

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
August 3, 2016
NOT APPROVED

Committee Members Present: D. Fanton, P. Curran, K. Graves, J. Hopkins,
D. Decker, C. Crandall (Absent: A. McGraw)

Others Present: D. Healy, C. Knapp, C. Jessup, B. Riehle, S. Brown, N. Ungermann,
T. Ross, K. LaForge, H. Budinger, D. Pullen, T. Boyde, G. James, D. Scholes,
L. Dorrett

Media Present: B. Clark, *Olean Times Herald*

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 1:02 p.m. by Public Works
Committee Chairman Dwight Fanton.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Curran, and carried to approve the Public Works Committee minutes of July 6, 2016.

Highway

Permission to Bid Sand and Salt Hauling

Superintendent of Public Works Guy James requested permission to bid the sand and salt hauling contract. Approval was granted on a motion by Legislator Curran, seconded by Legislator Hopkins, and carried.

Update on Snow & Ice Contracts with Towns

Mr. James presented an update of where we stand with the towns renewing the Snow & Ice Contract. Out of the 27 towns participating, 18 towns have signed and returned their contracts. We are waiting on 9 other towns. Alfred and Clarksville are not participating in the agreement.

Property Transfer Request in the Town of Belfast

Mr. James explained years ago the County procured the right-of-way for the State of New York that includes two state highways in the Town of Belfast along State Route 19 and State Route 305. The property owner in the area has approached DOT to purchase the land; however, the DOT does not own it; the County does. DOT has no interest in maintaining their interest in the right-of-way keeping the land and would relinquish it to the County so the County can sell the land to the property owner. The property is 0.6 acres. A motion was made by Committee Chairman Fanton, seconded by Legislator Decker and carried to refer the sale of this property to Ways & Means for \$1,000 plus expenses. **Refer to Ways & Means**

Buildings & Grounds

Replace Boiler & Water Tanks at County Safety Complex

Mr. Scholes explained to the Committee at the Jail for the kitchen/laundry areas there are two boilers and two water storage tanks. He further explained there are two boilers and two tanks that also serve the showers and bathrooms. This past spring the department replaced one of the boilers for the kitchen due to internal equipment failure. The second boiler is now failing; it is leaking. The two storage tanks for the kitchen and laundry also need to be replaced. One was taken out of service due to severe leaks, and the second one is leaking. The estimated cost to replace the remaining original boiler and two tanks is \$55,000 - \$60,000. Mr. Scholes expressed his concern with the boilers and tanks for the showers and bathrooms. They are working fine now; however, they are also original and could go any day. The cost to replace the three remaining original boilers and four original storage tanks is \$185,000 to \$210,000. Mr. Scholes strongly urged the committee to recommend the funding for the one boiler and two tanks for the kitchen/laundry. Terri Ross stated there is a Repair Reserve in the General Fund with approximately \$240,000 in it that the County has not tapped into since 1995. This is a pool of money that could be used for this kind of repair. It would require a public hearing and Board resolution to pass by two-thirds vote to be able to draw the money out. Ms. Ross expressed her concern there is a lot going on with other projects that the Board is looking at, and at this point the County's budget is tight and there is not a lot in contingency to draw from with the sales tax being down every month. She would like to give the Board some different options for funding. She has been in contact with Municipal Solutions to get estimates if the County was to borrow money for these projects. Miss Ross will have all these figures and options for the legislators review by the Ways & Means meeting on the 17th. A motion was made by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Curran, and carried to replace the three remaining boilers and four tanks and refer to Ways & Means for funding. **Refer to Way & Means**

Solid Waste

Discussion: Solid Waste Fee Schedule 2017

Mr. Scholes re-requested guidance from the committee on the 2017 Solid Waste fee schedule. At the last committee meeting, Mr. James handed out a hypothetical rate sheet for tag fees and scale tipping fees for the committee to review. Mr. James stated we do not have a lot of comparable information from other counties for the hang tag system. Oswego County which has a similar system has a hang tag fee of \$175. The department has looked at other counties for their scale fees and ours is the lowest at \$40/ton. The average scale fee is \$55/ton. Chairman Fanton questioned if the committees' interest is to continue using the hang tag with the option to use a punch card or do we want to go strictly with a punch card system? Mr. James stressed to the committee the feedback the department receives from the users of the Solid Waste System is they prefer to use the hang tag even if the price is raised. Legislator Decker stated that of course the public wants to continue to use the hang tag system; they all

pass them around and share them. Legislator Decker also stated that if they raise the fee for the hang tag they will just get passed around more. Legislator Decker would like the County to go with the punch cards. Mr. James cautioned the committee that expenditures will be more with the punch card system as the transfer stations are not set up for this system and the gatekeepers hours would have to be increased. County Administrator Tim Boyde suggested to have the Bonadio Group take a look at our Solid Waste System and offer suggestions on how to improve operations. Chairman Fanton requested before the next committee meeting the department compile a plan to go to the punch card system totally. This will include additional costs, availability of tickets at locations all over the County, the additional manpower, etc. Mr. James acknowledged the request and asked if he was to assume all the transfer stations will remain open as they are right now. Mr. James reminded the committee Steuben County, which is a bigger county, has three transfer stations while our County has seven. Legislator Ungermann stated there should be some savings with the Landfill being closed and in the "monitoring mode." Chairman Fanton reminded everyone that the County is paying by the ton to dispose of garbage now. Miss Ross stated there is zero savings with the landfill being closed. She stated the committee needs to see the 2017 proposed budget for Solid Waste, before considering revamping the fee schedule and current operations. Legislator Hopkins requested the September agenda include a discussion on the 2017 Budget. Legislator Hopkins also requested Mr. Boyde have an estimate from the Bonadio Group at the September meeting.

Old Business

Update: Vacant Engineer Position

Mr. James reported to the committee the County has only received one application for the open County Engineer position. This applicant, however, did not meet minimum employment qualifications. Mr. James reminded the committee that this does not stop the bridge inspectors from inspecting the bridges. Mr. James strongly urged the committee to re-examine the salary for this position. Mr. James reminded the committee this engineer that the County employs, signs off on red-flags for potentially 29 towns on their bridges. This person also supervises the rest of the engineering staff, road maintenance supervisors, and bridge construction/maintenance supervisors/crews. The committee requested Human Resources perform a salary survey of New York county engineers along with a recommendation to be presented to the legislators. The County may have to create one or more additional grades to the PEF salary schedule, and PEF would have to be involved.

New Business

Re-Appointment of D.P.W. Superintendent

A motion was made by Legislator Curran, seconded by Legislator Graves, and carried to re-appoint Guy James as D.P.W. Superintendent effective October 30, 2016, and expiring on October 30, 2020. **Prepare Resolution**

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m. following a motion by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Decker, and carried.

Respectfully submitted:
Lea Dorrett, Secretary to the Superintendent
Allegany County Department of Public Works