

RULES, ENACTMENTS AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE
MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21, 2023
3:30 P.M.

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

ALSO

PRESENT: Katherine E. Bonelli, Chairwoman
Richard B. Golden, Esq., County Attorney
Alan Sorensen, AICP, Commissioner of Planning
Kerry Gallagher, Commissioner of Finance
James McGee, Deputy County Clerk
Courtney Hunter, Acting Chief Clerk, County Clerk's Office
Dina Sena, Budget Analyst
Erin Sztendor, Budget Analyst

Mr. Ruskiewicz opened the meeting at 3:30 p.m. and requested everyone stand for the Pledge of allegiance. All members were present with the exception Legislator Sierra, who was excused and Legislator Stegenga, who was absent.

Mr. Faggione moved request to enter into an Agreement with the New York State Thruway Authority to sell E-Z Pass Tags, seconded by Mr. Hines.

Mr. Cheney asked for the county's share. Mr. McGee replied \$4.00 per tag.

Ms. Hunter added that the tags will be purchased for \$21.00 and sold for \$25.00.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Cheney moved request to apply for, accept, and appropriate a Federal Transit Administration grant, the matching New York State grant and the local match. The funds are apportioned to Orange County via Federal 5307 funding program. The total FTA Grant amount is \$160,000.00, and the NYS match is \$20,000.00, and the local share is \$20,000.00. The local share will be provided by the Town of Warwick. These funds will be used to purchase a bus wash facility in the Town of Warwick. This project is not included in the 2023 Capital Plan. Upon approval, a new capital project will be created, seconded by Mr. Faggione.

Mr. Sorensen stated that this would be used for the Dial-A-Bus service in the Town of Warwick.

Mr. Paduch asked if this would cover the total cost of the facility. Mr. Sorensen replied yes.

Mr. Cheney explained that the washing component would be going into an existing building.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Paduch moved request to apply for and accept a Federal Transit Administration grant that is apportioned to Orange County via Federal 5307 funding program, Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA). This grant will be used for Operating Assistance payments for public transit operations in the Newburgh and Middletown urbanized areas of Orange County, and operating assistance for ADA paratransit services in the Middletown and Newburgh urbanized areas. It will also provide funding to support the costs of administering its grants and meeting associated Federal regulations and policies. The federal share of the Section 5307 operating assistance requested is \$269,565.00. This grant is 100% federally funded, and there is no local match required, seconded by Mr. Cheney.

Mr. Sorensen explained that the application was put in to commit this funding before their ability to use it expires. While they have access to 5307 funding, they need to ensure they use the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) funding first.

Mr. Paduch asked how the funding would be divided between the two municipalities. Mr. Sorensen replied that more funding goes to the Newburgh system, but it is not significantly different.

Mr. Paduch asked if it was based on population. Mr. Sorensen replied no, it is based on the service provided.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Paduch moved request to apply for and accept a Federal Transit Administration grant that is apportioned to Orange County via Federal 5307 funding program, American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). This grant will be used for Operating Assistance payments for public transit operations in the Newburgh and Middletown urbanized areas of Orange County, and operating assistance for ADA paratransit services in the Middletown and Newburgh Urbanized areas. It will also provide funding to support the costs of administering its grants and meeting associated Federal regulations and policies. The federal share

of the Section 5307 operating assistance being requested is \$4,426,318.00. This grant is 100% federally funded, and there is no local match required, seconded by Mr. Amo.

Mr. Sorensen stated that they would draw down the ARPA funding before using the 5307 funds.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Cheney moved request to apply for, accept and appropriate a Federal Transit Administration grant, the matching NYS grant and the local match. These funds are apportioned to Orange County via the Federal 5339 funding program. The total FTA Grant amount is \$2,648,242.00, the NYS match is \$331,030.25, and the local share is \$331,030.25. The local share will be provided by the transit operator who provides the local services. The County is not responsible for a local match. These funds will be used to purchase transit vehicles for a fixed route transit service operated in Orange County. This project was not included in the 2023 Capital Plan. Upon approval, a new capital project will be created, seconded by Mr. Faggione.

Mr. Sorensen explained that Transit Orange has sixteen different bus operators, and the required local match will come from the locality requesting the service.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Faggione moved request to create (1) one Executive Assistant, Grade 14, once incumbent obtains permanent status, abolish Executive Secretary/Administrative Assistant, Grade 11, seconded by Mr. Amo.

