

**EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

**MONDAY, MARCH 19, 2018
4:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Paul Ruskiewicz, Chairman
Leigh J. Benton, Barry J. Cheney, Thomas Faggione,
Kevindaryan Lujan, Joseph Minuta, Rob Sassi, Laurie R. Tautel

ALSO

PRESENT: L. Stephen Brescia, Chairman
Katie Bonelli, Majority Leader
Michael D. Paduch, Minority Leader
James Kulisek, Legislator
Kathy R. Stegenga, Legislator
John S. Vero, Legislator
Antoinette Reed, Legislative Counsel
James P. Burpoe, Commissioner, Dept. of General Services
Rachel Wilson, Director, Youth Bureau
Johanna Porr, Historian
Deborah Slesinski, Deputy Budget Director

Chairman Ruskiewicz opened the committee meeting at 4:00 p.m. by asking everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. All committee members were present except for Legislator O'Donnell who called in via teleconference.

Ms. Tautel moved the request to accept and appropriate NYS Department of Health grant extension, "Successfully Transitioning Youth to Adolescence" funding in the amount of \$97,201.00, seconded by Mr. Minuta

Ms. Wilson explained that this was for the federal grant that they had for the past five years serving youth for ages 9-12 in schools in the three cities. They were told that there would be a one quarter extension so that is what they budgeted. They were excited to see they gave them seven months instead. They hope to get a five-year grant so that the Department of Health would have no disruption in services. Today, they are requesting to accept the grant extension. The monies will go towards the charge back for employee hours and for three subcontractors.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Ms. Wilson provided an overview of the Youth Bureau and provided handouts to the committee members (on file in Clerk's Office). She invited some board members to join her today and added that they were very excited because the Youth Bureau celebrates their 40th anniversary. She explained that they have an advisory board that is made up of members appointed by the County Executive. They have youth and adults that serve together on the board; there are four high school students, a college student and adults from different sectors.

Board members gave a brief synopsis of the different programs offered by the Youth Bureau throughout Orange County and how it has affected them and so many others in a positive way.

Next on the agenda was the County Historian Johanna Yaun. Ms. Yaun updated the committee members on the Algonquin Park Masonry Study. She explained that the project has been ongoing for a very long time which started under former historian Corneila Bush. They finally have the RFP consultant selected which was for \$25,000 to do a study on the masonry to figure out what funds they need to stabilize and eventually do trail identification and interpretation. She referred to a handout that was provided to the committee (on file in Clerk's office) and touched on the highlights such as the history of the site and why it is important and the proposal narrative of the work that will be completed by the historic architecture and preservation firm, Lacey, Thaler, Riley and Wilson. That firm was selected to do the work and Ms. Yaun asked them to return all the information to them before the capital project money is due in May, so their deadline is the end of April. They will be able to provide a basic cost estimate to stabilize it as it is and they can decide from that point if that kind of money is available and if they want to turn it into something bigger. She offered the committee to view the proposal and passed it around.

Ms. Yaun acknowledged that Legislator Benton has been working on this project for a long time.

Mr. Benton responded that he did not have the chance to review the information and requested a copy of the proposal. He added that they have been trying to push things through so he was happy to hear there has been progress.

Ms. Yaun mentioned that there was FEMA money through the Parks Department that will take care of the water channels on the property but this money is specifically for the historic ruins on the property and they all date back to the 19th century.

Mr. Cheney confirmed that the \$25,000 was not going to get into any masonry improvements and Ms. Yaun responded it would not cover that type of work. They will need to map out the area and see what each of the buildings were.

Mr. Cheney asked if the firm would make recommendations as to how to protect the ruins and she replied that they will let them know what locations are in most need versus the ones they can leave for now.

Mr. Cheney asked how many responses were there to the RFP and Ms. Yaun replied that there were four.

Mr. Minuta asked if any of the responses to the RFP were local within the county and Ms. Yaun replied no. He further asked if the work consisted of testing any materials, testing the mortar. Ms. Yaun thought that they would make a recommendation as to what type of mortar we should be using.

Mr. Paduch asked if there was ever a study done on this before and Ms. Yaun responded no.

Mr. Kulisek commented that he would like to see a build out and of course stabilization. There is a lot of property, a lot of historical value and it can connect to Cronomor Hill Park.

