Public Works and Capital Projects Committee Regular Meeting Minutes

DATE & TIME: LOCATION:	October 7, 2020 – 6:30 PM Powered by Zoom Meeting by Dialing (646) 558-8656, Meeting ID: 937 8274 6352
PRESIDING OFFICER:	Chair Dean Fabiano
LEGISLATIVE STAFF:	Nettie Tomshaw
PRESENT:	Legislators Greene, Cahill, Heppner
ABSENT:	Legislator Litts
QUORUM PRESENT:	Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: DPW Commissioner Tom Jackson, DPW Deputy Comm. Finance Don Quesnell, Paul Ostrander Mid-Hudson News

Chair Fabiano called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Motion No. 1:	Moved to Approve Minutes & Transcript of the September 2, 2020 Meeting
Motion By:	Legislator Greene
Motion Seconded By:	Legislator Heppner
Discussion:	None
Voting In Favor:	Legislators Fabiano, Greene, Cahill, Heppner
Voting Against:	None
Votes in Favor:	4
Votes Against:	0
Disposition:	Minutes APPROVED

Resolutions for the October 20, 2020 Session of the Legislature

<u>Resolution No. 340</u>: Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Intermunicipal Shared Services Agreement With Town Of Gardiner For Maintenance Of County Roads – Department Of Public Works (Highways And Bridges)

Resolution Summary: This resolution authorizes the Chair of the UC Legislature to execute an intermunicipal shared services agreement with the Town of Gardiner to maintain 5.08 centerline miles for light summer maintenance work and snow plowing, sanding and salting of roads for a three-year period beginning 10/1/20 through 9/30/23. \$39.4K, The county will compensate the town in the amount of \$10K for each year the McKinstry Bridge is closed.

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<u>**Resolution No. 341</u>**: Establishing Capital Project No. 575 – Purchase Of Seraphin Volumeric Calibration Trailer – Department Of Public Works (Central Garage)</u>

Resolution Summary: This resolution establishes Capital Project No. 575 for the purchase of a volumetric calibration trailer to replace existing vehicles due to extensive rust and corrosion thus not cost effective to repair. This trailer will be utilized by the Weights and Measures department. \$40K, A Bond Resolution Will Be Required.

Motion No. 4:	Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 341
Motion By:	Legislator Heppner
Motion Seconded By:	Legislator Greene
Discussion:	See attached transcript.
Voting In Favor:	Legislator Fabiano, Greene, Cahill, Heppner
Voting Against:	None
Votes in Favor:	4
Votes Against:	0
Disposition:	Resolution ADOPTED

Department Public Works 2021 Budget Review (see attached transcript)

> New Business (see attached transcript)

Legislator Greene – Low carbon green concrete hour long presentation will be held in November.

<u>Adjournment</u>

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

Motion Made By:Legislator CahillMotion Seconded By:Legislator HeppnerNo. of Votes in Favor:4No. of Votes Against:0

<u>**TIME:**</u> 7:00 PM Respectfully submitted: Nettie Tomshaw, Legislative Staff Minutes Approved: November 4, 2020

Ulster County Legislature Public Works and Capital Projects

Meeting Transcript October 7, 2020

Chairman Fabiano

Alrighty. I would like to call this meeting of the Highway Bridge and Capital Projects Committee to order and could we please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance? Herb's not here with his flag, but we'll survive.

Chairman Fabiano

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Chairman Fabiano

Thank you. Has everyone gotten a chance to look at the minutes from last month's meeting?

Chairman Fabiano

Yeah. Okay.

Chairwoman Greene

I'll make a motion to accept the minutes of the September meeting.

Chairman Fabiano

Motion made by Legislator Greene.

Legislator Heppner I'll second.

Chairman Fabiano Seconded by Legislator Heppner. All in favor?

Committee Members Aye. (4-0)

Chairman Fabiano All opposed? Motion carried.

Chairman Fabiano

Now before we get to the budget review, with Don, we only have two resolutions. So why and their basic resolutions. So, why don't we just do those quick and then we'll open things up to Don and Tom to whatever they want to talk about the budget.

