

**WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 29, 2023  
3:30 P.M.**

PRESENT: Leigh J. Benton, Chairman  
Mike Anagnostakis, L. Stephen Brescia, James D. O'Donnell,  
Thomas J. Faggione, Kevin W. Hines, Michael D. Paduch,  
Barry J. Cheney

ALSO

PRESENT: Katie Bonelli, Chairwoman  
Betsy N. Abraham, Esq., Legislative Counsel  
Alicia D'Amico, Director of Operations and Cost Control  
Mike Torelli, Assistant to the County Executive  
Richard B. Golden, Esq., County Attorney  
Matthew Nothnagle, Chief Assistant County Attorney  
Lisa Morgillo, Assistant County Attorney  
Donna Badura, Assistant County Attorney  
Kerry Gallagher, Commissioner of Finance  
Andrea Concannon, Deputy Commissioner of Finance  
Samantha Sweikata, Commissioner, Dept. of General Services  
Travis Ewald, Acting Commissioner, Dept. of Parks, Recreation and Conservation  
Deputy Commissioner, Dept. of Public Works/Engineering  
Deanna Crawford, Deputy Commissioner, Dept. of Parks, Recreation and Conservation  
Robert Gray, Deputy Commissioner, Dept. of Public Works/Environmental Facilities and  
Services  
Brian W. Titsworth, Deputy Commissioner, Infrastructure Services  
Stacy Butler, Deputy Commissioner, Planning Department  
Martha, Eckman, Senior Planner  
Edward Magryta, Director, Orange County Airport  
Paul Wiley, Director, Real Property Tax Service  
Deborah Slesinski, Budget Director  
Gretchen Riordan, Deputy Budget Director  
Dr. Kristine Young, President, Orange County Community College  
Paul G. Martland, Vice President of Admin./Finance, Orange County Community College  
Corey Dawkins, Director of Campus Facilities/Services

Chairman Benton 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 Legislator Sierra who was excused.

Mr. Faggione moved to approve the request for a Local Law to create new Department of Information Technology Services, and to transfer the functions of the Department of General Services pertaining to

the administration and delivery of information technology services to the new Department of Information Technology Services, seconded by Mr. Cheney.

Ms. D'Amico explained the IT Department and the merger with the Department of General Services which took place in 2015 has become a different world since then. She is respectfully requesting an amendment of the local law to separate the two. When they merged in 2015, it served its purpose and did what was needed. It is a different day in age, and they need a CIO (Chief Information Officer) who will respond and answer to the County Executive as well as the Legislature for strategic direction going forward. When the local law was put in place, it was a decentralized organization meaning departments were allowed to have Shadow IT and make decisions about updates. An example is when the new Microsoft Windows update needed to be done and no one wanted the new "bells and whistles" because they were used to what they had. That cannot be done anymore. When updates and changes need to be made, it must be driven by the IT Department by the CIO and not only for cybersecurity, but how things are operated within Orange County Government. She is asking for support to drive them into the next century.

Mr. Anagnostakis stated it served its purpose in 2015 and he would like to know what that purpose was.

Ms. D'Amico replied at that time it was to consolidate to save tons of money.

Mr. Anagnostakis asked if they saved tons of money and if anyone ever came here and stated that the department saved "x" amount of dollars every year.

Ms. D'Amico responded that she cannot attest to that and remembers that Legislator Hines asked the same question. She also remembers at some point stating at a committee meeting that sometimes one will not see the dollar amount but can find efficiency across the departments and organization.

Mr. Anagnostakis asked if we can quantify how much money is being saved.

Ms. D'Amico replied that she would be remised if she said they could at this time, but she can say that what she saw was a lot of negotiations and contracts. If they could quantify it, there would be tremendous savings across the board.

Mr. Anagnostakis clarified that it would be millions of dollars in savings.

Ms. D'Amico stated she is reluctant to commit to anything, but she would think over the years, yes, it would be close to that.

Mr. Anagnostakis pointed out that to un-do this, they would un-do the millions of dollars in savings.

Ms. D'Amico stated that it may cost more in the long run by not doing it because they need to drive the IT Department differently moving forward. They cannot continue to operate this way.

Mr. Anagnostakis commented that he is confused because when they merged it was optimal to do so, and asked why it is not optimal now.