Mr. Lujan asked what the time frame would be to make a decision on whether to fix it or do something more extensive and Ms. Yaun replied that she hoped that the recommendations would be in by the end of April. Once they have a dollar figure and their recommendations, she will be back and they will talk about it and maybe put money in the budget for next year. She added that it is possible the work could begin in a year to a year and a half.

Mr. Benton shared that he recalled playing ball there as a kid and remembers the concession stand that the mothers put together with snacks and sodas for all the kids

Ms. Stegenga asked if it was possible to have the proposal broken down in two stages so if they come back with a multi-million-dollar figure it could be a project split up over five years rather than one lump sum and prioritize the projects and go from there.

Ms. Yaun referred to the proposal and stated that it was her hope they would have it prioritized and she would mention it again to them.

Ms. Tautel asked if she considered any grants on the federal or state level to offset costs and Ms. Yaun replied that she would find out. Ms. Tautel suggested that she consider corporate grants especially for old sites like this. She wanted to see that information come back to them as to what grants or companies she considered. She further stated that she would like to get a more definitive answer on some of the questions posed today so they can relay it to their constituents.

Mr. Minuta asked if the preliminary cost estimate would be performed by the firm or is it done by a professional cost estimator or a professional contract. Ms. Yaun replied that she believed it is done by the firm but she would need to find out for sure. Mr. Minuta further asked if the firm would be the ones doing the rest of the work or are they precluded from doing the work since they will conduct the study or does another RFP go out Ms. Yaun responded that was a question for the Law Department. She was handling the consulting.

Mr. Faggione noted the many talented people who work for the county and when Ms. Yaun comes back to the committee it would be good to bring in Commissioner Brooks and Commissioner Denega to see how they can keep things inhouse. Our taxpayers are paying money for this park as it stands. The topic of mortar is out of his skillset but there could be a lot of work done through the Parks Department and the Department of Public Works and that would be taxpayer money being spent wisely.

Mr. Benton shared that the reason why this took so long to get through Parks, DPW and the Law Department was because it was meant to be performed by a person who is educated in the conservation and preservation of historical sites, not just someone who works for DPW and can do masonry work.

Ms. Yaun added that this site was on the National Register. The trails go over old ruins and sometimes they do not know what is under there and the archeology was never done.

Mr. Kulisek stated that this will cost money and did not know how much the county can afford. This is of historical value and good for tourism. They are spending a couple million on a section of a rail trail which has no historical value that he knows of. If they want to promote tourism and the general conditions of the park with the wading pool and stream that are full of debris and the grills falling apart. When they took a tour of the park everything was overgrown into the streams and some stuff was tended to but this has been off everyone's radar for years. He felt it was worth considering and he knew they would need grant money. There is a large group of volunteers willing to help and have meetings on a regular basis looking to help.

Mr. Faggione moved the request for supplemental appropriation for Pilot Program – Evaluation of security and communication link from various school districts within Orange County to the Emergency Services Center (E911), \$250,000.00, seconded by Mr. Lujan.

Mr. Burpoe explained that this would allow them to do an evaluation of security and communication links with security equipment in various schools and to be able to link them back to the 911 Center. They had their first meeting and they would like to accept the money and start the pilot program.

Chairman Ruszkiewicz asked how many schools districts would be included in the pilot program and Mr. Burpoe responded that they were starting with Goshen and they noticed that some of the school districts security and communication systems are linked directly back to BOCES. The County would be able to use the link from BOCES to 911. However, there are some school districts that do not.

Chairman Ruszkiewicz stated that the Town of Warwick already works with the Warwick Police Department and they have instant access to all the schools.

Mr. Burpoe added that he believed Monroe Woodbury has the same set up as Warwick.

Mr. Minuta stated that the Newburgh School District just had a town hall meeting a few weeks ago and there were representatives from the county present and this was brought up. It is a very important thing now with what is going on in the country. He asked if the \$250,000 would serve all the school districts in the county or was this appropriated for just a handful of districts.

Mr. O'Donnell stated that they intend to do all the districts. He mentioned that it was great that Warwick was already hooked up to the Warwick Police Department but this would now allow the State Police and the Orange County Sheriff's Office to be linked in also. They did not know how far the \$250,000 will get them but that is why they are doing a pilot. This will make sure whatever platform they use is compatible throughout the county and to see how much it will cost.

Ms. Tautel asked if this was done in other areas so they can find out how much it would cost for all the school districts county wide. Mr. Burpoe explained that the study will provide that information. He added that they want to make sure everyone is compatible and if

they are not then there will be recommendations on how to upgrade those systems. Ms. Tautel asked if it would then fall on the school district and Mr. Burpoe replied that he believed so unless there is a plan down the road but they are in the early phases right now.

