

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: PUBLIC WORKS - *DPW AND PARKS, RECREATION & RAILROAD*

DATE: AUGUST 22, 2013

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS BENTLEY
MERLINO
CONOVER
WOOD
TAYLOR
FRASIER
MASON
MONTESI

OTHERS PRESENT:

JEFFERY TENNYSON, SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
PAUL BUTLER, DIRECTOR OF PARKS, RECREATION & RAILROAD
REPRESENTING THE SARATOGA & NORTH CREEK RAILWAY:
JUSTIN GONYO, GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT
LARRY PLITBADDI, TRAINMASTER
KEVIN GERAGHTY, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
PAUL DUSEK, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
AMANDA ALLEN, DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD
FRANK THOMAS, BUDGET OFFICER

COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:

SUPERVISOR DICKINSON

SUPERVISORS LOEB
STRAINER
VANSELOW
WESTCOTT
MIKE SWAN, COUNTY TREASURER
THOM RANDALL, *ADIRONDACK JOURNAL*
DON LEHMAN, *THE POST STAR*
SARAH MCLENITHAN, LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

Mr. Bentley called the meeting of the Public Works Committee to order at 9:33 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Mason, seconded by Mr. Conover and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the prior Committee meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Paul Butler, Director of the Parks, Recreation & Railroad Division, who distributed copies of the meeting agenda to the Committee members, a copy of which is also on file with the meeting minutes.

Mr. Butler advised the first agenda item referred to an update from the Saratoga & North Creek Railway (SNCR), and he introduced Justin Gonyo, SNCR General Superintendent, to provide the report. Mr. Gonyo announced that on August 2nd, a SNCR train had experienced a minor derailment south of the Thurman Station. He distributed copies of a memorandum from SNCR which outlined the incident, as well as the cause of the derailment which had been attributed to a failed tie plate; *a copy of the memo is on file with the minutes*. Mr. Gonyo assured the Committee members that neither the engine, nor any locomotive cars, had overturned during the derailment and no passengers were injured. He pointed out that the second and third pages of the memo included photos of the "M&L Tie Plates" currently in place on the railroad which dated back to the early 1900's. Mr. Gonyo commented that although these plates seemed to work well on the straight areas of the tracks, those plates located in curves or track joints would need to be replaced with double shoulder plates in order to prevent future derailments. In response to a question posed by Mr. Montesi, Mr. Gonyo advised a welded rail line was preferable to a jointed one, but he said welding the rails was a very expensive process; he added there was nothing wrong with a jointed rail, as long as it was maintained properly.

Mr. Bentley asked if ridership figures for the month of August had been affected by the derailment and Mr. Gonyo advised that they had because the rail line was closed for six days while track repairs were made. He further advised that if it had not been for the derailment, ticket sales for the month of August would likely have been very close to the number sold in August of 2012.

Moving on, Mr. Butler advised the next agenda item consisted of a request to authorize acceptance of an \$1,800 donation to the Up Yonda Farm Environmental Education Center from Daniel R. Lewis, as well as to authorize the Chairman of the Board to forward a letter of appreciation. Jeffery Tennyson,

Superintendent of Public Works, noted that they might also need to amend the 2013 County Budget to accept the donation and he requested that this authorization be included in the motion in case a budget amendment was deemed necessary.

Motion was made by Mrs. Wood, seconded by Mr. Conover and carried unanimously to authorize acceptance of the donation from Daniel R. Lewis and to authorize the Chairman of the Board to forward a letter of appreciation, as outlined above, as well as to authorize an amendment to the 2013 County Budget, if appropriate, and the necessary resolution was authorized for the September 20th Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the meeting minutes. Note: Subsequent to the meeting it was determined that a budget amendment would not be necessary.*

Mr. Butler advised the next agenda item pertained to the 2014-2018 Stocking Permit and he advised agenda pages 3-6 included reports on stocking figures, as well as a copy of the NYSDEC (*New York State Department of Environmental Conservation*) proposed 2014-2018 Stocking Permit. Mr. Butler provided a thorough review of the information presented for the Committee's benefit. In addition to the information provided in the agenda, Mr. Butler distributed a chart reflecting the stocking history from 1983-2013, a copy of which is on file with the meeting minutes.

