

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**  
**OBERACKER, MCCARTY, FRAZIER, FARWELL, WILBER**  
**May 13, 2020**  
**9:00am**

This meeting was streamed on Facebook Live and recorded.

Please note the meeting attendance as follows:

Present in person at the Otsego County Office Building Board Chambers,  
197 Main Street, Cooperstown, NY 13326:

Representative Oberacker  
Kim Firenze, Business Office Manager

Present remotely via video conference:

Representative McCarty  
Representative Frazier  
Representative Farwell  
Representative Wilber  
Treasurer Allen Ruffles  
Superintendent Rich Brimmer  
Deputy Superintendent Jim Denekamp  
Rob O'Brien, Director of 911 Communications  
Penney Gentile, Personnel Officer  
Lorry O'Brien DuBois, Administrative Aide

**BUILDING SERVICES—KIM FIRENZE**

Kim Firenze updated the Committee regarding an estimate for replacing water main valves at the County Office Building in the amount of \$14,597, which would allow for easier shut off. The Committee was in consensus to table the water main valve replacement at this time due to financial concerns.

Kim Firenze gave the following departmental updates, including but not limited to:

- verified that it was ok for Maintenance Mechanics to take home County-owned vehicles during the winter months, as previously discussed

- discussed paving projects, including that the Highway department is working on paving at the Meadows

Kim Firenze and the Committee discussed repair work on the elevator door at 242 Main Street. The Committee was in consensus to put that work on hold for now.

Kim Firenze updated the Committee on repairs to the Public Safety Building back-up generator. Representative Wilber motioned to approve authorizing repairs to the back-up generator at the Public Safety Building in the amount of \$6,840 from A1629-52000. Seconded, Farwell. Roll call vote. Total: 2,338. Ayes: 2,338. Motion carried.

Kim Firenze updated the Committee regarding a leak that has increased the water and sewer bills for the Old Jail and the Courthouse, including that the location of the leak has not been found. Representative Oberacker suggested installing a flow meter to track the leak. Kim Firenze requested the following budget transfers to cover the increased bill:

- Transfer from: 1620-548000      \$1,500
- Transfer to:    1620-545650      \$1,500
  
- Transfer from: 1623-548000      \$800
- Transfer to:    1623-545650      \$800

Representative McCarty motioned to approve the budget transfers as listed above. Seconded, Farwell. Roll call vote. Total: 2,338. Ayes: 2,338. Motion carried.

Kim Firenze requested approval for three (3) Maintenance Mechanics to take home County-owned vehicles from November 1st—April 1st. Representative McCarty motioned to approve. Seconded, Frazier. Roll call vote. Total: 2,338. Ayes: 2,338. Motion carried.

The Committee discussed the current hiring freeze due to COVID-19 financial concerns and the vacant Director of Building Services position. The Committee was in consensus not to pursue hiring the Director of Building Services at this time, and that the Building Services department should work on interdepartmental collaboration with the Highway department to complete general oversight and cost-savings.

**HIGHWAY—SUPERINTENDENT RICH BRIMMER and DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT JIM DENEKAMP via video conference**

Superintendent Brimmer requested approval to surplus the following vehicles:

- #81—Mack dump truck 2001
- #44—Ford Escape 2008
- #139—Ford 540A tractor 1983
- #143—Ford 555 backhoe 1995

Representative Frazier motioned to approve surplus the vehicles. Seconded, McCarty. Roll call vote. Total: 2,338. Ayes: 2,338. Motion carried.

Superintendent Brimmer and the Committee discussed the purchase of an excavator, including but not limited to the following: the excavator had been leased by the Planning department to complete parts of the agency housing project at the Meadows, approximately \$28,000 of lease payments were made, initially there was a discussion about the option to buy the excavator using 2019 Planning or Solid Waste funds for the remaining total of it's value in the approximate amount of \$40,000, however there is also the option for the Highway department to purchase the vehicle using Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) funds. The Committee discussed whether or not to purchase the excavator with regard to the current financial challenges the County is facing as related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Representative McCarty motioned to approve the Highway department purchasing the excavator using funding from CHIPS. Seconded, Frazier. Roll call vote. Total: 2,338. Ayes: 1,835. Noes: 503—Farwell. Motion carried.

### **911 COMMUNICATIONS—ROB O'BRIEN via video conference**

Rob O'Brien updated the Committee on a lease proposal from Verizon on the Morris cell tower in the amount of \$2,000/ month. The Committee thanked Rob O'Brien for working on the project, as it will improve cell service for area constituents. Representative Farwell motioned to approve entering into the lease agreement with Verizon, terms including but not limited to \$2,000/ month lease payments, five (5) year agreement with auto-renew option four (4) times for five (5) years each. Seconded, Frazier. Roll call vote. Total: 2,338. Ayes: 2,338. Motion carried.

Rob O'Brien updated the Committee on the offer to buy-out AT&T's lease on the Cornish Hill tower through Blackdot. Rob O'Brien said that upon further review of the offer with the County Attorney's office, he no

longer supports accepting the offer and recommended the County not accept the offer on advice of counsel.

**HIGHWAY—(cont'd) SUPERINTENDENT BRIMMER and DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT JIM DENEKAMP via video conference  
Also Present: Treasurer Allen Ruffles and Penney Gentile**

Representative Wilber motioned to enter into executive session to discuss the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or the matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation, and invited Superintendent Brimmer, Deputy Superintendent Denekamp, Treasurer Ruffles, and Penney Gentile to remain present for the discussion at 10:06am. Seconded, McCarty. Roll call vote. Total: 2,338. Ayes: 2,338. Motion carried.

The executive session was held over phone conference bridge.

The Committee did not set a date for their next meeting. The Committee adjourned while in executive session.