Ms. D'Amico replied because of skill sets and needs.

Mr. Anagnostakis stated that they would bring people in who have the skill sets and asked why not bring them in under the structure there is today.

Ms. D'Amico responded that the ideal opportunity to separate the IT Department is to bring in a CIO for strategic vision leadership, something that is digital transformation and innovation.

Mr. Anagnostakis asked if she knew who would be brought in and if not, did the County Executive know.

Ms. D'Amico replied no, they want to be able to do an executive search and the way to do it is as a CIO. To start moving that forward and make changes for the IT Department, the local law needs to be approved first.

Mr. Anagnostakis asked Ms. D'Amico if she could quantify what the cost would be to do this.

Ms. D'Amico responded that she intends on coming back to the committee in October to give a presentation on everything.

Mr. Anagnostakis indicated that he would vote in favor of this if he liked what the numbers were and would vote against this if he did not like the numbers; therefore, he cannot vote today if he does not have that information.

Ms. D'Amico stated they do not have the numbers yet, but they have an idea which will go with the presentation and the number being presented to the budget.

Mr. Benton stated the main thing they are trying to prevent is what took place in Suffolk County which cost millions and millions of dollars. He asked if anyone knew what it cost Suffolk County for the event that took place.

Mr. Faggione replied there was a recent news report that Suffolk County paid \$5.2 million dollars investigating what went wrong with cybersecurity but there are still estimates missing for manpower and data.

Mr. Anagnostakis commented that it is disconcerting thinking that we had a structure for the last seven years to ensure events like that would not occur and now we must restructure the department so that cybersecurity attacks won't happen.

Ms. D'Amico stated that is not correct. They need to move in the right direction and change how operations are done moving forward and that will be presented in executive session prior to the budget hearing due to the sensitivity of details about the department.

Mr. O'Donnell mentioned that this is similar to last week and the request that was discussed regarding the Health Department position. He, like Legislator Anagnostakis, would like to see something before asking us to separate the department. There are no numbers or information before them other than requesting a Charter change. He is trying to remember how many times the Charter has been changed since he took office in the county, and he can guarantee it is less than a handful. He asked if the person in charge of the IT Department was in attendance.

Ms. D'Amico replied yes, Ms. Sweikata.

Mr. O'Donnell then asked what will happen to her position if the departments are separated.

Ms. D'Amico replied she will remain the Commissioner of General Services.

Mr. O'Donnell clarified that another position for Commissioner/CIO will be created for the IT Department and Ms. D'Amico stated that is correct.

Mr. O'Donnell further asked how many people will be in the IT Department and how many will come from the Department of General Services.

Ms. D'Amico responded that six to twelve (additional) people will be immediately placed in the department and thirteen people will transfer from the Department of General Services.

Regarding Suffolk County, Mr. O'Donnell stated that even if all the positions that were just mentioned were put into the department, there is no guarantee that we would not suffer the same consequences as they did.

Ms. D'Amico agreed with Mr. O'Donnell and stated that they can only do their best.

Mr. O'Donnell asked if there is a ballpark figure for the new department.

Ms. D'Amico replied there is a \$10 million budget, and they were thinking of putting \$2 million aside.

Mr. O'Donnell confirmed that there is \$10 million in the department's budget which will be transferred to the new department and Ms. D'Amico thinks it will only cost \$2 million more.

Ms. D'Amico stated that that is correct.

Mr. O'Donnell asked that the County Executive provide exact numbers on how much this will cost beforehand rather than having a legislator ask.

Ms. D'Amico reiterated that she is looking forward to presenting this to the committee in October and it will have all the details. This is the first step in separating the department.

Mr. O'Donnell stated that he does not agree with this having to be the first step, but he will vote in favor of this and is looking forward to the presentation in October.

Mr. Golden pointed out that the issue is, when creating a new position, it must be approved by the State, so to do so, they would not allow a separate position that would not be subject to testing. There would not be a managerial position of that nature, therefore, when there is a separate department that gives the State the rationale to go ahead and put that person in that category, like other department heads and management, they are not subject to testing.

Mr. O'Donnell mentioned that does not change his opinion.

Mr. Hines commented that the exact same questions were asked at the Rules Committee meeting, and it passed.

