

INFRASTRUCTURE & FACILITIES
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

March 25, 2008

County Office Building, Oswego, NY

10:00 A.M.

Present: Committee: Legislators Fred Beardsley, Chairman, Clayton Brewer, Barbara Brown, Shawn Doyle, Linda Lockwood, Milferd Potter, Phillip Vasho

Department Heads: Superintendent of Highways Kurt Ospelt, B&G Superintendent Joe Taormina, Director of Solid Waste Programs Frank Visser, Airport Manager Bruce Bisbo

Staff: Barb Visco

Guests: Legislators Margaret Kastler, Barry Leemann, Doug Malone, Arthur Ospelt, John Proud, Paul Santore, Lee Walker, County Administrator Phil Church, County Attorney Rich Mitchell, County Purchasing Director Fred Maxon, Director of Planning/Community Development David Turner, Oswego County ATV Club Representative Jim Mara, Anthony Ponzi, members of the press and members of the public.

1. Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Beardsley. A motion to approve the minutes of February 26, 2008, was made by Legislator Potter, seconded by Legislator Brown. All were in favor. Motion carried.

2. Buildings & Grounds

Joe Taormina, B&G Superintendent asked if there were any questions for him. He had a previous engagement and had to leave. No questions were asked and he was excused from the meeting.

3. Highway

a. County Route 6 Relocation – Right of Way Abandonment's/Authorization

Kurt Ospelt, Superintendent of Highways handed out a report detailing the eleven land parcels involved in the County Route 6 Relocation. Superintendent Ospelt explained that several years ago the Highway Department had done relining on County Route 6 project between County Route 4 & 51. He also went on to say that after talking with the County Attorney Rich Mitchell it was decided that there are right-of-ways that the Highway Department has no use for anymore and should be turned back to the land owner.

Attorney Mitchell was then given an opportunity to further explain that the right-of-ways are larger than what are necessary for maintenance and drainage. He also said the properties have been surveyed and where necessary reservations have been made to the County for drainage as authorized by Highway law. It will be a quick claim deed for a dollar to each of the eleven abutting owner's record.

Legislator Brown asked Attorney Mitchell if the changes would be noted on the deeds and filed so that there will not be any problems if the owner decides to sell at a later date. Attorney Mitchell said he will be filling deeds to the abutting owners and filing maps on each of the abandonments.

A motion to approve the resolution County Route 6 Relocation – Right of Way Abandonments/ Authorization was made by Legislator Lockwood, seconded by Legislator Brown with all in favor. Motion carried.

b. Capital Project – 2008 Equipment Request

Superintendent Ospelt handed out a 2008 Equipment Request list and explained that at the January meeting he handed out a five year equipment plan but at that time the 2007 books had not been closed yet and it made it difficult to determine how much money would be left in the Capital Project for Highway equipment. Superintendent Ospelt stated that his initial equipment request was for a \$1,600,085 and after talking with Administrator Church the revised request for 2008 is \$1,256,000. An updated five year equipment plan will also be done.

Administrator Church discussed that the Capital Plan adopted by the County is a five year Capital plan and that limits expenditures from the Highway Department out of the Equipment Reserve to \$1.75 million each year for the next five years. For this year Administrator Church stated that there is \$2.3 million in equipment requests from other departments so the Highway list had to be scaled down to fit in the five year plan that was adopted last year. Administrator Church noted that the 2008 Highway request is more than twice the equipment allotted to the department than last year, that it is a good year financially to catch up on equipment purchases and that he supported Superintendent Ospelt's request.

Legislator Vasho asked Superintendent Ospelt if he was trading in an old paver towards the purchase of a new paver and questioned if we rent pavers. Superintendent Ospelt said he was trading a paver and that he did not rent pavers but did rent a milling machine every year. Superintendent Ospelt also discussed the fact that when you purchase off of State bid you can not trade anything in and that is why there is talk of a County auction this year. County will auction equipment that can not be traded in with the money going into the Capital Improvement Plan. Legislator Vasho then asked if the purchase price on the list was for a brand new paver and what the life expectancy was. Superintendent Ospelt said yes to the price and about ten years for the life expectancy because technology changes so fast.

