

**PHYSICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 27, 2023
3:30 P.M.**

PRESENT: Barry J. Cheney, Chairman
Leigh J. Benton, L. Stephen Brescia, Peter V. Tuohy, Joseph J. Minuta

ALSO

PRESENT: Katie Bonelli, Chairwoman
Betsy N. Abraham, Esq., Legislative Counsel
Mary Pat Smith, Assistant to the County Executive
Richard B. Golden, County Attorney
Carol Pierce, Deputy County Attorney
Stacy Butler, Senior Assistant County Attorney
Erik Denega, Commissioner, Department of Public Works
James S. Brooks, Commissioner, Department of Parks, Recreation & Conservation
Deanna Crawford, Deputy Commissioner, Dept. of Parks, Recreation & Conservation
Dina Sena, Budget Analyst

Chairman Cheney opened the committee meeting at 4:02 p.m. by asking everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. All committee members were present with the exception of Legislators Paduch, Ruskiewicz, and Tautel who were absent.

Mr. Brescia moved to approve the request confirmation of reappointments to the Board of Directors of the Orange County Soil and Water Conservation District (G. Constable, P. Ruskiewicz, B. Cheney), seconded by Mr. Minuta.

Ms. Smith stated that the County Executive is asking for approval of reappointments of G. Constable, P. Ruskiewicz, B. Cheney to the Board of Directors of the Orange County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Tuohy moved to approve the request to authorize the filing of an application for acceptance of 50% of funds expended on 2022 HHW (Household Hazardous Waste) Collection Events and the acceptance of state assistance from the Household Hazardous Waste State Assistance Program, and the signing of the associated state master grant contract under the appropriate laws of New York State, \$53,338.88, seconded by Mr. Minuta.

Mr. Denega explained that this is a yearly request for grant funding for the Household Hazardous Waste Program which is held four times a year.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Benton moved to approve the request to authorize the County Executive in conjunction with the Orange County Department of Public Works/Airport to accept a grant from the New York State Department of Transportation to Reconstruct (Replace) the Existing Airport Beacon-Construction. Capital Project No. 567 has been established and no additional funding is required (State Share 100%), \$14,450.00, seconded by Mr. Brescia.

Mr. Denega stated this is a request to accept a grant to replace the Existing Airport Beacon-Construction. He clarified that the State share is 5%, 90% federal, and 5% local.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Tuohy moved to approve the request to amend Resolution No. 334 of 2020 to reflect the correct fund/organization combination and to move the budget. Supplemental appropriation is requested, seconded by Mr. Minuta.

There was a project done in 2009/2011 (Town of Crawford) and an error on the resolution was found, therefore it needs to be corrected so the project can be closed.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Tuohy moved to approve the request to accept and appropriate insurance funds for the fire damage to The Ruth and Jim Ottaway Building in the Arboretum located at Thomas Bull Memorial Park. Upon approval, a new capital project will be created, \$512,241.90, seconded by Mr. Minuta.

Mr. Brooks stated this is insurance funds in the amount of \$512,241.90 to begin rebuilding the Ruth and Jim Ottaway Building in the Arboretum.

Mr. Tuohy asked how long it will take until the building is complete.

Mr. Brooks replied the architects did a visit and are preparing their bids which will be received by next week. After they choose an architect and develop a plan, the work will begin and should be complete by the end of the summer.

Mr. Minuta asked if the funds are capped.

Mr. Brooks replied the funds will not cover everything.

Mr. Benton commented that they are lucky to have had insurance on the building.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Tuohy moved to approve the request for supplemental appropriation to the Parks 2023 Operating Budget for arboricultural and forestry consulting and fencing services, \$61,000.00, seconded by Mr. Benton.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Minuta moved to approve the request for supplemental appropriation to the capital projects budget for the deck replacement at the Graham Skea Lodge, Stony Ford Golf Course, Montgomery, NY. Upon approval, a new capital project will be created, \$157,686.00 (bonding), seconded by Mr. Tuohy.

Mr. Brooks explained that this is part of their preventive maintenance program which is done during the winter months and the deck has gotten progressively worse. The decking and railing need to be replaced and will be done in-house, one section at a time because the bids came back too high. He stated this is a safety issue and needs to be repaired as soon as possible.

Mr. Brescia asked if the trex will be replaced with trex.

Mr. Brooks replied yes.

Mr. Benton clarified that this is the same deck that was built when the renovation of the building was done.

Mr. Brooks stated that is correct.

Mr. Benton asked what year that was.

Mr. Brooks replied it was 2005/2006.

Since Mr. Minuta had a site visit with Mr. Brooks about the deck, he further explained the lifespan, maintenance, and trex.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Benton moved to approve the request for supplemental appropriation to the capital projects budget in the amount of \$100,000.00 for Parks Historical Structures Initiative, Reconstruction of Powder Mill Structures. Upon approval, funds will be added to Capital Project No. 719. In the 2023 Capital Plan proposed Project No. 115 was for \$300,000.00. This is an additional amount of \$100,000.00 (bonding), seconded by Mr. Minuta.

Mr. Brooks stated he received the bids back from the contractors and realized they are short on funds to complete the first phase which is the hatched area.

Mr. Cheney clarified that it exceeded the original budget that was set.

Mr. Brooks stated that is correct.

Mr. Cheney asked what was the lowest bid.

Mr. Brooks replied the lowest bid was \$668,000.00.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Ms. Crawford addressed the committee with the next agenda item, which was a presentation regarding the Financial Analysis of Golf Operations. She reviewed the spreadsheet with the committee members (on file in Clerk, Legislative Office) which included Revenue, Expenses, and Contractual Equipment and further stated that both golf courses run on user fees only.

Mr. Cheney clarified that they are receiving taxation in the beginning of the year and then putting more than that taxation back into the revenues that were earned and not expended.

Ms. Crawford stated that is correct.

Mr. Brooks commented that the golf courses have never been this good (maintenance, fees, equipment) and he is confident it will continue this way in the future.

Mr. Brescia asked if there are chargebacks for the 240 hours of staff time that is used for spring and county non-park facilities.

Ms. Crawford replied no.

Mr. Benton clarified that insecticides, pesticides and fertilizers are used on the courses.

Mr. Brooks stated that is correct.

Mr. Minuta thanked Mr. Brooks and Ms. Crawford for reviewing this today because it is important to look at all the benefits.

Mr. Faggione asked when Winding Hills Park for camping will be open.

Ms. Crawford replied they are hoping to open on May 5th. She stated they are paving the campsites on May 1st.

Mr. Tuohy moved to approve a resolution confirming appointment of "At-Large Resident" to the Dutchess Quarry Sites National Register District Management Committee (L. O'Brien), seconded by Mr. Benton.

Chairwoman Bonelli explained that the Dutchess Quarry Sites National Register District Management Committee is made up of ten members; three from the Orange County Legislature, one is a designee from the County Executive, the Commissioner of Parks, the Orange County Historian, two representatives from the Orange County Chapter of New York State Archaeological Association, and two at-large residents of Orange County (appointed by the chair of the Legislature). The committee is currently chaired by Legislator Leigh Benton who has notified her that there is a vacancy (term to expire December 31, 2023). He along with a few others have been consulting and

have referred Lawrence E. O'Brien who has extensive knowledge and experience in geology. She is asking that this appointment be approved so the vacancy can be filled.

Mr. Benton commented that he asked Dr. Kass, who is a member of the committee, for a recommendation and Mr. O'Brien was a former colleague of his who would be a great fit.

Motion carried. All in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 4:32 p.m.