

**PHYSICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

**MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2020  
3:30 P.M.**

PRESENT: Katie Bonelli, Acting Chairwoman  
Leigh J. Benton, James M. Kulisek, Joseph J. Minuta,  
Michael D. Paduch, Peter V. Tuohy

ALSO

PRESENT: L. Stephen Brescia, Chairman  
John S. Vero, Legislator  
Antoinette Reed, Legislative Counsel  
Harry Porr, Deputy County Executive  
Stacy Butler, Senior Assistant County Attorney  
Donna McCarey, Deputy Commissioner, Human Resources  
Alison Tyack, Director of Personnel Management, Human Resources  
Erik Denega, Commissioner, Dept. of Public Works  
Travis Ewald, Deputy Commissioner, Dept. of Public Works/Engineering Div.  
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  
Deanna Crawford, Budget Analyst

Acting Chairwoman Bonelli opened the committee meeting at 3:33 p.m. by asking everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. All committee members were present with the exception of Legislators Cheney and Ruskiewicz who were absent.

Mr. Minuta moved to approve the request for supplemental appropriation to the capital projects budget for Strength Paving, \$1,300,000.00 (bonding), seconded by Mr. Benton.

Mr. Denega explained this is the annual paving request for strength paving in the amount of \$1,300,000.00 to maintain the county roads. This year they have about 13 miles planned.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Tuohy moved to approve the request for supplemental appropriation to the capital projects budget for Non-Highway Paving Projects, \$100,000.00 (bonding), seconded by Mr. Minuta.

Mr. Denega stated this is also an annual request. These funds are used to repair parking lots, intersections and smaller sections of roadways.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Paduch moved to approve the request for a Traffic Signal Easement dedication through the lands of the Enlarged City School District of Middletown (TM#50-2-25.1). The dedication was deemed necessary during the review of the referenced project, seconded by Mr. Kulisek.

Mr. Denega stated that when projects come through to be reviewed and are in the respective Planning Board processes, they observe what is needed for general right-of-way or signalization such as the project across from the school that may require a signal light.

Mr. Ewald explained that when the Middletown School District came before them for improvements to the parking area, he and Mr. Denega asked that an easement be reserved for future use which there is now an applicant for. Based upon the traffic study, a traffic signal needs to be installed in the school entrance.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Benton moved to approve the request approval of a Right-of-Way dedication along the easterly line of County Road 17 (Thompson Ridge Road), through the lands of Comfort Creek Developers, LLC (Tax Map parcel 1-1-66.2) in the Town of Montgomery. Said dedication was deemed necessary for Road Width design criteria during the review process, seconded by Mr. Tuohy.

Mr. Denega stated this is a similar request that requires cleaning up property lines when they have the opportunity.

Mr. Paduch pointed out that he has a piece of property on that road and clarified that anything the county owns within 25 feet of that centerline of the road you are responsible for.

Mr. Ewald stated that it varies. His understating is that there is a prescriptive easement from the centerline of the road which is 25 feet wide or to where it is maintained. In this case, this property owner owned to the centerline of the road and the way it has been explained to him is that they only maintained 15 feet from the centerline, then they would have the right to continue to maintain. In this instance, they are requiring the right-of-way from the centerline over so that they have the true 25 feet and there are no issues moving forward.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Tuohy moved to reclassify two (2) Seasonal Laborer I, Grade 5 positions (#14373 and #14415) to two (2) Full-Time Laborer II, Grade 6 positions, seconded by Mr. Benton.

Mr. Denega stated this request passed the Personnel and Compensation Committee meeting last week and these two seasonal laborers can only work up to nineteen hours per week. He added that this is needed in order to be utilized on a full-time basis at the Harriman Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Mr. Gray added these positions were approved in the 2020 budget.

Mr. Paduch asked Mr. Denega if he asked the County Executive to fill these funded positions during the budget process.

Mr. Denega replied they have two laborers who are currently working up to the 19-hour limitation and could not be specifically included in the budget process but are budgeted for full-time and now he is here getting the actual approval to make the positions.

Mr. Tuohy asked if the current part-time laborers are leaving.

