

**WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

**(REMOTELY)  
TUESDAY, MARCH 30, 2021  
3:30 P.M.**

PRESENT: Leigh J. Benton, Chairman  
Mike Anagnostakis, Katie Bonelli, Janet Sutherland, Kevin W. Hines,  
James M. Kulisek, Michael D. Paduch, Joseph J. Minuta

ALSO

PRESENT: Michael F. Amo, Independence Party Leader  
Barry J. Cheney, Legislator  
Thomas J. Faggione, Legislator  
Paul Ruskiewicz, Legislator  
Kathy A. Stegenga, Legislator  
Peter V. Tuohy, Legislator  
John S. Vero, Legislator  
Betsy N. Abraham, Legislative Counsel  
Harold J. Porr, III., Deputy County Executive  
Dan Bloomer, Director, Operations and Cost Control  
Matthew J. Nothnagle, Chief Assistant County Attorney  
Karin Hablow, Commissioner of Finance  
Kerry Gallagher, Deputy Commissioner of Finance  
James Burpoe, Commissioner, Department of General Services  
Erik Denega, Commissioner, Dept. of Public Works  
Travis Ewald, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Public Works/Engineering Div.  
Deanna P. Crawford, Deputy Commissioner, Dept. of Parks, Recreation & Conservation  
Eric Ruscher, Director, Real Property Tax Service  
Deborah Slesinski, Budget Director  
Gretchen Riordan, Budget Analyst  
Liz Delaney, Budget Analyst  
Dina Sena, Budget Analyst

Chairman Benton 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 Anagnostakis who arrived at 3:51 p.m.

Mr. Kulisek moved to approve the request for supplemental appropriation to the capital projects budget for the Bank Street Bridge Replacement (BIN 3345180) in the Village of Warwick. This project has been approved under the 2021 Capital Plan as Project No. 36. Upon approval, the funds will increase existing Capital Project No. 467, \$850,000.00 (bonding), seconded by Ms. Sutherland.

Mr. Denega stated that the bridge carries Bank Street over the Waywayanda Creek in the Village of Warwick. It has a 39-foot span, was built in 1936 and was partially reconstructed in 1982. The superstructure is in poor condition, so the bridge is currently closed to vehicle traffic due to the conditions of the outer beams and concrete deck. He added that the bridge replacement has been designed in-house by the Orange County Department of Public Works staff and construction would be anticipated to begin late summer of 2021.

Motion carried. All in favor with the exception of Legislator Anagnostakis who had not yet arrived.

Mr. Minuta moved to approve the request for supplemental appropriation for the purchase of a ½ ton roller used to groom the Har-Tru tennis courts at Thomas Bull Memorial Park. This is Project No. 104 in the proposed 2021 Capital Plan, \$8,000.00 (bonding), seconded by Mr. Kulisek.

Ms. Crawford explained this request is for a roller for the tennis courts at Thomas Bull Memorial Park as they are currently using a 30-year-old roller that has completely rusted out. The roller is used multiple times a day to maintain the clay.

Mr. Benton asked if there is a special groundskeeper who knows how to maintain a clay court.

Ms. Crawford replied yes.

Mr. Paduch asked if the roller has been used at other places or if it is specifically assigned to the Thomas Bull location.

Ms. Crawford replied that the roller is specifically assigned to that location.

Mr. Paduch then clarified that there are no other rollers at any of the other parks.

Ms. Crawford stated she will check with the maintenance supervisor.

Motion carried. All in favor with the exception of Legislator Anagnostakis who had not yet arrived.

Ms. Hablow reviewed the County of Orange Sales Tax Received Year-To-Date, County Portion Only (see original minutes) with the committee.

Ms. Slesinski addressed the next agenda item which was a Budget update. She stated that the past year, she has spoken about the implementation of new budget software called Hyperion. They had to move forward with new software because the current Oracle module will become unsupported after a scheduled update in the fall. There is also the chance that it may not be available at all, so they have been pushing to do the 2022 budget in Hyperion. Unfortunately, they are not yet in a position where her team has seen the start to finish process because they are still working out adjustments and changes, therefore, she has made the decision that they will run parallel with the current software and mimic it in Hyperion. This will give them validation that all the data and reports concur, so there will be no lingering questions or concerns. She stated they will

partner with some of the larger departments to help them, but it is double the workload in the Budget Department. The first quarter of 2021 ends tomorrow, so in April they will begin to prepare the forecast that will be delivered to the legislature in early May. The department is currently in the process of scheduling 1<sup>st</sup> quarter fiscal reviews with each department which is a collaborative effort with Finance and the County Executive's Office to make sure that spending is on track based on the current budget and projections. The department will also be sending out letters regarding proposed capital projects by the end of the week. In closing, she stated that as of March 26<sup>th</sup>, there are 312 full and part-time vacant positions with a year-to-date savings of \$5.5 million and all departments are currently on track to meet their required austerity.