Mr. O'Donnell explained that this is supposed to be a partnership.

Mr. Faggione mentioned that in the school safety meeting earlier this month, one of the reasons why Goshen School District was chosen was because they have the technology in place already and the communication and cooperation is ready to go. According to his notes from that meeting, they need to work out the memorandum of agreement between the county, the village and the school, they can go live in 30 days. He was not 100% sure if the exact quote was 30 days but they are almost ready to go with this because they have the technology in place.

Mr. Benton stated that this came to the Ways and Means Committee meeting last year during budget time by Mr. O'Donnell and they amended the Capital Plan to include this money. This is meant to be for all the school districts. If a school district does not want to participate with the county program, then so be it.

Mr. O'Donnell added that Goshen's I.T. person was at that meeting and Mr. Burpoe added that BOCES' I.T. person was present as well.

Mr. Minuta stated that school districts do not always know about these initiatives so there should be notification and information disseminated to them. The timing is important because they have the NYS Smart Bond coming into all the districts right now and they are building the backbone in networks of the schools. If there is compatible or incompatible items that work with or without the county they should identify how the county operates and make those recommendations now if we plan to be the 911 hub for them.

Ms. Tautel mentioned that this is the first she heard about the school safety meeting and wanted to know if other schools were informed of it or was this just Goshen.

Mr. Burpoe stated that he believed Goshen approached the county and Mr. O'Donnell met with them and they got things started.

Ms. Tautel confirmed that no other school district was invited and it was announced that BOCES was there but no one was being excluded.

Mr. O'Donnell explained that he knew the Goshen School Board was in favor of this and this is just a pilot so no one wants to get ahead of themselves until we know the exact costs. They plan to invite every school district and he already spoke to a few and pointed out that some were not enthusiastic before the Florida Parkland School incident, however, they are now. The fact that it is his district makes it easier to get the pilot going. He knows the school board members, he did not need to explain anything, their I.T. Department was ready to go so this was the fastest way to get the study going. Once they get the study done on the pilot they will have more information to share with every school district.

Mr. Cheney asked who was performing the pilot study and Mr. Burpoe replied that Secure Watch 24 will conduct the study. Mr. Cheney further asked what the cost is for

the study and Mr. Burpoe responded it was based around the state contract.

Mr. Cheney further asked who would lead the program and Mr. Burpoe explained that there were a few people involved who are all working together, Allen Wierzbicki for 911 and the I.T. Department. As they continue to build the program and more schools get on board they will be able to get more discounts for the fiber optic lines or some school districts might already have these things. Mr. Cheney asked if the \$250,000 included the Goshen Pilot infrastructure and Mr. Burpoe stated they need to see what is needed.

Mr. O'Donnell stated that the only figure that came up that would cover every school district was \$70,000 so he believed the \$250,000 will go a long way. He did not expect the numbers to be exorbitant based on the conversations they had and he did not expect a lot of money to be spent on the pilot.

Mr. Paduch asked about the infrastructure since there was no breakdown on the study.

Mr. Benton stated that the \$250,000 that they were authorizing today is just like everything else in the capital plan, this is coming out of the capital plan to pursue the specific numbers to come out of this committee to be voted on when they find out what they are. This is a concept for a program and a plan for a project and Mr. Burpoe and Mr. Wierzbicki will handle this part which deals with the Goshen School District. They will come back to them with all the specifics and a dollar amount for them to approve.

Mr. Burpoe added that to get it started they need to come before the Legislature. Once this is approved and it is voted on, the company can go in and give a breakdown of what the actual estimate is. Secure Watch 24 will be doing the study and the rate will be according to the state contract and it will be minimal.

Mr. Lujan stated that he was lost as to how this was decided and he did not like how just one school was chosen. They need to know where the \$250,000 is going and where it will be spent because we owe that to our taxpayers.

Chairman Ruszkiewicz commented that from what he understood was they were going to approve this today but before any money is spent they need to come back to the Legislature for approval so they are not spending any money yet.

Mr. Lujan stated that he was still confused on the selection process and why did they not have a say on which school district is getting selected. He thought that was more of a Legislative decision, not a unilateral decision.

