

**PHYSICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2023
3:30 P.M.**

PRESENT: Barry J. Cheney, Chairman
Leigh J. Benton, L. Stephen Brescia, Michael D. Paduch, Laurie R. Tautel,
Paul Ruskiewicz, Peter V. Tuohy, Joseph J. Minuta

ALSO

PRESENT: Katie Bonelli, Chairwoman
Betsy N. Abraham, Esq., Legislative Counsel
Harold J. Porr, Deputy County Executive
Joseph F. Mahoney, Esq., Senior Assistant County Attorney
Alison Tyack, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Human Resources
Travis Ewald, Commissioner, Dept. of Parks, Recreation and Conservation
Brian W. Titsworth, Deputy Commissioner, Infrastructure Services
Ryan McGuire, Director of Project Management
Dina Sena, Budget Analyst

Chairman Cheney opened the committee meeting at 3:31 p.m. by asking everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. All committee members were present.

Mr. Tuohy moved to approve a resolution confirming appointment, by the County Executive, of Travis B. Ewald as Commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Conservation, seconded by Mr. Benton.

Mr. Porr stated that the County Executive has appointed Mr. Ewald as the new Parks Commissioner. He and Deanna make a great team and they are here today to seek approval of the appointment.

The committee members welcomed Mr. Ewald to his new position and look forward to working with him.

Mr. Ewald thanked the committee members and commented that the experience of working with Mr. Denega was amazing and was great to work with.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Minuta moved to approve the request to create one (1) HVAC Technician, Grade 9 position, to operate, maintain, and repair various HVAC equipment throughout the County, seconded by Mr. Benton.

Mr. Titsworth explained this is to create a position for an HVAC Technician to work in the Department of Public Works as a Grade 9 position. SUNY Orange has the same position in their Maintenance Department, so he would like to create the same position to repair the HVAC Systems. One of the requirements of this is the person must have an EPA Refrigerant Handling Certification

and maintain it during employment. He pointed out they currently change 800 air filters three times a year throughout most of the buildings, there are 425 different boilers, cooling towers, roof top units, chillers, ac units, etc. The position is much needed and has been for a while.

Ms. Tautel asked how the HVAC system is currently being handled.

Mr. Titsworth replied that up until January, they had an assistant supervisor who was tasked with it, but as of now, they do not have anyone, so they rely on contractors.

Ms. Tautel then asked who this Grade 9 will be reporting back to.

Mr. Titsworth responded that they will report to the Director of Building Maintenance.

Mr. Paduch clarified that there are 425 boilers and units throughout the County.

Mr. Titsworth stated that is correct, it is all the buildings that DPW maintains.

Mr. Paduch asked if the college is included and Mr. Titsworth replied no, they have their own HVAC person.

Mr. Minuta commented that this went before the Personnel and Compensation Committee and it is a needed position and asks that everyone support it.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Brescia moved to approve the request for the Legislature to assume lead agency status under the State Environmental Review Act (SEQRA), with respect to the removal of Hubbard Road Bridge in the Town of Walkkill classifying the action as unlisted and determining the action will not have any significant adverse environmental impacts, seconded by Mr. Paduch.

Mr. McGuire explained this bridge was discussed late last year and voted on to declare intent to assume lead agency and since that time, they have gone through the SEQRA process, evaluated the bridge and did cost estimates. He is requesting that they seek lead agency. The bridge is one lane, located in the Town of Walkkill, and was constructed in 1886. He added that the last bridge rating was a 3.0 and had a yellow flag. Orange County and Sullivan County jointly decided to close the bridge. Being it has been closed for 20 years, they are looking to remove the structure completely and restore the site with no bridge or approaches. Furthermore, they are working with Sullivan County to seek an Intermunicipal Agreement (IMA) which he has drafted and sent to the County Attorney's Office for review. The request for funding is the next agenda item.

Ms. Tautel asked if they need to declare a negative impact since it is a sensitive area.

Mr. McGuire replied that as part of the construction document, they need a permit that the DEC manages through a joint permit application which must show that State or Federal wetlands will not be impacted. He stated there will be minor site disturbance.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Tuohy moved to approve the request for supplemental appropriation to the capital projects budget for the removal of Hubbard Road Bridge in the Town of Wallkill. This project has been approved under the 2023 Capital Plan as Project #43. Upon approval, the funds will increase existing Capital Project #529, \$270,000.00 (bonding), seconded by Ms. Tautel.

Mr. McGuire stated this is the same project and the request is to add funds to the construction portion of the project. They are working on the IMA which will be a 50/50 cost sharing agreement and the amount being requested is anticipated to cover the full construction and/or demolition of the bridge. It needs to be expended and then they will get reimbursed by Sullivan County.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Minuta moved to approve the request for supplemental appropriation to the capital projects budget for the replacement of Main Street Bridge No. 1 in the Town of Cornwall. This project has been approved under the 2023 Capital Plan as Project #48. Upon approval, the funds will increase existing Capital Project #469, \$950,000.00 (bonding), seconded by Mr. Benton.

Main Street Bridge No. 1 is located North on County Route 9 on Main Street near Cornwall Middle School. The bridge has taken priority over Main Street Bridge No. 2 due to the importance of it. Mr. McGuire explained that the SEQRA process is complete and the determination of it was this is a Type II action. It is a concrete slab bridge built in 1929, has 1,900 vehicles per day and a 3.5 rating. The bridge is in bad shape, and they are looking to replace it. Construction is slated for the following year in line with Main Street Bridge No. 2.

Ms. Tautel asked if this is the total amount or will there be a second part.

Mr. McGuire replied that this will be constructed by the in-house bridge crew and based on the past few bridges, this will be the entire construction cost.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Brescia moved to approve the request for supplemental appropriation to the capital projects budget for Airport paving. This project has been approved under the 2023 Capital Plan as Project #5. Upon approval, a new capital project will be created, \$50,000.00. This is a SEQRA Type II Action. (bonding), seconded by Mr. Minuta.

Mr. McGuire stated the Airport Paving Management Plan has identified some areas with very poor pavement conditions, this one being in the area of Hangar T2 which is adjacent to Runway 4-22. The plan identified this pavement as being very poor and it needs to be repaved.

Mr. Cheney pointed out that this is not FAA paving.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Minuta moved to approve the request for supplemental appropriation to the capital projects budget for Airport Infrastructure Capital Improvements. This project has been approved under the 2023 Capital Plan as Project #4. Upon approval, a new capital project will be created, \$50,000.00. This is a SEQRA Type II Action (bonding), seconded by Mr. Tuohy.

This request is for the same area of the airport. The existing roof dates back to the 1960's, is a flat roof in very poor condition and needs to be replaced to improve the building as it has been patched several times.

Mr. Minuta asked what type of roof it is.

Mr. McGuire replied it is a flat roof with rubber coating.

Motion carried. All in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 3:56 p.m.