Chairman Fabiano

Okay, the first resolution is Resolution No. 340: Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Intermunicipal Shared Services Agreement With Town Of Gardiner For Maintenance Of County Roads – Department Of Public Works (Highways And Bridges)

Chairman Fabiano

This is routine with them. It's a three-year deal. A \$39,409 is for light summer maintenance work and some snow removal and sanding in the winter months.

Legislator Heppner I'll move it.

Chairman Fabiano Motion made by Legislator Heppner.

Legislator Greene

I'll second.

Chairman Fabiano

Seconded by Legislator Greene. All in favor?

Committee Members Aye. (4-0)

Chairman Fabiano

All opposed? Motion carried.

Chairman Fabiano Is Legislator Cahill with us today?

Legislator Heppner He is.

Chairman Fabiano Okay.

Legislator Cahill Right here, Dean. I'm right above you on my screen.

Chairman Fabiano Okay. How you doing?

Legislator Cahill Good. See me. Good.

Chairman Fabiano Good. Thanks.

Chairman Fabiano

Resolution No. 341. Establishing Capital Project Number 575. Purchase Of Seraphin Volumeric - Somebody helped me out...Vol... How do you say it? Volumeric? I think.

Chairman Fabiano

Yes. Volumeric Calibration Trailer, Department of Public Works Central Garage \$40,000. I'm sure it's needed. I'll entertain a motion to accept it. Move it.

Legislator Heppner

So, moved.

Chairman Fabiano

Motion made by Legislator Heppner.

Legislator Greene I'll second.

Chairman Fabiano Seconded by Legislator Greene. All in favor?

Committee Members Aye. (4-0)

Chairman Fabiano

All opposed? Motion carries. Okay. So, Marc, Tom. Don, do you want to, you know, they just want to talk a little bit about the upcoming budget.

Deputy Executive Rider

I'm going to kick it over to Tom and Don, whoever. Okay.

Tom Jackson

Let me just say that Don has put a lot of work into analyzing the budget and created a summary page for the budget and is prepared to go over some numbers for you. We're also prepared to answer any questions that you might have about the operating budget, we'd be happy to do that. We're mindful that on October 14 we'll be attending a Joint Meeting of Ways and Means and Public Works in Capital Projects.

Chairman Fabiano

Yeah, that's what I think you're going to get a lot of questions, I'm sure.

Tom Jackson

For purposes of the Capital Budget, right.

Chairman Fabiano

Yeah. Yeah.

Tom Jackson

So, today, I'd like to defer to Don to review with you, his overview of the operating budget. And then I'm happy to chime in with any questions that you might have.

Chairman Fabiano

Okay, thank you, Don.

Don Quesnell

Well, I'm sure you guys don't want me to get into much the nitty gritty. So, just to give you some details on the sheet we sent out.

Don Quesnell

You see that our employees are a little bit down this year, but we felt it was worthwhile to note to you that we added \$100,000 in a part time pay. And the intent behind that is to hire retired snowplow drivers, on a part time basis, to help reduce costs going forward for snow plowing. And we're doing a little bit of a pilot program this year to see how it goes, to see if we need to adjust it going forward. And we already have one taker, and we were very happy about it. So, we've got high hopes.

We have one retiring DPW worker that's signing up to come back to work for winter. And this isn't just for retiring DPW workers, this is this is posted and open to whoever might care to work on a seasonal basis as a plow driver.

Chairman Fabiano

Okay.

Tom Jackson

And it's, and it's one of the things that we were able to utilize, you know, we work with Marc quite hard to try to diminish the total numbers of plow runs. And we were able to make some progress on that. And so, you know, we believe we're going be fine in terms of winter maintenance, but nobody knows what the winters really going to look like.

Chairman Fabiano

Yeah.

Deputy Executive Rider

And just to bring up I mean, not that these positions aren't oftentimes busy yearround, a lot of the work comes around the plow season, especially for the CDL drivers. And we just felt like, where we had retirements and other vacancies, instead of hiring somebody that was going to be year-round, we're going to do this pilot program for 2021 and 2022 and see how it works and just hire part time staff in the winter. When we know we have minimum staffing requirements for plow runs. If we determine that it's not working, then we'll reevaluate going forward.

