

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: PUBLIC WORKS

DATE: MARCH 28, 2016

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS SIMPSON
CONOVER
FRASIER
MERLINO
SOKOL
VANSELOW
WOOD
MACDONALD

OTHERS PRESENT:

JEFFERY TENNYSON, SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
KEVIN HAJOS, DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
PAUL BUTLER, DIRECTOR, PARKS, RECREATION & RAILROAD
REPRESENTING SARATOGA & NORTH CREEK RAILWAY:

JUSTIN GONYO, GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT
KEVIN GERAGHTY, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
PAUL DUSEK, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
BRIAN REICHENBACH, COUNTY ATTORNEY
SARAH MCLENITHAN, DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD

COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:

SUPERVISOR DICKINSON

FRANK THOMAS, BUDGET OFFICER

SUPERVISORS BEATY
BRAYMER
LEGGETT
MONTESI
SEEBER
STROUGH

WAYNE LAMOTHE, COUNTY PLANNER
REPRESENTING THE RENEGADE RIDERS:

ROBERT HARTE, CEO
GUSTAF CAMP, COO
MIKE DUPEE, ADVISOR
DON LEHMAN, *THE POST STAR*
MOLLY GANOTES, LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

Please note, the following contains a summarization of the March 28, 2016 meeting of the Public Works Committee; the meeting in its entirety can be viewed on the Warren County website using the following link: <http://www.warrencountyny.gov/gov/comm/Archive/2016/works/>

Motion was made by Ms. Wood, seconded by Mr. Conover and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the last Committee meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Copies of the Parks, Recreation & Railroad and DPW Agendas were distributed to the Committee members, copies of same are on file with the meeting minutes.

Commencing the review of the Parks, Recreation & Railroad Agenda, privilege of the floor was extended to Justin Gonyo, *Saratoga & North Creek Railway (SNCR) General Superintendent*, to provide an update on SNCR operations. Mr. Gonyo indicated that due to the County's recent extension of their railroad operator contract, SNCR would be operating through 2021. He thanked all of the Supervisors who had shown their support for the contract extension, as well as to those who had shown concerns with respect to the previous contract. He stated there was room for improvement in every organization and he noted SNCR had already begun to address one of the concerns voiced in regard to communications; he said they had begun improving communications with the towns through which the railroad passed by developing an email group that would immediately advise of any railroad concerns or incidents that occurred. He continued that he had spoken with Mr. Simpson to ensure the minutes of all Public Works Committee meetings would accurately reflect any amendments to the railroad operator contract moving forward so that Supervisors who are not members of the Public Works Committee will have access to them in the future.

Mr. Gonyo said it was his pleasure to introduce a new initiative to the railroad corridor which he

explained had only been available in one other location nationwide, that being in Saranac Lake. He apprised that Renegade Railriders had reached out to SNCR and would like to run a similar operation on this rail line. He indicated that this initiative should be viewed as a very important economic driver for the communities it operated in because it would provide a lot of foot traffic, jobs and an attraction that was very unique as it would be only the second of its type in the United States.

Mr. Gonyo then introduced Robert Harte, *CEO of Renegade Railriders*, who provided a detailed powerpoint presentation about their operation which offered rail biking; *a copy of the powerpoint presentation is on file with the meeting minutes*. During his presentation, Mr. Harte mentioned his company's vision for how rail biking would work in Warren County and he answered many questions posed by the Committee and those in attendance; Mr. Harte also introduced Mike Dupee, *Advisor to Renegade Railriders*, and Jim Prybylski, *of the Stony Creek Ranch (formerly 1,000 Acres Ranch)*, to the Committee. Mr. Prybylski spoke of his experience in managing the former 1,000 Acres Ranch Resort and the benefits an operation such as the rail biking proposed by Renegade Railriders could bring to the area.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Wayne LaMothe, *County Planner*, who distributed copies of a document entitled "*Conceptual Framework for: "First Wilderness Trail" Corinth to Tahawus*"; a copy of the Conceptual Framework document is on file with the meeting minutes. He explained they had been working on this initiative for a number of years and noted that the original plan adopted by the Board of Supervisors back in 2002 included a goal for a bicycle trail along the river/rail corridor. He noted the consultants at that time had reviewed the County's goals and determined the shoulder width and roadways did not lend themselves to the promotion of safe use; therefore, he added, they had begun considering development of an alternate trail that would allow for pedestrian, equestrian, and, where allowed by the unit management plans and the classifications of the Adirondack Park, for off-road biking use. He said the Conceptual Framework plan reflected a lot of existing trails and connections by roads for the short term, but also looked at the long term methodology to connect them all as an off-the-highway type trail. He noted that, as appropriate, they had also looked at, and would continue to look at, a rails-with-trails program; he added that SNCR had agreed to this idea in concept, and if a merited plan was developed, it might be acceptable to them, as well. Mr. LaMothe then proceeded to briefly highlight certain section of the Conceptual Framework document. He apprised this document was the preliminary framework and they had secured additional funding to proceed this document to the next step and define the layout preferred for the short term, as well as any conservation easements that would be necessary to enact it.