During his review, Mr. Butler indicated the 2014-2018 Stocking Permit would reduce the number of fish stocked by approximately 2,000 in comparison to the 2009-2013 Stocking Permit; he noted that due to the surplus of fish maintained at the Fish Hatchery, there would actually only be a 1,000 fish reduction and he noted they were not opposed to this decrease because the facility was already at capacity for the number of fish it could safely house. With respect to reductions in stocking figures for certain areas, Mr. Butler apprised NYSDEC had decreased stocking figures for some sites based on limited accessibility, while in other cases the reduction in County stocking figures was based on an increase in State stocking figures. In summary, Mr. Butler stated that he did not feel any of these changes would have a negative effect on the experience of local and visiting anglers.

A discussion ensued, following which it was the consensus of the Committee that Mr. Butler be authorized to execute the 2014-2018 NYSDEC Stocking Permit, as presented.

Mr. Tennyson apprised the next agenda item, referring to Parks and Recreation temporary help, would be discussed during the DPW portion of the Committee meeting.

The agenda review concluded with a review of the Referrals section, as follows:

1. Mr. Butler said he had no new information to present relative to the pedestrian railroad crossing which would allow students of The Kings School to reach their athletic fields which were located on the opposite side of the railroad tracks from the school buildings. He reminded the Committee members that they had approved the conceptual plans for the crossing, allowing The Kings School to commission the final construction plans which would be presented to the Committee for review once they were completed.
2. With regards to the requested transfer of County-owned property located in the Town of Johnsbury to North Creek Woodworking, Mr. Tennyson confirmed that the appraisal for the property conveyance had been forwarded to the legal counsel for North Creek Woodworking; however, he said, a response had not yet been received.

There being no further Parks, Recreation & Railroad business to come before the Committee, privilege of the floor was extended to Mr. Tennyson who distributed copies of the DPW agenda to the Committee members. *A copy of the DPW agenda is also on file with the meeting minutes.*

Commencing the agenda review, Mr. Tennyson advised pages 1-4 included the Overtime and Fuel Reports for all DPW Divisions. He stated that there was nothing noteworthy to point out relative to the Overtime Report and advised that while they were still operating below budget for fuel expenses, that trend could change dramatically in the event of stormy weather requiring DPW operations.

Continuing to agenda page 5, Mr. Tennyson presented a request to amend the County Budget in the amount of \$10,000 to accept unanticipated revenues for services to other governments associated with road paving.

Motion was made by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mrs. Wood and carried unanimously to approve the request to amend the County Budget, as outlined above, and refer same to the Finance Committee. *A copy of the request is on file with the meeting minutes.*

Mr. Tennyson advised agenda page 6 included a request to amend the County Budget in the amount of \$20,000 to move excess funds from the 2012 Glen Athol County Road Project (D.5112.8173 280), to the 2013 Harrington Hill County Road Project (D.5112.8195 280).

Motion was made by Mr. Conover, seconded by Mr. Montesi and carried unanimously to approve the request to amend the County Budget, as outlined above, and refer same to the Finance Committee. *A copy of the request is on file with the meeting minutes. Note: Subsequent to the meeting it was determined that this action should be accomplished through a transfer of funds, rather than a budget amendment.*

Included on agenda page 7, Mr. Tennyson advised, was a request to sell a Wabash Semi Trailer to the Town of Warrensburg for the sum of \$1,000. In response to an inquiry made by Mr. Montesi, Mr. Tennyson apprised that at the last Committee meeting a similar unused piece of equipment had been authorized for sale to the Warrensburg Volunteer Fire Company.

Motion was made by Mr. Montesi, seconded by Mr. Conover and carried unanimously to approve the aforementioned request and refer same to the Finance Committee. *A copy of the request is on file with the meeting minutes.*

Mr. Tennyson directed the Committee members to agenda page 8, which reflected a request to fill the vacant position of Naturalist #2, Annual Salary of \$36,908, at the Up Yonda Farm. He reminded the Committee members that they had been using part-time help to assist with operations at Up Yonda following a resignation, but he said they were now prepared to fill the vacancy on a full-time basis. Mr. Tennyson concluded that they intended to immediately advertise and fill the position once all of the necessary approvals were received. Mr. Taylor asked if any reimbursements were received for this position and Mr. Tennyson replied affirmatively, noting that it received 100% reimbursement from the Up Yonda Trust.

