

**WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 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
Matthew Nothnagle, Esq., Chief Assistant County Attorney
Lisa Morgillo, Esq., Assistant County Attorney
Denise Cross, Director of Personnel Management, Human Resources
Kerry Gallagher, Commissioner of Finance
Michael J. Schreiber, Deputy Commissioner of Finance
Erik Denega, Commissioner, Department of Public Works
Ryan McGuire, Director of Project Management, Department of Public Works
Daniel G. Castricone, Risk Manager
Jennifer Ching, Deputy Risk Management Officer
Laurence LaDue, Commissioner, Valley View Center
Deborah Slesinski, Budget Director
Gretchen Riordan, Deputy Budget Director
Elizabeth Matis, Budget Analyst

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. O'Donnell moved to approve the request to reclassify Secretary and Administrative Assistant I, Grade 8, to Executive to Executive Secretary and Administrative Assistant, Grade 11, seconded by Mr. Hines.

Mr. Castricone stated that his Administrative Assistant, Ann Marie Thomas, handles as much confidential information as possible when it pertains to Worker's Compensation or lawsuits. After looking at her grade an administrative assistant who handle this type of information, he thought it was not right, so a desk audit was requested. The Department of Human Resources agreed and recommended changing the grade of the position from a grade 8 to a grade 11 which comes to \$3,200.00 more a year which is not a huge impact on the budget.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. O'Donnell moved to approve the request for supplemental appropriation to capital project ##VV178IF for replacement of four (4) HVAC roof top units, \$475,000.00 (bonding), seconded by Mr. Anagnostakis.

Mr. LaDue explained that this capital project was approved in 2019, the quotes were submitted in 2018, the construction cost is \$1 million, and Project Management is \$90,453.30 with an estimated total cost of \$1.94 million. This creates a shortfall of \$475,000.00 by which he is seeking additional funding.

Mr. Anagnostakis clarified that this is due to the increase in prices.

Mr. LaDue stated that is correct.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Brescia moved to approve the request 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 Mr. Paduch.

Mr. Denega stated this bridge is on the border of Sullivan County, so there is a shared cost and is a safety hazard that needs to be fixed as soon as possible. Sullivan County is on board with this.

Mr. McGuire further stated that the bridge is one lane, located in the Town of Wallkill, and was constructed in 1886. The last bridge rating was a 3.0 and had a yellow flag. Orange County and Sullivan County jointly decided to close the bridge. Since 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. 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. Hines moved to approve the request 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.

Mr. McGuire explained that Main Street Bridge No. 1 is located north on County Route 9 on Main Street near Cornwall Middle School and has taken priority over Main Street Bridge No. 2 due to the importance of it. The determination from the SEQRA process was that 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. Furthermore,

the bridge is in bad shape, they are looking to replace it and construction is slated for the following year in line with Main Street Bridge No. 2.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Cheney 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. Brescia.

Mr. Denega stated this is an annual request to keep up with the various areas of paving throughout the airport. This is in Hangar T2 which is adjacent to Runway 4-22. The pavement is in very poor condition and needs to be repaved as it is a very busy area.

Mr. Paduch asked if this is FAA territory?

Mr. Denega replied that he believes this is not an eligible area.

Motion carried.

Mr. Faggione 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 SEQRA Type II Action. (bonding), seconded by Mr. Benton.

This is also an annual request for general airport maintenance and is for the same area of the airport (Hangar T-2).

Mr. McGuire stated that the existing roof dates 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.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Ms. Gallagher addressed the committee with a 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 August 2023 (on file in Clerk, Legislative Office). She pointed out that there were 363 vacant positions in July, in August 33 correction officers were added and now in September, there are 358 vacant funded positions. There has been no progress made. One other important update is the grant fund is on schedule and will be implemented on October 1st. This will alleviate the access rollover from year to year.

Ms. Gallagher stated this will not happen overnight because the grant process is huge.

Mr. Faggione moved to set the date for a Public Hearing
RE: 2024 Orange County Budget
(10/19/23 at 5:00 p.m.), seconded by Mr. Cheney.

Motion carried. All in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 4:02 p.m.