Chairman Fabiano

Have we hired any new full-time employees with CDL licenses that will be plowing for 2021?

Tom Jackson

Yes, we needed to hire some to make up for some of the attrition losses, not just to the retirement incentive, we had a couple we have, you know, we had a fatality we had...

Chairman Fabiano

Right.

...Mr. Hall die in a...

Chairman Fabiano

Right.

Tom Jackson

...heroically in a in a house fire. We had people go out on disability as a result of the accident on Old Post Road, Albany Post Road.

Chairman Fabiano

I understand.

Tom Jackson

And we've suffered some attrition. We had somebody else die of unknown causes at his home.

Chairman Fabiano

Yeah.

Tom Jackson

So, we had the you know, we had to hire a few, a handful.

Chairman Fabiano

Right.

Tom Jackson

And they're fully licensed. They have their CDLs now.

Chairman Fabiano

Do you feel comfortable at this time to say that before the winter season kicks in, you're going to have enough drivers to cover all the routes throughout Ulster County?

Tom Jackson Yes.

Chairman Fabiano

Without any neglecting?

Tom Jackson

Yes, we have enough drivers to cover all of the 45 plow runs...

Chairman Fabiano

Okay.

Tom Jackson

...throughout the county. And, you know, barring any catastrophic, you know, weather...

Chairman Fabiano Right.

Tom Jackson ...we'll be fine.

Chairman Fabiano

We'll be fine, right?

Tom Jackson Absolutely.

Chairman Fabiano

Yeah. So, that's what's in Ulster County, 45 snowplow runs?

Tom Jackson

Basically. And then there's parking lots and other things. But 45 base runs.

Chairman Fabiano

Okay. Okay, now. So, this pilot program that you're trying, is it safe to say it's not definitely because of a shortest shortage of funding at this time? Or it's just something that you would be trying regardless?

Tom Jackson

So, there are a couple of things we're accomplishing through this. One of them is it's really, we always have a certain amount of attrition. It's and it's nice to bring somebody back who's got experience.

Chairman Fabiano

Exactly – we do the same thing.

You know, it is a known entity. We know this person. We know this person is somebody that we want. To be able to bring them back post-retirement, gives them some extra income...

Chairman Fabiano

Right.

Tom Jackson

...while they're on retirement, and it's really a win. So, it's not so much because of a shortage of funding. We have wanted to do this for several years and never been able to pull the trigger on it. So, what's going on with COVID and everything this year and with the heavy attrition of employees. We thought this was the right time to pull the trigger on this.

Deputy Executive Rider

And in a way, we are searching all the crevices, and this surfaced... because of there is going to be a revenue shortfall. And we're anticipating in 2020 and 2021. So, I don't want to gloss over and pretend that this isn't because, I mean, we're reducing costs everywhere. Right? So that's part of this program, as Tom said, it's something they had been looking at doing for a while.

Tom Jackson

Right.

Chairman Fabiano

Now these seasonal people, the ones that are brought on, either for just summer work or for just snow removal in the wintertime, then there is like there's no health benefits involved. There's no paid time off. They basically come in and they work for weekly paycheck. Is that correct?

Tom Jackson

Right now, this is winter, seasonal. Summer, seasonal is a different animal, a younger person.

Chairman Fabiano

Right.

Winter season is retired, no benefits, is paid on a per diem basis. And they have to maintain their CDL license and they have to participate in the drug and alcohol testing pool.

Chairman Fabiano

Exactly. Oh, absolutely. Right.

Tom Jackson

Right.

Chairman Fabiano

Anybody else have any? Yeah, Legislator Heppner, go ahead.

Legislator Heppner

If I'm correct, if they are retired, you know, former DPW workers from anywhere in the state, right. They're limited in how much salary they can take, in addition, you know, the pension?