Mr. O'Donnell explained that last year he pushed for the school safety and a hook up for cameras and he has been talking about this for a few years. As he stated earlier, he went to Goshen because the school board was already on board. This is a simple pilot that will be open to everyone. It was done in the Goshen School District for no other reason other than there was going to be no discussion and they agreed to it. He spoke to another school district that was not going to be in favor of this originally.

Mr. Lujan respects the work Mr. O'Donnell is doing but it seemed like Goshen will be the model but he does not know if there is another school district that would have stronger resources and their technology might be more advanced and that school should be used as the county model. Why Goshen?

Mr. O'Donnell responded that there could be a school out there like that. Warwick is already connected to their police cars, Goshen is already connected to police cars since the Florida incident, Monroe-Woodbury is set up as well. This would be connected the cameras to the County so it does not really mean one school district is better than another, it is the other way around. The County needs be compatible with all the school districts. Someone must be the pilot. He urged Mr. Lujan to speak to the school district in his Legislative District. This was done for speed. Not to have every school district bid to become the pilot and slow it down for six, seven, eight months. They are studying this now, before they appropriated any money. This was the quickest route to see what the issues were, how quick the County can do it.

Chairman Ruszkiewicz announced that nobody is being excluded.

Ms. Stegenga mentioned that from what she understood it sounded like the study will help determine what these schools will need to feed into this so everyone can connect.

Mr. Burpoe stated that most of the schools have a pretty decent system already but they want to be able to get the fiber optic lines and get the communication to 911, that is what the study is all about. The \$250,000 allows them to put a reservation down to allow them to develop a plan and can come up with figures.

Ms. Stegenga further mentioned that if they already know what the system is here in the County and what is needed to connect to it, is any part of the study going to be with all the schools because if they are getting the "Smart Grant" money they can use it to upgrade. We should already know what the basic system is so we can send that out to schools now so they can prepare. If we wait until after the study is done, part of that study should determine which schools are lacking or who is not so they all know.

Mr. Burpoe explained that what Ms. Stegenga just stated is exactly what the study will do.

Ms. Stegenga asked for clarification because it sounded like they were discussing what only Goshen was going to do and Mr. Burpoe explained that the study will be on all the schools in Orange County and they will hit all the schools.

Mr. Burpoe stated that Secure Watch 24 is gearing up to go out and meet with the school districts. Some schools go right through BOCES and that would be a link from BOCES to 911.

Ms. Stegenga asked if Goshen went directly to the county or to BOCES and Mr. Burpoe explained that Goshen would go to the County. They go to the police department now, not to 911.

Ms. Stegenga asked if the plan was to go through BOCES and from BOCES to 911 and Mr. Burpoe responded only when they can. When there are schools that go through BOCES you would want to link from BOCES to 911 which would save a lot of money because you are only dealing with that link from BOCES to 911. There a lot of school districts that are stand alone, those are the ones that need to be connected directly to 911 because they are not with BOCES.

Chairman Ruszkiewicz summarized that the study will look at what is out there and what needs to be done to get all the districts linked to 911 and to ensure compatibility.

Ms. Stegenga asked if they knew what type of system it is to be compatible and Mr. Burpoe responded that they know what they need for fiber, they do not know what the schools have.

Ms. Stegenga stressed that was what she was trying to determine because the schools really need to be aware now if they are getting any money for security, cameras, etc. because we do not want them to put the money into a system that is not compatible.

Mr. Burpoe stated that therefore they are trying to get the program out real fast.

Mr. Minuta mentioned in full disclosure he is a member of the Newburgh School District School Board and he is the Chairman of the Finance Committee and the Buildings and Grounds and Facilities and Planning Committee. The NYS facilities and capital improvement bonds are coming out this year for many school districts. These issues are high right now. He understands the intent but he does not understand how they are going about it. They should be going out to every school district, identifying what their systems are because there are some systems that do not intercommunicate so that would then be up to them to figure out how to make those existing systems communicate with us. The other issue is they just put in place these radios for everyone to be able to communicate at the same time but the school districts are not included in that aspect. What are they trying to accomplish and how are they going to communicate? Will they communicate through radio, television, video or cameras? He asked if the intent was to have every single school district's camera linked up to the County. There are over 600 cameras in Newburgh and with Newburgh being one of the largest districts having almost 12,000 students and 14 buildings, in his opinion, and this was not just because he sits on the board, but that is a huge district to vet this.

Mr. Burpoe explained that the cameras will not be viewed all the time, it will be in that building, at that time the school and an "event" will determine when the cameras will be activated and used.