Legislator Ospelt wanted to know if all departments had a five year equipment plan. Administrator Church responded that all departments did not have a plan and that there was a County Capital Improvement Program that was adopted by the Finance and Personnel Committee last year and that he was updating it hopefully for the next meeting. It describes a plan of what the County should not exceed in spending out of our reserves and Capital Projects.

Legislators Walker, Brewer and Kastler also had questions for Kurt about equipment on the list. Questions pertained to the type of four wheel drive pickup, management vehicle and mower.

Motion to accept the 2008 Equipment Request was made by Legislator Brewer, seconded by Legislator Doyle with all in favor. Motion carried.

4. Solid Waste

Director of Solid Waste Frank Visser reported that he had received a reduced tipping fee request from the Town and Village of Parish. Director Visser handed out a sheet detailing previous years waivers and explained that this comes up every year and every year committees feel different about this. Last year no tipping fee reductions or waivers requests were granted except for the County Fair. Director Visser feels that this request should not be granted because there is potential for big money and if it is granted to Parish you could potentially have every Town and City request a tipping fee waiver. If this happened it could add up to some real money. Parish's last waiver request did not amount to much which could be looked at in two ways. Not a lot of money to us but also not a lot of money for them either. Generally if a waiver request comes from the City of Fulton, they are the biggest user of the benefit and it is up to the committee to decide.

Legislator Lockwood mentioned that the Town of Volney should get a discount because of the landfill.

Legislator Brown, Vasho, Brewer, Beckwith, Walker and Doyle all had comments about granting reduced tipping fees. Legislator Walker felt that Harborfest and every Town and City would now be looking for the same waiver. Legislator Ospelt felt that if Towns want to clean-up they should budget tipping fees for it. Discussion followed on placing a time frame and or ceiling amount on requests.

Administrator Church as the County's Budget Officer emphasized that it is good practice if you set a fee in a budget to stick with it or otherwise you are creating a shortfall later that will have to be dealt with.

A motion was made to grant a 50% tipping fee reduction for the Town and Village of Parish. A roll call vote was called by Legislator Brewer.

Aye: Brewer, Brown, Doyle, Potter, Vasho

Aye: 5

Nay: Breadsley, Lockwood

Nay: 2

Motion carried.

Legislator Vasho continued to discuss setting a maximum discount amount for waivers and made a motion to set a ceiling amount on tipping fee waivers.

Legislator Breadsley stated that it should not be the County's responsibility to clean-up the Towns but that Towns should not be jeopardized for picking up road side debris.

Director Visser responded that road side clean-up is already exempt.

Legislator Vasho withdraw his motion to set a ceiling amount on tipping fee waivers.

Legislator Vasho made a motion to table setting a ceiling amount on tipping fee waivers, seconded by Legislator Lockwood with all in favor. Motion carried.

5. *Purchasing*

County Purchasing Director Fred Maxon discussed the following bids:

Bid - Solid Rubber Tires - ERF

Bids were solicited through legal advertising, web distribution and direct mail to six vendors. Two responses were received with the lowest bidder being Advanced Tire at a cost of \$15,400. Motion to accept the bid from Advanced Tire for solid rubber tires was made by Legislator Vasho, seconded by Legislator Brewer with all in favor. Motion carried.

Bid - DPW - Rental of Equipment

Bids were solicited from forty-nine (49) vendors and fourteen (14) proposals were received over 8 separate lots (attached). Towns and Villages can also use the prices.

Motion made by Legislator Lockwood to accept the rental of equipment on demand contract, seconded by Legislator Doyle with all in favor. Motion carried.

