

**WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 28, 2018
3:30 P.M.**

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

ALSO

PRESENT: Barry J. Cheney, Legislator
Antoinette Reed, Legislative Counsel
Matthew Nothnagle, Chief Asst. County Attorney
John Tkazyik, Deputy Commissioner of General Services
Karin Hablow, Commissioner of Finance
Erik Denega, Commissioner, Dept. of Public Works
Travis Ewald, Deputy Commissioner, Dept. of Public Works/Engineering Division
Brendan Casey, Commissioner of Emergency Services
John McCarey, Director, Real Property Tax Service

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 Minority Leader Paduch who was absent.

Mr. Casey addressed the committee with an update on the School Safety Program. He explained that they have a contract with NYSTEC, a non-for-profit technology consulting company that are on state contract. The company is doing a survey that will be sent to all the school districts the first week of September. After the survey is complete they will have recommendations and begin the process of providing recommendations. Mr. Casey added that the contract was recently signed. He met with them prior to that and decided to move forward.

Mr. Hines asked if the contract is for \$25,000.00 and if the scope of work is focusing on communication.

Mr. Casey replied yes, the company is aware of how much the county must spend and they will be focusing on communication as well as recommendations to linking first responders to schools.

Mr. Benton pointed out that he spoke with the Walkill school district superintendent who said that Orange and Ulster County have some sort of agreement for a school resource officer in the Leptondale school.

Mr. Casey stated that may be done through the Sheriff's Office.

Mr. Hines asked Mrs. Reed if this program will be part of the Shared Services Project.

Mrs. Reed replied that she is unsure and will check with Mr. Church.

Mr. Casey stated they would have a project to present and NYSTEC would need to submit their recommendations.

Mr. Hines stated that Mr. Church said the proposals would have to be submitted in order for the county to get credit in 2019 and suggested that Mr. Casey can add this generically to get some credit for it even if it is not final.

Mrs. Reed confirmed that Mr. Casey would like her to reach out to Mr. Church.

Mr. Casey responded that would be fine and they will see what can be done.

Mr. O'Donnell asked Mr. Casey when he met with NYSTEC and if someone from the IT Department attended as well.

Mr. Casey replied that he met with them two weeks ago and the IT Department was there along with Mr. Wierzbicki.

Mr. O'Donnell asked that Mr. Casey come back to committee in November with another update.

Mr. Minuta moved to adopt a resolution making a supplemental appropriation to the capital projects budget for Intersections and Improvements. This project has been approved under the 2018 Capital Plan as Project No. 39. Upon approval, a new capital project will be created, \$100,000.00 (bonding), seconded by Mrs. Bonelli.

Mr. Denega stated that in the past there have been multiple versions of this capital project, but they have used the monies for upgrades to existing traffic signals, upgrade electric services, replacement of two flashing signals with a fully functional traffic signal, analysis for an intersection, etc.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Ms. Sutherland moved to adopt a resolution making a supplemental appropriation to the capital projects budget for the Preliminary Engineering and Design Phase of the replacement of the Grahamline Bridge in the Town of Mount Hope. This project has been approved under the 2018 Capital Plan as Project No. 49. Upon approval, a new capital project will be created, \$125,000.00 (bonding), seconded by Mrs. Bonelli.

Mr. Ewald explained the Grahamline Bridge is in Mount Hope, approximately 191 feet long, was constructed in 1969 and carries County Route 18 over the MetroNorth Railway. It was constructed with steel girders and a concrete reinforced deck. The steel beams are deteriorating and is yellow flagged by NYS DOT, so they are looking to replace this before it is red flagged and cannot be used. He added that they would be looking at a 2018-2019 design process and going into construction in 2020.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Ms. Sutherland moved to adopt a resolution making a supplemental appropriation to the capital projects budget for the replacement of the Otisville Viaduct. This project has been approved under the 2018 Capital Plan as Project No. 48. Upon approval, the funds will increase existing Capital Project No. 522, \$2,800,000.00 (bonding), seconded by Mr. Kulisek.

Mr. Denega stated this request is the money portion required to complete the project the bridge. He added that this would be shrunk down to a one span bridge and requires less maintenance in the future.

Mr. Minuta asked if there will be any drainage issues when putting up the retaining wall.

Mr. Ewald replied no, they do not anticipate there being one.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Minuta moved to adopt a resolution making a supplemental appropriation to the capital projects budget for the replacement of the Dwaar Kill Bridge. This project has been approved under the 2018 Capital Plan as Project No. 33. Upon approval, the funds will increase existing Capital Project No. 449, \$650,000.00 (bonding), seconded by Mrs. Bonelli.

Mr. Ewald explained the Dwaar Kill Bridge is located in the Towns of Crawford and Montgomery, was built in 1934, carries Fluery Road over the Dwaar Kill, is approximately 40 feet long and they anticipate on replacing it with a three-sided precast concrete box to be done with in-house forces. He added that the railing on the current bridge does not meet current standards.

Mr. Benton asked if the bridge is flagged.

Mr. Ewald replied that he does not believe it has been flagged but it is overall in general, poor condition.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Minuta moved to adopt a resolution requesting to reduce authorization in Capital Project No. 100 (Partial Reconstruction of and Construction of Additions to the Orange County Government Center Building Complex) by \$175,000.00 and increase authorization in Capital Project No. 100-17 (Orange County Government Center FFE & IT) by \$175,000.00 (bonding-2), seconded by Mr. Benton.

