

**PHYSICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

**(REMOTELY)
MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 2021
3:30 P.M.**

PRESENT: Barry J. Cheney, Chairman
Leigh J. Benton, Katie Bonelli, James M. Kulisek,
Michael D. Paduch, Paul Ruskiewicz, Peter V. Tuohy

ALSO

PRESENT: L. Stephen Brescia, Chairman
Thomas J. Faggione, Legislator
Kevin W. Hines, Legislator
Kathy A. Stegenga, Legislator
Dan Bloomer, Director, Operations and Cost Control
Sharon Worthy-Spiegl, Deputy County Attorney
Joseph F. Mahoney, ESQ., Senior Assistant County Attorney
Stacy Butler, Senior Assistant County Attorney
Christopher Ericson, Deputy Commissioner, Health Department
Erik Denega, Commissioner, Dept. of Public Works
Travis Ewald, Deputy Commissioner, Dept. of Public Works/Engineering Div.
Brian Titsworth, Deputy Commissioner of Infrastructure Services
(Buildings and Grounds), Dept. of Public Works
Robert Gray, Deputy Commissioner, Dept. of Public Works/
Environmental Facilities & Services
James S. Brooks, Commissioner of Parks, Recreation & Conservation
Mike Amodio, Deputy Commissioner, Dept. of Parks, Recreation & Conservation
Anthony Griffin, Principal Sanitary Engineer, Dept. of Public Works/EF&S
Ermin Siljkovic, Recycling Coordinator, EF&S
Bill Fioravanti, Director, Economic Development
Deanna Crawford, Budget Analyst
Mary Beth Bianconi, Partner, Delaware Engineering, D.P.C.
Stephen H. Welle, Mayor, Village of Harriman
Lou Medina, Village Trustee, Village of Harriman

Chairman Cheney opened the committee meeting at 3:31 p.m. by asking everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. All committee members were present with the exception of Legislator Minuta who was absent.

Mr. Kulisek moved the request confirmation of reappointments to the Board of Directors of the Orange County Soil and Water Conservation District as "at-large member" (J. Wright, K. Stegenga), seconded by Mrs. Bonelli.

Mr. Porr stated this request is for the reappointment for John Wright for a term that would expire on December 31, 2023 as well as a new appointment for Kathy Stegenga for a term that would expire on December 31, 2021.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Tuohy moved to approve the request of the the Legislature to adopt Final Scoping Documents for preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) entitled, "Final Scope, Orange County Sewer District No. 1, Harriman Wastewater Treatment Plant Longevity Improvements and Capacity Expansion," seconded by Mrs. Bonelli.

Mr. Tuohy stated there was a meeting of the Orange County Sewer District No. 1 Advisory on January 20, 2021 and at that time, all public comments both written, and oral were addressed. There were a mix of comments from individuals, environmental groups, and legal firms.

Mr. Denega pointed out that Mr. Gray, Mary Beth Bianconi, and himself have been working with the Advisory Committee on the \$3 million expansion in Harriman. This request is to move the SEQRA process along as they have decided to go through a longer process for the development of the EIS because of the potential for funding sources and grant monies as advised by Delaware Engineering.

Ms. Bianconi explained that for this project which includes extending the useful life of the facility as well as capacity, the legislature adopted a resolution declaring themselves lead agency. After the resolution was approved, a draft scoping document was prepared and made generic because they wanted to list questions from the public, served communities, the district and regulatory agencies which was complete in September. After that they gathered all those comments which were cataloged, reviewed, and summarized in general what the major questions were. She added that the comments were from several people who were concerned about where the total dissolved solids of chlorides are coming from in the watershed. There was discussion about the quality of water in the Ramapo River as well as a discussion regarding SPEDES variances and what they are and what they mean. Furthermore, there were comments regarding inter-basin and transfer that occurs today and could increase in the future, questions regarding the distribution of costs of the project and there were some local concerns that were identified and addressed by the district directly in the short-term. The comments were then summarized and put in a memo that was addressed to the sewer district that encompasses about 92 to 100 pages of paperwork. From that, they modified the scoping document to reflect the comments that have been received. She pointed out that much of the front of the scoping document (see original minutes) is the same as it was in the spring, but they have reorganized the document to be a little bit more straightforward and understandable to the general public. In closing, she explained the contents of the scoping document and the timeline which is very tentative as there are many things that can extend or derail it: DEIS Preparation and Adoption – February to June 2021, Hearing and Public Comment – July to August 2021, FEIS Preparation and Adoption – August to September 2021 and Findings Statement Adopted – October 2021.