Mr. Anagnostakis stated that conceptually he is not against this, he would like the numbers.

Mr. O'Donnell asked Ms. Sweikata if she gets a stipend for overseeing the IT Department.

Ms. Sweikata replied no, she is the Commissioner of both departments.

Mr. O'Donnell indicated that most people get a stipend for overseeing two departments, so he is surprised she does not get one.

Mr. Benton pointed out that when the departments were merged, the direct savings was that there was one department head with salary and benefits instead of two.

Mr. Brescia stated that Mr. Burpoe received a stipend.

Ms. D'Amico mentioned that this has nothing to do with Ms. Sweikata or the IT Department. The department is doing an incredible job, and nothing reflects that.

Mr. O'Donnell agreed and reiterated that he is shocked that she does not get a stipend.

Regarding the budget numbers, Mr. Cheney asked how much of the \$10 million is already being spent by the County under the current circumstances, with IT being part of the Department of General Services.

Ms. D'Amico responded that they are two separate budgets.

Mr. Cheney clarified that it is \$10 million total.

Ms. Sweikata stated that is correct. Ten million dollars is the total and they are down 1% since last year's budget.

Mr. O'Donnell asked Ms. Sweikata and Ms. D'Amico if they were interviewed by Suite Advice, LLC. when they did the Condrey Study.

They both replied no.

Mr. Faggione clarified that information technology has changed from 2015 to today.

Ms. D'Amico stated that is correct.

Mr. Faggione pointed out that what we may have embarked upon back then worked, but the world we live in today has changed. He asked if the trend to have a CIO is something that is specific for Orange County or with the region, across the State, and/or Country.

Ms. D'Amico responded that it is all over.

Mr. Cheney asked if the committee needs to offer the amendments that were made at the Rules Committee meeting.

Mr. Benton replied that he is unaware of the amendments that took place.

Mr. Cheney reviewed the amendments with the committee (on file in Clerk, Legislative Office).

Amendments from the Rules, Enactments and Intergovernmental Relations Committee on August 23, 2023:

"Mr. Golden addressed the committee and stated that the focus was around Legislator Amo's desire to modify the language to specifically include the Orange County Legislature. It's very clear in the Charter and he and Legislative Counsel agree that a unit of government includes the County Legislature so when it say all units of Orange County government it includes the Legislative Branch and executive units of the Executive branch as well. In that sense it does not need to be changed but if there is a desire to emphasize this language, he and Legislative Counsel agree that it would do no harm and still be consistent with the charter. If they were to include the following on page 2, Section 14.02 (2): "have charge of the management and processing of information and data for the Orange County Legislature, all units of Orange County Government and all other local governments or entities that may contract with Orange County for such services." This would also be changed in one place on page 3 and two places on page 4 in identical fashion. He and Legislative Counsel Abraham both agree that in the last line of the second paragraph in Section 1., they strike the word "all" and insert "both" branches of Orange County Government to make it clear that there are only two branches of Orange County Government although there are many units of Orange County Government"

Legislative Counsel Abraham stated that a motion must be made to accept the amendments and another vote is needed to vote on the amended resolution.

Mr. Cheney moved to accept the amendments to the proposed resolution, seconded by Mr. O'Donnell.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Cheney moved to accept the amended resolution, seconded by Mt. O'Donnell.

Motion carried. All in favor with the exception of Legislator Anagnostakis who voted against.

Mr. Paduch moved to approve the request release of the County's interest in and to certain deed sale parcels to the previous owners of record (a final list will be submitted at the Legislative Session), seconded by Mr. Brescia.

Mr. Nothnagle stated this is a routine request to vacate a judgement under Local Law No. 2 of 2010.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Hines moved the request to authorize the purchase of an unused 10-mile, 101-acre section of the former Erie Railroad right-of-way in Orange County from Open Space Institute. It is identified as the Schunnemunk Rail Trail, and consists of the following tax parcels:

Town of Cornwall 1-1-64.2, 1-1-64.1, 1-1-166.2, and 29-1-12  
Town of Blooming Grove 5-4-5.2, 5-4-8, 6-1-16, 9-1-17, 14-1-32,  
18-1-4, 38-1-23,43-1-18, and 52-1-1  
Town of Chester 3-1-3.1  
Village of Washingtonville 113-3-11.22, 114-1-14, 117-1-1 and 120-1-14

The purchase will be reimbursed through a Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grant, New York State match and a local match that will be provided by the County. The total purchase price is \$2,362,500.00. The FTA grant will be \$1,890,000.00, NYS match will be \$236,250.00 and the County match will be \$236,250.00, seconded by Mr. Faggione.

