

**WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

**(REMOTELY)
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2020
2:00 P.M.**

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

ALSO

PRESENT: L. Stephen Brescia, Chairman
Barry J. Cheney, Legislator
Thomas J. Faggione, Legislator
Kevindaryán Luján, Legislator
Kathy A. Stegenga, Legislator
Laurie R. Tautel, Legislator
John S. Vero, Legislator
Antoinette Reed, Legislative Counsel
Harry Porr, Deputy County Executive
Dan Bloomer, Director, Operations and Cost Control
Matthew Nothnagle, Chief Asst. County Attorney
Karin Hablow, Commissioner of Finance
Kerry Gallagher, Deputy Commissioner of Finance
James Burpoe, Commissioner, Department of General Services
Alicia D'Amico, Deputy Commissioner of Procurement and Compliance,
Department of General Services
Erik Denega, Commissioner, Dept. of Public Works
Robert Gray, Deputy Commissioner, Dept. of Public Works/
Environmental Facilities & Services
Daniel G. Castricone, Risk Manager
Liz Matis, Fiscal Technician, Risk Management
Eric Ruscher, Director, Real Property Tax Service
Deborah Slesinski, Deputy Budget Director
Deanna Crawford, Budget Analyst
Gretchen Riordan, Budget Analyst
Dr. Kristine Young, President, Orange County Community College
Paul Martland, Vice President of Administration, Orange County Community College
Fred Brennen, Facility Project Manager, Orange County Community College

Chairman Benton opened the committee meeting at 2:06 p.m. by asking everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. All committee members were present with the exception of Legislator Minuta who arrived at 2:19 p.m.

Mr. Paduch moved to adopt a resolution authorizing the acceptance of a Tax Litigation Settlement with Warwick Properties, LLC, whereby the County will receive the principal due and owing for a parcel in

the Town of Warwick, Section 55, Block 2, Lot 15, in the amount of \$19,801.15, with the interest and penalties forgiven, seconded by Mr. Kulisek.

Mr. Nothnagle strongly recommended this be approved because it is a good deal not only for the county, but for the Town of Warwick. There is a lawsuit regarding a road in the Warwick which is a parcel of real property and the unpaid taxes are high due to maintenance charges that the town added. He then further explained how the lawsuit proceeded and pointed out that the county will get the taxes back.

Mr. Cheney commented that this parcel is in the Bellvale section of the Town of Warwick and it is unfortunate that developers are allowed to complete everything then walk away before offering one road dedication of the wrong, but this does happen from time-to-time. He stated this is a parcel that should be approved.

Mrs. Reed concurred with Mr. Nothnagle's recommendation to the legislature and stated this offer should be approved.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Kulisek moved the request for approval of funding for the 2020 Capital Project Shepard Absorber-Chiller Replacement, \$425,000.00. Bonding for one half of the cost \$212,500.00 is requested at this time. The other half of the funding is to come from the State University of NY Capital Construction Fund (bonding), seconded by Mr. Benton.

Dr. Young acknowledged that Mr. Worden will be retiring after 32 years of service to the college. She thanked the committee for their past support and stated that the college grounds as well as the equipment is in good order. The college knows that times are tough for the county, so they withdrew a few requests and only brought this one forward as it is very important.

Mr. Martland explained that the original four projects that have gone through the process to this point totaled \$1,145,000.00 and when the county reached out and ask if there was something that could be done to reduce the cost, they pulled out three projects which totaled \$7,020,000.00. The remaining project is the most expensive, but very time sensitive.

Mr. Brennen stated the Shepard Absorber Chiller provides the climate control for cooling and humidifying large areas. It provides the chilled water that is necessary, cooling and dehumidification throughout the building. The current chiller absorber is a 300-ton unit that is 25 years old. He explained that normal chiller absorbers have a 20-year operating lifespan and the major issue they are having with this chiller is there is a lot of deterioration and rusting in the interior mounts for the end plates which access the condenser. They have repeatedly done welding and can no longer repair it. Furthermore, installing a new absorber will be more energy efficient with the new pumps and motors that will provide the college a long-term savings.

Mr. Benton commented that it appears it has lived its life expectancy and then some.

Mr. Brennan pointed out that it will take another year to year and a half to receive the funding, so it will be close to 27 years old.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Kulisek moved to approve the request Authorizing the Commissioner of Finance for the County of Orange to make refunds or corrections of taxes in the amount of \$2,500.00 or less, seconded by Mr. Benton.

Mr. Ruscher stated this is an annual request stating that any correction on a January town and county bill more than \$2,500.00 must be approved by the Legislature.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Kulisek moved to approve the request to remove Chester 13-1-42 from the current delinquent tax sale list. This is a 26.7 acre +/- parcel located in the Hamlet of Sugar Loaf, seconded by Mr. Hines.

Mr. Ruscher explained he is requesting that this parcel be removed from the tax auction list because there are a lot of positives for this area and could be used for open space purposes.

