

**Public Works and Capital Projects Committee
Meeting Minutes
(DRAFT)**

DATE & TIME: April 15, 2020 – 6:30 PM
LOCATION: Powered By Zoom Meeting by Dialing (646) 558-8656,
Meeting ID: 260 606 858
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chair Dean Fabiano
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Jay Mahler, Nettie Tomshaw
PRESENT: Legislators Greene, Cahill, Heppner, Litts
ABSENT: None
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: County Executive Marc Rider, DPW Commissioner Tom Jackson, DPW Deputy Comm. Finance Don Quesnell

Chair Fabiano called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM.

Motion No. 1: **Moved to Approve Minutes of the March 4, 2020 Meeting**
Motion By: Legislator Heppner
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Litts
Discussion: None
Voting In Favor: Legislators Fabiano, Greene, Cahill, Heppner, Litts
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 5
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Minutes **APPROVED**

Resolutions for the April 28, 2020 Session of the Legislature

Resolution No. 164: Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute A Lease Agreement With The Town Of Wawarsing For A Substation Of The Ulster County Sheriff’s Office – Department Of Public Works (Buildings And Grounds)

Resolution Summary: This resolution authorizes the Chair of the UC Legislature to execute a lease agreement with the Town of Wawarsing for a substation for the UC Sheriff’s Office. The lease is for 1,534 SF of building space, for a five-year term commencing May 1, 2020 through April 30, 2025 at a cost of \$312.00 annually plus utilities.

Motion No. 2: **Motion to Discuss and Adopt Resolution No. 164**
Motion By: Legislator Litts
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Cahill

Discussion: See attached transcript.

Voting In Favor: Legislator Fabiano, Greene, Cahill, Heppner, Litts
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 5
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Resolution **ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 171: Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation – Department Of Public Works

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves a contract in excess of \$50K with Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation for the installation of upgraded natural gas and electrical services to the County’s building located on Enterprise Dr. (formally known as the Bank of America Building) in the Town of Ulster. Services are required to prepare the building for use as a surge hospital for treating patients infected with the Coronavirus. \$137.5K, 100% County – will seek FEMA reimbursement, Term 4/7/20 - 5/15/20.

Motion No. 3: **Motion to Discuss and Adopt Resolution No. 171**
Motion By: Legislator Litts
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Greene

Discussion: See attached transcript.

Voting In Favor: Legislator Fabiano, Greene, Cahill, Heppner, Litts
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 5
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Resolution **ADOPTED**

Old /New Business (see attached transcript)

- DPW Operations – COVID-19 Update
- GEODIS Company

Adjournment

Chair Fabiano asked if there was any other business, and hearing none;

Motion Made By: Legislator Litts

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Heppner

No. of Votes in Favor: 5

No. of Votes Against: 0

TIME: 6:50 PM

Respectfully submitted: Nettie Tomshaw, Legislative Staff

Minutes Approved: May ,2020

Public Works and Capital Projects Committee Meeting Transcript

DATE & TIME: April 15, 2020 – 6:30 PM
LOCATION: Powered by Zoom Meeting by Dialing (646) 558-8656,
Meeting ID: 260 606 858
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chair Dean Fabiano
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Jay Mahler, Nettie Tomshaw
PRESENT: Legislators Greene, Cahill, Heppner, Litts
ABSENT: None
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: County Executive Marc Rider, DPW Commissioner Tom Jackson, DPW Deputy Comm. Finance Don Quesnell

Fabiano: I'd like to call the meeting of the Public Works and Capital Projects Committee meeting tonight to order on April 15, 2020. I think we'll skip the pledge tonight because I don't have a flag behind me. So, we can we can resume when we get face to face again. With that said, has everybody gotten a chance to read the minutes from the previous meeting?

Cahill: Yes.

Fabiano: Manna?

Greene: Inaudible.

Fabiano: Jonathan?

Heppner: I'll make a motion.

Fabiano: Okay, so there's no deletions and nobody wants to delete anything or add anything. So, motion is made by Legislator Heppner.

Litts: I'll second it, Herb Litts.

Fabiano: Hi Herb Litts. How are you sir?

Litts: Good. How are you doing?

Fabiano: Very good. Seconded by Herb Litts. All in favor?

Committee Members: Aye. (5-0)

Fabiano: All opposed? Motion carried. Minutes will be accepted as presented. And we'll move into resolutions. We only have two tonight, and for me, thank God, we only have two. Okay.

Fabiano: Resolution Number 164, authorizing the chair of the Ulster County Legislature to execute a lease agreement with the Town of Wawarsing for a substation of the Ulster County Sheriff's Office, Department of Public Works, Buildings and Grounds.

Fabiano: This is for a substation in Wawarsing. It's a five-year lease. There's backup to your agenda tonight. It's for \$312 a month and a...

Litts: I'll move it.

Fabiano: Alright.

Cahill: I'll second.