Mr. Kulisek asked if a final scope of physical construction has been determined.

Ms. Bianconi referred to the list in the description (see original minutes), those elements of the project come from the county's ongoing capital plan.

Mr. Kulisek then asked if all comments submitted were addressed.

Ms. Bianconi replied yes. She stated that a lot of the comments were the same.

Mrs. Bonelli commented that when they are speaking about the Sewer District, they want to make sure all local officials are briefed, and she has been made aware a lot viewed the committee meeting livestream.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Ericson addressed the committee with an update on the Medical Examiner's Building which included a brief history of the office. He pointed out that the office was created in 2007 and it has been a long road to get to where they are today. The Needs Assessment addresses the impact of population growth, the opioid crisis, Orange Regional Medical Center expansion and there were several interviews with law enforcement, funeral homes, office staff and the IT Department. It also includes facility requirements recognizing standards for Medical Examiner Offices, site analysis which were optimal sites for the location of the facility. On August 26, 2020, he issued an RFP for engineering and architectural services which was awarded on November 17, 2021 to Hyman Hayes Associates. He reiterated that it has been a long road to get where they are right now, and a stand-alone office is the best option for everyone in the county.

Mr. Cheney asked what the projection is for completing the design.

Mr. Titsworth replied the schedule will be revised, but they would like to be ready for construction in a year from now.

Mr. Cheney then asked at what point Mr. Titsworth expects to have them involved in coming to some conclusions relative to the location of the facility.

Mr. Titsworth replied the end of winter.

Mr. Kulisek moved to approve the request for supplemental appropriation to replace and upgrade irrigation central pumping station at Hickory Hill Golf Course. This is not a proposed project on the 2021 Capital Plan. The Parks Department will reduce 2021 proposed project No. 103 (Heritage Trail Segment 3) by \$165,000.00 to total of \$3,335,000.00 to fund the irrigation central pumping station project. Upon approval, a new capital project will be created, \$165,000.00 (bonding), seconded by Mr. Benton.

Mr. Brooks encouraged the committee to look at the packet with detailed pictures of the Hickory Hill Golf Course (see original minutes). He explained that the pumps in the pump house that serves the irrigation for the golf course are 30 years old, have exceeded their lifespan by at least a decade and he has had numerous issues within the last year with leaks and the pumps not shutting off. In addition to that there is a serious problem in the pump house with the hole that the water pumps out of; therefore, grading needs to be done so the employees are safe walking across it to check the valves. Furthermore, it is a large job, and they invested a lot of money into getting the software and irrigation set-up. If the pumps do not work, they could lose the greens.

Mr. Paduch clarified that this is not a proposed project under the 2021 Capital Plan and asked how the \$165,000.00 impacts the Heritage Trail Segment III.

Mr. Amodio replied that it will not have any impact because the \$3.5 million included the construction of the segment along with the design and stated that they are still in the design phase. He does not foresee having to come back to the committee for the \$3,035,000.00 this year.

Mr. Paduch then clarified this will have no impact on the trail.

Mr. Brooks stated that is correct, it will not have any impact on Segment III.

Mr. Paduch asked why they are taking \$165,000.00 if it will have no impact.

Mr. Brooks replied they are working on Segment II and Segment III is at least two years away.