Bids - Bridge Decking & Steel Materials

Bids were solicited from ten (10) vendors with only one (1) bid received from Chemung Supply. Director Maxon recommended awarding to Chemung and that between the two bids it is \$108,000 of steel materials.

6. *Other Business*

a. Request for Use of County Land for Snowmobile Trail

Community Development, Tourism and Planning Director Dave Turner explained his department is a conduit for the snowmobile trail program and one of the stipulations of the grant is the club has landowner permissions for the lands that their trails cross. The Mexico Trail Riders Club has requested the use of certain parcels owned by the County within the Towns of Scriba, New Haven and Palermo.

Director Turner brought this request to the Economic Development and Planning Committee for their consideration in regard to a Tourism aspect of it. Within the last twenty-four (24) hours the County Attorney Rich Mitchell has come up with a few concerns therefore Director Turner requested to table the discussion to a later date.

Attorney Mitchell stated that part of the land in question involved a grant the County received in the early nineties. It is a railroad trail, 285 acres of which the County received and it was to be for utility purposes only not recreational purposes in connection with the water district. The County committed to a separate SEQRA review process and leased part of the land. There is also correspondence indicating portions of the trail may have been conveyed prior to the County receiving it through third parties. Separately, part of the land in Palermo may or may not be under a mine land reclamation permit. Due to the concerns Attorney Mitchell recommends tabling this request for a month so all the issues can be reviewed.

Legislator Brown made the motion to table this request, seconded by Legislator Vasho with all in favor. Motion carried.

b. Legends Softball Field – City of Oswego

Legislator Walker introduced Anthony Ponzi who has been a volunteer at Legends softball field for the last couple of years. Mr. Ponzi provided handouts and gave a presentation regarding the need for repair work at the field. A copy of the handouts are attached.

Discussion followed on the cost of the repairs, and if the City of Oswego and or the County is responsible for the repairs. Director Turner was asked if there were grants or funding available and he said that at this time there were none. Superintendent Ospelt said that he needed to take measurements to develop a cost estimate to perform the work and would report back to the committee.

Legislator Vasho made a motion to table this until Superintendent Ospelt can provide a cost estimate of the work, seconded by Legislator Brewer.

Chairman Leemann recommended that Attorney Mitchell review the lease agreement between the County and the City of Oswego to see who is responsible for maintaining the field.

Legislator Vasho asked to call the question on the issue of tabling, seconded by Legislator Brewer. All in favor. Motion carried.

Chairman Beardsley called to move the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

c. Oswego Valley ATV Club

Legislator Beckwith reported to the committee that the Oswego Valley ATV Club was present and wanted to renew the contracts like they had last year. Legislator Beckwith stated that he was in favor of this.

Jim Mara, Oswego Valley ATV representative asked the committee and Attorney Mitchell to renew their contract for \$1.00 and it would go from April to October.

Legislator Vasho asked Attorney Mitchell if there were any legal ramifications involved with the contract. Attorney Mitchell said that they were asking for the same contract they had in

place last year and that he would go back and see what was done specifically if it went to the committee or went to the floor. No resolution was prepared for this meeting.

Legislator Beckwith said that the intent today was to make the request to get the wheels turning.

Executive Session

At 11:15 A.M. a motion was made to go into executive session by Legislator Vasho and seconded by Legislator Brown. All in favor. Motion carried.

At 11:34 A.M. a motion was made to come out of executive session by Legislator Vasho and seconded by Legislator Brewer. All in favor. Motion carried.

7. *Adjournment*

At 11: 36 A.M. a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Legislator Vasho and seconded by Legislator Potter. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Barb Visco

_____	_____ DATE
Superintendent of Buildings & Grounds	
_____	_____ DATE
Superintendent of Public Works	
_____	_____ DATE
Director of Solid Waste Programs	
_____	_____ DATE
Chairman	
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
Infrastructure & Facilities Committee	