A discussion ensued during which Mr. LaMothe answered questions regarding the Conceptual Framework document.

Returning to the Renegade Railriders initiative, Mr. Simpson questioned whether the Committee was in favor of the idea and how they would like to proceed; he noted a determination still needed to be made as to whether the contract would be between only Renegade Railriders and SNCR or if Warren County would be involved.

Ms. Wood made a motion to conceptually approve the initiative presented by Renegade Railriders, pending the County Attorney's review and determination of what parties would be involved in the necessary contract. The motion was seconded by Mr. Merlino and carried by unanimous vote.

Resuming the Parks, Recreation & Railroad Agenda review, Paul Butler, *Director of the Parks, Recreation & Railroad Division*, provided an update on the recent Up Yonda Pancake Breakfast and Maple Festival which had been attended by about 150 guests. Concluding the agenda review, Mr. Butler pointed out an article from *The Post Star*, a copy of which was included in the agenda, regarding a massive salmon caught in Lake George over the winter. He reminded the Committee that the County participated in

a fish stocking program with the State of New York where the salmon were dropped off at about 7" in size, were grown at the Fish Hatchery for a certain period of time to a size that they felt avoided predation, and were then stocked with a fin clip; he advised that this fish had a fin clip which identified it as being a stocked fish raised at the Warren County Fish Hatchery. Mr. Butler also provided a brief reporting of spring fish stocking, *the full stocking report is included in the agenda on file with the meeting minutes.*

Privilege of the floor was extended to Jeffery Tennyson, *Superintendent of Public Works*, who reviewed the DPW Agenda, as follows:

Page 1 - Request to amend Resolution No. 616 of 2015, *Awarding Bid and Authorizing Agreement with Care Environmental Corp. for Household Hazardous Waste Collection (WC 68-15)*, to state that the contract cost will be based on labor and unit costs associated with collection of household hazardous waste materials, with an aggregate cost of up to \$50,000.

Motion was made by Mr. Sokol, seconded by Mr. Merlino and carried unanimously to approve the request and the necessary resolution was authorized for the April 15th Board Meeting. *A copy of the request is on file with the meeting minutes.*

Page 6 - Request to amend the County Budget to increase contract codes for the household hazardous waste collections.

Mr. Tennyson advised they would need to advance \$50,000 to the appropriate budget code to fund the previously mentioned household hazardous waste collections. He said he had hoped to have confirmation of a \$25,000 grant from NYSDEC (*New York State Department of Environmental Conservation*) in time for this meeting, but as NYSDEC was behind in approving their grants, he was unable to obtain such documentation; he added that he had received verbal communication from NYSDEC that the grant would not be received until June, essentially meaning that the grant documents would not be in hand until after at least one of the household hazardous waste collections was held. Mr. Tennyson mentioned that an additional amendment would be required in the future to accept the grant funds, once they were received; he added that in order to keep their current timeline for the scheduled household hazardous waste collections, they would need to advance County funds into the appropriate codes in anticipation of NYSDEC grant funds.

A discussion ensued following which a motion was made by Mr. Conover, seconded by Mr. Merlino and carried unanimously to approve the request to amend the County Budget in the amount of \$50,000, with the Contingent Account being named as the source of funding, and the necessary resolution was authorized for the April 15th Board Meeting. *A copy of the request is on file with the meeting minutes.*

Page 8 - Request for a new contract for PIN 1760.03 - County Highway Preservation Project (*CR17, 52 & 79*) (WC 01-16), with the lowest responsible bidder to be determined subsequent to the March 29th bid opening.

Motion was made by Mr. Sokol, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously to approve the request and the necessary resolution was authorized for the April 15th Board Meeting. *A copy of the request is on file with the meeting minutes.*

Page 9 - Request for a new contract with Creighton Manning Engineering, LLP for construction inspection services in association with PIN 1760.03 - County Highway Preservation Project (*CR17, 52 & 79*) in a total amount not to exceed \$41,300.

Motion was made by Ms. Wood, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously to approve the

request and the necessary resolution was authorized for the April 15th Board Meeting. *A copy of the request is on file with the meeting minutes.*

Page 15 - Request for a new contract with Spectra Engineering, Architecture and Surveying, P.C. for periodic professional structural engineering services (WC 13-16).

