

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: COUNTY FACILITIES

DATE: OCTOBER 23, 2006

Committee Members Present:	Frank Morehouse, Superintendent of Buildings
Supervisors Haskell	William Lamy, Superintendent, Dept. of Public Works
O'Connor	William Thomas, Chairman
F. Thomas	Joan Sady, Clerk
Champagne	Paul Dusek, County Attorney
VanNess	Supervisor Caimano
Geraghty	Supervisor Kenny
	Supervisor Belden
Committee Members Absent:	Supervisor Merlino
Supervisor Girard	Supervisor Gabriels
	Carlene A. Ramsey, Sr. Legislative Office Specialist

Mr. Haskell called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Geraghty, seconded by Mr. F. Thomas and carried unanimously to accept the minutes of the previous meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk.

Frank Morehouse, Superintendent of Buildings, distributed an Agenda packet to each of the Committee members and a copy is on file with the minutes.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Mr. Morehouse, and he began his report with Agenda Item 2, Referrals. He said it was his understanding that Pending Item 1, the posting of "No Weapons" signs, had been tabled until either the matter was presented to the full Board, or the new building entrance had been constructed. He requested further direction from the Committee.

Mr. VanNess said, it was his understanding the posting of signs had been delayed since the Sheriff's Office could not enforce the sign's message without some sort of local law in place.

Mr. Gabriels entered the meeting at 2:31 p.m.

General discussion ensued as to the status of the local law regarding no weapons on the premises. In the absence of the County Attorney, Mr. Haskell tabled further discussion until Mr. Dusek could join the meeting.

Next, Mr. Haskell reported that Pending Item 3 had to do with a new building for the Soil and Water Conservation District Office, which was not a County Department. He said he had recently met with the Commissioner of Administrative & Fiscal Services and the County Attorney and learned the County could not build a new structure to rent,

although the County could rent "unused" County offices (until such time as the County needed to utilize the space).

Mr. Haskell mentioned that he and the Town of Warrensburg Supervisor, Kevin Geraghty, had looked for an alternate, suitable site for the Offices, within the Town of Warrensburg. Earlier today, he said, he learned from Supervisor Tessier that the Town of Lake George had offered the Soil & Water Conservation District Office a parcel of land on Diamond Point Road.

Messrs. Wm. Thomas and Dusek entered the meeting at 2:35 p.m.

Responding to Mr. O'Connor's questions, Mr. Haskell said he understood Soil & Water would prefer to stay in the Town of Warrensburg.

General discussion ensued.

Paul Dusek, County Attorney, confirmed that he would continue to research what financing options might be available to the County and report back to the Committee.

Mr. Haskell returned the discussion to Pending Item 1, the posting of "no weapons" signs and he invited Mr. Dusek to comment on the status of the local law.

Mr. Dusek acknowledged that his Office had drafted a local law for the Committee's review. He said he understood the Committee had tabled consideration of the draft local law for reasons that he was not aware of (see minutes from the County Facilities Committee meeting held on April 28, 2006).

Mr. Haskell asked Mr. Dusek to locate the draft local law and bring it back to the Committee for consideration. Mr. Dusek agreed.

Next, Mr. Haskell asked Mr. Dusek to comment on the fourth pending item, a RFP (request for proposal) to hire a forester to review the timber value on certain parcels of County property.

Mrs. Sady left the meeting at 2:37 p.m.

Mr. Dusek explained that he was not aware of the Committee's request for an RFP. However, if the Committee wanted him to draft the specifications, he said, he could prepare something within the next couple of days. Mr. Haskell noted that Mr. Remington had provided the Committee with a list of the parcels at an earlier meeting.

Mrs. Sady re-entered the meeting at 2:38 p.m. and provided the County Attorney with the list of parcels in question.

Mr. Dusek suggested the valuation of the timber would be one RFP and harvesting the lumber would be a second RFP.

Mr. Haskell explained that he was not aware of any other matters that would require the County Attorney's presence and he thanked Mr. Dusek for his input.

Mr. Dusek left the meeting at 2:39 p.m.

Mr. Haskell turned to Pending Item 2, concerning the Health & Human Services building. He reported that he and Jon Norris of Clark Patterson Associates, had met earlier today with key personnel (from Public Health, Self Insurance, Buildings and Grounds and Sheriff Cleveland) to discuss security in the new building. He noted the magnetometer had originally been situated so that only visitors to the Department of Social Services would be screened before entrance. Upon review, he said, the other Departments expressed a strong desire to have all guests in the building screened via the magnetometer. Therefore, he noted, the design had been changed to make the building fully secure.