Fabiano: Okay, motion made by Legislator Litts, seconded by Legislator Cahill. All in favor?

Committee Members: Aye. (5-0)

Fabiano: All opposed. Motion carried. Good. Nettie good?

Tomshaw: Good.

Fabiano: Second resolution is Resolution Number 171 approving the execution of a contract in excess of \$50,000 entered into by the County, Central Hudson Gas and Electric Corporation, Department of Public Works.

Fabiano: This is a, I guess it's an emergency services installation of upgrade on enterprise drive formerly known as Bank of America, in the Town of Ulster. Services are required to prepare the building for use as a surge hospital for treating patients infected with the corona virus. Any discussion?

Rider: Dean do you want me - this is Marc Rider. Do you want to speak to this at all?

Fabiano: Sure, Mark, if you would, I'd appreciate it.

Rider: Sure. So, this is actually the work that is just being done by Central Hudson to, or their vendors to basically trench the lines and disconnect the power. Right now, we're currently using power from the

eastern side of Enterprise Drive, the Tech City campus that Ginsberg still owns, so all the power is coming from a transformer there. We're just basically sectioning off so that this building that we now own outright, he, he did not use his last appeal. And so now this is a county owned, you know, parcel and building. This specific contract would be used to just bring electric to the building, there would be some other potential spending to de-winterize the building, improve a little bit of the HVAC, some electrical work outside of this contract and others. But yes, it's to prepare the building if we need it for a Community Care Center, which is basically a step-down facility if the hospitals get full. We hope we don't have to use this. This money would be needed to be spent, if we were going to market this property or use it for a county purpose anyway. So even if we don't use this as a step-down facility, it is a prudent use of money because we want to make sure that this building doesn't continue to deteriorate as it's winterized.

Litts: I move the motion.

Fabiano: Motion made by Legislator Litts. Do I hear a second?

Greene: I'll second.

Fabiano: Seconded by Legislator Greene. All in favor?

All Members: Aye. (5-0)

Fabiano: Opposed? Motion carried.

Fabiano: Is there any old or new business anybody would like to discuss tonight?

Rider: Can I bring up one piece of legislation?

Fabiano: Sure Marc.

Rider: So, there is there is a resolution or I should say a local law that was submitted last month that doesn't come to this committee, but has an impact on Public Works and that's the apprenticeship requirements, expanding that beyond bridges. Maybe it did come to this committee but passed it last month. Anyway, it was held in another committee. There was some minor tweaks that Legislator Ronk wanted to make and I believe during leadership meeting, it was decided that those would be made. And now I think it's going to be moved through to set a public hearing. I just wanted to make sure it was on all of your radar.

Fabiano: Yeah, we had, we had discussed that at the last meeting where - when we were still meeting in person, Marc.

Rider: Okay great.

Fabiano: All right. Any other conversation? new or old?

Litts: Jonathan has his hand up.

Fabiano: Who did?

Heppner: I do? Heppner.

Fabiano: Go ahead Jonathan.

Heppner: So, I just want to just check in with Commissioner Jackson, I'm just, you know, give him an update, you know, how your guys are operating, you know, under, you know, the current, you know, rules and requirements as well as the Executives, different orders. If you, just out of curiosity if you could give an update, and I hope your crew is doing well, and making sure you guys have everything you need.

Jackson: Thank you, Jonathan. So, we are doing well. Most of our staff is on a 50/50 work one week and be off on COVID leave the next week. That doesn't count for some of what we consider to be essential services. I think the real front lines for us are our cleaners and some of our buildings and ground staff who are out working on these community care centers both at the Kate Walton Field House and at Tech City. They are doing a yeoman's job. I just can't speak highly enough of Bob Buser and his crew all the way down the line. So please keep that in mind. They are out there every day, working their tails off. But there they are getting the resources they need.

Heppner: Alright good.

Jackson: So that's where we come in. That's where Don and I come in, in terms of administrative support. Highways and Bridges, there they are, you know, cutting back on a lot of the capital projects that they would normally be working on. The bridge crew did finish up a bridge and now they're out doing guide rail. So, we're in the process of paring down our budget, in alignment with the County Executives guidance. By next Wednesday, we should have a budget that's significantly reduced. And it's going to be a challenge moving forward, but really, I think morale is great. And we're getting the job done that needs to get done. Priorities have been rearranged for us, but that's okay. Thank you for asking, Jonathan.

Heppner: Thank you.

Rider: If I could add one thing to that I mean, and Tom talks about them as community care centers, but when this process started, we were in an EOC that was our regular EOC in the Law Enforcement Center. About a week in, we decided that it made sense in this emergency that our command center would be located at the health department and their team built, basically a secondary EOC in a three or four-day process. They've done (inaudible) fund and basically put together the - a testing site that is second only to New York State's own testing sites. I mean, you really don't see a lot of that was done because of donations by Savon, they donated over \$100,000 in tents and other materials and so I know we're going to recognize them at some point, it would be good if you all recognize them at some point but, they, they created this test center. I mean, I'm sure you've all seen pictures, but it's quite extraordinary and they've

really stepped up every step of the way. And I think a lot of county employees have done the same where, you know, through crisis, you often see people rise-up and it's been that way in Public Works and other departments throughout the county.

