

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: PUBLIC WORKS

DATE: SEPTEMBER 22, 2020

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS: CONOVER
HOGAN
LEGGETT
BRAYMER
BRUNO
MAGOWAN
MERLINO
STROUGH
WILD

OTHERS PRESENT:

REPRESENTING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS:
KEVIN HAJOS, SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
BESTY HENKEL, FISCAL MANAGER
FRANK THOMAS, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
RYAN MOORE, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
MARY ELIZABETH KISSANE, COUNTY ATTORNEY
AMANDA ALLEN, CLERK OF THE BOARD
KEVIN B. GERAGHTY, BUDGET OFFICER
SUPERVISORS BEATY
DIAMOND
DICKINSON
DRISCOLL
FRASIER
MCDEVITT
SEEBER
SIMPSON
TAMMIE DELORENZO, ASSISTANT TO THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
RYAN DICKEY, SECOND ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY
DON LEHMAN, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
KEVIN LYNCH, REPRESENTING SLIC NETWORK SOLUTIONS
JEREMY SCRIME, SENIOR COMPUTER SYSTEMS ANALYST/PROGRAMMER
JIM SIPLON, INTERIM PRESIDENT, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
SARAH MCLENITHAN, DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD

Please note, the following contains a summarization of the September 22, 2020 meeting of the Public Works Committee; the meeting in its entirety can be viewed on the Warren County website using the following link: <https://warrencountyny.gov/gov/comm/Archive/2020/works/>

Note: As per Governor Cuomo's Executive Order 202.1: "Article 7 of the Public Officers Law, to the extent necessary to permit any public body to meet and take such actions authorized by the law without permitting in public in-person access to meetings and authorizing such meetings to be held remotely by conference call or similar service, provided that the public has the ability to view or listen to such proceeding and that such meetings are recorded and later transcribed". All of the Committee members in attendance participated via video or teleconference, except for Supervisors Magowan and Merlino who were physically present.

Mr. Conover called the meeting of the Public Works Committee to order at 10:34 a.m.

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

Copies of the DPW and Parks, Recreation & Railroad agendas were distributed to those in attendance, those participating remotely accessed the agendas via the Warren County website. Copies of the agendas are on file with the meeting minutes.

Commencing the review of the Parks, Recreation & Railroad agenda, Kevin Hajos, *Superintendent of Public Works*, advised he would like to jump ahead and review the Referral/Pending Items portion of the

agenda prior to reviewing the 2021 Budget request for Parks, Recreation & Railroad. He advised the first pending item concerned the contract with Adirondack Safari Tent Co., LLC and he noted this item could be removed from the Referral/Pending Items list because Ryan Moore, *County Administrator*, had provided an update regarding this at the September 18th Board meeting. He informed an RFP (*Request for Proposal*) would be released for recreational use of the Warren County Fairgrounds and Adirondack Safari Tent Co., LLC would be able to submit a proposal if they chose to do so.

In regard to the second Pending Item, concerning the Committee's tabling of the request to authorize a new contract with Lyme Adirondack Timberlands I, LLC for use of an approximately six-mile snowmobile trail located in the Town of Hague, Mr. Hajos stated it had been determined there would no longer be a fee charged for use of those trails because they tied into the State trail system and the State would not allow fees to be charged. He apprised because of this, Pending Item two could be removed from Referral/Pending Items List, as well.

With regard to the third Pending Item, concerning the use of Up Yonda Farm Education Center for the Forest School, Mr. Hajos advised this could also be removed from Referral/Pending Item List because Megan Seeley, *New York State Certified Elementary Education Teacher and small business marketer*, had recently accepted a full-time job offer and would be taking a step back from pursuing the Forest School.

Concluding the agenda the review of the Parks, Recreation & Railroad agenda, Mr. Hajos provided an overview of the 2021 Budget Request for this division, a copy of which is on file with the minutes.

Moving along to the review of the DPW agenda Mr. Hajos presented the following requests:

- 1 - To fill the vacant position of Highway Construction Supervisor II, *Grade 18, Base Annual Salary \$46,492*, due to retirement.

Motion was made by Mr. Magowan, seconded by Mr. Bruno and carried unanimously to approve the request and forward same to the Personnel & Administration Committee for reporting purposes. *A copy of the Notice of Intent to Fill Vacant Position form is on file with the minutes.*

- 2 - To amend the County Budget in the amount of \$243.85 to reflect receipt of insurance recovery payment for guardrail repairs.

Motion was made by Ms. Hogan, seconded by Mr. Magowan 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.*

- 3 - To authorize the sale of a Mid-Atlantic 6 Ton Tilt Bed Trailer to the Town of Stony Creek for \$300.

Mr. Hajos apprised they had decided to scrap or sell this particular trailer at auction which had an approximate value of \$300 following which the Town of Stony Creek had indicated an interest in purchasing it. Mr. Leggett inquired how the towns were made aware of equipment the County intended to claim as surplus; Mr. Hajos advised they did not promote their surplus equipment and explained in this case the Stony Creek Superintendent of Public Works was only made aware that this trailer would be sold because he had inquired about it when he noticed it during a visit to the DPW garage. Mr. Hajos stated in the past pieces of equipment had been sold to other towns, such as the Towns of Horicon and Johnsburg. He informed going forward he would request that a listing be sent to the towns every month of any equipment the County was declaring as surplus, adding he would prefer to offer the equipment to the towns before they were auctioned off.

Motion was made by Mr. Magowan, seconded by Mr. Strough 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.