Mr. Paduch clarified there is no impact at all, this has been discussed with the mayor and there are no further concerns.

Mr. Brooks stated the mayor was not involved because Segment II has all the funding in place, this request is for Segment III.

Mr. Paduch pointed out that he understands but would like to know how they will eventually replace the \$165,000.00 and if they have any plans on how to do it.

Mr. Amodio responded that when they will know more when they receive the final design plan as well as the final numbers including construction costs. At this point, they do not have it.

Mr. Cheney clarified that Segment III will still cost \$3.5 million and they are asking the committee for permission to borrow funds from that project to fund this project and next year when they do the Capital Plan, they will be asking for the \$3.5 million because that is the basis for which they are planning the third segment.

Mr. Brooks stated that is correct. They had extensive discussions with the Budget Department, and this was the suggested path to make everything come to fruition.

Mr. Amodio reminded the committee that the \$3.5 million was an estimate back in 2012 for all three segments.

Mr. Cheney clarified that the funds were intended to be spent in 2021.

Mr. Amodio stated they have extended it year after year in the Capital Plan as the focus the last couple of years was on Segment II.

Mr. Kulisek asked if these funds include installation and if so, who will be installing the pumps.

Mr. Brooks replied yes, the funds are for labor and materials and the firm is a sole source.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Kulisek moved to approve the request for supplemental appropriation to capital projects budget for strength paving. This project has been approved under the 2021 Capital Plan as Project No. 65, \$1,300,000.00 (bonding), seconded by Mr. Ruskiewicz.

Mr. Denega stated this is a yearly request and some paving has been delayed due to COVID-19.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Siljkovic addressed the committee with the last agenda item which was an update on recycling. He explained that compared to last year he has seen somewhat of a regular performance of recyclables such as single stream, mixed paper, scrap metal and e-waste. The tonnage has been slightly higher which comes with higher expenses incurred. The Department of Environmental Facilities and Services has worked hard to mitigate some of these increase in expenses especially with the budget shortfalls. One thing they have done is looked to local markets instead of contracting out long-term to markets further away, they found local ones for certain commodities such as paper and scrap metal which has helped generate revenue for the county. A lot of work has been put into finding these local markets and has helped be as nimble as possible contractually. He added by doing this, it allows them to find the best rate for the county. In 2021, they are looking to do more of the same by getting more net revenue from tires as well as finding a vendor for less. They are also looking into finding a local vendor for propane tanks and hope to commence construction for a new C&D Processing Pad as well as the long-awaited Organics Recycling Facility of which the latter is 50% funded by a grant from the state. He then mentioned that he has been working on a recycling application tool that would help people find local outlets to recycle if not reuse the item. The hope is to increase education by using technology. In closing, he pointed out that he and Mr. Fiorvanti have been working closely because there are several laws that will take place and be effect in 2022 mainly for food scraps, food donation and polystyrene.

Mr. Cheney asked Mr. Siljkovic to further explain the Food Waste Law, who it effects and when it goes into effect as well as what role the county will be playing.

Mr. Siljkovic stated the Food Waste Law goes into effective in January of 2022, however the DEC is planning on phasing in this law and allowing businesses whob generate food waste of two tons or more within a 25-mile radius of a food scraps composting facility. To meet the letter of the law, these businesses will have to donate as much of the edible food as they can. Part of the strategy is to identify these entities and explain the law in order to work in compliance.

Mr. Cheney asked how this impacts the generators of the food waste.

Mr. Siljkovic replied they will still have to comply with the law by finding outlets to supply edible food.

Mr. Cheney asked Mr. Siljkovic to refresh the committee on the polystyrene law which goes into effect in January of 2022 and the requirements from the DEC.

Mr. Siljkovic replied the covered entities under this new law would be commercial food establishments, manufacturers that produce extended polystyrene food packaging which includes cups and loose fill. Some of the exemptions are free package food and food that contains meat.

The meeting adjourned at 4:36 p.m.