Tom Jackson

Right. I believe it's; I believe it's \$30,000, max. But we don't anticipate getting there.

Legislator Heppner

Yeah, no, I mean, that'd be a really bad winter.

Tom Jackson

Let's hope not.

Legislator Heppner

Yeah, really.

Chairman Fabiano

So, that's the only questions I have. Does anybody else have any other questions?

Legislator Cahill

I do, Chairman.

Chairman Fabiano

Yes, sir.

Legislator Cahill

So, I'm looking at Central Auto and I see the personnel line is basically flat. And the contractual line is basically flat. And I'm wondering where the savings is being realized for moving from the Spring Lake Firehouse?

Tom Jackson

Though we will no longer have a lease payment to Spring Lake for the facility. We also will, we will also experience a fairly significant savings in energy. That was one of our worst, is one of our worst performing county facilities on the Department of Environment's chart of buildings. It's within it's in the top five, if not the top three, in terms of energy consumption.

Tom Jackson

So, we felt the need to close that down, consolidate with, you know, at the Quarry with the large vehicle maintenance group, we, Tommy Hourvers who was our lead mechanic for the large equipment, he's leaving. Kim Millian is coming in and she's going to oversee both operations. So, there's both personnel savings at the management level and energy savings. And no longer lease payments to Spring Lake Fire Company

Legislator Cahill

So, where is this showing up, in this budget?

Don Quesnell

You're not going to see it fully here. Because when this budget was drafted, it wasn't a 100% certainty we were moving out. And now that we are moving out, we're going to have a new lease payment for the Spring Lake parking lot over there that we're going to be planned on using for the Sheriff's impound lot at some point. So, there's not a big savings in terms of the lease, but we're getting a different property. And like Tom's saying, consolidating here in DPW to get the savings in order to do that.

Deputy Executive Rider

You would also see savings in the heavy machinery, the Tom Hourvers position is eliminated. It's not in Central Auto because he was in the Heavy Machinery Division. So, you'd see savings there, just so you're also aware, Legislator Cahill...

Legislator Cahill

Yeah, but the personnel line is flat, right? And the contractual line is flat. So, that's why I'm asking. If there is savings, and I'm not disputing where the savings are, I'm just saying, where are they? I don't see them.

Don Quesnell

So, for the personnel side, if you go up to Highways and Bridges, the maintenance workers of the big diesel trucks, get paid out of Highways and Bridges. There's only seven mechanics and staff for the Central Auto Fleet. And then there's additional mechanic staff on the highway vehicles.

Don Quesnell

The savings for Tom Hourvers position comes into play in the Highways and Bridges side of the equation.

Legislator Cahill

Okay.

Don Quesnell

And then the lease payment, like you're saying, it's going to be reallocated towards the new lease payment for the Spring Lake parking lot. And we're going to keep it on the books this year and probably reduce it next year. Because we don't know how much the be utility costs were going to pay in the back. And we also have some moving costs, like we have to move the lifts from Central Auto up here.

Legislator Cahill

So, what do you guys foresee this saving, say not in 2021 but 2022. This when everything is all settled down, and you have your move done and the personnel have settled down, how much do you foresee this saving, moving from Spring Lake to Quarry?

Don Quesnell

It's hard to put a number on it on the top of the head. But if I had personnel side with Tommy Hourvers position, if you assume 50% benefits, probably \$100,000, that you're going to realize this year. And then I would say somewhere around \$20,000 a contractual annually because it wasn't a big lease payment out at Spring Lake.

Tom Jackson

And then and then, Don, there is the energy costs, we won't be...

Don Quesnell

The energy cost as well.

Tom Jackson

We won't be you know, electric and heat.

Deputy Executive Rider

Also, the ability to consolidate the mechanics, the supervisors for both Central Auto and the heavy machinery mechanics, being in one location is maybe not something we can put down on numbers, or on paper, but that there are, you know, efficiencies there. I do want to just bring up one point that we are in talks with another municipality who's looking for garage space. And we have put them towards the Spring Lake Fire Department.

