

**EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2019
4:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Paul Ruszkiewicz, Chairman
Barry Cheney, Joseph J. Minuta, O'Donnell
Rob Sassi, Joel Sierra, Kathy Stegenga, Laurie R. Tautel

ALSO

PRESENT: L. Stephen Brescia, Chairman
Katie Bonelli, Majority Leader
Thomas J. Faggione, Legislator
Kevindaryan Lujan, Legislator
Peter V. Tuohy, Legislator
John S. Vero, Legislator
Antoinette Reed, Legislative Counsel
Harold Porr III, Deputy County Executive
Daniel Bloomer, Director of Operations
Agnes Wagner, Comptroller, Orange County Community College
Fred Brennen, Facility Project Manager, Orange County Community College
Vincent Cazzetta, VP Institutional Advancement, Orange County Community College
Bill Fiovoranti, Director, Economic Development
Amanda Dana, Director, Tourism
Deanna Crawford, Budget Analyst

Chairman Ruszkiewicz opened the committee meeting at 4:00 p.m. by asking everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. All committee members were present.

Mr. Cheney moved the request for supplemental appropriation for new capital projects for Orange County Community College: BioTech Roof Cooling Tower Replacement \$300,000.00, Restroom Renovations \$360,000.00, Newburgh Sidewalk Project \$220,000.00, BioTech Renovations \$420,000.00, Orange Hall Entrance Door Change Out \$125,000.00, seconded by Ms. Stegenga.

Mr. Brennen addressed the first project request for the BioTech cooling tower which will be replaced with a new, more energy efficient unit. The current tower is twenty-three years old and they have been experiencing a lot of high cost maintenance on the unit and is well beyond its life expectancy.

Mr. Cheney asked how much of a savings will there be since it is more energy efficient.

Mr. Brennen was not exactly sure but responded that they can get back to him with that information.

Mr. Brennen stated that the next request is for restroom renovations. They recently had a Civil Rights Compliance Review from New York State Higher Education Department which requires them to bring the restrooms up to 2010 ADA standards. There are eighteen different bathrooms in the various buildings.

Mr. Minuta noted that they do not need to be 100% compliant so he was not sure what exactly was being done for \$360,000.00.

Mr. Brennen explained that they need to go through the engineer, they need the engineer to do a design, redesign the actual stalls, eliminate stalls, re-do the plumbing, make an ADA stall, tile repair work, etc.

Mr. Minuta asked if there were plans for this.

Mr. Brennen explained that they need to get the money in place first. He shared that he is a thirty-year experienced contractor, so he knows renovation fairly well.

Mr. Minuta stated that his only issue was that he would like to see exactly what they are going to get for \$360,000.00 and how many stalls will need to be in compliance. He would like to see a plan prior to allocating money.

Mr. Brennen pointed out that it included design, a plan and soft cost.

Ms. Stegenga noted that it was \$20,000.00 per bathroom.

Mr. Minuta stressed that it was a lot of money.

Mr. O'Donnell suggested to Mr. Minuta if he wanted to pull the restroom renovations until next month and he agreed that he would like to.

Mr. Brennen mentioned that if they do not meet the compliance by a certain time, it can affect some grants that they receive.

Ms. Wagner added that there was a specific audit that occurred, and they communicated all of the deficiencies they had for ADA compliance, of which were the restrooms. They indicated that they would like it completed within a certain period of time and if they return and see it is not completed, they can be penalized.

Mr. O'Donnell requested to see the report that the state issued advising them they were not in compliance along with the letter.

Mr. O'Donnell made a motion to withdraw the request for restroom renovations for \$360,000.00 until they see the letter and report, for one month, seconded by Mr. Minuta.

Mr. Sierra asked when the audit was done and he was advised it was within the past year.

Ms. Tautel commented that when these requests come to the oversight committee, it is best to provide back up, pictures, anything, something more than what they provided today. They are responsible to their taxpayers.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Brennen addressed the Newburgh sidewalk project for \$220,000.00 and noted that there are areas where there is potential trip hazards so the sidewalk needs to be replaced.

Mr. Minuta stated that there are other options so rather than replacing the sidewalks you could grind them to remove the trip hazards. He recalled the last meeting when this topic of sidewalks was brought up, he requested information on alternate solutions.

Mr. Brennen pointed out that he tried that in the past and he does not feel it is an adequate solution, especially with the amount that some of these sidewalks heaved and progressed over the last two years. He did an evaluation and the amount of settling that there is, in front of the building, by the doors, ramps, stairs, and you cannot grind stairs.

Mr. Minuta stressed that he had no documentation in front of him to tell him that.

Mr. Brennen asked specifically what Mr. Minuta was looking for.

Mr. Minuta noted that he would like to see a write up plan.

Mr. Sierra mentioned that they have a new product for sidewalk leveling and asked if it is an option because it is half the cost.

Mr. Brennen understood what Mr. Sierra suggested but he was unsure of the longevity or how well it holds up. In his personal experience he did not agree with it and did not think it would last. He was amazed that they have such a problem with the settling in Newburgh, especially since it is not that old. He pointed out that the problem is that the base was not done properly.

Mr. Sierra stated that he had a company come out and look at his building which is almost 200 years old. The concrete is really old, extra thick, five foot wide and would cost a fortune. They used a high density foam, high compression and they gave him a ten year warranty. He agreed with Ms. Tautel's remarks, if they are voting on \$712,500.00, they need to see more documentation. He understood this was time sensitive, but if the study was done a year ago, they should have more than one piece of paper describing the projects in more detail. He added that he values Mr. Brennen's opinion especially since he has been doing this for over thirty years, but they are voting on a lot of money so to see pictures or something to go along with this money would be helpful.

Ms. Bonelli concurred with Legislators Tautel and Sierra, they need more documentation on all the projects. They all support the college but she recalls over and over sitting in meetings as projects go before the committee and they have details. There is not one detail on any of the five projects. She recommended to the committee to table the entire request until the full report with pictures and different analysis that have been done and various different studies applicable to each one of the projects.

Ms. Tautel moved to table for one month the request for supplemental appropriation for new capital projects at Orange County Community College: BioTech Roof Cooling Tower Replacement \$300,000.00, Restroom Renovations \$360,000.00, Newburgh Sidewalk Project \$220,000.00, BioTech Renovations \$420,000.00, Orange Hall Entrance Door Change Out \$125,000.00, for further documentation, quotes, drawings and pictures, seconded by Ms. Stegenga.

Mr. O'Donnell asked that they remind Dr. Young that he was still waiting on the number of students that graduated from the Newburgh campus. He was advised the message would be relayed.

Regarding the request, Chairman Brescia suggested they speak with Legislator Jim Kulisek because he has knowledge about cooling towers and last time the college was making some upgrades, Jim was able to get information to them which ended up saving them money.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. O'Donnell moved the request to designate Orange County Tourism as the Tourism Promotion Agency of the County, seconded by Mr. Sassi.

Ms. Dana explained that this is something they need to do every year which demonstrates they are the Tourism Office and promote tourism practices. This will allow them to apply for their matching funds grants which is about \$70,000.00 per year which helps with their promotion.

Mr. Fiovoranti provided a monthly update on Economic Development (see original minutes).

On the motion of Mr. Tautel, seconded by Mr. Sierra, the meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.