Mr. Minuta continued to state that the first response will be a phone call and he is aware that they do not have the intercommunication right now between district, local police department or to 911, they are still not communicating fully yet. If they want to have camera ready to 911 or local police department or even the federal government for facial recognition set up, then these are the types of things he would like to see a study done on. They need to determine what they already have, what are their existing assets and how do we make them work with the County's assets.

Mr. Burpoe explained that is what we will get with the study. Secure Watch 24 does this type of stuff. The Vice President of the company used to over-see the counterterrorism for the New York Police Department for over twenty years. This is what they do, the facial recognition, all of that.

Mr. O'Donnell stated that this is to hook up existing cameras to the 911 Center. Everything is in place. There is technology that will open the cameras.

Mr. Minuta stressed that this was not what he just heard. He asked for clarification if this was for a study or for infrastructure.

Mr. Kulisek asked how much is hard cost and soft cost and Mr. Burpoe stated that they will know all of this after the study and there will be a breakdown. Mr. Kulisek stated that every school district will have different costs because Goshen might need \$75,000 but Newburgh may need \$200,000. This \$250,000 is strictly for the study and Mr. Burpoe confirmed he was correct. Mr. Kulisek expanded by saying every school district's I.T department should be able to give that information, no one should be walking through the schools. Mr. Burpoe stated that the company knows what they need to do.

Mr. Lujan stated that he was all about speed and getting things done but there is a reason why we have checks and balances, there is a reason why there is a Legislative Body and there is a reason why we vote on things. He would have like to have a say what school district they are choosing because this is a lucrative opportunity for a community to be the pilot. He wants this to get done, especially with what has been going on, but he does not want to set precedence where they choose projects without consulting Legislators. You want to have authority over things you are going to vote on.

Mr. Benton commented that from the beginning this was strictly meant to be cameras, hardware is already installed, how fast can they get them hooked up and make sure everything is compatible with that school district, the police and 911 so if there was an incident, they can turn them on immediately. The communication with the school district and the school administrators contact directly with the police or the Sheriff's Department, that stuff can be discussed down the road. It can be brought to the Capital Committee by himself or by Chairman Brescia. This is to get it moving, see who wants it and if everyone remembers this was an initiative last October and they voted on the budget in December, that is when this was approved. This seems rather fast but this time, it is good to be fast for this purpose especially.

Chairman Ruszkiewicz reiterated that the \$250,000 is for all the school districts, not just Orange County and it is for the study to start.

Mr. Benton stated that what they will learn from Goshen is how other school district's hardware can communicate with one another. He is not a big computer guy but he knows that if you have one system that does not talk to another system, no matter how much money you spend on it, it is worthless unless they link together.

Mr. Cheney asked what he wanted to know before any money is spent is what will be done by the consultant, how much will it cost and what we will get and Mr. Burpoe replied that was what they will get from the study.

Ms. Tautel confirmed that this was coming off the state contract so there was no need for a bid and Mr. Burpoe replied yes it did.

Mr. Cheney asked if this was one pilot or was it a study that was going to look at every school district in the County and see what the needs are to allow it to connect to the 911 Center.

Mr. Burpoe stated that this is a feasibility study to lay the ground work so they can look at Goshen and expand to the other school districts. He will not know what it will encompass until he can see their scope of work. He noted that he was the mechanism for the funding to set this up to go on to the next part which is the scope of work.

Mr. Minuta stated that this was a professional service and he was unaware that professional services were on state contract and Mr. Burpoe clarified that professional services are on state contract.

Mr. Vero asked if this included private schools or just public schools and Mr. Benton stated that was not discussed when this came up last year but he stated if a private school approached the county he would not turn them down.

Motion carried. All in favor.

There was discussion on the vote and if it was for supplemental appropriation and Ms. Reed explained that they are moving the money out of contingency into the budget but not expending it.

Mr. Burpoe and Mr. Benton confirmed yes but they are not spending it.

Ms. Reed stressed to be aware because once the money is in the budget, Mr. Burpoe can spend it and Mr. Burpoe stated they he planned to come back and present it.

Ms. Tautel said she heard several times she heard separate things being said about how he needs to come back before the money is spent but Ms. Reed just said he does not need to.

Mr. Burpoe assured the committee that he will be back to present it.

On the motion of Mr. Benton, seconded by Mr. Faggione, the meeting adjourned at 5:22 p.m.