Legislator Cahill

No, no, they told me they've had several people reach out to them once the word was out that you guys were leaving. They've told me that people have reached out to them. People have reached out to him while you were still there, actually, looking at this space, right? I was just, you know, trying to figure, you know, where we would see that savings because I didn't see it initially there.

Tom Jackson

Brian, while we don't have a number right now, we could work up something for you that pulls in the on the personnel side, pulls up the energy savings, and the lease savings.

Legislator Cahill

No, I'm fine. I'm fine. Thank you.

Tom Jackson

We could do that. If you if you would like that we'd be happy to do that.

Legislator Cahill

I'm good. Thank you.

Tom Jackson Okay.

Chairman Fabiano

I only have one more question. Is that really budget related? Our bridge crew, where are we, as far as the number of employees now, say versus three years ago? Is there more bridge employees now full time or less?

Tom Jackson

So, I would say it a little differently, Dean. I would say that the skill level of those that we have on the bridge crew has been on the decline because of attrition, because of retiring, and other things. However, Brendan Masterson and Bobby Moores are working at moving highway personnel around to supplement the bridge crew. And I would say when you when you bring those supplemental employees on board, it's, you know, we are attending to the number of employees on the bridge crew.

Tom Jackson

Skill level is something else again, and there's no question that, you know, from between the days that we did the Carmine Liberta Bridge in New Paltz, to today, we probably don't have the capacity to do that size of a bridge in house anymore. So, we are going to see more bridges get contracted out.

Tom Jackson

I will say one more thing. The five employees, that that we took on full time for plow runs, we took them on full time, with an eye towards supplementing the bridge crew with highway workers, that they helped to cover. So, it this is an ongoing process we're looking for, for highway workers that have some construction background, who have a work ethic, who aren't who aren't afraid to get out on an I beam or....

Chairman Fabiano

I know what you mean. Right. Right.

Tom Jackson

You know what I'm saying? You need somebody that's got some spatial awareness and good balance. And yeah, you know, has some strength.

Chairman Fabiano

Yeah. And the only reason why I bring this up is because in the 15 years that I've been in the Legislature, when it came to highway and bridges, our Highway Department, I'll tell you what, was complimented halfway across the State of New York, we had more of the sharpest, most sophisticated, getting more work accomplished, than most counties in New York, in New York State. And I would just hate to see that diminish. Because I know that bridgework is extremely important.

Tom Jackson Right?

Chairman Fabiano

And that's, that's the only reason why I bring it up. And I hope that we don't have to show or see any decline in that effort there.

So, Dean, I'm totally on board with that. We are working very, very hard to keep the bridge crew, you know, a shining example of what Ulster County can do.

Chairman Fabiano

That's right.

Tom Jackson

If you talk to Bobby Moores he's never satisfied. But that's a different that's a different matter. If you talk to Brendan Masterson, he's fairly confident that we can keep you know, it's stocked with workers. Okay?

Chairman Fabiano

Yep. Very good. Thanks for [inaudible].

Legislator Cahill

Chairman Fabiano, I have a quick question. In regard to the, in regard to the bridge crew there. So, do you guys actively do like an internal apprenticeship program to bring the skill levels up from, you know, internally to enhance the bridge? Because my recollection is, you know, from now till now, right, the last time I was here till now, from then till now, rather, is that the, when we used our bridge crew, we saved a ton of money, right? I mean, a lot of money on every project, right?

Legislator Cahill

So, for me, you know, I'm thinking that that's a worthwhile investment for us to, even if we have to spend money, right, to train some of our employees on some of the skills that you were mentioning. Obviously, you can't teach him strength and balance unless, of course, we send them to football camp or something. But, you know, overall, I'm thinking, you know, that would be something maybe we look for, in the future to have some sort of internal apprenticeship program to move into the bridge shop, right? Because, look, man, you know, in the long run, it's best if we do it ourselves, right.