Mr. Denega replied he would hope to hire the same people. One was just hired as a full-time position that will be on the road crew and the other, they hope to keep full-time in the same position; therefore, there would be one vacancy.

Mr. Benton clarified that the funds are paid through the district.

Mr. Denega stated that is correct, it is not general taxation.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Tuohy moved to discuss Solid Waste and Recycle-Contracts and Operations, seconded by Mr. Minuta.

Mr. Denega explained that the Chairman asked that he and Mr. Gray give the committee a brief summary on what is happening because there have been a couple moving parts since the fall. Everyone has been told about the issues in China and how it will turn the recycling industry upside-down. He stated that as a department they re-bid solid waste and all the recycling commodities this past fall. They received bids back for the MSW portion and IWS continues to be the contractor since they were able to negotiate and keep the price the same without the increase for the next two years which would be the two, one-year extensions on the existing contract. The tipping rate went up by \$2.00, so it is now \$106.00 and the reason for that even though the contractual rate remains the same is because they had to cover their own overhead. Regarding the single stream recycling, which was bid out at the same time, he explained that it was the same price for the same vendor, County Waste. They have five, six-month extensions for single stream recycling for this vendor which means that every six months they look at it and if there is a slight increase it gets approved for up to 2% of an increase with the vendor. He stated the contract is for a total of three years. Notices were sent to municipalities in September informing them of this bid and that there was potential that things could change and in the same notice they made sure to include that the Newburgh Transfer Station was going to be shutdown. The transfer station is currently out to bid and was extended a couple of times because they were alerted that there was interest from additional vendors, so they wanted to give them some time to get their numbers in and make this as competitive as possible. Mr. Denega asked Mr. Gray what the current due date is for the bids.

Mr. Gray replied the current due date is February 6<sup>th</sup>. In speaking with the DEC last week, the current due to date for completion is November of this year, so he asked that it be extended until June of 2021. The new date will allow the contractors to work to work through the school year. He added that they need as many bidders as they can get.

Mr. Denega mentioned that they will come back to the committee once the bids are received.

Mr. Minuta clarified that \$6 million up to \$11 million were the estimates.

Mr. Denega stated that is correct.

Mr. Minuta asked why the cost has almost doubled from what was engineered.

Mr. Denega replied they asked the same question, but he believes there were some design constraints and told there were a lot of retaining walls as well as earthwork. He stated that will get more information about it and let the committee know.

Mr. Benton asked if the single stream contract is renewable.

Mr. Denega replied that if it is increased by more than 2%, they would be able to agree to something or look for another location with the same vendor. If it less than 2%, it is already in the contract so it can be awarded.

Ms. Butler stated the termination provisions are on the county's side.

Mr. Denega continued with the discussion regarding paper and stated that it is \$15.00 per ton. They put into effect a sharper increase with the vendors which also has 6-month extensions, but they are hoping to get more options when it comes to a flexible process.

Mr. Benton pointed out that Advanced Recovery left Port Jervis and asked where the electronic waste and televisions are going.

Mr. Denega replied that the televisions will now go to the Port Jervis Transfer Station, he is unsure of where the electronic waste will go.

Mr. Kulisek clarified that the general public can bring the items listed (see original minutes) to the transfer station for no charge.

Mr. Denega stated that is correct except for televisions and all this information is on the website.

Mr. Kulisek then expressed his concerns for the customer drop-off in Newburgh and showed Mr. Denega a picture.

Mr. Denega stated that they will investigate it because it can become a safety concern.

Mr. Paduch asked if spot checks are done because he has witnessed recyclables and trash going into the same truck.

Mr. Denega replied they have heard stories from customers.

Mr. Gray added they are working on that as well as continuing to check what is being picked out because there is always a man on the floor double-checking it.

Mr. Minuta moved to approve the request for supplemental appropriation for the purchase of various golf course equipment at the Hickory Hill Golf Course to further enhance operations, \$144,000.00 (bonding), seconded by Mr. Tuohy.

Mr. Amodio addressed the committee with a list of various golf course equipment for the Hickory Hill Golf Course (see original minutes) which included a Toro Greensmaster 3320 Triflex, Toro Multi Pro 5800 Sprayer, Toro Infield Pro 5040 Traction Unit, John Deere XUV852M (MY20) and a True-Surface Vibe V. He stated that each piece of equipment will be replacing the old equipment which has exceeded its life expectancy.

