

**PHYSICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 24, 2023  
3:30 P.M.**

PRESENT: Barry J. Cheney, Chairman  
Leigh J. Benton, Michael D. Paduch, Paul Ruskiewicz, Peter V. Tuohy,  
Joseph J. Minuta

ALSO

PRESENT: Katie Bonelli, Chairwoman  
Harold J. Porr, Deputy County Executive  
Joseph F. Mahoney, Esq., Senior Assistant County Attorney  
Alison Tyack, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Human Resources  
Denise Cross, Director, Personnel Management, Department of Human Resources  
Erik Denega, Commissioner, Department of Public Works  
Travis Ewald, Deputy Commissioner, Dept. of Public Works/Engineering Div.  
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 3:30 p.m. by asking everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. All committee members were present with the exception of Legislators Brescia and Tautel who were absent.

Mr. Minuta moved to approve the request confirmation of appointment to the Orange County Water Authority Board of Directors (S. Gagnon), seconded by Mr. Benton.

Mr. Porr stated there are two vacancies on the board that the County Executive is asking to be approved as these residents are highly qualified.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Tuohy moved to approve the request for supplemental appropriation to the capital projects budget in the amount of \$441,000.00 to Orange County Transfer Stations 1, 2, and 3 to purchase Fleet and New Equipment. This project has been approved under the 2023 Capital Plan as proposed Project No. 68. Upon approval, a new capital project will be created (bonding), seconded by Mr. Minuta.

Mr. Denega referred to the list of equipment on the back of the legislative request (on file in Clerk, Legislative Office) and reviewed it with the committee.

Mr. Benton asked how many hours are on the excavator.

Mr. Denega replied that he is unsure but will find out and provide the information he receives.

Mr. Minuta clarified that these pieces of equipment are for all three locations.

Mr. Denega stated that is correct they can be shared but most of the equipment will be kept in New Hampton because it is the largest facility.

Mr. Paduch asked if the old truck can be traded in.

Mr. Denega replied yes, but they will not get a lot of money back.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Tuohy moved to approve the request for supplemental appropriation to the capital projects budget in the amount of \$169,000.00 to Orange County Sewer District No. 1 for new equipment to update, repair or replace old, outdated machinery. This project has been approved under the 2023 Capital Plan as proposed Project No. 72. Upon approval, a new capital project will be created (bonding), seconded by Mr. Benton.

Mr. Denega explained that there is some language in the local law that requires a public hearing for the special district funding, so he will let the committee know as soon as possible.

Mr. Cheney clarified that the committee should proceed with the request and if necessary, it can be withdrawn.

Mr. Denega then stated that the request is in the amount of \$169,000.00, and of the main items in the amount of \$164,000.00 is for a Proteus Lateral Launch Inspection System that needs to be replaced to maintain the lines.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Benton moved to approve the request to accept and appropriate funds from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) on behalf of the U.S. Army in accordance with 10 U.S. Code 2665(e) (USC) from the sale of timber and forestry products on Army installations. Payment in the amount of \$54,982.10 is from Federal fiscal year 2022, seconded by Mr. Paduch.

This request is a requirement that when the Army is performing this type of work in the area within a municipality, they must share back the revenue that comes from the operation. Mr. Denega stated this has been requested in the past.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Tuohy moved to approve the request for supplemental appropriation to the capital projects budget in the amount of \$1,000,000.00 for Heavy Equipment/Fleet Replacement. Funding is from the State Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) in the amount of \$900,000.00 and \$100,000.00 is from County borrowing. This project has been approved under the 2023 Capital Plan as proposed Project No. 40. Upon approval, a new capital project will be created, \$100,000.00 (bonding), seconded by Mr. Minuta.

Mr. Ewald referred to the list attached to the legislative request (on file in Clerk, Legislative Office) and reviewed it with the committee.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Minuta moved to approve the request for supplemental appropriation to the capital projects budget for replacement of the Otisville Viaduct (BIN 3364800). Funding is from the State Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS). Upon approval, the funds will increase existing Capital Project No. 522, \$1,800,000.00, seconded by Mr. Tuohy.

Mr. Denega stated this is a seven span bridge that they are consolidating down to one span. There is bridge (CHIPS) funding associated with this, it is a large project, and there is some funding in the budget, but no additional grant funding.

Mr. Ewald further stated this was a 2018 round of Bridge NY Funding. The original grant was for \$3,768,828.00 (95% federal, 5% local) and the lowest bidder came in at \$4.23 million. He added that no additional bonding is needed.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Minuta moved to approve the request to reclassify Executive Assistant, Grade 14, Step 6 (position #10371), to Confidential Secretary to the Commissioner of Public Works, Grade 15, Step 6, and once incumbent obtains permanent status, abolish Executive Assistant, Grade 14 position (#10371), seconded by Mr. Benton.

Mr. Denega explained this position reports directly to him and they had a desk audit done by the Department of Human Resources who came back with a letter of recommendation increasing the position from a Grade 14 to a Grade 15. This position is critical for the Department of Public Works; therefore, he is asking that it be approved.

Mr. Cheney clarified that the position requires an exam.

Mr. Denega stated that is correct.

Ms. Tyack added that the employee will have to take a promotional exam to obtain permanent status in the new position.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Minuta moved to create one (1) Fiscal Director, Management Grade 25 position, seconded by Mr. Benton.

This is a new position at the Department of Public Works and the Department of General Services recently created a similar position. Mr. Denega stated that they currently have a Grade 15 employee handling the budget as well as managing the financing of projects. He feels that a Grade 25 is appropriate for taking on the responsibilities.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Benton moved to approve a resolution of the Orange County Legislature assuming lead agency status under State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) with respect to the construction of pickle ball courts at Thomas Bull Memorial Park in the Town of Hamptonburgh, classifying the action as unlisted and determining that action will not have any adverse environmental impacts, seconded by Mr. Minuta.

Mr. Brooks stated this request is straightforward and necessary to move forward with the next step.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Tuohy moved to approve the request to accept and appropriate insurance funds in the amount of \$21,193.56 for the equipment loss in fire at The Ruth and Jim Ottaway Building in the Arboretum at Thomas Bull Memorial Park. Upon approval, funds will be added to the Parks 2023 operating budget, seconded by Mr. Minuta.

Mr. Brooks explained this is in addition to the half million and change that they received from the insurance company a few weeks ago for the damage and equipment loss from the fire.

Mr. Paduch commented that he had a meeting with Mr. Castricone because he was concerned about never seeing a report as to what happened. He found out from Mr. Castricone that it was due to a box of Christmas lights being placed on top of the stove and that is how it happened.

Mr. Cheney requested guidance on how to further discuss this.

Mr. Mahoney recommends that the committee go into executive session to further discuss the matter.

Mr. Paduch stated that he got a good explanation from Mr. Castricone, but it seems as though all this happened and there was no final report submitted to the legislature.

Mr. Benton moved to enter into executive session to discuss the fire that took place at the arboretum, seconded by Mr. Minuta.

Committee entered into executive session at 4:05 p.m.

Mr. Benton moved to leave executive session, seconded by Mr. Tuohy.

Committee left executive session at 4:11 p.m.

With no further discussion or questions on the agenda item, Mr. Cheney called for a vote on the original motion.

Motion carried. All in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 4:14 p.m.