

**PHYSICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

**MONDAY, JULY 26, 2021
3:30 P.M.**

PRESENT: Barry J. Cheney, Chairman
Leigh J. Benton, Katie Bonelli, James M. Kulisek, Michael D. Paduch,
Paul Ruskiewicz, Peter V. Tuohy

ALSO

PRESENT: L. Stephen Brescia, Chairman
Betsy N. Abraham, Legislative Counsel
Harold J. Porr, III., Deputy County Executive
Stacy Butler, Senior Assistant County Attorney
Travis Ewald, Deputy Commissioner, Dept. of Public Works/Engineering Div.
Robert Gray, Deputy Commissioner, Dept. of Public Works/EF&S
Kevin Sumner, Director, Orange County Soil and Water Conservation District
Deborah Slesinski, Budget Director

Chairman Cheney opened the committee meeting at 3:32 p.m. by asking everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. All committee members were present with the exception of Legislator Minuta who was absent.

Mr. Sumner addressed the committee with a packet and maps (see original minutes) regarding the Orange County Soil and Water Conservation District which included the Walkkill River/Black Dirt Flood Mitigation, Soil Health/Carbon Farming, Stormwater Management, Environmental Benefit Project (EBP), Farm Equipment, Goals for the Future, and Funding Highlights.

Mr. Benton asked if Cornell Cooperative Extension is involved.

Mr. Sumner replied yes, they teach a four-hour course for contractors as part of the Cornell series.

Mr. Kulisek asked if there is a plan for Moodna Creek.

Mr. Sumner responded that he is unsure if any structures will be built down the hill, but he knows some landowners had to move some outbuildings back because the top of the slope is receding. He stated that the Department of Public Works is doing a study that is focused on protecting the county road at the top of the slope.

Mr. Ewald added that they have consultants on board looking at the stability of the roadway and see if there are any interim measures that need to take place right now to protect the roadway. They will also be looking at a few conceptual approaches to stabilize the bank. He stated anything the consultant proposes would help mitigate Mr. Sumner's concerns because the erosion needs to be stopped to stabilize that bank.

Mr. Cheney mentioned that the county reduced the Soil and Water Conservation District's budget in 2020 and again in 2021 and asked what impact it had on operations.

Mr. Sumner replied that since 2017, they have been earmarking \$50,000.00 of the appropriation for the flood work in the back dirt, otherwise they use the county appropriation funding for operations such as office expenses. This year the board decided to apply the 15% cut to the \$50,000.00.

Mr. Kulisek commented that the flood plain needs to have work done sooner than later.

Mr. Sumner agreed.

Mr. Cheney clarified that Mr. Sumner requested \$242,000.00 for next year's budget and asked how much of that will cover actual project work.

Mr. Sumner stated that is correct and replied that the \$50,000.00 earmarked for the flood work is the only other funding they have.

Mrs. Bonelli moved to approve the request for the revenue shortfall in Capital Project No. 834 for Transfer Stations Various Vehicles to be covered by Capital Reserve so that project can be closed, \$121,036.17, seconded by Mr. Benton.

Mr. Gray stated this request is concerning two 2006 roll-off trucks. The shortfall in the amount of \$121,036.17 is due to the lack of timing with a DEC grant. His understanding is the paperwork was received by the DEC, but it was too late to be processed. If the equipment is over ten years old, they do not pay for it and that is why there is a shortfall. Furthermore, he will be writing a letter to the DEC stating that the paperwork was in on time, so it should have been processed.

Mr. Paduch clarified that amount is a required amount for both roll-off trucks.

Mr. Gray stated that is correct. It represents the 50% they would have received from the DEC.

Mr. Benton commented that he has been on the Physical Services Committee for several years, so he knows a state grant is authorized every year in a timely fashion; therefore, this is not an error on our part.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Tuohy moved to accept the approval of Right-of-Way dedication the southwesterly line of County Road 75 (Coldenham Road), through the lands of MILR, LLC (Tax Map parcel 315-5-4) in the Village of Walden. Said dedication was deemed necessary for Road Width design criteria during the review process, seconded by Mr. Paduch.

Mr. Ewald stated this is a typical road dedication request which is a small sliver of land in front of the parcel located on County Road 75 (Coldenham Road) in the Village of Walden.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Ewald addressed the committee with the last agenda item, an update on road and bridge projects. He stated that **Orange County owns and maintains 302 miles of road or 606 lane miles**. Last year the Department of Public Works was only able to pave or surface treat 7.5 miles of road which was due to a very late start because of the COVID-19 pandemic. There was also competition amongst municipalities to schedule paving contractors once the end of summer came and restrictions were beginning to be lifted. To date, they have resurfaced 15 miles of roadway, are scheduled, and anticipate completing at a minimum, another 10 miles for a 2021. He added that this will catch us up to keep on our pavement management program. Regarding bridges, there are 147 which the County owns and maintains. The bridges that were done last year were Orange Spring Bridge located on Carboy Road over Shawangunk Kill, in Mount Hope and the Grove Drive Bridge on East Village Road, Ramapo River in Tuxedo. Bridge deck repairs, new membrane and repaving for nine (9) bridges were as follows; Sterling Lake Road Bridge – CR 84 (Sterling Lake Road), Town of Tuxedo, Farmingdale Bridge – CR 51 (Hulsetown Road), Town of Blooming Grove, Garnerville #2 Bridge - Ridgebury Road, Town of Minisink, Kerby Road Bridge - Derby Road, Town of Wallkill, South Centerville Bridge - CR 22 (South Centerville Road), Town of Wawayanda, Hill Avenue Bridge – CR 89 (Hill Avenue), Town of Crawford, Mould Bridge – Ulsterville Road, Town of Crawford, Streit Bridge - Goodridge Road, Town of Minisink, and the Bellvale Bridge, State School Road, Town of Warwick. This year the Maple Glen Bridge will be replaced and is located on Brola Road, Town of Wallkill, the Bank Street Bridge located on Bank Street, Village of Warwick and the Neversink Bridge, located on CR 80 Neversink Drive, Town of Deerpark. He then explained that next year they anticipate replacing the Board Bridge on Round Hill Rd, Town of Blooming Grove along with various bridge rehab projects which include bearings, joint replacement, concrete repairs and painting that will take place on the Cheechunk Bridge – Cheechunk, Town of Wallkill, the Camp LaGuardia Bridge on Greycourt Road, Town of Chester, Salisbury Mills Bridge located on CR 27 Clove Rd, Town of Blooming Grove, Powdermill Bridge deck replacement on Powder Mill Rd, Town of Newburgh and the Otisville Viaduct, on Highland Ave CR11, Village of Otisville. The bridges that are currently in design are Board Bridge, Otisville Viaduct, Powdermill Bridge, Gramline Bridge on CR 18, New Vernon Road, in Mount Hope, the Main St #2 Bridge, on CR 9 Main St, Town of Cornwall, and the Lake Horton Bridge on New Vernon Road, Town of Mount Hope which the Tappan Zee panel may be used on. In regard to the Bridge New York Program, three bridge applications were submitted, and 95% grant funds can be used on two bridges. The bridges that would be replaced/rehabilitated are the Farmingdale Bridge, the Silver Lake Bridge, and the Gardnerville Bridge. He is currently reviewing applications from other regions and has learned that there is \$150 million total available for Bridge New York, the Hudson valley region is only allocated \$16.2 million and, 29 applications for the Hudson Valley Region would total a requested of \$85 million.

The meeting adjourned at 4:16 p.m.