Ms. Butler stated this resolution went before the Rules Committee as well as the Physical Services Committee. The Skunnemunk Rail Trail has been in the planning phases for a while, is funded through Federal 5307 and one of the processes that has taken awhile to get to this point is appraisals for all the parcels, so the next step is to issue a design.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Paduch moved the 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 5307 funding program. The total FTA Grant amount is \$1,976,000.00, the NYS match is \$247,000.00, and the local share is \$247,000.00. \$221,000.00 of the local share will be provided by the municipalities and local operators of service, and \$26,000.00 is required from the county as their portion. The total amount is \$2,470,000.00. These funds will be used to purchase Dial-A-Ride replacement vehicles for paratransit and demand response services; both of which are operated within Orange County. This project has been approved under the 2023 Capital Plan as proposed Capital Project No. 122. Upon approval, a new capital project will be created, seconded by Mr. Cheney.

Ms. Butler explained this resolution also went before two other committees and allows for them to take advantage of the Federal 5307 funding to purchase Dial-A-Ride replacement vehicles for paratransit and demand response services.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Brescia moved to approve the request for supplemental appropriation for proposed Capital Project No. 130 in the 2023 Capital Plan to replace the blast chiller freezer. Upon approval, a new capital project will be created, \$47,000.00 (bonding), seconded by Mr. Hines.

Ms. Slesinski stated they are looking to replace the current blast chiller freezer as it has not been working in over six months and is an essential part of operations. It has been looked at by numerous contractors and none have been able to fix the issues with the current piece of equipment.

Mr. Benton pointed out that this was approved at the Health and Mental Health Committee meeting.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Faggione moved to approve the request for supplemental appropriation for proposed Capital Project No. 129 in the 2023 Capital Plan to continue with residential unit refurbishments. Upon approval, a new capital project will be created, \$40,000.00 (bonding), seconded by Mr. Benton.

Ms. Slesinski explained that this is an annual project for residential refurbishments such as handrails, signage, wallcoverings, t.v.'s, etc.

Motion carried All in favor.

Mr. Cheney moved to approve the request to cancel two approved Library HVAC capital projects and replace them with an expanded consolidated project. The expanded project will also address HVAC issues in the Shepard Center currently scheduled in two phases over the next two years. These changes will lower the total cost of these four projects from \$2,595,000 to \$1,553,982. The four projects are: Library cooling tower piping (\$350k) (2023), Library chiller replacement (\$420k) (2023), Shepard Center air handler replacement phase one (\$1.2M) (2024), and Shepard Center Air Handler replacement phase two (\$625k) (2025). The \$1,553,982 consolidated project has been quoted by, and will be managed by, the New York Power Authority, for a Spring 2024 estimated completion. NYS will pay 50%. Supplemental appropriation requested, seconded by Mr. Faggione.

Dr. Young addressed the committee by stating that Mr. Martland and Mr. Dawkins will explain this request, but first, she would like to share that the first day of the academic year was yesterday and there are 11.5% more FTE students. She thanked the committee for all their support.

Mr. Martland explained this project is odd, but in the end, the college and the County collectively will save \$1 million. They have several buildings at both campuses that all have HVAC equipment which is old and for several years, the college has been on a plan with replacing some of the units each year. Through the capital process which everyone is familiar with, the County pays for half while the State pays for the other half. Over the summer a couple of things took place which made this more interesting. One is a full energy audit was done at both campuses and there were recommendations made regarding the HVAC equipment particularly in the library that they need to