Litts: Hey, Marc and Tom, a company in Poughkeepsie called GEODIS, which is a logistics company had reached out to me and said, if there's anything the county needs, they'd be willing to help. I sent an email to Pat Ryan, but I never got an acknowledgement that he got it or even, whatever, but they offered their services. They have access to planes and lines of mobilization as well as calling companies that make these products. So, if the County is looking for something, I can hook you up with GEODIS.

Rider: Do me a favor, and if you could just go back and either find or resend that email, but Cc me on it as well.

Litts: Okay.

Rider: We can - I'm happy to take a look, depending on what email box you send it to Pat, he may have seen it. He may not. I mean, I would hope he would have seen it. But normally he responds.

Litts: I think I sent - it may have been a text and I sent it to his personal cell phone.

Jackson: That may be a great source for the EOC. And, you know, purchasing, you know, it's a struggle to get all the materials and products that we need right now.

Litts: Well and they're, they're a worldwide company, they can get it from anywhere and fly it here.

Cahill: That's who runs our - I work at IBM in Poughkeepsie, and that's who runs our shipping, and internal stuff all of our, what's the term I'm trying to think of. Shoot, I can't think of it.

Litts: Supply chain?

Cahill: Supply chain, thank you. They run all of our supply chain and IBM in Poughkeepsie.

Litts: And right now, they're even checking everybody's temperature who comes in through the door.

Cahill: Right. And they've been there for about 15 years. I'd say they're a very reliable company.

Rider: Very good. I'm happy to look at it.

Cahill: So, Dean can I ask a quick question of Commissioner Jackson.

Fabiano: Sure. Absolutely Kev - Brian. (group laughter)

Cahill: So that's once today not bad. I haven't left my house. So, you know. I like that! So, the Commissioner Jackson so the Executive had mentioned to us in a meeting last week that the DPW would be doing a lot of the work interior of the Tech City site. My question is, are you know are you going to be you know, using your 50/50 staffing or are you going to expand the amount of folks working when that comes to fruition because I suspect that that's going to happen very quickly. Right.

Jackson: So, we have had to expand the number of people that are doing certain tasks. But I will say that our trades workers, the people that we have that are, you know, skilled carpenters and electricians haven't been on 50/50 they've been working and we've needed them to stay working. So, it's the lower level staff, the less skilled workers that are on the 50/50. But having said that, there - we're entering the, you know, prime growing season so we're, we're going to have to bring back for instance, our landscape our full landscaping crew starting I think this week, Bob needs them out at Tech City because the place is completely overgrown. So yes, we, we are bringing people on board as we need them to do work and I will also say, that a lot of our workers, both highway and buildings and grounds, really are classified as working remotely when they are out of doors and they are keeping social distance from each other. So, it's - it's the office workers that really are all working remotely at this point.

Cahill: Got it. Okay. Thank you very much.

Fabiano: Mr. Jackson, I only have one question before I call for an adjournment. At this time Tom, do you foresee a lot of our roadwork being like, that you had planned for this year not happening? Or are you hopeful that it could still happen?

Jackson: We're still - we're still at this point counting on CHIPS funding for work.

Fabiano: Okay.

Jackson: And, so we have been purchasing road materials that we'll be reimbursed through CHIPS. We're going to try to do as much as we can in house to save dollars. But we do have some contracts out there. And so far, the Governor's orders have not held up municipal construction projects.

Fabiano: Right. Right.

Jackson: But only those projects that we have, you know, funding in the state budget for, otherwise we're shutting it down.

Quesnell: Yeah, if I can add to that the capital projects that are funded county side...

Fabiano: Okay.

Quesnell: ...that you may have already approved this year, they're a bit on hold for the time being until we get a clearer picture from NYC what state funding we're gonna get.

Fabiano: Exactly see where you are headed with all this.

Cahill: Does that, does that include the stuff out of the college or is that on hold as well? Or is that separate because it's the college.

Jackson: That's separate from the DPW because it is the college.

Cahill: Thank you.

Fabiano: Okay if a, does anybody have anything else?

Litts: Mr. Chairman, I'll make a motion for adjournment.

Fabiano: Motion made by Legislator Litts for adjournment. Do I hear a second?

Heppner: I'll second.

Fabiano: Seconded by Legislator Heppner. All in favor?

Committee Members: Aye. (5-0)

Fabiano: All opposed.

Litts: Good to see you all. And please stay safe.

Fabiano: Everybody stay safe. Let's have our legislative family and staff be safe and healthy. Very, very important.

Cahill: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Take care.

Fabiano: This meeting is adjourned. And I will see you all soon. Thank you all so much.