

**GREEN COMMITTEE
AGENDA
MONDAY, MARCH 26, 2018
2:15 P.M.**

PRESENT: Barry Cheney, Chair
Kevindaryan Lujan, David Church

ALSO

PRESENT: James M. Kulisek, Legislator
Paul Ruskiewicz, Legislator
Antoinette Reed, Legislative Counsel
Julie Richmond, Deputy Commissioner of Planning
Kelly Morris, Planner, Planning Department
Kevin Sumner, Director, Soil and Water Conservation District
Phillip W. Johnson, Dairy Farmer, Fort Hill Farm

Chairman Cheney opened the committee meeting at 2:20 p.m. by asking everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. All committee members were present with the exception of Legislators Benton and Tautel who were absent.

Legislator Ruskiewicz, Mr. Sumner and Mr. Johnson addressed the committee with a non-agenda item regarding waste tire usage on farms.

Mr. Ruskiewicz stated that recently the New York State DEC put out a new regulation which affects dairy farms. For many years farmers have used tires to secure plastic covers on their trench silos to protect and feed the cows and the DEC has new regulations that require the tires be cut in half or have holes drilled in them to protect retaining water from mosquitos. He added that this would be a time-consuming job and could be hazardous when cutting the tires because the steel inside of them becomes exposed. There is a new alternative for covers so Mr. Sumner came up with an idea to look for some funding to get rid of the tires, recycle them and purchase the newer covers. He stated this would help.

Mr. Cheney asked that before they discuss the possible solution, he would like to clarify that this has been a beneficial use determination the DEC had within the regulations in the past and the new regulation would be to cut or drill holes in the tires.

Mr. Ruskiewicz stated that is correct.

Mr. Johnson stated the point of the tires is to store the feed for the cows. The tires have been used on farms for over 60 years. He added this is an issue that they will not be able to afford.

Mr. Cheney asked Mr. Sumner how many qualifying farms there are in Orange County.

Mr. Sumner replied they are guessing 30 or less. He stated they are surveying all of the farms even though some may not want to participate.

Mr. Cheney clarified that Mr. Sumner estimated the cost would be between \$150,000.00 and \$200,000.00 to remove the tires, dispose of them and purchase the covers.

Mr. Sumner stated that is correct.

Mr. Cheney asked how the cost is split between the two functions.

Mr. Sumner replied half and half. He stated it will depend a lot on what kind of deal can be made and who will take the tires. The most efficient way to do this would be to send a trailer to the farm and do this by the trailer load. A 53-foot trailer costs \$2,000.00 and from what he is able to gather, they may be able to get 1,500 tires on a 50-foot trailer. They are guessing they will be able to get the cost of the tire down to \$1.00 and \$2.00 per tire. He added that when the county Agricultural Protection Plan was updated a few year ago, the main focus and lead was the dairy farm which will not be affected by the tire issue.

Mr. Ruskiewicz stated that he may bring this to the Education and Economic Development Committee next month if they can get a proposal together by then.

Mrs. Reed asked the date of the implementation and deadline.

Mr. Johnson replied May 2, 2018.

Mr. Cheney asked if anyone else in the State is dealing with it in a different way.

Mr. Johnson replied a lot do not even know about this.

The next agenda item was an update on Complete Streets.

Ms. Richmond stated there is not a lot to report. She showed the committee the new [Complete Streets webpage](#) which is located on the county website under Transportation Council (OCTC).

Mr. Church addressed the next agenda item regarding the Mid-Hudson Regional Sustainability Coalition Initiative. He stated there is no current information but the next meeting will be held on April 6, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. in Newburgh at the Maple Building.

The last agenda item was [Old Business](#) which included: PV on Landfill, Tree Inventory, EV Charging Stations-SUNY Orange, EV Charging Stations-Other Opportunities, an update on Building Energy Benchmarking and LED Streetlight Replacement.

In regard to PV on Landfill, Mr. Cheney stated that he had a discussion with Mr. Hammond who stated the previous administration looked into this and at the time, did not feel that entering into a contract longer than five years was in the county's best interest so therefore; it fell by the wayside because anyone that makes an investment needs the security of more than five years. They already know they have entered into an agreement at the 911 Center to put the system in so that argument or concern has been satisfied as not being a concern. He asked Mrs. Reed if she has any recollection of that.

Mrs. Reed replied that the benefit of going through the contract, took a while for the vendor to deliver; therefore, it was not easy.

Mr. Cheney stated that they need to further discuss this matter further at a later date. He asked who the point person is relative to pursuing this matter.

Mr. Church replied that Kate Schmidt has been the contact. He stated they are trying to get in contact with the Department of Public Works to see if they would like to pursue this at the assessment level. If they collectively agree to advance this, they would need to do a checklist.

Mr. Cheney asked if there is a need for this committee to encourage moving forward.

Mr. Cheney replied that if the committee agrees to pursue this at the assessment level, he will take it to the Department of Public Works.

The next topic was Tree Inventory.

Mr. Church stated they are awaiting the grant announcement which will take place in April.

Ms. Morris added the deadline for the grant is June.

In regard to EV Charging Stations, Mr. Cheney stated that he recalls the process being delayed.

Mr. Church explained they applied for two separate grants at both SUNY campuses and there has been a delay between the County Attorney and the Vice President at SUNY Orange with the contract. He does not want to lose the grant; therefore, he is hoping this moves quickly.

Ms. Morris stated that they are working on broadening the scope for more EV Charging Stations throughout the county.

Mr. Church then updated the committee regarding Building Energy Benchmarking. He stated that they are still garnering data but the recommendation is there is good data for certain buildings; therefore, they are going to try and pilot this with a focus perhaps on the 1887 building. After this is done, he will come back to the committee with the data to decide whether or not to push the data on bigger buildings. Furthermore, the county is Clean Energy Certified and received a check in the amount of \$5,000.00.

The last topic on the agenda was LED Streetlight Replacement.

Mr. Cheney stated that he has been in contact with the Department of Public Works who think there are less than a dozen streetlights. After he reviewed his notes, he found that this information was previously discussed and there was still less than a dozen lights and if that is the correct amount then it should not be difficult to change them to LED's.

Mr. Lujan asked if there are any communities struggling to get the streetlights changed over.

Mr. Cheney replied this is not cheap but the Village of Warwick has been looking into it because they have 450 streetlights. The cost to purchase them from the utility and take them over would be about \$250,000.00 to \$300,000.00.

Mr. Lujan clarified the cost would be for all the streetlights.

Mr. Cheney stated that is correct and he was told there would be a return on investment within two to three years but it may be extended out to five years.

Mr. Lujan pointed out that he would like to consider this because there are a lot of communities who could use the savings.

Ms. Morris stated that for the next meeting they will have a county-wide map on solar farms and where they have been installed because there has been a concern that it is a significant loss of farmland.

The meeting adjourned at 3:27 p.m.