think about moving forward. The units began to fail dramatically but were able to be put back together and then failed again. At the same time the Shepard Building had difficulties with an air handler that would fail intermittently, so they had to spend a fair amount of money on two short-term projects to get them through the school season. He stated that a portable chiller unit was bought in for the library, but it is expensive and the third level in the Shepard Building had no air conditioning, so a fair amount of money was spent getting portable air conditioners and wall units. These were temporary replacements. The people who assisted the college with the energy audit suggested that they deal with the New York Power Authority (NYPA) on these issues. He re-introduced Mr. Dawkins, Director of Campus Facilities/Services, who initiated those discussions. The New York Power Authority came back with a project to do four projects all at once as opposed to doing them in three phases over three-years. Furthermore, the way the college originally structured this was they had \$770,000.00 worth of projects that were ready to do now, but it took care of the library cooling tower piping and the chiller replacement and then in the following year they would do Phase I of the air handler replacements in the Shepard Building to the tune of \$1.2 million (two handlers). The year after that would be the third phase would be the year after that, the third air handler for another \$625,000.00. It all adds up and the total for three phases of the project is \$2,595,000.00. The New York Power Authority came up with a proposal to do all of it at the cost of \$1,553,982.00 and do the project over the winter so it would be ready for the new cooling season in the spring. One obvious question is how are they able to save that much money? There are three contributors; one is in the project that NYPA recommended for the library (different technology that did not require a cooling tower) so the \$350,000.00 in the budget would not be needed. Secondly, the three air handlers would be done all at once as opposed to doing them in three phases and the third piece is they would not have to build in the escalator cost into the cost of the projects they would be doing over the three-phase system. He reiterated that the total cost for the three is \$1,553,092.00, so over the cost of the three years, they are saving over \$1,041,018.00 which is a sizeable savings, however, it requires them to only have \$770,000.00 in the approved Capital Plan which means they need to come up with the remaining \$783,982.00. Furthermore, he enlisted the help of the Finance Department who met with him a few times along with the Deputy County Executive to discuss this. In conclusion, the best way to approach it is what is stated in the resolution which is to cancel the \$770,000.00 project that was approved and replace it with the new request for \$1,553,982.00. The net result is positive.

Mr. Benton clarified that the difference is \$783,982.00.

Mr. Martland stated that is correct.

Mr. Benton asked if that amount would be added to the floor for college funding.

Mr. Martland replied no, it is a capital project, so it does not go through the operating fund.

Mr. Cheney commented that they discussed this at the Education and Economic Development Committee, and he thinks it would be helpful to discuss the role of the New York Power Authority and the numbers they are looking at today versus when they move forward with their efforts, how those numbers might change.

Mr. Dawkins explained the estimate they received takes them to 30% design and at 30% design they will have a better estimate of what the total cost would be which will not be more than 10%. Based upon the information from the energy audit and research, they are confident the number is accurate.

Mr. Cheney clarified that when they come back with a fixed number, it will be guaranteed, and the work will be subcontracted to others.

Mr. Dawkins stated that is correct.

Mr. Benton asked if the Power Authority is brought in to make sure this and all the projects combined coincide with the Climate Leadership Program.

Mr. Dawkins replied that he is not sure how it will tie into that, but they will search for programs that are applicable to the equipment they buy.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Cheney moved to approve the request for supplemental appropriation to the capital projects budget in the amount of \$740,000.00 for the Town of Warwick Bike Route and Pedestrian Trail Project. The project is for the development and construction of a bike and pedestrian trail over the adjoining lands of the Town and County. The County will reimburse the Town up to a maximum of \$740,000.00 towards the total cost of construction of the project.

Upon approval, a new capital project will be created, seconded by Mr. Faggione.

Ms. Crawford stated that in the packet everyone received (on file in Clerk, Legislative Office), there is information regarding the history of the development of this trail. The trail will connect a portion of the County property at Warwick County Park as well as Hickory Hill Golf Course. The town property abuts the Town of Warwick Road that leads to Cascade Park which is a town owned park. In the park is a connection to the Appalachian Trail. It will be a rustic trail that will cross Long House Creek with a timber string bridge. The funding at this time is \$521,000.00 (federal share), \$370,000.00 (Orange County Transportation Council), and up to a maximum of \$740,000.00 will be provided by the County.

Mr. O'Donnell commented that they voted a couple of months ago on the Appalachian Trail and asked if that is separate.

Me. Cheney replied they approved the Capital Project Budget in December, and this was an addition to it.