Tom Jackson

I agree. Brian, let me just add a couple of comments to your question. What one is that a year or so ago, Brendan Masterson pushed very hard, worked with the personnel department to create specific bridge titles. Previous to him doing so, they were just highway type titles: MEO, CEO-1, CEO-2. Now he's got titles that are half step above those: Bridge Worker-1, Bridge Worker-2, you know, Bridge Crew Leader, he's got those titles, there a bump up in pay, hourly rate. And most importantly, we're using that as a way of attracting those that are interested in learning the skill set to the bridge

crew. It's hard to go out with, you know, job notices, job postings, and get somebody that's got that skill set.

Tom Jackson

So, you're absolutely right. We have to mentor them, we have to put... but that's hands on, you put them on the bridge crew. And then the others are around them will teach them what to do. That's the apprenticeship program. But we are starting to attract, you know, a better caliber of worker to the bridge crew, because there's some stature to it. There's a little bit of an increase in pay. Over time is a different animal for the bridge crew. Because some if they're on a bridge project up in Sundown, it's you know, they got to finish the day. They're on the road. They you know, they work a longer day. So, there's that incentive too.

Tom Jackson

So, yes, we're very mindful of the need to do hands on training with these people.

Legislator Cahill Thank you.

Chairman Fabiano

Thank you, Tom.

Tom Jackson

You're very welcome.

Chairman Fabiano

Does anybody else have any questions for Tom, or Don, or Marc?

Chairwoman Greene

Chairman, I have a new business item while they're still here.

Chairman Fabiano

Sure. Go ahead, Manna Jo.

Chairwoman Greene

I just want to let them know that we had somebody present at the Ulster County Climate Smart Committee on green concrete. Right. And that was a very brief fiveminute presentation. We did get the slides which helped make it more-clear because, you know, I tend to be interested in a wide range, refrigerant management, anything that can help with climate solutions. This one is still fuzzy to me, even with the slides, but in November, and I'll get the exact date. They're doing a full hour-long presentation. So, I want to be sure to let Tom and his department know because apparently, municipalities can really be sort of technology forcing, in the sense of, if it works for municipalities, because of the amount of concrete we use, that can help build up a market. And if it seriously can reduce climate emissions, or help with climate sequestration, then we should at least look into it. So, I'll let you know exactly when that is.

Tom Jackson

Thanks, Manna Jo. I did look over the information that you forwarded me. I shared it with my staff, engineering staff, highway staff, and project manager staff, and I asked them all to please review it and report back to me with, you know, where we are. Where is that market now? And I'm in agreement with you that it's going to take municipalities to drive the demand.

Tom Jackson

Having said that, none of those, carbon, low carbon concrete is not yet on the NYSDOT approved list of materials. It needs to go there. It needs to go there. So, that there's some incentive for local producers, to make that concrete and make it available. Because the last piece of this puzzle is you can't buy it from far away or you're burning fossil fuels to transport it. So, we need a local source. And that local source needs a reliable market or demand for the product. And I think we're not we're not there yet. But I see no reason we can't get there.

Chairwoman Greene

And that can also involve Economic Development and IDA over time. But I think the next step is to, you know, have possibly if they can make it, some of your crew watch the longer presentation.

Tom Jackson

Okay.

Chairwoman Greene

And they have the background to ask the tough questions for you is a little bit out of my element. But my job is to bring the information and then we can take it from there. So, I just wanted to let you know that's pending.

Tom Jackson

Agreed, and thank you for copying me with that information.

Chairman Fabiano

Anybody have any else new business or old business? Okay, hearing none. I will...

Tom Jackson Wait, wait. Go Yankees?

Legislator Cahill Yeah. We're going to get off in time.

Chairman Fabiano You're going to get off in time. I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

Legislator Cahill All right. I'll make a motion.

Chairman Fabiano Motion made by Legislator Cahill.

Legislator Heppner Second.

Chairman Fabiano Second by Legislator Heppner.

Chairman Fabiano All in favor?

Committee Members Aye. (4-0)

Chairman Fabiano Opposed? This meeting is adjourned. Thank you, everyone.

Tom Jackson And thank you.

Chairman Fabiano Be safe, and we'll see you soon. Okay.

Legislator Greene Good night.