

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: PUBLIC WORKS

DATE: MAY 23, 2017

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS SIMPSON
DICKINSON
FRASIER
MERLINO
SOKOL
GIRARD
HYDE

OTHERS PRESENT:

JEFFERY TENNYSON, SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
KEVIN HAJOS, DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
TIM BENWAY, RECREATION FACILITIES MANAGER
JUSTIN GONYO, GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT, SARATOGA & NORTH CREEK RAILWAY
RONALD CONOVER, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
KEVIN GERAGHTY, ACTING COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
AMY BARTLETT, ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY
AMANDA ALLEN, CLERK OF THE BOARD
FRANK THOMAS, BUDGET OFFICER
SUPERVISORS BRAYMER
LEGGETT
MONTESI
SEEBER
MIKE SWAN, COUNTY TREASURER
DON LEHMAN, *THE POST STAR*
THOM RANDALL, *ADIRONDACK JOURNAL*
SARAH MCLENITHAN, DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

SUPERVISORS MACDONALD
VANSELOW

Please note, the following contains a summarization of the May 23, 2017 meeting of the Public Works Committee; the meeting in its entirety can be viewed on the Warren County website using the following link: <http://warrencountyny.gov/gov/comm/Archive/2017/works/>

Mr. Simpson called the meeting of the Public Works Committee to order at 11:34 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Sokol, seconded by Mr. Girard 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 apprised that the contract has been signed and was in place with Revolution Railriders to operate a rail bike business on the northern portion of the tracks north of the North Creek Station. He informed that they would be receiving an additional locomotive with the designation of GP40FH-2 which featured a head end power unit which provided the locomotive with the ability to provide power to the passenger train as opposed to the generator car that they had used previously. He stated the locomotive had the ability to operate in compliance with the new Positive Train Control regulations that were being set forth by the Federal Rail Administration in 2018. He stated it was also equipped with a locomotive camera so if a head on collision were to occur at a crossing they could pull the footage to determine exactly what occurred. He mentioned they would be receiving a new dome car by July 1st.

Mr. Gonyo informed he traveled to Chicago, Illinois last week to attend a meeting whose purpose was to review the 2017 Operation Plan. He reminded them last month he presented a proposal to operate on weekends only; however, he noted, since then this position had been reevaluated to consider the contract. He informed he had to provide the railroad management with the revised proposal by this Wednesday. He indicated he hoped to be able to provide the County with something formal regarding

a new proposal for operations during the 2017 season by the end of the week. He said until a determination was made they would continue to operate on weekends only through June which he noted was their normal operating hours for this time of the year.

Mr. Simpson inquired when the Revolution Railriders would commence operating and Mr. Gonyo replied their contract was effective on June 1st. Mr. Simpson questioned when their operations would cease for the year and Mr. Gonyo responded that they hoped to operate through the end of October if not longer depending upon the weather conditions.

Ms. Braymer asked whether an update could be provided on the County contract with SNCR and Amy Bartlett, *Assistant County Attorney*, responded that the negotiations were on-going.

Mr. Geraghty questioned why SNCR cancelled their runs this weekend and Mr. Gonyo replied the cancellation was due to low ridership.

Proceeding with the agenda review, Tim Benway, *Director, Parks, Recreation & Railroad*, apprised that they had completed the spring stocking, noting a total of 26,675 fish were stocked. He referred to the graph included with the agenda which displayed the stocking history from 1983 until present.

Mr. Dickinson entered the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

Continuing the agenda review with an update on the Spring Zing, Mr. Benway informed despite the inclement weather the event was a success and well attended, with a total attendance of 309 of which 152 were children. He stated included in the agenda was public comment from Dan Ladd, a reporter with *The Chronicle*, who thoroughly enjoyed the event and assisted with promotion by writing an article in *The Chronicle*, as well as posting items on the Departments website.

Mr. Simpson remarked he had attended the Spring Zing event which he believed was a success. He mentioned how pleased he was to see how happy all of the participants were.

In regards to the agreement with Adirondack Safari for use of the County Fairgrounds for a "Glamping Tour", Mr. Girard stated that representatives of Cornell Cooperative Extension indicated to him there was an issue with one of the buildings on the Fairgrounds that they contracted with the County to use for storage. He continued, the employees of Adirondack Safari had removed some of their items from the building to use for their own purposes. He requested Mr. Tennyson or Mr. Benway contact Cornell Cooperative Extension and Adirondack Safari to ensure everyone was on the same page with regards to this particular building. He added he believed everyone wanted to work together but there appeared to be a miscommunication occurring.

