

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
OBERACKER, MCCARTY, FRAZIER, FARWELL, WILBER
October 15, 2020
9:00 a.m.

Under the current COVID-19 emergency/Executive orders, this committee meeting was not physically open to the public at the County Office Building. The meeting was streamed via facebookLIVE.

Members: Representative Oberacker- present, via zoom
Representative McCarty- present, via zoom
Representative Frazier- present, via zoom
Representative Farwell- present, via zoom
Representative Wilber- present, via zoom

Also present: County Treasurer, Allen Ruffles

PUBLIC DEFENDER- MIKE TROSSET AND REBEKAH TALBOT, KIM FIRENZE via zoom

Mike Trosset presented a proposal to create a formal professional centralized Public Defender's office which included but was not limited to the following:

- office location would be at the building in Fly Creek which is currently used for his private practice which is owned by his family
- existing private office would be relocated
- location has plenty of parking, 5 offices and a reception space
- ILS likes the idea but needs more details
- improve the perception of the PD's office being near the DA's office and the Court
- precedent was set during the Rothermel tenure
- discussed other pros and cons
- cost for rent would be reimbursed by the state

Various questions were raised by the committee concerning who would clean the building, who maintains the building, snow removal, utilities, etc. Mr. Trosset explained that those services are all included in the cost of the rental paid under the lease. Representative Wilber suggested a fire security alarm system be installed due to the County records would be stored there. Representative Frazier asked about long term perpetuity no matter who the PD is, do we today get funding from the state for rent for the Public Defenders office being located in the County building, and perception is reality on the surface no matter how much it is discussed. Mr. Trosset explained that the lease would be between the County and the LLC that owns the building and would only be terminated if the state removed the funding, and the County does not get rent reimbursement.

Representative Farwell expressed her thoughts about perception being a factor but as long as we can demonstrate fair market value, no one is hiding anything and it satisfies the states requirements for ethics/conflict of interest. Mr. Trosset added that he has guidelines/protocols that the state requires. Mr. Trosset stated that he is just looking for positive endorsement from the County to proceed with the concept. There was no objection of the concept by the committee. Representative Oberacker asked Mr. Trosset if he had any idea of the fair market value for such rental. Mr. Trosset responded saying that he has only done preliminary work and needs to get more details about other rentals.

BUILDING SERVICES- KIM FIRENZE via zoom

Kim Firenze requested approval to pay CNA invoices thru the end of the year, up to \$895 without a PO for water testing services out of Meadows contract line. Representative Frazier moved for approval. Seconded, McCarty. Total: 2,338. Ayes: 2,338. Motion carried.

Kim Firenze requested an executive session. Representative Oberacker asked that the executive session occur at the end of the meeting.

VETERANS- SID LOEFFLER via zoom

Sid Loeffler requested approval to declare the 2012 Ford E350 with approximately 242,000 miles, surplus and sell. Representative McCarty moved for approval. Seconded, Wilber. Total: 2,338. Ayes: 2,338. Motion carried.

HIGHWAY- RICH BRIMMER via zoom

Rich Brimmer requested approval the 2020-2023 Snow and Ice contract with the Town of Worcester. Representative Frazier moved for approval. Seconded, Oberacker. Total: 2,338; Ayes: 2,338. Motion carried.

Rich Brimmer requested approval to create, fund and fill fifteen (15) Temporary HMEO I positions to be used only as needed during the snow and ice season at a starting wage of \$17.2154/hour. Mr. Brimmer explained that this is only to have a plan in place if anything were to happen with being short staff. Various questions were raised by the committee such as: where did you come up with 15, where are you going to find 15 people that are trained to run a 30 ton truck with a plow on it, and what is the impact on the budget. Mr. Brimmer explained that he used 15 which would allow for 5 at each area of the County, he is unsure how many people can be found with experience, the budget impact would depend on how much they are used and the hope is that some retired County or Town workers with experience would work during the winter to help out. Allen Ruffles stated that the County needs to develop a plan for what happens if employees/COVID spreads through the county workforce. Mr. Brimmer asked that the process for filling a vacant funded position be revisited

as the current process is too lengthy. After much discussion, Representative McCarty moved approval to set up the 15 person pool of part time snow plow drivers at \$17.2154/hr and giving the Highway Superintendent discretion and the ability to fill those positions as necessary. Seconded, Wilber. Total: 2,338. Ayes: 2,338. Motion carried.