Mr. Nothnagle stated the County Executive, and the County Attorney are in favor of this and highly recommend it be approved because it will be a win for the county as well as the town.

Motion carried. All in favor.

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

Mr. Ruscher stated that there is only one deed sale parcel this month which is in the Town of Newburgh (2-1-1.22), has a minimum bid of \$1,000.00 and an amount bid of \$1,000.00. He recommends that no action be taken because the bid does not cover the back taxes.

Motion carried. All in favor of Mr. Ruscher's recommendation to take no further action.

Mr. Ruscher presented the 2021 recommended budget for the Department of Real Property Tax Service Agency to the committee.

Mrs. Bonelli moved to approve the 2021 recommended budget for the Department of Real Property Tax Service Agency as presented, seconded by Mr. Paduch.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mrs. Bonelli moved to approve the 2021 Capital Plan for the Department of Real Property Tax Service Agency, seconded by Mr. Kulisek.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Ms. Slesinski presented the 2021 recommended budget for the Budget Department to the committee.

Mr. Paduch moved to accept the 2021 recommended budget for the Budget Department as presented, seconded by Mr. Hines.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Castricone presented the 2021 recommended budget for the Division of Risk Management to the committee.

Mr. Paduch moved to accept the 2021 recommended budget for the Division of Risk Management as presented, seconded by Mrs. Bonelli.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Paduch moved to accept the 2021 recommended budget for the Employee Assistance as presented, seconded by Mrs. Bonelli.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Burpoe and Ms. D'Amico presented the 2021 recommended budget for the Department of General Services to the committee.

Mr. Kulisek moved to accept the 2021 recommended budget for the Department of General Services as presented, seconded by Mr. Paduch.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Kulisek moved to approve the 2021 recommended budget for Information Technology, seconded by Mr. Paduch.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mrs. Bonelli moved to approve the 2021 Capital Plan for Information Technology, seconded by Mr. Paduch.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Ms. Hablow and Ms. Gallagher presented the 2021 recommended budget for the Department of Finance to the committee.

Mr. Kulisek moved to accept the 2021 recommended budget for the Department of Finance as presented, seconded by Mr. Hines.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Ms. Hablow gave the committee an update regarding Sales Tax by reviewing the County of Orange Sales Tax Received Year-To-Date, County Portion Only and a graph of the County Share-Sales Tax 2020 vs. 2019 (see original minutes).

Mr. Paduch moved to approve Capital Project No. 890 established for Transfer Station replacement equipment. During the time of closure, the County received additional State revenue in the amount of \$5,882.66 and have excess State revenue in the amount of \$7,669.66. Request that the additional State revenue be accepted and that excess revenue of \$7,669.00 be applied towards debt service. Supplemental appropriation required. Project to be closed, seconded by Ms. Sutherland.

Mr. Denega stated these items are clean-up items that the Department of Finance sends so they can close-out these projects. The money was received awhile back, but this request is to officially close it.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Paduch moved to approve Capital Project No. 889 which was established for Transfer Station replacement equipment. During the time of closure, the County received additional State revenue in the amount of \$43,975.66 and have excess State revenue in the amount of \$43,976.32. Request that the additional State revenue be accepted and that excess revenue of \$43,976.32 be applied towards debt service. Supplemental appropriation required. Project to be closed, seconded by Mr. Kulisek.

Mr. Denega pointed out that this request is the same as the previous one which is to accept additional funds and close out projects.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mrs. Bonelli moved to approve Capital Project No. 826 established for Sewer Infiltration and Inflow. During the time of closure, the County received additional State revenue in the amount of \$9,685.00. Request that the State reimbursement amount of \$9,685.00 be accepted and applied towards debt service. Supplemental appropriation required. Project to be closed, seconded by Mr. Paduch.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Ms. Sutherland moved to adopt a resolution confirming all and increasing certain rates charged at Orange County owned solid waste disposal facilities for all waste streams and amending all past resolutions setting previous rates, seconded by Mrs. Bonelli.

Mr. Denega explained that one of the documents had an error regarding the tipping fee which should read, "113.50" which will match what is being done with the municipal solid waste. He stated they have looked at all of the municipal waste streams and recycling that comes through the transfer station and this resolution takes into consideration a number of old resolutions that effected different streams of waste coming through the transfer station. The tipping fee which is \$113.50 will begin January 1, 2021 and will be in line with the budget. The cost for single-stream recycling will be \$110.00 which is also in the budget and other fees are for miscellaneous commodities such as monitors, tires, papers, etc. Due to COVID-19 budget restraints, they would like to get the price changes for small commodities in place for December which could potentially bring in another \$20,000.00 in revenue to the transfer station.

Mr. Paduch clarified that all municipalities were advised of this change.

Mr. Denega stated that is correct.

Mr. Hines asked if this is a set rate for the year.

Mr. Denega replied that is correct.

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

The meeting adjourned at 3:46 p.m.