A discussion ensued following which it was decided Mr. Benway would follow up on the matter and report back.

Commencing the review of the DPW Agenda Jeffery Tennyson, *Superintendent, Public Works*, presented the following items:

Page 1- Request for a transfer of funds between various Road Projects totaling \$2,570.54

Motion was made by Mr. Dickinson, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously to approve the request and forward same to the Finance Committee. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Page 2- Request to appropriate funds in the amount of \$577,254.80 from the

Unappropriated Road Surplus to Budget Code A.9950 910, *Transfers-Capital Projects, Interfund Transfers*, and to authorize transfer of funds from Budget Code A.9950 910 to various road projects.

Mr. Tennyson explained following his meeting with Chairman Conover, Messrs. Geraghty and Simpson it was determined that the number of Road Projects scheduled to be completed this year would be increased based upon need and the healthy balance in the General Fund Unappropriated Surplus. He said the roads that would receive the additional work this year were selected based upon their need. He informed they had put out a large paving bid to explore contractor costs on multiple projects following which it was determined the following additional Road Projects would be completed this year: Bolton Landing Riverbank Road CR 11; Schroon River Road CR 10; and Friends Lake Road CR 8. He noted although the resolution request form listed the source of funding as the Unappropriated Road Surplus an alterative source of funding would need to be selected to complete these Projects.

A lengthy discussion ensued following which a motion was made by Mr. Sokol, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously to approve the request to appropriate funds in the amount of \$577,254.80 from the General Fund Unappropriated Surplus to cover the cost of the additional Road Projects and forward same to the Finance Committee for approval. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Page 3- Request for authorization to establish the following new County Road Projects: 2017 CR 11 Horicon Avenue; 2017 CR 15 East Shore Road; and 2017 CR 10 Schroon River Road.

Page 4- Request for a transfer of funds between various Road Projects totaling \$423,562.76

Motion was made by Mr. Girard, seconded by Mr. Dickinson and carried unanimously to approve the aforementioned requests and forward same to the Finance Committee. *Copies of the resolution request forms are on file with the minutes.*

In regards to Information for Discussion/Review, Mr. Tennyson advised the paving contracts would be awarded for the new paving projects provided they were approved at the June 14th Board meeting.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Kevin Hajos, *Deputy Superintendent of Public Works*, to provide an update on the Household Hazardous Waste Day conducted last weekend in the Town of Warrensburg. Mr. Hajos reminded them a respectful amount of people attended the events last year in the Towns of Warrensburg and Queensbury; however, he noted, that was not the case for the event in the Town of Warrensburg this past weekend, as there were only 32 participants. He advised that he and Mr. Tennyson felt it may be more sensible for them to offer the event every couple of years rather than every year. He provided an overview of the items collected at Warrensburg Household Hazardous Waste Day and reminded them the event for the Town of Queensbury was scheduled for June 17th.

Moving along, Mr. Tennyson distributed photographs of the West Mountain and Harrisburg Road paving projects which were completed; *copies of the photos are on file with the minutes.*

Mr. Sokol remarked he traveled on West Mountain Road every day and he noted he was pleased with how well the traffic flowed during the paving, as well as outcome of the Project. Me. Tennyson stated the same contractor who worked on that Road Project was working on the Bay Road Project between Haviland and Cronin Roads.

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

Mr. Geraghty requested Chairman Conover compose a letter to the NYSDOT (*New York State Department of Transportation*) regarding the deplorable conditions of the State Roads located in Warren County and include a listing of all of them commencing with State Route 418. He stated there was no funding included in the New York State Budget to repair these roads; however, he noted, Sam Zhou, *NYSDOT Region 1 Director*, had requested a letter from Chairman Conover which outlined the conditions of the State Roads in Warren County.

A lengthy discussion ensued pertaining to the deplorable conditions of State Roads within the County following which the consensus of the Committee was to request that Chairman Conover compose a letter to Mr. Zhou regarding the State Roads in the County.

There being no further business to come before the Public Works Committee, on motion made by Mr. Dickinson and seconded by Mrs. Frasier, Mr. Simpson adjourned the meeting at 12:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah McLenithan, Deputy Clerk of the Board