Mr. Champagne entered the meeting at 2:40 p.m.

General discussion ensued.

Mr. Haskell further reported the construction manager had been hired and the construction phase was set at 30 months. Afterwards, he said the DPW staff would handle the renovations to the existing offices.

Responding to questions from various Supervisors, Mr. Haskell reported there appeared to be several definitions of the POE (point of entry) area. He explained new regulations would now require the County to provide a single point of entry for the County resident who needed assistance from a number of different County Departments.

Mr. Haskell expressed his frustrations with the confusion surrounding the State's mandate, and he noted the square footage had been reserved for the POE, with no detailed design at this point. In addition, he noted, the State had promised only one year of funding to staff the POE.

Mr. Wm. Thomas, as Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, questioned whether or not Committee members agreed with the relocation of the magnetometer for a fully-secured building. He said he anticipated a certain amount of resistance when the matter went before the full Board.

Following a general discussion, motion was made by Mr. VanNess, seconded by Mr. O'Connor and carried unanimously to authorize the design change to re-locate the magnetometer at the main entrance for a fully secured building.

Mr. Morehouse resumed Agenda review at Item 4, New Business as he directed attention to a map included with the Agenda packet. He explained there were a

number of white pine trees, in a 50 foot by 100 foot area that would need to be removed for the Health and Human Services building's construction.

Mr. Haskell asked William Lamy if the DPW staff could take care of the tree removal. Otherwise, he said he felt an RFP would need to be issued.

Mr. Morehouse said he was relatively certain the Building and Grounds Budget had the funds to hire an outside contractor.

Mr. Lamy said he had a number of concerns with the request since the DPW staff were not professional tree cutters, the County did not own the proper equipment and the staff had already been assigned to other tasks. He explained that if the other tasks were delayed to accommodate the tree removal, the weather was likely to prevent completion of the other tasks.

Mr. Wm. Thomas left the meeting at 2:55 p.m.

Following a brief discussion motion was made by Mr. VanNess, seconded by Mr. Champagne and carried unanimously to authorize the tree removal, provided the work could either be completed as part of the existing contract, OR the total dollar amount would be under the \$10,000 limit on the bid process.

Mr. Haskell reported that Joan Sady, Clerk of the Board, had provided him with the draft local law regarding the "no weapons" signage. He read Section 1 as follows:
"Prohibiting Entry into and Remaining in County Buildings by persons in actual possession of a deadly weapon."

Mr. Haskell pointed out that a number of the Supervisors carried jack knives which could be considered a deadly weapon.

Messrs. Caimano, Kenny, Belden and Merlino entered the meeting at 2:56 p.m.

Continuing, Mr. Haskell explained that at a Sheriff & Communications Committee meeting (April 27, 2006), the Sheriff clarified that a jack knife was not a deadly weapon, unless you intended to use it as such.

Mr. VanNess concurred and further noted the Sheriff also demonstrated the type of knife that was a deadly weapon, a pilum knife.

Mr. Haskell said, to the best of his recollection, it was the definition of a deadly weapon that had bogged down the issue. He mentioned the Sheriff had further explained that nearly anything in the wrong hands could be considered a deadly weapon (a pen, a jack knife etc.). He queried whether or not the Committee wanted to move the local law forward.

Mr. Champagne asked if the local law would require the Municipal Center Building to

be treated just like the Social Services Building.

Mr. O'Connor responded with the explanation that the local law would basically "put teeth behind the signs" (when posted) which would then give the Sheriff the authority to take the deadly weapon away.

Mr. VanNess said, in his opinion, posting the signs would begin to address the County's liability concerns. He pointed out that employees had complained and asked that something be done.

Motion was made by Mr. VanNess, seconded by Mr. O'Connor and carried unanimously to introduce the local law and schedule a public hearing to prohibit entry into and remaining in County buildings by persons in actual possession of a deadly weapon. The Committee authorized the necessary resolution be prepared for the next Board meeting. [*Subsequent to the meeting it was determined the County Attorney would bring the Draft Local Law back to the Committee for clarification.*]

There being no further business to come before the Committee, on motion by Mr. O'Connor and seconded by Mr. Champagne, Mr. Haskell adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Carlene A. Ramsey, Sr. Legislative Office Specialist