Mr. O'Donnell asked for further information on how much the Town will be paying for this as well as the breakdown of the work being done on our property and their property.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Cheney moved to approve the request to confirm all tipping rate increases and decreases charged at Orange County-owned Solid Waste Disposal Facilities for all applicable waste streams and to supersede all prior resolutions setting previous rates, seconded by Mr. Faggione.

Mr. Gray explained that there is a new state law that if they charge a tipping rate for electronics, the vendor cannot access the rebates and get money back from the items they pick up, so therefore, they are charging us to haul them away. He added that this will benefit everyone.

Motion carried. All in favor with the exception of Legislator Benton who abstained.

Mr. Faggione moved to approve the request to accept and appropriate a grant from the FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) for the Apron "A" Rehabilitation and Expansion (Construction). Upon approval, this will increase Capital Project No. 560. This project has been approved under the 2023 Capital Plan as proposed Capital Project No. 6, \$3,941,868.00 (Federal share: \$3,547,681.00; State Share: \$197,094.00; County Share: \$197,093.00) (bonding), seconded by Mr. Cheney.

Magryta stated this is a 2023 Capital Improvement Plan with the FAA and the issuance of grants is running behind. In speaking with the district office, the money should be coming forward, so this request is based upon the application that was submitted. This will double their grant capacity for tiedowns and transit aircraft and is also adjacent to where the proposed jet hangars would be down the line. Pavement at the Orange County Airport is a priority via the Master Plan update, and this is one of the grants that will be moving forward.

Mr. Ewald apologized for the lateness of the short form EAF that was just distributed (on file in Clerk, Legislative Office). They initially thought this project was going to be a Type II action under SEQRA as it was reviewed for the Federal Environmental Review and declared no impact. After further review, they realized that SEQRA does need to be done. He stated the EAF short form was filled out and there were no impacts identified and would also like to classify it as an unlisted action and declaration of no impact.

Mr. Cheney asked Mr. Ewald if he suggested this be done today.

Mr. Ewald replied yes, they were not made aware of this until the last minute.

Mr. Golden added that before the project can be funded, SEQRA needs to be completed. To do so, this committee would have to assume lead agency, identify it as an unlisted, it is a negative declaration based upon the Environmental Assessment Report and therefore, allow for the funding to go on which can be done with one resolution.

Mr. Benton asked if this is something that needs to be done today as an amendment to the agenda.

Mr. Golden replied yes. It would be an amendment to the agenda item to include the fact that this legislature would like to be lead agency, type the action as unlisted and make a determination of significance as a negative declaration.

Mr. Benton moved to amend the request to include the legislature as lead agency, type the action as unlisted, and make a determination of significance as a negative declaration, seconded by Mr. Cheney.

Mr. O'Donnell asked if they would adjourn so they can read the EAF or will they vote on it right away.

Mr. Benton opened the floor for questions.

Mr. Magryta gave the committee a further explanation of the SEQRA process.

Mr. Cheney suggested the committee review the short form EAF item by item.

The committee reviewed the EAF form (on file in Clerk, Legislative Office).

Motion carried. All in favor of the amendment.

With no further discussion on the main motion, Mr. Benton called to question on the original motion.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Cheney moved to approve the request for supplemental appropriation to the capital projects budget for preliminary engineering and design of Bridge Rail Upgrades on various County owned bridges. This project has been approved under the 2023 Capital Plan as proposed Project No. 31. Upon approval, a new capital project will be created, \$75,000.00 (bonding), seconded by Mr. Faggione.

Mr. Ewald stated this is a design capital to allow for the start of design for several bridges that have not reached a bad state so for safety purposes it would be desirable to replace the older style railing and upgrade it to a standard railing which would include a transition rail.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Paduch moved to approve the request for supplemental appropriation to the capital projects budget for preliminary engineering and design of Crystal Run Bridge No. 2 Replacement (BIN 3345120) in the Town of Wallkill. This project has been approved under the 2023 Capital Plan as proposed Capital Project No. 33. Upon approval, a new capital project will be created, \$100,000.00 (bonding), seconded by Mr. Cheney.

Mr. Ewald explained this is to set up the capital project for the design of the Crystal Run Bridge No. 2 which is located on Stony Ford Road in the Town of Wallkill. The bridge was built in 1956, has an average daily trip amount of 3,700 and has a posted rating of 11 tons. He added the ends of the steel high beams have deteriorated and abutments are in poor shape.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Brescia left the committee meeting at 5:17 p.m.