Proceeding to the Information for Discussion/Review portion of the agenda, Mr. Hajos apprised he had received a request from SLIC Network Solutions for the placement of a cabinet on County-owned property, as well as to enter into an easement with the County for same. He informed the location of this cabinet would be on the County Railroad property at the Thurman Station which would have no impact to the County, but he would request that they extend the existing fence there. He said the coverage provided by this cabinet would be for a significant portion of the Town of Thurman, as well as parts of the Town of Warrensburg. He offered privilege of the floor to Kevin Lynch, *Representing SLIC Network Solutions*, to expound upon the request.

Motion was made by Ms. Hogan and seconded by Mr. Magowan to bring the matter concerning authorizing an easement on the County-owned Thurman Station Railroad property in the Town of Thurman to SLIC Network Solutions for placement of a cabinet to the floor for discussion.

Mr. Lynch advised SLIC Network Solutions was requesting authorization to place an equipment cabinet at the Thurman Station similar to the one located by the Johnsburg Town Hall. He said this cabinet would provide service in the Towns of Thurman, Stony Creek and parts of Warrensburg to approximately eight hundred homes covered by grant funding and a few hundred additional homes in between that they would be able to offer service to. He stated they believed this was the appropriate location because it was central and could feed off of the cabinet located in the Town of Johnsburg; he added the connection would eventually extend throughout the Town of Warrensburg for redundancy purposes. He indicated another reason they preferred the location was because the parking lot permitted their crew to park off of the main road which was especially important during the winter season when they did have to do maintenance with snow and things of that nature.

Ms. Braymer apprised she was pleased they would be able to provide service to those additional homes and she asked Mr. Hogan if there were any issues with the cabinet located in the Town of Johnsburg. Ms. Hogan replied there had been no issues with the cabinet, adding the Town had benefitted from its placement. Ms. Hogan remarked it was necessary for them to do whatever they could to get access to service in the underserved areas and she requested that the Committee members support this request. Ms. Braymer asked if the Johnsburg Community Center was being served by this cabinet and Ms. Hogan replied the cabinet provided service to a large portion of the Town of Johnsburg. Ms. Braymer inquired whether the Town of Johnsburg received any compensation from SLIC Network Solutions for the cabinet located on the Town property and Ms. Hogan responded affirmatively, but advised she was unsure what the exact compensation was. Mr. Lynch interjected he believed SLIC Network Solutions provided basic internet service to the Town and Tannery Pond at no cost. He added if a few locations were identified within the service area they would be happy to provide service to them, as well at no cost. He said they had also attempted to work with the Superintendents of the local school districts and the Town Supervisors to identify locations where a hot spot would assist because they were unable to provide service to everyone.

A discussion ensued during which Mr. Strough voiced his concern regarding the agreement being extended in perpetuity, as he believed they should include a clause that the agreement would be reconsidered in ten or fifteen years. Mr. Lynch apprised this would be a concern for them because if another provider took over the service there would be a significant expense on their part to relocate the cabinet. He added the majority of their agreements with municipalities and private properties were authorized in perpetuity and although he would be reluctant to include a sunset phase, they could include that they would review the compensation portion of the agreement; however, he noted, he did not want to end up in a situation where someone wanted five million dollars to renew this agreement because that would be detrimental to continuing to provide service.

During the discussion Mr. Wild invited Mr. Lynch to attend a future meeting of the Economic Growth & Development and Higher Education Committees for the purpose of discussing broadband coverage.

Mr. Conover called the question and the motion to authorize an easement on the County-owned Thurman Station Railroad property in the Town of Thurman to SLIC Network Solutions for placement of a cabinet was carried unanimously and the necessary resolution was authorized for the October 14th Board meeting.

Mr. Hajos then referred to the photographs of various Road Projects, copies of which are file with the minutes, and reviewed the 2021 Budget Requests for the DPW and Solid Waste Divisions, copies of which are also on file with the minutes.

Mr. Hajos mentioned during his meeting with the Budget Team they had discussed the possibility of implementing a five-year plan for road construction which he asked Mr. Moore to expound upon. Mr. Moore stated it was inappropriate to make cuts to the Road Projects because neglecting the roads would end up costing the County more over the long-term than if the proper investment had been made up front. He said what they typically attempted to do with these costs which fluctuated was to try and smooth them out so that they had the same cash impact each year and they were predictable. He indicated in order for them to get to that point with the Road Projects a \$4.9 million investment was required on an annual basis over the next five years, but this was substantially more than what they typically invested. He said in 2018 they had appropriated \$3 million in the 2019 County Budget for Road Projects and then they waited to see how much sales tax revenue was collected when they closed out the year, following which they appropriated around an additional \$1 million. He added that this year they had not had the ability to do this because of the Coronavirus which meant they had only invested \$3 million for Road Projects. He advised what also occurred during this financial crisis was interest rates had gone in the right direction from the borrowers perspective so what they would be seeking to do was take advantage of the current situation and borrow money to double the investment in the Road Projects for next year; he added paving was also being contracted out now. He apprised no decision needed to be made today, as they were only notifying the Committee that this was something they were considering doing.

Mr. Conover asked Don Lehman, *Public Relations Manager*, whether there were any public comments and Mr. Lehman replied in the negative.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, on motion made by Mr. Magowan, seconded by Mr. Strough and carried unanimously, Mr. Conover adjourned the meeting at 11:26 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah McLenithan, Deputy Clerk of the Board