Motion was made by Mr. Vanselow, seconded by Mr. Merlino and carried unanimously to approve the request and the necessary resolution was authorized for the April 15th Board Meeting. *A copy of the request is on file with the meeting minutes.*

Page 17 - Request to create new Road Project No. D.5112.8250, (CR 16) Bay Street, to be funded through a transfer of funds from Budget Code D.5142 410, *County Road, Snow Removal-County, Supplies.*

Motion was made by Mr. Sokol, seconded by Ms. Wood and carried unanimously to approve the request and refer same to the Finance, Personnel & Higher Education Committee. *A copy of the request is on file with the meeting minutes.*

Page 18 - Request for a transfer of funds totaling \$66,500 between various budget codes to fund the purchase of a traffic message board, as well as to fund new Road Project No. D.5112.8250.

Motion was made by Mr. Merlino, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously to approve the request and the necessary resolution was authorized for the April 15th Board Meeting. *A copy of the request is on file with the meeting minutes.*

Page 20 - Request to fill the vacant position of Senior Engineering Technician, *Grade 12, Annual Base Salary of \$35,767*, following the death of an employee.

Motion was made by Mr. Sokol, seconded by Ms. Wood and carried unanimously to approve the request and refer same to the Finance, Personnel & Higher Education Committee for reporting purposes. *A copy of the Notice of Intent to Fill Vacant Position form is on file with the meeting minutes.*

Moving on to the Referral/Pending Items section of the agenda, Mr. Tennyson recalled that the Committee had already discussed the pending receipt of NYSDEC grant funds for the household hazardous waste collections. He assured the Committee that he would keep them updated on the status of this funding.

Next, Mr. Tennyson addressed the Information for Discussion/Review section of the agenda, as follows:

- Update on Household Hazardous Waste Days (5/21 Warrensburg & 6/18 Queensbury) - Mr. Tennyson advised information on the event had been distributed to the towns and was available on the DPW website. He indicated advance registration was important for the community to save time on site because they were only able to process so many vehicles at one time. He explained the operation would run one car at a time; he said as vehicles arrived, they would stop and provide their pre-registration confirmation information and the items would be removed from their vehicles by the contractor hired to dispose of the household hazardous waste items. Mr. Tennyson indicated that those who did not pre-register would be asked to move to a separate line to complete their registration documents and would then be re-directed into the line. He said it was their hope that residents would pre-register and then be provided a time slot for arrival in order to prevent a long waiting line and to comply with the contractors timeline which only allowed them to service a certain number of vehicles per hour. Kevin Hajos, *Deputy*

Superintendent of Public Works, clarified that the link to the registration page was available on the main page of the Warren County website. Mr. Strough questioned whether it would be helpful to post the link to the registration documents on the town and city websites and Mr. Tennyson replied that he would forward the link to all Supervisors to post in this manner.

- Request from Dog & Pup Hot Dog Cart - Mr. Tennyson reminded the Committee that last year Patrick Eldridge had requested permission to use a parking area on County right-of-way located near Northway Exit 24 in the Town of Warrensburg to set up a mobile hot dog cart in July and August. He noted that, unfortunately, due to the delay in approving contracts and getting them in place, they had not provided Mr. Eldridge an opportunity to use the permissions given and he would like to seek them again for the upcoming summer. Mr. Eldridge addressed the Committee, advising this would be his third year operating a hot dog cart with no complaints; he noted that he was fully insured and inspected by the New York State Department of Health.

A discussion ensued, following which motion was made by Ms. Wood, seconded by Mr. Merlino and carried unanimously to authorize the Superintendent of Public Works to issue a license agreement for Mr. Eldridge to use the County right-of-way as requested during the months of July and August, as well as the for the Labor Day weekend, contingent upon approval by the Town of Warrensburg.

- Village Fees for Parking Collection of County Owned Parking Lot - Mr. Tennyson apprised this matter had arisen from a letter received from Mayor Blais, *Village of Lake George*, seeking to increase the percentage the Village of Lake George retained for the collection of parking revenues for the West Brook Parking Lot from 10% to 15%; *a copy of Mayor Blais' letter is included in the agenda packet*. He advised there might be some budget impacts created by this increase, although, he admitted, the impact may not be significant. Mr. Conover requested that staff provide a better idea of the budgetary impacts that would be caused before making a decision on the matter.

A discussion ensued following which the Committee determined the matter would be reviewed again at the next Committee meeting.

Concluding the agenda review, Mr. Tennyson pointed out the DPW Overtime, Salt Usage Tracker and DPW Fuel Usage reports included in the agenda packet.

A brief conversation was held relative to salt use and storage following the mild winter weather.

There being no further business to come before the Public Works Committee, on motion made by Mr. Merlino and seconded by Mrs. Frasier, Mr. Simpson adjourned the meeting at 11:16 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Molly Ganotes, Legislative Office Specialist
As transcribed by Amanda Allen, Clerk of the Board