Ms. Sutherland moved to discuss deed sale parcels, seconded by Mr. Minuta.

Mr. Ruscher stated the first two deed sale parcels are in the Town of Chester (8-1-27 and 8-1-28) and have the same bidder. He recommends the committee deny them because they are below the minimum bid and the back taxes. The third parcel is in the Town of Cornwall (1-1-50.2) with a minimum bid of \$15,000.00 and an amount bid of \$15,000.00. He recommends it be approved. The next parcel is also in the Town of Cornwall (9-1-1.1). Mr. Ruscher explained that he received a bid last month that was rejected, the committee asked that the adjoining owners get letters which he sent, and as of the due date, he had not received any bids. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> he got a call asking if the bid was received which it had not been and come to find out the envelope was received on March 8<sup>th</sup> but did not make it to his office in time. This person is an adjoining property owner and the bid that was re-bid last month remained the same at \$4,000.00. Parcel number five is in the Town of Monroe (36-3-32.3) has a minimum bid of \$400.00 and an amount bid of \$400.00. He recommends it be approved. The sixth parcel in the Town of Montgomery (5-3-6) has a minimum bid of \$5,000.00 and an amount bid of \$5,000.01, but Mr. Ruscher asked that it be denied because he would like to increase the minimum bid. Parcel number seven is in the Town of Mount Hope (2-1-42), has a minimum bid of \$2,500.00 and an amount bid of \$520.00, therefore, he recommends it be denied. The eighth parcel in the Town of Newburgh (105-1-6) has a minimum bid of \$1,300.00 an amount bid of \$1,300.00. He recommends that it be approved because it is unbuildable.

Motion carried. All in favor of accepting Mr. Ruscher's recommendation to approve deed sale parcels Nos. 3, 4, 5, and 8 and deny parcels Nos. 1, 2, 6, and 7.

On the second page of deed sale parcels, number nine and ten are in the Town of Newburgh (4-1-69.2 and 17-1-18.1). Mr. Ruscher recommended that parcel number be approved because it meets the minimum bid. Parcel number eleven is in the Town of Wallkill (52-12-1.1) and has a minimum bid of \$2,250.00 and an amount bid of \$1,020.00. He recommends that it be denied. The last parcel is in the Town of Warwick (310-5-14). Mr. Ruscher stated the minimum bid is \$8,000.00 and the amount bid is \$520.00, therefore, he asked that it be denied.

Motion carried. All in favor of accepting Mr. Ruscher's recommendation to approve deed sale parcel No. 9 and deny parcels Nos. 10, 11, and 12.

Mr. Paduch moved to adopt a resolution authorizing the acceptance of O'Connor Davies, LLP for Financial Consulting Services in relation to Orange County's financial audit, and the budgets of Orange County and Orange County Community College, seconded by Ms. Sutherland.

Mr. Burpoe explained the RFP Review Committee for auditing services for the Legislature met on March 26, 2021 to review the five firms that submitted proposals. Out of the five firms, the committee narrowed it down to two then met again on March 29, 2021 to interview them and again to go over the scoring. The bid was awarded to O'Connor Davies, LLP.

Mr. Hines clarified that a scoring scale was used in reviewing these proposals.

Mr. Burpoe stated that is correct.

Mr. Hines asked if O'Connor Davies, LLP made any changes to their proposal.

Mr. Burpoe replied they have added additional services at no charge as they have done in the past and there was a price increase that was negotiated to ten percent down across the board for all auditing services.

Mr. Hines then asked how much higher the price is compared to last year.

Ms. Hablow replied she does not have the exact increase in price, but there is a graded scale where each year is a different price. She stated several proposals had the same structure.

Mr. Hines clarified that this is a three-year contract.

Mr. Burpoe stated that is correct. It is a three-year contract with two one-year extensions.

Mr. Benton mentioned that there is an escape clause, so they are tied into an automatic three years.

Mr. Paduch commented that he was part of the committee and if the legislature is not satisfied this year or in the future, Drescher Malecki, LLC was very impressive. He stated that he supports O'Connor Davies, LLP as well.

Mr. Benton commented that he was also very impressed with Drescher Malecki, LLC and scored their interview higher than O'Connor Davies, LLP, but believes it would cost many hours and thousands of dollars for them to be able to catch up in terms of financial services that are needed compared to O'Connor Davies, LLP who has several years of experience with the legislature.

Mrs. Bonelli thanked her colleagues that were part of the audit team as it was an interesting process. She stated O'Connor Davies, LLP is a reputable firm who has been with the county for many years, therefore, she did score them the highest.

Motion carried. All in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 4:12 p.m.