

**ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

NAME OF COMMITTEE: Public Works & Capital Projects Committee
DATE & TIME: March 7, 2011 @ 7:00 PM
PLACE: Library Conference Room, 6th Floor, County Office Building

LEGISLATORS PRESENT: Chairman Dean Fabiano, Deputy Chairman Peter Loughran, Legislators Roy Hochberg, James Maloney, Kevin Roberts, Frank Felicello, Jeanette Provenzano

LEGISLATORS EXCUSED: All Present

OTHERS ATTENDING: Dave Sheeley (PW Commissioner), Sue Ronga (PW Deputy Commissioner - Finance) and David Bolles (PW Deputy Commissioner - Administrative), Mark Reynolds (Southern Ulster Times)

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER @ 7:04 PM

APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 14, 2011 MINUTES:

Motion offered by Legislator Provenzano, Seconded by Legislator Hochberg, All in Favor, Carried.

RESOLUTIONS: No Resolutions

HANDOUT: Chairman Fabiano handed out to the Committee a list of vehicles used by the Sheriff's Office which are scheduled to be replaced in 2011. This hand out is with regards to questions that were raised at last months Committee meeting about the purchase of vehicles for the Sheriff's Office (Resolution No. 50, February 15, 2011).

HANDOUT: Chairman Fabiano handed out a letter written from the Committee to County Executive Hein and Deputy County Executive Sudlow asking for specific lease option questions. The response was given and distributed to all Committee members with regards to the questions asked about Ulster County Leased Office Space and Lease Utility Obligations.

DISCUSSION: Chairman Fabiano spoke on Resolution No. 72, dated March 15, 2011. This Resolution was already signed off on by the Committee on November 1, 2010. This Resolution is authorizing the Chairman of the Legislature to execute a License Agreement with Time Warner Cable to install a Fiber Optic Cable within the bounds of the County-Owned Railroad Property. A one-time License fee in the amount of \$1000.00 dollars was added to the contract.

PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE: Update given by Sue Ronga & David Bolles

2010 Annual Report was distributed to the Committee. David Bolles reviewed the 2010 Highlights listed in the Report. A few listed below:

- The Departments budget was decreased by \$2,333,962.00 (Breakdown Below).
 - Personnel - Decrease of \$1,478,329
 - Equipment - Increase of \$69,470

- Contractual - Decrease of \$843,436
 - Benefits - Decrease of \$81,667
- Six towns entered into Shared Service Agreements with the County to plow & maintain County roads.

Chairman Fabiano asked if they were satisfied with the work that has been done with regards to the Townships that have signed on so far. The answer was yes, absolutely. Chairman Fabiano said that he is very satisfied with the piece of road that the Town of Saugerties took over in Glasco in front of the Post Office. The truck is already there and it makes it easier to do several swipes. Dave Bolles said that they have heard similar reports, all very positive.

- Plow trucks were modified to allow single-man plowing operations. He explained that this cuts their man power hours and overtime hours considerably.

Chairman Fabiano asked if there have been any mishaps with regards to single-man plowing. The answer was no.

The Committee complimented the PW Department. With all the cuts that have been made they have heard no complaints with regards to this Department. They thanked the Department for all their hard work. With that being said Sue Ronga informed the Committee to watch tonight's broadcast on YNN. One of their men, Jim Grossi rescued two young kids outside the village of New Paltz on Route 299. They had driven their vehicle through a barricade closing the road because of flooding. Jim drove his truck into the rising waters and got them both out. They are very proud of the men and women working in their Department.

Sue Ronga gave an interesting statistic, she called up the Mohonk Preserve and as of February 7th, our County has had 6 major snow/ice events, the average temperature for the Month of January was 1.5 degrees below the 115 year average, the 115 year average for snow fall was 29.01 inches, this season there has been 43.8 inches of snow fall. Tenth worst winter in 115 years.

