

Public Works & Capital Projects Committee

Regular Meeting Minutes

DATE & TIME: March 5, 2015, 6:30 PM
LOCATION: Karen L. Binder Library, 6th Floor, COB, Kingston, NY
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chairman Fabiano
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Nettie Tomshaw
PRESENT: Legislators; Dean Fabiano, Peter Loughran, Lynn Archer, Manna Jo Greene
EXCUSED: Legislator Kevin Roberts
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes
OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislator Herbert Litts, Legislator Chris Allen, Bob Sudlow Deputy County Executive, Susan Plonski County Attorney, Brian Cunningham DPW Acting Commissioner, Joe Whittaker Field Operations Mgr. Highways & Bridges DPW

Chairman Fabiano called the meeting to order at 6:30PM.

Motion No. 1 Resolved to Approve Meeting Minutes of February 5th & 17th 2015
Motion Made By: Legislator Lynn Archer
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Peter Loughran
Discussion: None
Voting In Favor: Legislators Fabiano, Loughran, Archer, Greene
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 4
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Carried

Legislator Greene would like the previous minutes to reflect Legislator Archer's request to track STRIVE project expenditures / running tab of the contingency fund. Legislator Archer noted the Legislative Financial Analyst has already been monitoring its progress.

Chairman Fabiano elected to take Resolution No. 122 out of order – confirming the County Executive appointment of Susan Plonski as Commissioner of The Department of Public Works.

RESOLUTIONS

Motion No. 2 Resolved to Approve Resolution No. 122

Text of Motion: Confirming The Appointment Of Susan Plonski As Commissioner Of The Department Of Public Works

Motion Made By: Legislator Peter Loughran

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Lynn Archer

Discussion: Chairman Fabiano noted the committee received a copy of Susan Plonski's resume and granted her the floor to make an opening statement as candidate for Commissioner. Mrs. Plonski compared this position as going back to her roots - experiencing a lot of construction administration work back in the 1980's and 1990's. She mostly leaned on her financial education background, however more currently with law school under her belt, over the years she cultivated contract and regulation experience which is a huge part of Public Works. Mrs. Plonski feels she has a lot to bring to the operation and is up to the challenge with hope the Legislature will provide her the opportunity.

Legislator Herb Litts attending the meeting was very impressed with Mrs. Plonski's resume. He went on to ask if she has fleet maintenance management experience, and the confidence level required working as head county engineer and county superintendent of highways. Mrs. Plonski noted her fleet experience while working at RKB Sheet Metal, Inc. and stated the county has its own fleet manager that she will be working closely with. Mrs. Plonski noted she will have qualified staff - whereas this position is more of a management administrative role responsible for the overall operations of highway & bridges, buildings, fleet management, and engineering division. She envisions bringing an umbrella of cohesiveness and improved efficiencies within the department as Commissioner. Legislator Litts expressed confidence in her ability and congratulated Mrs. Plonski on her appointment.

Chairman Fabiano going on his 36th year working in the same profession posed the question as to Mrs. Plonski's ability to deal with the multitude of personalities within the Department of Public Works arena. Mrs. Plonski expressed complete confidence in her ability to effectively interact on all levels and concluded by thanking the committee for their vote of confidence. Chairman Fabiano along with the entire committee and Brian Cunningham congratulated Mrs. Plonski on her appointment.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Fabiano, Loughran, Archer, Greene

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 4

No. of Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Carried

Motion No. 3 Resolve To Approve Resolution No. 120

Text of Motion: Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Atlantic Pavement Marking, Inc. – Department Of Public Works

Motion Made By: Legislator Peter Loughran

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Manna Jo Greene

Discussion: Discussion ensued as to the typical length/aspects of the contract. Legislator Loughran made the request to confirm the county has no other prior contracts recently brought forth that entailed pavement marking with Atlantic Pavement. Susan Plonski offered to research the matter.

(Note: On March 6, 2015 Sue Plonski via email responded to Legislator Loughran's inquiry. The sole contract outstanding is the original contract effective March 2012 thru February 2014, which then was amended /extended for one additional year. Resolution No. 120 going forward contracts for the period beginning March 1, 2015 and ending February 28, 2016.)

Voting In Favor: Legislators Fabiano, Loughran, Archer, Greene
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 4
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Carried

Motion No. 4 Resolved to Approve Resolution No. 121

Text of Motion: Amending Resolution No. 382, Dated October 21, 2014, Abandoning Portions Of Old Albany Post Road, County Road Number 79, Town Of Gardiner, To Various Adjoining Property Owners, Removal Of A Portion Of Said Road From County Road Map, And Authorizing The Chairman To Sign Agreement(s) With The Town Of Gardiner And Various Adjoining Property Owners

Motion Made By: Legislator Peter Loughran

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Lynn Archer

Discussion: Bob Sudlow shared the county's (5) year history of the property and update leading to this resolution. (See previous discussion Res. #382, 10/21/14 meeting minutes / audio on file) Legislator Litts noted this property at one point was the oldest continuous running mill in operation in the entire United States until approximately 1996.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Fabiano, Loughran, Archer, Greene
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 4
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Carried

Old Business:

- Is the bridge on Elmendorf St. in the City of Kingston a county or city responsibility?