Mr. Denega stated that over the course of two to three months he has let everyone know that they would be addressing the committee with regard to adjusting the FF&E budget. The \$175,000.00 is planned to get them to the end of construction. He reviewed the expense sheet with the committee (see original minutes).

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. O'Donnell moved the request to accept and appropriate grant funds from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for work at the Orange County Airport described as Environmental Assessment and Preliminary Design for Obstruction Removal and Mitigation. Total cost of the projects \$161,000.00 (Federal Share: \$144,900.00; State Share: \$8,050.00; County Share \$8,050.00). Upon approval, this will increase funding of Capital Project No. 620 (LR#167), seconded by Ms. Sutherland.

Mr. Denega stated this is the second phase of a five-phase obstruction project that is required by the FAA in order for the airport improvement program grant recipients to be eligible for the grants. The study looks at approaches to the airport and makes sure all obstructions are out of the fly zone. He added that request makes the county eligible to receive grants.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Anagnostakis moved the request to accept and appropriate receipt of insurance funds into Capital Project No. 228-17 increasing insurance recoveries and decreasing serial bonds by \$3,014.00 (bonding), seconded by Mr. Hines.

Mr. Tkazyik stated they had to replace two universal power supplies from the water damage that took place on March 16th; therefore, this is a reimbursement to the capital.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Anagnostakis moved the request to reduce previously authorized bond resolutions for various completed capital projects, seconded by Mr. O'Donnell.

Ms. Hablow stated that agenda items "a through d" are for annual clean-up and to close capital projects as much as she can at this point. This request is to reduce previously authorized bonding amounts so that they can reduce the authorized unissued debt that currently appears in the capital plan and then the projects can be closed. She referred to the schedule in the packet (see original minutes).

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Anagnostakis moved the request to transfer any unspent revenues funded by inter-fund transfers back to their original source on completed capital projects in preparation to close the project, seconded by Mr. Hines.

Ms. Hablow stated this request is similar to the previous one in that they are looking to close capital projects but for these projects, she needs permission to transfer unspent revenues. She referred to the attachment (see original minutes).

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Anagnostakis moved the request to transfer any unspent revenues from closed capital projects to debt service in preparation to close the project, seconded by Mrs. Bonelli.

Ms. Hablow explained that these are projects where they already issued debt that was not needed so the funds need to be transferred into debt service.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Anagnostakis moved the request that capital project budgets be adjusted due to unborrowed amounts that have passed their 10-year life and are now deemed repealed. The county's authorized and unissued bonds will also be decreased, seconded by Mr. Minuta.

Ms. Hablow stated this last request is to close out projects but in order to do so she needs permission from the legislature.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. O'Donnell moved to discuss and update regarding petty cash limits for departments, seconded by Mr. Anagnostakis.

Ms. Hablow pointed out that the committee requested a petty cash report (see original minutes) which has been updated. The only departments whose petty cash was increased within the past few months was the Sheriff's Office and Veterans.

Mr. Minuta moved to adopt a resolution amending Resolution No. 92 of 2018 authorizing the private sale and conveyance of certain county owned lands acquired by reason of a failure to redeem said lands from a tax sale to Orange County, pursuant to Section 1018(4) of the Real Property Tax Law and Orange County amended Local Law No. 2 of 2010, seconded by Mr. Benton.

Mr. McCarey explained that in May he requested a 90 day period to close on a piece of property but the local law requires that there be a 30 day closing period and even with permission and it being extended another 30 days, he needs 30 more days so that the one property can be a 90 day close.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Kulisek moved the request to accept tax litigation settlement between the County of Orange and Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, Inc. for the 2018 property taxes, whereby the County will receive the principal owing for three parcels in the Town of Newburgh with interest and penalties forgiven. Said funds to go to the General Fund Reserve: Section 95-1-45.22 \$43,026.26; Section 97-2-30.12 \$21,521.39; Section 97-2-30.22 \$797.82, seconded by Mr. Benton.

Mr. McCarey stated this is a deal with the Watchtower property which is in the Town of Newburgh. The former assessor coded it incorrectly, so it need the proper coding of 420 which will be an appropriate solution to an awkward problem.

Mr. Minuta asked if there are any costs to the county.

Mr. McCarey replied no.

Motion carried. All in favor.

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

The first deed sale parcel is located in the Town of Mount Hope (14-1-12) with a minimum bid of \$5,000.00 and an amount bid of \$500.00. Mr. McCarey recommended that the committee deny this parcel because he can get more money for it. Parcel number two is in the Town of Wallkill (31-1-14), has a minimum bid of \$5,000.00 and an amount bid of \$1,500.00. He recommended that the committee approve it.

Motion carried. All in favor of accepting Mr. McCarey's recommendations to approve parcel No. 2 and deny parcel No. 3.

The last parcel is in the Town of New Windsor (34-2-54). The minimum bid is \$13,000.00 and the amount bid is \$100.00. Mr. McCarey stated it is a retention pond in a development that became a billable lot which came down in price. The Town of New Windsor is offering to take the property; therefore, Mr. McCarey recommends that the committee approve it but it is at the pleasure of the committee.

Motion carried. All in favor of accepting Mr. McCarey's recommendation to approve parcel No. 3.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.