

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: PUBLIC WORKS

DATE: JUNE 19, 2017

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS SIMPSON
MACDONALD
FRASIER
MERLINO
SOKOL
GIRARD

OTHERS PRESENT:

JEFFERY TENNYSON, SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
TIM BENWAY, RECREATION FACILITIES MANAGER
ANNA GOMEZ DOMENECH, MARKING COORDINATOR, SARATOGA & NORTH CREEK RAILWAY
RONALD CONOVER, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
KEVIN GERAGHTY, ACTING COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
BRIAN REICHENBACH, COUNTY ATTORNEY
AMANDA ALLEN, CLERK OF THE BOARD
FRANK THOMAS, BUDGET OFFICER
SUPERVISORS BEATY
BRAYMER
LEGGETT
MONTESI
SEEBER
MIKE SWAN, COUNTY TREASURER
SARAH MCLENITHAN, DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

SUPERVISORS DICKINSON
VANSELOW
HYDE

Please note, the following contains a summarization of the June 19, 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 11:40 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Girard, seconded by Mrs. Frasier 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 DPW Agenda Mr. Tennyson presented the following requests:

Page 1- To authorize renewal of agreements with various municipalities for roadway maintenance (snow and ice removal).

Mr. Tennyson apprised there was a slight increase in the snow and ice contract rate based upon the actual costs over for the prior three years with all the other rates remaining the same.

Mr. Simpson inquired whether the increasing cost of labor over the three year period was taken into consideration and Mr. Tennyson replied in the affirmative.

Motion was made by Mr. Girard, seconded by Mr. Merlino and carried unanimously to approve the request and the necessary resolution was authorized for the July 21, 2017 Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Page 6 - For Mr. Tennyson and Kevin Hajos, *Deputy Superintendent of Public Works*, to attend the New York State County Highway Superintendents Association, Inc. Summer Conference in Saratoga Springs August 27-29, 2017.

Motion was made by Mr. Sokol, seconded by Mr. MacDonald and carried unanimously to approve the travel request. *A copy of the Authorization to Attend Meeting or Convention form is on file with the*

minutes.

- Page 9 - To fill vacant position of Motor Equipment Operator Medium #8, *Grade 7, Annual Salary of \$31,872*, due to resignation.
- Page 10 - To fill vacant position of Carpenter/Maintenance Worker, *Grade 10, Annual Salary of \$35,698*, due to promotion.
- Page 11 - To fill vacant position of Automotive Mechanic #5, *Grade 9, Annual Salary \$34,351*, due to resignation.

A motion was made by Mrs. Frasier and seconded by Mr. Sokol to approve the requests as outlined above.

Mr. Simpson noted the forms included in the Agenda packet were not the updated Notice of Intent to Fill Vacant Position forms which had been revised to remove the request to backfill due to promotion option. Amanda Allen, *Clerk of the Board*, informed the option to backfill due to promotion was no longer a valid field, as all positions required Committee approval.

A lengthy discussion ensued following which it was determined that Mr. Tennyson would provide the correct forms following the conclusion of the meeting and to authorize Mr. Tennyson to fill the vacant positions due to promotion.

Mr. Simpson called the question and the aforementioned requests were approved as outlined above and forwarded on to the Personnel & Higher Education Committee for reporting purposes. *Copies of the Notices of Intent to Fill Vacant Position forms are on file with the minutes.*

Mrs. Allen informed the Notice of Intent to Fill Vacant Positions form included a provision to fill positions on an emergency basis if there was no Committee meeting within two weeks. She continued, the necessary approvals could be obtained through the out-of-Committee process and then reported on at the next Committee meeting. She suggested going forward that Mr. Tennyson have the requests which applied filled through this process so he did not have to wait another month. She added she would check with the Civil Service and Human Resources Departments to see if it would be possible to white out the option to backfill due to promotion on the forms Mr. Tennyson used for his requests or whether new ones would be required altogether. She said if it was determined the new forms were required she would forward them on to Mr. Tennyson and make the adjustments as necessary.

Mr. Girard stated he remembered in 2008 when budget cuts were made that the Committees wanted to review every vacancy to assist them with using attrition instead of lay offs when employees left; however, he noted, he felt this was no longer necessary since the fiscal outlook for the County had improved significantly since then. He stated he believed they should allow the Department Heads to manage their Departments. He noted private businesses would be unable to function if they were required to go through all of these steps to fill vacancies. He remarked he would like for Mr. Tennyson to be able to manage his Department without having to go through the Committee process to fill vacancies, as it created a significant amount of dialogue that was unnecessary.

In regards to Information for Discussion/Review, Mr. Tennyson advised the second Household Hazardous Waste Day was conducted on June 17th at the Town of Queensbury Highway Department location during which 132 vehicles passed through. He pointed out this was a significant amount as compared to the recent event that took place in the Town of Warrensburg. He stated for next year they were considering hosting one event in the Town of Queensbury due to the success of the event there which he attributed to the population concentration of that area. He mentioned when the response

increased they would reassess whether two collection days were required. He said he would provide a report at the next Committee meeting on the types of materials collected and the quantities.