Susan Plonski has contacted City of Kingston – Mike Schupp, to answer Legislator Loughran's question. Legislator Litts attending the meeting provided helpful bridge tips to better determine who is lawfully responsible for the maintenance of the Elmendorf Bridge.

- Committee request for the highway and bridge road T&L / Chip sealing surface treatment schedule

Public Works – Joe Whittaker provided the committee with the 2015 road construction program, noting it can change if road conditions degrade due to the winter weather such as Road #82, Old Post Road in Esopus. Also the cost for material – washed stone went up \$4.00/ton.

- Public Works Organizational Chart

Bob Sudlow noted the organizational chart will be updated and made available to the committee at the April meeting.

- Siemens Report Followup/Update

Legislator Archer asked Brian Cunningham what specific elements of the Siemens Report - energy plan has not been acted upon and is not earmarked anywhere that this committee should be talking about other than the previously noted proposed capital project for \$2.5M worth of HVAC and weatherization work along with a capital project proposed for lighting controls with automatic on and off sensors. Brian also noted the county has implemented facility improvement measures recommended by Siemens such as cooling towers and numerous roof top units being replaced mainly at the Dept. of Social Services.

Bob Sudlow said his office sat down with Siemens and reviewed the 2010 report and discussed the various buildings no longer with the county – Golden Hill, 300 Flat Bush, etc. Bob feels the county will have a report within approx. a month to evaluate if there is any low hanging fruit we can jump on quickly or mid-range ticket items, noting the report also recommends every 90 years to recap a boiler. Bob noted the engineers are reviewing it and he expects the update to have a “tiered approach.” Also, his office has met with Central Hudson and is considering opportunities to improve possible county scenarios such as utilizing natural gas at a site, as well as driving economic development by extending natural gas on Old Kings Highway, making the area / infrastructure more attractive to developers and business – using the comparison of having broadband.

Legislator Archer’s Request: To better understand the Siemens Report progress made regarding recommendations and actual implementation of the Report - please provide an update listing where we started based on the original report, what has been accomplished to date, what is still pending, and what is in the report but not earmarked in the Capital Project Budget.

Legislator Loughran qualified Bob Sudlow was referring to county owned property building improvements and not county leased properties. Bob concurred and added recommendations made to the county would be passed along to the leased properties whether or not they choose to implement the recommendations.

Legislator Greene inquired as to the cost factor to update the report. Bob Sudlow explained the report is free of charge with the expectation/gamble the county will implement/contract some of Siemens recommendations. Siemens receives compensation based on a percentage of energy cost savings for work completed.

New Business:

- Bob Sudlow announced Deputy Commissioner of Public Works, David Bolles will be retiring at the end of the month.
- Legislator's Manna Jo Greene and Lynn Archer commended the Department of Public Works for all they are doing with tending to county infrastructure.
- Legislator Greene noted the Climate Smart Committee discussed Central Hudson incentives for LED street lighting and will advise the committee, county and towns of an upcoming forum currently in the planning stage once more information becomes available. Legislator Greene noted Central Hudson has of late pulled back on some of their incentives, thus the Climate Smart Committee discussed pooling lighting resources – shared services amongst the towns which may be an effective option for cost savings. Bob Sudlow noted they are meeting with Central Hudson at the county fairground property on March 17th as part of “Building a Better Ulster County” to evaluate adding shoulders for public safety and the possible reduction of the number of poles/moving poles etc., for pedestrian safety and ease of maintenance. Legislator Archer posed the question as to why Central Hudson doesn't bury the cables – Joe Whittaker will inquire when he meets with Central Hudson.
- Legislator Greene noted there are now (2) two potential fleet policies moving through the Energy and Environment Committee and expressed the importance of getting direct input from Bob and the departments – with the goal to do it once and do it right. Legislator Greene is very excited the county is actively considering a green fleet policy. Kim Millian is the county Fleet Manager.
- Legislator Allen earlier in the week spoke with Ken Crannell regarding making a policy transition for a county green fleet. Leg. Allen explained utility vehicles can be switched to bio-diesel but is not conducive in the cold winter months of the year. The buses however can be transferred to bio-diesel and can run better in the cold weather as they are housed in garages. Leg. Litts noted bio-diesel also harms engines due to the breakdown of the rubber seals vs. synthetic. Committee discussion ensued as to planning, viability, grants, bid/purchasing cycles, vehicle selection/availability/lifespan, savings, conversion, and the need for forethought.
- Legislator Litts asked if there was any news regarding the Tappan Zee Bridge spans - noting Dennis Doyle had preliminary correspondence confirmation with the DOT. Joe Whittaker hadn't heard anything more at this time, but will look into it.

Note: Complete audio content is posted on the Legislative website.

Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Legislator Loughran and seconded by Legislator Archer, all were in favor, and Chairman Fabiano declared the meeting duly adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Dated the 20rd of March, 2015
Nettie Tomshaw, Legislative Staff

Minutes Approved on: April 9, 2015