Motion was made by Mr. Conover, seconded by Mr. Montesi and carried unanimously to approve the request to fill the vacant position of Naturalist #2, as outlined above, and refer same to the Personnel Committee. *A copy of the Notice of Intent to Fill Vacant Position form is on file with the meeting minutes.*

Continuing to agenda page 9, Mr. Tennyson presented a request for a transfer of funds in the amount of \$12,500 from Code A.7110 110, *Parks & Recreation, Salaries-Regular*, to Code A.7110 130, *Parks & Recreation, Salaries-Part Time*. He apprised of a vacant Building Maintenance Worker position in the Parks, Recreation & Railroad Division and noted that, as per recent discussions during a budget review session, he intended to refrain from filling the position until at least May of 2014 in order to save as much of the associated salary as possible. Mr. Tennyson advised that in order to provide for fall fish stocking, as well as to maintain Parks, Recreation & Railroad projects and operations, a transfer of funds between the two aforementioned salary codes was necessary. He assured the Committee that they would only use as much funding as was necessary and he pointed out that he anticipated a savings of about \$6,000 in benefit costs through the end of 2013.

Motion was made by Mr. Frasier, seconded by Mr. Mason and carried unanimously to approve the request for a transfer of funds, as outlined above, and refer same to the Finance Committee. *A copy of the Request for Transfer of Funds form is on file with the meeting minutes.*

Mr. Tennyson announced the next agenda item pertained to Items of Interest, which he outlined as

follows:

- * Hicks Road Reconstruction - Mr. Tennyson advised resolutions had already been approved authorizing the construction contract for the Hicks Road Reconstruction Project to be awarded subsequent to the bid opening. He reported that the bid opening had been held and it appeared the lowest responsible bidder would be Kubricky Construction Corp.; however, he noted, they would not be able to formally award the construction contract until the NYSDOT (*New York State Department of Transportation*) bid approval was received.
- * Crane Mt. Road Reconstruction - Similar to the Hicks Road Reconstruction Project, Mr. Tennyson explained it appeared the lowest responsible bidder for the Crane Mt. Road Reconstruction Project would be a company called New Century, but he said they would not be able to formally award the construction contract until the NYSDOT bid approval was received.

Mr. Tennyson commented that for both of the aforementioned projects, the bids received were under budget and he said he was happy with both of the construction companies that had submitted the low bids. He apprised they had worked with Kubricky Construction Corp. on several projects, including the recent Beach Road Reconstruction Project, and he had received many positive reports on work previously performed by New Century. Mr. Tennyson noted that once the NYSDOT bid approvals were received, the construction contracts would be formally awarded and kick-off meetings arranged with both companies to determine the construction schedules. He advised the Hicks Road Reconstruction Project would coincide with the Adirondack Balloon Festival, but he assured the Committee that Kubricky Construction Corp. was aware of the event and would ensure that it was not negatively affected by the construction project.

- * DPW 2014 Budget Meetings - Mr. Tennyson advised meetings had begun with the Budget Team to discuss the 2014 Public Works Budget, starting earlier that week with the Buildings & Grounds and DPW Divisions. He said he would be happy to meet with anyone wishing to discuss the budget and stated that he would keep Committee Chairman Bentley apprised of changes, as they occurred.

Concluding the agenda review, Mr. Tennyson announced there were no Referral Items to address.

Mr. Mason announced that on Saturday, August 17th, he had attended an event held by the Fund for Lake George, at which time the Board of Supervisors, as well as Mr. Tennyson and the DPW staff, were recognized with respect to the Beach Road Reconstruction Project and the new porous pavement application used. He said that during this event, a scientist had advised of the damages to local water bodies caused by road salt and made a recommendation that it not be used for snow and ice removal. Mr. Mason commented that although he understood road salt was used in order to improve highway safety during winter months, he was interested in researching the matter to determine if a compromise could be reached that would balance safety needs with the health of the County's water bodies.

As there was no further business to come before the Public Works Committee, on motion made by Mr. Conover and seconded by Mr. Montesi, Mr. Bentley adjourned the meeting at 10:14 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Amanda Allen, Deputy Clerk of the Board