Mr. Kulisek asked how long of a term will this be bonded for.

Mr. Amodio replied 5 years. He stated that they get at least 20 years out of this equipment.

Motion carried. All in favor with the exception of Legislator Kulisek who voted against.

Mr. Benton moved to approve the request for supplemental appropriation for the purchase of golf course equipment at the Stony Ford Golf Course to further enhance operations, \$103,000.00 (bonding), seconded by Mr. Tuohy.

Mr. Amodio reviewed the list of various golf course equipment for the Stony Ford Golf Course (see original minutes) which included a Toro Greensmaster 3320 Triflex Hybrid, Toro Workman HDZ Auto 4WD, Toro Cutting Units (04653, 04626), Turfco #85858 TriWave 45 Truckster Overseeder and True-Surface Vibe V. He stated that just like the prior request, each piece of equipment will be replacing the old equipment because it has exceeded its life expectancy.

Mr. Benton asked why there are extras on the Toro Greensmaster 3320 Triflex Hybrid on this request and not on the previous request.

Mr. Amodio replied that there are two different golf course superintendents who request the equipment needed and each course is different.

Mr. Minuta pointed out that this is the same piece of equipment as the previous request except for the price increase which includes extra attachments for the course. He stated that for consistency purposes, one would think the equipment should remain the same for both golf courses.

Mr. Amodio apologized for not knowing what the extras are for this piece of equipment.

Mrs. Bonelli suggested that Mr. Amodio speak with the two superintendents so they can come up with a reason why this piece of equipment with the extra pieces is needed versus the other one which was previously discussed. She then asked if an amendment is needed to hold-off on voting for this piece of equipment.

Mr. Amodio replied they will go with the lesser piece of equipment.

Mr. Brooks stated that the only difference between this Toro Greenmaster and the previous one is the wireless hour meter.

Mr. Amodio clarified that the request would be held up for one more month if the committee is asking for more information.

Mrs. Bonelli stated that is correct.

The committee agreed to go with the previous request and get the Toro Greensmaster 3320 Triflex without the attachment which was approved for the Hickory Hill Golf Course.

Mrs. Bonelli stated this will reduce the cost to \$37,216.14.

Discussion continued with Mr. Brooks and Legislators Minuta, Kulisek, and Paduch regarding the attachments for each piece of equipment being requested and the duplication of them.

Mr. Brooks pointed out that each piece of equipment being requested does a specific job at each golf course.

Mr. Benton commented that he understands everyone's concerns as he has them too. He stated that it seems if they are purchasing two identical mowers; one for the Hickory Hill Golf Course and the other for the Stony Ford Golf Course, that these attachments whether they're cutting edges or vibes could be used simply by throwing it on a trailer and towing it to either course. This would save money and not duplicate equipment.

Mr. Amodio stated they are two separate courses and 45 minutes apart.

Mr. Benton mentioned that there are laborer's who pick up equipment and drive it to different locations all the time.

Mr. Amodio reiterated that each golf course has its own superintendent who operate the machinery.

Being there are more questions and concerns, Mrs. Bonelli suggested Mr. Brooks and Mr. Amodio bring the request back to committee next month so they have time to speak to the superintendents and give the committee definitive answers.

Mr. Brooks stated they are not duplicating any of the units besides the rollers for each course and it would be costly to send someone back and forth when a piece of equipment is needed. They will come back next month with a better explanation.

Mrs. Bonelli mentioned that if it is the pleasure of this committee, they can reduce this appropriation by \$3,000.00 as well as get further information. If they do not receive information they like, the item can be pulled from the agenda. She added that this is also on the Ways and Means Committee meeting agenda tomorrow, so if Mr. Brooks and Mr. Amodio can get information quickly then it can be further discussed.

Mr. Paduch suggested that they get information showing that the units are not exactly alike and why they are needed.

Mr. Benton agreed with Mrs. Bonelli and stated that the Ways and Means Committee can handle this tomorrow with additional information.

Mr. Minuta moved to take no action on the request, seconded by Mr. Benton.