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

In regards to the Federal Aid Projects, Mr. Tennyson apprised the Bay Road Resurfacing Project would be proceeding with the top course paving as soon as the weather permitted the work to be done following which the striping would be done. He mentioned they were working with the striping contractor to ensure the striping was scheduled as soon as the paving was done, as there were some scheduling constraints relating to the striping that would be used on the roadway. He advised weather permitting, the paving should be completed by the end of next week and then striped soon thereafter.

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

Concluding the Agenda review, Mr. Tennyson requested an executive session to discuss possible litigation regarding some vehicle damage.

Mr. Simpson advised prior to entering into executive session he felt they should discuss the meeting that took place with representatives of the NYSDOT (*New York State Department of Transportation*) last Friday regarding the State Road conditions within the County.

Mr. Geraghty stated the State Roads in Warren County were in need of some attention, two of which were in a state of disrepair and were a priority. He said he felt the dialogue with the NYSDOT representatives went well but the State lacked the money to do the work required in this region. He stated they were aware of the County's concerns and the Supervisors would continue to lobby the State Legislators to get more money allocated to the State Budget for road work. He informed some of the projects would take between 3-5 years to complete, as there was no easy fix for the way the State allocated funding. He stated he would distribute the map of the State Roads in the County in case anyone had concerns about a specific road in their community. He said the communication with the representatives of the NYSDOT would be on-going regarding this topic.

A discussion ensued during which Mr. Geraghty informed the representatives from the NYSDOT suggested the County review their County Painting and Asbestos Abatement Bridge Projects to determine whether the work could be delayed a few years so the funds could be reallocated to Road work. Mr. Thomas added his understanding was the issue related to a lack of Federal Funding being provided to the State, as they no longer received the 50% match from the Federal Government that used to be given. He suggested they lobby their Federal representatives to have the Federal Gas Tax increased to pay for the road work since it had remained 18.4 cents per gallon since the last increase in 1993.

Mr. Simpson called for a motion to enter into executive session regarding possible litigation pertaining to vehicle damage.

Motion was made by Mr. Girard, seconded by Mr. MacDonald and carried unanimously to enter into an executive session pursuant to Section 105(d) of the Public Officer's Law.

Executive session was held from 12:08 p.m. until 12:16 p.m.

Upon reconvening, Mr. Simpson announced no action was taken during the executive session.

Commencing the review of the Parks, Recreation & Railroad Agenda, privilege of the floor was extended

to Anna Gomez Domenech, *Saratoga & North Creek Railway (SNCR) Marketing Coordinator*, to provide an update on SNCR operations. Ms. Domenech apprised she was filling in for Justin Gonyo, *General Superintendent, SNCR*, who was unable to attend today's meeting because his son was born last week and he was home with his family. She reported commencing in July they would be operating Thursday through Sunday with a departure time of 10:00 a.m. from the Saratoga Station and a southbound departure from the North Creek Station at 3:00 p.m. She added they were introducing new on board services with a new menu.

Mr. Geraghty questioned whether the snack bar at the Thurman Station would be opened and Ms. Domenech replied in the negative.

Mr. Simpson asked Ms. Domenech to relay congratulations to Mr. Gonyo and his wife.

Proceeding with the agenda review, Tim Benway, *Director, Parks, Recreation & Railroad*, presented the following items:

Page 1 - To authorize a new contract with Lyme Adirondack Timberlands I, LLC in the amount of \$3,185 for use of an approximately six-mile snowmobile trail located in the Town of Hague for the term commencing December 1, 2017 and terminating November 30, 2018.

Motion was made by Mr. Merlino, seconded by Mr. MacDonald and carried unanimously to approve the request and the necessary resolution was authorized for the July 21, 2017 Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Page 3 - To extend the existing contract with the South Warren Snowmobile Club Inc. and the City of Glens Falls to provide licensing use of trails in the City of Glens Falls and trail development and maintenance for the term commencing July 1, 2017 and terminating June 30, 2018.

Motion was made by Mr. Sokol, seconded by Mr. Girard and carried unanimously to approve the request and the necessary resolution was authorized for the July 21, 2017 Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Continuing with the Agenda review, Mr. Tennyson stated an executive session was necessary to discuss proposed or pending litigation regarding encroachment on County property,

Motion was made by Mr. Sokol, seconded by Mr. Girard and carried unanimously to enter into an executive session pursuant to Section 105(d) of the Public Officer's Law.

Executive session was held from 12:19 p.m. until 12:46 p.m.; Mrs. Frasier, Mr. Merlino and Chairman Conover exited the meeting during the executive session.

Mr. Simpson announced no action was taken during the executive session.

There being no quorum of the Committee present, Mr. Simpson adjourned the meeting at 12:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah McLenithan, Deputy Clerk of the Board