

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**  
**OBERACKER, MCCARTY, FRAZIER, FARWELL, WILBER**  
**September 17, 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

Others present: Allen Ruffles, County Treasurer via zoom, Penney Gentile via zoom

**HIGHWAY- RICH BRIMMER and James Denekamp via zoom**

Rich Brimmer requested approval to declare the 1995 Ford New Holland backhoe (#143) surplus and sell, adding that he would like to put the money from the sale back into his parts line (DM5130-545400). Representative McCarty moved approval to declare the equipment surplus. Seconded, Farwell. Total: 2,338; Ayes: 1,412; Absent: 926- Frazier, Wilber. Motion carried.

Rich Brimmer requested approval to declare the 2002 Salsco Chipper (#236) surplus and sell, adding that he would like the sale proceeds to go back into his parts line. Representative Oberacker moved approval to declare the equipment surplus. Seconded, Farwell. Total: 2,338; Ayes: 1,412; Absent: 926- Frazier, Wilber. Motion carried.

The committee discussed budget line options that the sale of equipment proceeds could be transferred into for the Highway department's use. Mr. Brimmer stated that a budget modification in the future will be required to move the money once the equipment is sold.

Representative Wilber, Representative Frazier and Personnel Officer, Penney Gentile joined the meeting during the sale of equipment proceeds discussion.

Rich Brimmer requested approval to purchase the materials and supplies needed to replace the bridge expansion joint on the CR #47 bridge, not to exceed \$12,000 (local funds). Representative McCarty moved for approval. Seconded, Farwell. Total: 2,338; Ayes: 2,338. Motion carried.

Rich Brimmer stated that DOT has confirmed that the 20% reduction in reimbursement in CHIPS funding is per program.

Rich Brimmer requested approval to re-approve the purchase of four trucks which include two pickups and two one tons which were previously approved by resolution 13-2020, adding that the two pickup trucks were just delivered earlier this week. Representative Frazier moved for approval. Seconded, Farwell. Total: 2,338; Ayes: 2,338. Motion carried.

Jim Denekamp explained that a retaining wall is failing and DEC is requiring that County have the project engineered, therefore requesting approval to have Delta Engineer perform a hydraulic analysis and repair design for the FEMA project on CR #3 in Unadilla, not to exceed \$15,000. Mr. Denekamp added that there are 2 possible options for fixing, estimated at \$80,000 or \$200,000. Representative Frazier moved to approval of the engineering services. Seconded, Wilber. Total: 2,338; Ayes: 2,338. Motion carried.

Rich Brimmer requested that funding for six HMEO I positions be added into the 2021 budget. After further discussion, Representative Frazier moved for approval. Seconded, Oberacker. Total: 2,338; Ayes: 2,338. Motion carried. Allen Ruffles asked what services are mandated and what services are not mandated that the Highway performs. The committee agreed that because of the essential services that the Highway performs that there needs to be a contingency plan in place in case of an emergency where the County is not able to provide an essential service(s).

Rich Brimmer gave an update on the Town of Butternuts buildings. Representative Farwell stated that she and Rich Brimmer met with a couple of Town officials and they are in beginning stages of what to do with the two town Highway buildings now that they have the new Highway building. Representative Farwell and Rich Brimmer further discussed the driveway/road access. Representative Farwell stated that at the meeting, they asked the Town to get an appraisal.

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

### **BUILDING SERVICES- KIM FIRENZE via zoom**

Kim Firenze stated that Brian Pokorny, Eve Bouboulis and she met yesterday and they are going to have one last meeting at 242 Main Street, Oneonta on Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> related to getting DSS and Probation up and running at that building.

Kim Firenze briefly discussed installing two small metal roofs over the rec yard at the Public Safety Building to help protect the fencing that is being damaged and could collapse by the weight of the snowfall. Ms. Firenze stated that the Building Services staff could do the work and materials would cost maybe \$1,000 but the Commission on Corrections is requiring the project be engineered, adding that she obtained a quote from LaBella for \$7,000 for

engineering services. After further discussion it was decided to obtain another quote for engineering services.

Kim Firenze stated that she has standing orders for cleaning supplies from various vendors and that Home Depot Pro filled a back order. Ms. Firenze added that she did not have a PO for this, does not have money left in her budget to pay for such and did not want to return the supplies due the high demand. Ms. Firenze requested approval of the following related budget transfer:

Transfer from 1 630.52500 \$2,000

Transfer to 1 625.54500 \$2,000

Representative Wilber moved for approval. Seconded, McCarty. Total: 2,338; Ayes: 2,338. Motion carried.

Kim Firenze informed the committee that she received an email from Greg Royer at Trane containing a new interest rate and payment schedule related to the potential Energy Upgrades, adding that Trane has given the County an October 15<sup>th</sup> deadline to decide whether or not to move forward with the project as outlined in their completed Energy audit. Ms. Firenze stated that if the County does not move forward with such Energy upgrades, then we would owe Trane approx. \$26,000 for conducting the Energy Audit. After further discussion, the committee would like to have a meeting with Trane to discuss the project further and obtain answers to questions such as what is the payment schedule, what are the guaranteed savings projections, what is the timeline for implementation and to obtain real time information to name a few.

Kim Firenze revisited the need for a Cleaner position now or at least in the 2021 budget. Representative Wilber asked for more details related to each Cleaner position, such as where and how much space do they clean, etc.

Kim Firenze revisited the County Vehicle Policy as related to her prior request to allow three Maintenance Mechanics to drive County vehicles to and from work. Penney Gentile stated that this is a union contract negotiation issue. After further discussion, Representative Wilber stated that no matter what the issue is, employees are not be compensated properly when they come to the building(s) for emergencies during non-work hours.

### **FORESTRY- JORDAN CLEMENTS from Soil and Water and GABRIEL CHAPIN from the Nature Conservancy via zoom**

Jordan Clements introduced Gabriel Chapin, Forest Carbon Program Manager for the Nature Conservancy, adding that the Working Woodlands Program was discussed with the committee last year.

Jordan Clements invited the Committee to attend the October 14<sup>th</sup> virtual Farm Tour.

Jordan Clements excused himself from the PW meeting to attend his District board meeting.

Gabriel Chapin gave a brief overview/review of the Working Woodlands Program, but was not limited to the following:

- How the project works
- Estimated projected revenue is \$400,000 over 10 years
- 40 year carbon project term commitment
- approx. 3,000 county owned acres in their preliminary assessment
- approx. 18-24 months turn around/timeline before carbon credit revenues are received by the municipality
- next step would be feasibility work

### **OFFICE FOR THE AGING- TAMIE REED via zoom**

Tamie Reed requested approval for one parking space at 242 Main Street, Oneonta Office Building be designated for the Office for the Aging County owned vehicle which is used for home visits. Representative Frazier moved for approval. Seconded, McCarty. Total: 2,338; Ayes: 2,338. Motion carried.

### **OTHER**

Representative Oberacker asked if the committee wanted to review the employment applications for the Director of Building Services today. After further discussion, the committee asked Penney Gentile to repost the Director of Building Services position to seek other interested applicants as well as see if the original applicants are still interested in such position.

Representative McCarty asked if the County is able to harvest timber to generate revenue in 2021.

There being no further business to discuss, Representative Frazier moved to adjourn. Seconded, McCarty. Total: 2,338; Ayes: 2,338. Motion carried.