Rich Brimmer requested approval to install a new water well at the Monticello patrol building, not to exceed \$15,000. Representative McCarty moved for approval. Seconded, Farwell. Total: 2,338. Ayes: 2,338. Motion carried.

Rich Brimmer informed the committee that the fuel bids for ULSD, heating fuel, blends and propane are up at the end of the year. Mr. Brimmer added that gasoline is being purchased off of state contract. Mr. Brimmer explained that the fuel bids can be extended, rebid or purchase off of state contract, noting that the existing Propane vendor has offered to extend. After further discussion, the committee agreed that all fuels should be put out to bid.

Rich Brimmer explained that the Town of Exeter wants to plow and sand CR 23 (previously done by the County) instead of CR 22 from Schuyler Lake to Richfield Springs (previously done by the town). Mr. Brimmer explained that it would require the Town of Exeter to still use the County's Burlington patrol building for sand storage and park the loader inside the building plugged in. Mr. Brimmer added that the Town of Exeter has offered to purchase the old John Deere 544 loader from the County for \$6,000 and pay the electric for the Burlington building for the winter if the County would switch the plowing and sanding of roads in question. Representative Wilber moved for approval. Seconded, McCarty. Total: 2,338. Ayes: 2,338. Motion carried.

Rich Brimmer sent department updates to the committee via email that were not discussed during the meeting.

FORESTRY- JORDAN CLEMENTS AND DAN ZIMMERMAN FROM SOIL AND WATER via zoom

Jordan Clements explained that he and Dan Zimmerman, Forester were here today to discuss current efforts to set up log sales, current log pricing and where we are at with the current carbon sequestration efforts.

Dan Zimmerman stated that he has done several appraisals of various parcels and identified one parcel that contains mature ash that can be harvested which is Taylor Hill in the Town of Edmeston. Mr. Zimmerman added that the county should harvest the ash before the Emerald Ash borer emerges noting that the parcel is 390 acres which will take 2-4 weeks to complete tree identification of which he has already marked 280 trees in two days. Representative Oberacker asked about the ash tree market. Mr. Zimmerman explained that the market is flat and what has affected the market, he has pricing from NYSDEC and in 2-4 weeks he could give a more accurate count of number of trees, the board footage and pricing. Mr. Zimmerman also explained

the mechanics of selling timber adding that it will not just be an ash sale as he is marking other mature trees at the same time.

ENERGY PERFORMANCE CONTRACT/TRANE

Representative Farwell asked if the committee was going to discuss the Trane contract as the County was given a deadline by Trane of 10/23. Representative Farwell stated that the County needs to give Greg an indication of what the plan is as we already have the vote of the full board adding that the County Attorney needs to review the contract, and that according to the resolution the County Treasurer needs to find funding. Representative Farwell suggested an additional step in between if anyone who has any questions about capital cost avoidance or the cash flow component talk to Greg or if anyone has other questions or hesitations to get that all cleared out before the 23rd. Representative Wilber is concerned that it doesn't address a lot of the issues such as the air handlers/VMs as well as there are other buildings that are not included in this plan. After further discussion, Representative Oberacker will present questions for clarification from the meeting to Greg and will reach out to Board Chair Bliss for his questions or concerns.

BUILDING SERVICES CON'T-KIM FIRENZE via zoom

Kim Firenze informed the committee that with Rebekah/Grants administrator in the PD's office assistance, is working on a grant opportunity called next gen HVAC innovation challenges which the County meets some of the criteria which could help with our HVAC situation.

Representative McCarty moved for an executive session to discuss matters leading to the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person to also include Penney Gentile. Seconded, Farwell. Total: 2,338. Ayes: 2,338. Motion carried.

There being no further business to discuss, the committee adjourned in executive session.