updates or technical support available.

Mr. McCarey stated that this system was looked at about eight or nine years ago when Mr. Kleiman was the commissioner and he never pushed forward. The system will simplify many things such as legal notices and is much needed.

Motion carried. All in favor with the exception of Legislator O'Donnell who was absent.

Mr. Anagnostakis moved the request for supplemental appropriation for the 2017 budget to increase the Distribution of Sales Tax line by \$3,759,810.25 due to sales tax collections coming in higher than budgeted. Once appropriated these funds will be distributed to the cities, towns and villages, seconded by Mr. Paduch.

Ms. Hablow stated that the sales tax received for the year was greater than what was budgeted; therefore, she needs the permission of the legislature to distribute the municipal portion to the municipalities.

Motion carried. All in favor with the exception of Legislator O'Donnell who was absent.

Mr. Paduch moved to discuss deed sale parcels, seconded by Mr. Hines.

The first deed sale parcel is located in the Town of Blooming Grove (9-1-70.2) and has a minimum bid of \$7,500.00 and an amount bid of \$5,000.00. Mr. McCarey recommended that the committee approve it. Parcel number two is in the Town of Deerpark (30-8-1). The minimum bid is \$3,500.00 and the amount bid is \$1,200.00. Mr. McCarey recommended that the committee approve it because it has been around since 2015. The third parcel is located in the Town of Minisink (4-1-15) and has a minimum bid of \$2,000.00 and an amount bid of \$2,251.00; therefore, it should be approved. Parcel number four is located in the Town of Montgomery (36-1-6.1). The minimum bid is \$7,500.00 and the amount bid is \$7,500.00. Mr. McCarey recommends that it be approved. The fifth parcel is in the Town of Mt. Hope (10-1-45) and has a minimum bid of \$10,500.00 and an amount bid of \$2,250.00. Mr. McCarey stated that the bidder is an adjoining property owner and it is in the best interest of the county to get rid of the property. The sixth and seventh parcels are located in the Town of Newburgh (11-1-94 and 81-3-4) and Mr. McCarey recommended that they

both be approved. Parcel number eight is located in the Town of Wawayanda (4-1-36.21) and has a minimum bid of \$29,000.00 and an amount bid of \$31,000.00; therefore, it is recommended that it be approved. The last deed sale parcel is in the Town of Woodbury (201-1-3.1). The minimum bid is \$500.00 and the amount bid is \$500.00. Mr. McCarey recommended that it be approved.

Motion carried. All in favor of Mr. McCarey's recommendation to approve deed sale parcel Nos. 1 through 9 with the exception of Legislator O'Donnell who was absent.

Mr. Paduch moved to adopt a resolution authorizing the County Executive to enter into an agreement with certain Orange County municipalities providing for the exemption from county taxation of lands owned and used by them for water supply and related purposes, seconded by Mrs. Bonelli.

Motion carried. All in favor with the exception of Legislator O'Donnell who was absent.

The meeting adjourned at 5:43 p.m.