Salt and Sand usage, 2010 - 2011 Winter Season:

- Salt is purchased from Cargill, who delivers to Mombaccus (sand vendor).
- Mombaccus mixes salt and sand to their specs and delivers to the various sub-stations (or they haul themselves from Mombaccus to sub-stations).
- If Mombaccus does not have trucks available to haul when they need material, then they use their trucks and the price is discounted (bid prices are based on deliver/pick-up:
- They use Mombaccus to haul because during the winter months their trucks are configured for sanding not hauling.
- They have purchased 25,346 tons of salt/sand mix from Mombaccus for the 2010/2011 season as of 3/2/11 and used 26,778 tons (cost \$1,298,734.82).
- The difference between purchases to usage is salt and sand they had stockpiled.
- They currently have 7,500 tons stockpiled.
- Their bid with Cargill requires them to estimate amounts needed and then they are required to use/pay for 70% of that estimate (They estimated 12,000 tons and have used 7,500 to date, balance to get to total estimate is 4,500 tons).
- They are contracted to use 8,400 (70%).
- They will be purchasing another 900 tons to meet the 70%.
- They have been holding off on the 900 tons because there are two sheds they need to repair

over the summer (Sundown & Shandaken).

- Contract runs from September 1st through August 31st.
- They can also go over estimate by 20%. Contract also allows them to go over estimate by 20%.

Kerhonkson Bridge Update:

- Photos were passed around to the Committee.
- Bridge is scheduled to be open on May 30, 2011.
- Construction is scheduled to restart on Monday, March 30, 2011.
- Construction Company has been very cooperative.

Lloyd Bridge Update:

- Photos were passed around to the Committee.
- The real problem now is to transition over to the second bridge.
- The second bridge is still open; no work has been started on this bridge.
- Suggested the possibility of closing the second bridge before the first one is completed.
- The goal is to have both bridges open by the start of the 2011 Fall School year.
- Winter concrete work is still being done; they did not stop working for the winter.

The Committee unanimously agreed that they do not support that idea, and that this would be too big of an inconvenience for the residents of Highland.

The motion was made by Legislator Felicello to finish the first bridge before the second one is started, motion was seconded by Legislator Maloney, and all are in favor of the motion.

The Committee continued to discuss their dissatisfaction with regards to the Contractor that was used for this project. They know that there are legal ramifications and that at this point the job needs to be finished before that avenue can be pursued. Sue Ronga assured the Committee that the Committee's Concerns are also their concerns and that their political concerns have to be addressed.

Chairman Fabiano asked what the anticipated completion date is for the first bridge (If there are no unforeseen delays). The answer was the end of April, 2011.

REQUEST: Chairman Fabiano requested that going forward, until the Lloyd Bridge Project is completed to attend their monthly Committee meeting and give a monthly update with regards to the project.

QUESTIONS/Mark Reynolds/Southern Ulster Times

- Asked a question about the use of the Daily Log Book. He questions that on May 21st the log book actively refers to a tree and that they cannot do anything more until certain issues are addressed. He questions what the certain issues being referred to are, and that the Fiber Optic cable is not referred to at all in the Log Book. The Log Book being referred to is the Engineers Log Book.

Both Sue & Dave stated that they cannot comment on a Log Book that is not theirs. They reiterated to the Committee the events that took place with regards to the Fiber Optic cable.

- Still unclear about when the cable was found, was it when they started to take the bridge down. It's not in their Log Book.

Sue Ronga stated to Mr. Reynolds that there is a piece that he is missing and that is that this project was originally a State project. The State drew up the plans. The State decided to pass the project along to

the County. In the interim, the Town said we don't like these plans, we like those plans. The State worked with the Town to revise the plans before they turned the project over to the County. It took two years to revise them and give them to the County. In the interim two years, the Town of Lloyd gave permission for a private company to lay Fiber Optics. Prior to that, on the State plans, there were no underground utilities. In the same two years that company went bust and in the same two years the State took over the Fiber Optics. One arm of the State did not know what the other arm of the State was doing and they never put it on the plans. When it was turned over to the County, they gave the plans to the County and said they were not giving additional funds to do more site plans because they had already completed the site plans. The County met with the Town and the State and it was never mentioned by either party that the Fiber Optics were there. When the Contractor started to dig, they had to call 1-800-dig and when they did the Fiber Optic showed up. She believes that was in August. At that point no one knew who owned it and it took time to clarify that information.

Legislator Felicello stated that the Town of Lloyd was paid considerably to have the Fiber Optics put there. They should have been forthright about the cable. He reiterated to Mr. Reynolds that as far as the Public Works Department goes with regards to this project, they have done a great job.

NEW BUSINESS: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

Motion to adjourn @ 8:00 PM

Motion offered by Legislator Loughran, Seconded by Legislator Hochberg, All in Favor, Carried.

**Respectfully submitted,
Tammy Wilson, Senior Legislative Employee**