

**ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

NAME OF COMMITTEE: Public Works & Capital Projects Committee

DATE: May 12, 2009

TIME: 4:45 PM

PLACE: Library Conference Room, 6th Floor
County Office Building

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

LEGISLATORS ABSENT: Legislators Jon Decker and Mary Sheeley

OTHERS ATTENDING: Bea Havranek (County Attorney), Dave Sheeley (Public Works), Lee Cane (LWV), Kathy Nolan (Trails Advisory Committee), Wally Cook (Trails Advisory Committee)

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER @ 5:00 PM

APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 6, 2009 MINUTES: All in favor

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS DIVISION

1) **Resolution Request** - Declaring That Certain Real Property Owned By Ulster County And Located Along Route 212 In The Town Of Woodstock Is No Longer Necessary For Public Use And Authorizing That Said Real Property Be Sold Pursuant To Section 215 (5) Of The County Law
Motion offered by Legislator Ronk, Seconded by Legislator Felicello, All in Favor

Discussion: County Attorney Bea Havranek addressed the Committee on this issue and explained past practices with similar situations, SEQRA needs to be completed and the survey needs to be confirmed. Bea stated that she is looking to insure that everyone's interests are protected.

HIGHWAY & BRIDGES DIVISION

2) **Resolution Request** - Establishing A Pedestrian and Bicycle Policy For Ulster County

HELD UNTIL NEXT MEETING

Discussion: The Committee decided that at this time due to economic concerns, this resolution will be put on hold until next much. The Committee will be supportive of the resolution when it is modified. Dave Sheeley is going to research how other County's are approaching the same issues and will follow up with the Committee. Wally Cook and Kathy Nolan, both from the Trails Advisory Committee spoke on the Resolution

and have submitted comments and questions that were raised prior to the starting of the meeting. (See Attached)

3) **Resolution Request** - Reauthorizing And Retasking The County Railroad Advisory Committee

WITHDRAWN BY SPONSOR

4) **Resolution Request** - Establishing Capital Project No. 325 - The Greater Catskills Flood Remediation Program - Purchase And Demolition Of Residential Properties Damaged By Devastating Floods In Ulster County Since April 1, 2004 - New York State Housing Trust Fund Corporation, Division Of Housing And Community Renewal - Approval Of The Environmental Review Under The State Environmental Review Act (SEQRA) - Classification Of Project As An Unlisted Action, And Approval Of Negative Declaration - Emergency Communication / Emergency Management

Motion offered by Legislator Felicello, Seconded by Legislator Fabiano, All in Favor

Discussion: None

MONTHLY PUBLIC WORKS REPORT: Dave Sheeley, Commissioner of Public Works

- Progress Report dated May 12, 2009

Discussion: None

NEW BUSINESS

- Discuss the possibilities of changing the date of when the Public Works & Capital Projects Committee meets monthly. (Not the day before Session each month)

Possibilities:

1st Monday of the Month (Beginning of the Month)

1st Monday following Session (Middle of the Month)

2nd Thursday following Session (End of the Month)

Discussion: Legislators Loughran, Fabiano, Hochberg, and Felicello were all in agreement to move the meeting to a Monday night. Legislator Roberts requested that he would like for the meeting not to change. Chairman Loughran will follow up with the Legislators that were absent and follow up with the Committee at the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion: None

Motion to adjourn @ 6:45 PM

Motion offered by Legislator Fabiano, Seconded by Legislator Ronk, All in Favor

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Wilson

Senior Legislative Employee

Submitted by Wally Cook, Trail Advisory Committee:

Prior to convening the meeting Peter Loughran had questions about the proposed Complete Streets resolution. A summary of the questions are as follows:

- What is Complete Streets?
 - Cook replied: it is a program started by Cornell University Local Roads program to encourage systemic planning of motorized and nonmotorized traffic. Complete Streets resolutions have been adopted by a number of municipalities including Erie County and the City of Buffalo.
- This resolution seems to say that 20% of a project cost must be set aside for biking or walking?
 - Cook replied: No, it only provides an excess cost clause which allows bike/ped accommodations to be ignored if the cost of providing those accommodations exceeds 20% of the project.
- So, up to 20% of a project must be budgeted for bike/ped accommodations?
 - Nolan replied: There is a range of costs and options for bike/ped accommodations. The most expensive solutions do not have to be the alternatives recommended.
- Who recommends the solutions? We do not want to have NYSDOT or other agencies dictate our solutions.
 - Nolan replied: The project design engineer recommends the solutions.

At this point there was further conversation about concerns relating to the proposed resolution that had to do with imposed cost. Chairman Loughran expressed comments that could be summed up as negative to the wording of the resolution, if the intent is to add cost to an already challenged budget for public works. Commissioner Sheeley joined the meeting and stated that designing every project to include bike and pedestrian facilities would add cost to the projects he initiates, although he also stated that the department is essentially doing this now by requiring bonds from developers to add bike/ped facilities.

Chairman Loughran followed with another question:

- Would bike/ped solutions be required for every project that the county initiates?
 - Cook replied: Yes, as written – unless cost requirements exceeded 20% of the project or ped/bike usage was not legal on the particular roadway.

Legislator Fabiano provided feedback that his constituents may not have positive feeling about large expenditures for bikeways. Legislator Felicello brought up a reference to an issue regarding bicycle safety – an accident that involved a relative of a former legislator. Cook added that the Complete Streets approach is aimed at improving safe sharing of roadways. Legislator Felicello wondered if there were any laws which required accommodation for bicycles on public roadways. Nolan and others responded that there were such laws; laws which also include pedestrians as well. Legislator Hochberg related an example of the Napanoch Bridge.

A straw poll of the committee members reflected a lack of support for the resolution with Legislators Hochberg and Felicello in favor and the balance of the committee against. However, a suggestion was put forward to amend the wording of the resolution and to raise that at the next committee meeting. Commissioner Sheeley said that he would research what other municipalities were doing; he intended to contact the Association of Towns. Other committee members added support to the notion of rewording and incorporating Commissioner Sheeley's findings.