

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: PARKS, RECREATION & RAILROAD

DATE: JULY 24, 2006

Committee Members Present:

Supervisors	Haskell	Pat Beland, Director, Parks, Recreation & Railroad Division
	O'Connor	Paul Butler, Recreation Facilities Manager
	VanNess	Joan Sady, Clerk, Board of Supervisors
	F. Thomas	Paul Dusek, County Attorney
	Stec	Supervisor Barody
	Geraghty	Maury Thompson, <i>The Post-Star</i>
	Merlino	Katy Goodman, Secretary to the Clerk

Committee Members Absent:

Supervisors	Belden
	Gabriels

Mr. Haskell called the meeting to order at 10:46 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. O'Connor, seconded by Mr. VanNess and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the previous meeting, subject to correction by the clerk.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Mr. Beland and he distributed copies of his agenda packet to the committee members, a copy of which is on file with the minutes.

Pursuant to Agenda Item No. 1, Snowmobile Trails Mr. Beland requested approval of a resolution to authorize a snowmobile license agreement with SP Forests, LLC for the snowmobile trail system located in the Towns of Lake Luzerne and Queensbury in the amount of \$3,550. He noted the agreement with the City of Glens Falls for the snowmobile trails there was still being negotiated.

Motion was made by Mr. VanNess, seconded by Mr. Merlino and carried unanimously to approve the aforementioned request, as presented, and to authorize the necessary resolution for the next board meeting. A copy of a resolution request form is on file with the minutes.

Next, Mr. Beland spoke on the Railroad Rehabilitation PIN #1821 H890-219 project (Agenda Items No. 2 and 3). Relative to the status of the signals, track and bridge work, he advised that work had been completed. Mr. Beland stated as a result the Professional Engineer (PE) Certification and requests for payment and retainage should be coming in by the end of the month.

Mr. Haskell asked what the amount of the vandalism damage to the railroad was. Mr. Beland replied he had contacted the Sheriff's Office about that situation and he would like to discuss it in executive session later in the meeting as some developments had arisen.

Under the Up Yonda Environment Education Center agenda item (No. 4), Mr. Beland requested approval of a resolution to accept the donation of computer equipment from the Glens Falls City School District through the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program. He explained that instead of amending the budget the District purchased the equipment and donated it to Up Yonda. Mr. Beland pointed out a list of the equipment was provided on the resolution request form in the agenda packet.

Motion was made by Mr. Geraghty, seconded by Mr. F. Thomas and carried unanimously to approve the aforementioned request, as presented. The necessary resolution was authorized for the next board meeting. A copy of a resolution request form is on file with the minutes.

Mr. Beland stated he would review the Referrals (Pending Items) with the committee members before he asked for the aforementioned executive session. A copy of the Pending Items List from the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors' Office was included in the agenda packet.

Mr. Beland noted the first Pending Item was that Mr. Dusek, the County Attorney, was waiting to hear from either the Commissioner of the Office of General Services (OGS) or the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC's) counsel about the County's request for permission to construct an additional building on the Warren County Fish Hatchery property (for an office for the Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District). He referred the committee members to the copy of a letter from Mr. Dusek to Dave Wick, District Manager of the Soil & Water Conservation District, that was included in the agenda packet. Mr. Beland advised based on the letter it did not look like they would be able to construct a building at the Hatchery.

Mr. Haskell commented it looked like an alternate site for the District needed to be found in the Warrensburg area because that was where they did most of their work. He noted he thought the (County) Fair grounds were in a 100-year flood plain so most likely nothing could be built there. Mr. F. Thomas mentioned there was some room at the DPW building (in Warrensburg). Mr. Haskell stated he would speak to William Remington, County DPW Superintendent, to see if that space was still available. Mr. Haskell commented the situation at Soil & Water's current building was very bad and now there is a mold problem so they needed to keep the project moving.

Mr. Stec entered the meeting at 10:49 a.m.

Mr. Beland noted the second Pending Item was that he was to obtain an appraisal of the caboose at the Riparius station. He advised that Michael Swan, Director of the County's Real Property Tax Services Department, had completed the appraisal and it was \$50,000. Mr. Beland noted he would discuss the matter in the forthcoming executive session.

Regarding Pending Item No. 3, the picnic hosted by the Fish Hatchery on August 18th, Mr. Beland said he hoped all the committee members would attend the event.