Mr. Sorensen explained that this position works closely with the Commissioner of Planning. A desk audit was performed, and it was determined that the position should be an Executive Assistant, Grade 14.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Faggione moved to approve SEQRA and applications for the inclusion of lands into the Orange County Agricultural District No. 1, seconded by Mr. Cheney.

Mr. Ruszkiewicz stated that this passed unanimously at the Education and Economic Development meeting.

Mr. Sorensen explained that this was the annual opportunity for property owners to petition to join Agricultural District No. 1. Ten applications were received, and site visits were completed. The Orange County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board recommended eight

of the ten applications be included. The ninth application in the Town of Woodbury was discussed at Monday's Education and Economic Development committee meeting. The property is agriculturally viable which the New York State Agriculture and Markets will look at and the property owners have invested significant funds to create a wedding venue with the next step of their development process being an onsite winery. The property is approximately 58 acres of which 17.9 acres are soils of significance. The next step in the process is to approve SEQRA and applications for inclusion of lands into the Orange County Agricultural District No. 1.

Chairwoman Bonelli added that at the public hearing for the inclusion of lands into the Orange County Agricultural District No. 1., the owner of the property in the Town of Woodbury made a legitimate argument for inclusion. After the public hearing she consulted with legislative counsel who confirmed that as a legislature they could add to the list for inclusion even though the Orange County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board did not recommend the property which she requested be done at the Education and Economic Development committee meeting on Monday. Initially they received a letter from the village of Woodbury opposing the inclusion of the property; however, a great deal of substantial information was not provided as to why they opposed the project. Subsequently, they did receive letters of support from councilmembers in the Town of Woodbury for the project and knowing that the final decision on these properties will be made by the New York State Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets she felt it was only fair to give this property owner a fair hearing and let Albany make the final decision. She respectfully asked that this committee follow suit with what the Education and Economic Development committee did on Monday and add the property for inclusion in Orange County Agricultural District No. 1. Lastly, the tenth property that was not recommended for inclusion was only storing machinery at this point.

Mr. Paduch moved to include the Pulver property in the Town of Woodbury; 202-1-70,202-1-72,202-1-79, 202-1-12, 202-1-60.5 and 202-1-59.1 into the Orange County Agricultural District No. 1, seconded by Mr. Cheney

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Paduch asked if a site visit was conducted on every property. Mr. Sorensen replied yes.

As amended, motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Cheney moved resolution authorizing the Chairwoman of the Orange County Legislature to enter into an agreement with the Sanborn Map Company, Inc. (applied geographics) for consulting services for development of a Legislative Redistricting Plan for the County of Orange, seconded by Mr. Faggione

Chairwoman Bonelli explained that they received four RFP's which were reviewed by the selection and scoring committee with two ultimately being worthy of virtual interviews. Those members consisted of the Chairwoman of the Legislature, Majority Leader, Minority Leader, Legislator of the Conservative Party, Legislator of the Independence Party, Chairman of the Rules, Enactments

and Intergovernmental Relations Committee, Commissioner of Planning, Commissioner of General Services and Legislative Counsel. After the interviews and scoring process the Sanborn Map Company, Inc. (Applied Graphics) scored the highest and she is requesting they enter into agreement with them. Once passed the selection committee will become the work committee with tentative dates set to begin working with the contract.

Mr. Hines asked if the \$80,000.00 included everything or could they come back for additional funds. Chairwoman Bonelli replied that it was for everything, and they cannot request more.

Mr. Hines asked for clarification that the legislature can reject their proposal and request it be redone and would that they would still be within the \$80,000.00. Chairwoman Bonelli replied yes.

Chairwoman Bonelli clarified that three plans will be presented with five public hearings and in-person meetings.

Mr. Paduch commented that while this proposer was not his first choice both offered good proposals. The proposer he supported would conduct personal interviews with each legislator.

Chairwoman Bonelli clarified that the chosen proposer will be conducting interviews with legislators, it was just worded differently.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Amo moved a resolution of the Orange County Legislature opposing the paroled release of convicted murderer, Juan Peinado, seconded by Mr. Paduch.

Mr. Faggione made the following statement supporting the resolution: "On June 15, 1996, Danny Meyer of Maybrook, New York, was murdered on his way to a Little League game. The sentence was 25 years to life, and he hopes that the sentence remains that way. For Danny's family, his community and our entire community, he would hope that this resolution would send a message to Albany that people who murder and commit violence of this nature should be locked up forever."

Motion carried. All in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.