Mr. Faggione moved to approve the request for supplemental appropriation to the capital projects budget for work at the Camp LaGuardia property to improve, preserve and secure the property, including razing buildings, disposal, environmental monitoring, environmental reporting, and costs related to securing buildings and perimeter, including vegetation and rubbish removal, fencing and security monitoring. Upon approval, a new capital project will be created. These activities constitute a Type II action under SEQRA (6NYCRR617.5(c)(42)) requiring no further environmental review, \$1,492,800.00, seconded by Mr. Benton.

This request is to establish a capital project to move forward with the plan that was put together to better secure the Camp LaGuardia site and prepare the property for whatever the future use of it may be. Mr. Ewald stated there has been a significant amount of trespassing and vandalism on the property and even though there have been efforts to limit that, there are a lot of outlying structures that make it difficult to control. The work being proposed includes completing actions that they could immediately undertake such as utilizing in-house staff and contracts they already have in place to secure and improve the site. Furthermore, they would clear vegetation around all buildings and Orange County Department of Public Works would demolish and/or dispose of five buildings after contractors cleared them for asbestos, three buildings would be secured for possible future use. They would also secure the four larger buildings located on top of the hill which will then be addressed under future capital projects as there are proposed funds in the 2024 Capital Plan. In addition, the cost breakdown was included in the attachment (on file in Clerk, Legislative Office) based on estimates of the in-house staff, abatement, and asbestos monitoring contractors.

Mr. Faggione requested that the legislators be kept up to date on the progress.

Motion carried. All in favor with the exception of Legislator Brescia who left.

Before Ms. Gallagher addressed the committee with a Sales Tax Update, she stated that the **County Sales Tax Report, Results, Trends and State Impact** was distributed to all committee members (on file in Clerk, Legislative Office) and noted that the report is for informational purposes. She then reviewed the Sales Tax Update which included County of Orange Sales Tax Received Year-To-Date (County Portion Only) and a 4-Year Gross Sales Tax Comparison (on file in Clerk, Legislative Office).

The next agenda item was a Budget Update by Ms. Slesinski regarding the General Fund Status Report as of July 2023 (on file in Clerk, Legislative Office).

Mr. O'Donnell moved to approve the request of three (3) local laws to provide real property tax exemptions for the following:

- i. Members of volunteer fire companies and ambulance services
- ii. The un-remarried surviving spouses of formerly enrolled members
- iii. The un-remarried spouses of such volunteers killed in the line of duty

per New York Real Property Tax Law Section 466-a, recognizing the essential functions of volunteer fire fighters and ambulance service workers in the community. The adoption of the local law to provide the exemption included in (i) shall also repeal and replace the existing Local Law No. 5 of 2005 to conform to the terms of NYRPTL Section 466-a, seconded by Mr. Hines.

Mr. Wiley stated these three local laws are being proposed to allow them to provide an exemption from the maximum that is allowed by law. The Governor passed a law back in December and these will replace the existing laws. He added this is the least that can be done for recipients.

Mr. Hines pointed out that unless the school districts and all the other pieces of government jump on this, no one will take advantage of this because the State currently gives the volunteers \$200.00 of income tax credit. What we are doing is useless unless the schools and everyone else gets on board because you cannot have both.

Mr. O'Donnell asked how much each person will get on the county level.

Mr. Wiley replied they will get 10% including the few schools that have passed this. Mr. Anagnostakis asked for further explanation of why the schools must do this.

Mr. Benton replied it is a taxing entity.

Mr. Wiley further replied that each taxing entity must pass the law.

Mr. Hines clarified that this will not kick in until 2025.

Mr. Wiley stated that is correct.

Motion carried. All in favor with the exception of Legislator Brescia who left.

Mr. Paduch moved to discuss deed sale parcels, seconded by Mr. Benton.

Mr. Wiley indicated that there is only one deed sale parcel this month and it is in the Town of Woodbury (226-1-22.22). The minimum bid is \$1,700.00 and there is an amount bid of \$1,700.00. He recommends it be approved.

Motion carried. All in favor of Mr. Wiley's recommendation to approve the deed sale parcel with the exception of Legislator Brescia who left.

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.