Concluding the Pending Items list (Item No. 4), Mr. Beland noted that he had sent a letter to the City of Glens Falls Mayor LeRoy Akins to request a meeting with him to address safety concerns relative to the trailhead gate on the snowmobile trail (on the City's watershed property in the Town of Queensbury). Mr. Beland reported he did speak with Mayor Akins, but it was hard to schedule a meeting with all the people that needed to be involved. He asked Mr. Stec, (Town of Queensbury Supervisor), if he would schedule a meeting at Mayor Akins', his and the other parties' convenience and then he would fit it into his schedule.

Mr. Stec responded he would be seeing Mayor Akins this evening at a meeting concerning some issues between the City and the Town of Queensbury. He advised he would mention this issue to Mr. Akins. Mr. Beland noted someone from the City's water board should also be involved in the discussion; and Mr. Stec said the meeting concerned water issues so he would be able to speak with all those that should be involved relative to the snowmobile trail situation.

General discussion ensued.

Mr. Stec concurred with Mr. Haskell that he would report back to the committee members on the outcome of this meeting.

Mr. Dusek entered the meeting at 10:51 a.m.

Mr. Haskell requested an executive session to discuss the proposed acquisition of real property. Motion was made by Mr. Geraghty, seconded by Mr. VanNess and carried unanimously to declare executive session pursuant to Section 105(h) of the Public Officers Law.

Executive session was declared from 10:52 a.m. to 11:03 a.m.

Committee reconvened.

Mr. Dusek spoke on the executive session. He advised to clarify for the record the stated purpose for the session was the acquisition of real estate and the executive session was called

for that reason because they were concerned that it could affect the price that would be paid for that property. However, Mr. Dusek stated, in the executive session Mr. Beland inadvertently got into the subject of vandalism of the railroad wherein he advised the committee members that had occurred and that the amount of the damages was over \$21,000 and that currently the Sheriff's Office was investigating the situation. Mr. Dusek explained because this was said in executive session they wanted to report it publicly, because that was not the purpose the executive session was called for and it was not an appropriate issue for an executive session. Thus, he said they were correcting this publicly. Mr. Haskell thanked Mr. Dusek.

Motion was made by Mr. VanNess to approve the purchase of the caboose and train station at Riparius with the exception of \$5,000 for the display and contents of the facilities. Mr. Stec seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

Mr. Beland advised that the R. K. Hite property acquisition firm would be proceeding to get all the property agreements in place for these purchases and that process would probably take a couple of months to do. Then, he said the County would have to sign off on the agreements.

Dialogue ensued between Mr. Haskell and Mr. O'Connor concerning the need for the aforementioned building for the Soil & Water Conservation District. Mr. Haskell stated he would see if Mr. Remington was available this afternoon so he could discuss the possible site on the DPW property with him. He noted if the property could be used he would have Mr. Remington give him some square footage numbers, etc., for it. Mr. F. Thomas stated the District had a preliminary design for a building for its office. He confirmed for Mr. Haskell that he would bring the design to the next committee meeting for the committee members' information.

Mr. Stec referred to the prior discussion on the issue of the gate to the snowmobile trail that he was going to discuss with Mayor Akins. He said he wanted to be sure exactly what he should ask the City to do, i.e., remove the mound of dirt in front of the gate or open the gate. Mr. Stec queried if Mayor Akins said the gate was in bad shape would the County be willing to do any work on it. He noted he thought the request should be to remove the mound of dirt and leave the gate open in the winter and there should be enough space to turn the trail groomer around. Mr. Beland concurred that was correct. He said he thought the County could easily remove the dirt with a loader.

At the conclusion of further discussion on the situation, Mr. Beland said the State DEC opened the gate once it snowed and the dirt mound helped the area because it slowed people down, etc. If, he said the dirt mound was going to be removed the gate should be kept open in the winter and if that was not the way it was going to be done, then it should be left the way it is now.

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In reply to Mr. O'Connor's query, Mr. Beland confirmed the County could remove the mound of dirt. Mr. Stec said he would give Mayor Akins that information.

There being no further business, on motion by Mr. Stec and seconded by Mr. Geraghty, Mr. Haskell adjourned the meeting at 11:12 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Katy Goodman, Secretary to the Clerk