Mr. Minuta moved to approve the request for supplemental appropriation for the purchase of various Parks equipment at the Thomas Bull Memorial Park to further enhance operations, \$76,000.00 (bonding), seconded by Mr. Benton.

Mr. Amodio reviewed the list of various parks equipment at Thomas Bull Memorial Park (see original minutes) which included two Toro Proface Turf Blowers, a Toro Proface Extension Nozzle Kit and a Toro Bed Mount Kit for the blower, a Toro Workman HDX Auto 4WD, Toro Infield Pro 5040 Traction Unit with attachments that include a Toro Hydraulic Lift Frame with Flex Plow, Toro Remote Hydraulics Kit, Rahn Lip Broom, Toro Sports Field Edger, ToroMid Mount Scarifer with Weed Tine and Leveling Blade and a Toro QAS Nail Drag Attachment with Flex Groomer.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Benton moved to approve the request to amend Capital Project No. 775 for Stony Ford/Graham Skea Lodge deck replacement project to add \$140,000.00 to the project. Supplemental appropriation required (bonding), seconded by Mr. Tuohy.

Mr. Brooks explained this was brought to the table several months ago, but at the time the quote was too high, so he went back to the consultant who did a cost analysis and budget for the deck replacement which will no longer be a total teardown. After the engineers inspected the deck, they concluded that the failing girders, decking, railing and stairs will need to be replaced. He added this cannot be done in-house because they do not have a carpenter and reiterated that there have been several falls and lawsuits; therefore, this needs to be addressed.

Mr. Paduch asked if the deck will be done in phases or all at once.

Mr. Brooks replied it will be done one section at a time.

Mr. Minuta suggested that the deck be done all at once being there is one warranty period.

Mr. Brooks stated they can shut it down and build that into the contract with time requirements and make sure the contractors get it done expeditiously.

Motion carried. All in favor with the exception of Legislator Minuta who voted against.

The last agenda item was a brief discussion regarding reduced golf fees for veterans.

Mr. Brooks stated there was a meeting a few weeks ago with himself, Mr. Amodio, Mr. Farrell, golf manager, Dave Killan and Mr. Paduch to review the fees related to veterans. Their suggestion is to file for all veterans, the discount given to senior citizens which is \$5.00 off green fees regardless of the time of day.

Mr. Amodio added that they will continue with the Veterans Access Pass which is 40% or more greater service.

Mr. Brooks also mentioned that any new veteran who asks for the access pass will not be charged a fee.

Mr. Paduch commented he is glad he spoke with Mr. Brooks and Mr. Amodio because this is a great idea and he appreciates it being done.

Mr. Minuta commented that he likes this idea but asked how they offset the savings since this is a business.

Mr. Amodio replied that the unknown number is how many veterans play.

Mr. Minuta asked if he is proposing they operate at a net loss.

Mr. Amodio replied it is an unknown number.

Mr. Brooks stated they are aware of how many have the access pass.

Mr. Amodio added there are 115 veterans who have an access pass who do not pay any greens fee but do pay for carts. There are about 325 rounds total between the two golf courses for the ones who are service disabled or have 40% off.

Mr. Minuta stated he is not against this, he is just asking for a balanced budget.

Mr. Amodio agreed and reiterated that they spoke about the unknown number of how many veterans currently play at the Stony Ford Golf Course and the Hickory Hill Golf Course.

Mrs. Bonelli asked Mr. Brooks if he had this discussion with Chairman Cheney of this committee regarding this.

Mr. Paduch replied he spoke with Mr. Cheney several times.

Mr. Brooks stated that Mr. Cheney called him letting him know that he would like to propose this idea and supports it.

Mrs. Bonelli suggested that Mr. Brooks work with Mr. Cheney to come back to the committee at a time when a written report can be reviewed with the particulars that were mentioned today, so all legislators can see what they are speaking about. Mrs. Bonelli then asked Mrs. Reed if this requires legislative action.

Mrs. Reed replied she will research it.

Mr. Amodio stated they have increased as well as adjusted prices over the years with no legislative action needed.

Mrs. Bonelli asked that Mr. Amodio work with Chairman Cheney and when he feels it is the right time, the detailed report can be reviewed with the committee.

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.