

RULES, ENACTMENTS AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE
MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 2023
3:30 P.M.

PRESENT: Paul Ruszkiewicz, Chairman
Michael Amo, Barry J. Cheney, Thomas J. Faggione, Kevin W. Hines, Michael D. Paduch,
Kathy Stegenga

ALSO

PRESENT: Katherine E. Bonelli, Chairwoman
Harold J. Porr, III, Deputy County Executive
Alan Sorensen, AICP, Commissioner of Planning
Kerry Gallagher, Commissioner of Finance
Deborah Slesinski, Budget Director
Erin Sztendor, Budget Analyst

Mr. Ruszkiewicz opened the meeting at 3:32 p.m. and requested everyone stand for the Pledge of allegiance. All members were present with the exception of Legislator Sierra, who was excused.

Ms. Stegenga moved request to accept and appropriate additional funds as a subcontractor to Orange County Health Department for the Creating Healthy Schools and Communities Program for the period 6/1/2022 through 5/31/2023. The grant funds will be used with municipal officials in selected communities to develop appropriate policies for their jurisdiction and work with those officials, community organizations and members of the public to enact those policies. Funds will be received from the Orange County Health Department through the New York State Department of Health Grant, \$15,000.00, seconded by Mr. Paduch.

Mr. Sorensen explained that the funds will be used to offset the salary of one of their senior planners as the funds are allocated for specific communities in Orange County and include the cities of Port Jervis, Middletown and Newburgh and Town of Deerpark. The funds are used for a variety of programs with one being implemented at a school in the city of Newburgh to teach children how to ride bicycles safely.

Mr. Paduch asked if the senior planner was working within the Health Department. Mr. Sorensen replied no, this program is done in collaboration with the Department of Health.

Mr. Paduch asked if the program includes safety gear. Mr. Sorensen replied yes.

Mr. Paduch asked how the schools are selected. Mr. Sorensen replied that only schools within the parameter of the program would be eligible.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Hines moved request to accept and appropriate a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and to authorize the County Executive to enter into any and all agreements or contracts necessary to secure and implement this grant. This grant will provide funding for the County, with the City of Newburgh, to rebuild the Newburgh Landing Pier. Upon approval, a new capital project will be created, \$4,000,000.00, seconded by Mr. Amo.

Mr. Sorensen explained that these funds were earmarked and come out of former congressman Sean Patrick Maloney's office. The idea behind the initial submission was to provide the opportunity to enhance the experience for riders that use the ferry services between Newburgh and Beacon. The city of Newburgh is also working on a separate pier and are about 60% through the engineering process. After speaking with their engineer that project has an anticipated cost of \$6 million and if this funding can be used for that pier there would be a \$2 million shortfall that would be picked up by the city of Newburgh.

Mr. Porr added that in the last days of Congressman Moloney's term he requested they come up with projects and the Newburgh Landing Pier is in deplorable shape and is unusable. They have been advised by the County Attorney to enter in a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the County of Orange and city of Newburgh indicating who will do what and to combine the funds from the city of Newburgh for planning and county funds for construction. However, the twist is how do they connect that to the ferry service.

Mr. Hines asked if anything would be fixed at the ferry dock. Mr. Porr replied no, the ferry dock is fine. They are however working on a creative way to link the requirement of the ferry connection to the Newburgh Landing Pier.

Mr. Hines asked where the dock was located. Mr. Porr replied that the dock is located at Unico Park.

Mr. Hines asked outside of county staff and time would any other county funds be used. Mr. Porr replied no.

Mr. Sorensen added that the city of Newburgh is at about 60% done regarding engineering and they have far advanced plans including not only the pier but boat slips.

Ms. Stegenga asked for the use of the pier after completion as it could be a great use for tourism. Mr. Porr replied that there would be public access controlled by the city of Newburgh.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Cheney moved request to accept and appropriate a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and to authorize the County Executive to enter into any and all agreements or contracts necessary to secure and implement this grant. This grant will provide funding for the County to complete the Orange and Dutchess Transportation Access & Mobility Study Project, \$500,000.00, seconded by Ms. Stegenga.

Mr. Sorensen explained that these funds were also earmarked by former Congressman Sean Patrick Maloney's office. The funds will be used to undertake a study to enhance the connection between Stewart Airport and the Beacon Train Station including assessing the feasibility of establishing an enhanced rail connection or bus rapid transit. The proposed plan would have the Orange County Transportation Council take the lead on the study and include the Dutchess County Transportation Council as a partner in the study.

Mr. Porr added that this concept has been around for decades and although it seems farfetched Dutchess County requested, they conduct the study due to their current traffic problems on the eastside of the Newburgh/Beacon Bridge.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Cheney moved request for approval to repurpose funds. Capital Project No. 431S was set up for the Warwick Transit Facility, which has now been completed. The funds are 100% New York State Accelerated Transit Capital funds. The New York State Department of Transportation has approved the request to repurpose the remaining funds to be used for the purchase of transit vehicles. Upon approval, Capital Project No. 431S will be closed and a new capital project will be created in its place, \$179,633.00, seconded by Ms. Stegenga.

Mr. Cheney asked about the deployment of the buses. Mr. Sorensen replied that they are looking at the need for Dial-A-Bus communities.

Mr. Paduch asked if these would replace existing buses and would this make buses available to municipalities and/or organizations in need. Mr. Sorensen replied that these buses will replace buses that are nearing the end of their useful life. They are not allowed to give buses to another entity as they must go through the auction process.

Mr. Paduch asked about the schedule for replacing buses. Mr. Sorensen replied that buses are replaced on a regular basis and periodically they will be retired and sold with any proceeds from the sale going back into their transportation program. He added that he would inquire with his staff on the replacement schedule and provide the committee with an estimate on when the buses will be retired.

Motion carried. All in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 3:52 p.m.