

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: PUBLIC WORKS - SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING

DATE: OCTOBER 12, 2011

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS BELDEN
BENTLEY
MERLINO
CHAMPAGNE
CONOVER
TAYLOR

OTHERS PRESENT:

JEFFERY TENNYSON, SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
DANIEL G. STEC, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
PAUL DUSEK, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
MARTIN AUFFREDOU, COUNTY ATTORNEY
JOAN SADY, CLERK OF THE BOARD
KEVIN GERAGHTY, BUDGET OFFICER
SUPERVISORS GOODSPEED

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

SUPERVISORS MONROE
MCCOY
WOOD

STRAINER
THOMAS
JOANN MCKINSTRY, ASSISTANT TO THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
JULIE PACYNA, PURCHASING AGENT
DON LEHMAN, *THE POST STAR*
THOM RANDALL, *ADIRONDACK JOURNAL*
AMANDA ALLEN, SR. LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

Mr. Belden called the meeting of the Public Works Committee to order at 12:00 p.m.

Please Note: No agenda was prepared for this meeting.

Before addressing the solid waste bids, Paul Dusek, County Administrator, advised he had two railroad issues to present, following discussions with Ed Ellis, President & CEO of Iowa Pacific Holdings, LLC/Saratoga North Creek Railway (SNCR). He explained Mr. Ellis and his firm sought to make significant improvements to the railroad, beyond what was required in their contract, to allow for increased track ratings and speeds. To this effect, Mr. Dusek said Mr. Ellis had asked that he determine the Committee's receptiveness to assisting in attaining grant funding, as well as to cap the amount of annual revenues received by the County for a few years, to offset the additional investment made by his firm. He reminded the Committee the Operator Contract cited that beginning on April 1, 2012 the County and the Town of Corinth would receive 6% of revenues from the railroad operation with a minimum payment of \$81,958 and certain plans and arrangements had been determined by the County and Town based on the use of this money. Mr. Dusek advised Mr. Ellis was not trying to renege on the contract, but was inquiring as to whether the County and Town would be interested in essentially partnering with his firm by capping the amount of revenues received in some manner in light of the fact that Iowa Pacific would be making a considerable investment for upgrades to the railroad facility outside of their contract terms. Although he said he did not have a definite figures available for presentation, Mr. Dusek noted his conversations with Mr. Ellis had indicated that Iowa Pacific would seek to institute an initial cap of \$81,000 in revenues per year, eventually returning to a higher revenue percentage. Mr. Dusek counseled that more information was necessary before a decision could be made and the matter was being presented only to determine the Committee's willingness to consider the idea.

Following a brief discussion on the matter, it was the consensus of the Committee that Mr. Dusek should contact Mr. Ellis to obtain additional information on his request for presentation at a future meeting.

The second railroad item, Mr. Dusek advised, pertained to the Day Out With Thomas event held at the North Creek Station. He said Mr. Ellis had advised the event was not as successful as they had hoped it would be and he

had received mixed feedback as to whether it should be continued; Mr. Dusek added that while Mr. Ellis was aware his Operator Contract required that the Thomas event be provided, he felt the regular train operations yielded better revenue opportunities to the North Creek area.

Speaking as Supervisor for the Town of North Creek, Mr. Goodspeed noted the Operator Contract indicated that the Day Out With Thomas, or a similar event, would be held in the Town of North Creek annually. He said that he would be willing to listen to Mr. Ellis' proposal for alternate plans, but noted that the Town of North Creek certainly benefitted from the Thomas event. Mr. Goodspeed stated that while they were flexible on the events held, the Town would not be agreeable to eliminating an annual event of some sort altogether. He reminded the Committee of advisements given some years ago indicating that the Thomas event would have very high attendance figures in the initial years which would eventually reduce in number; therefore, he added, there should be no surprise that the projections were now coming to light.

It was the consensus of the Committee that Mr. Dusek should contact Mr. Ellis on this matter, as well, to pursue additional information.

Mr. Belden stated that during the prior weekend the SNCR had transported 500 riders per day, which was a tremendous figure for this time of year. Mr. Goodspeed advised a festival had been held in the Town of North Creek during the prior weekend that had boasted far higher attendance figures than it had in the past. He said thousands of people had attended, filling the Town with visitors for the Octoberfest style event, then the train had come and disembarked hundreds more. Mr. Goodspeed stated the Town of North Creek had reaped significant benefits from the SNCR and he felt that if anyone could bring similar benefits to the other hamlets along the rail line, Iowa Pacific was the group that could do it. Mr. Bentley apprised that he had ridden the train on the prior evening and had been advised that all of their dome car seats had been booked through the end of the month for all of their runs.

Moving on to discussion on solid waste business, Mr. Dusek noted that Julie Pacyna, Purchasing Agent, had previously forwarded a letter to each member of the Board of Supervisors outlining the costs associated with the solid waste hauling and disposal bids for their review. He said that through analysis of the tipping fees charged by the disposal sites and the hauling fees received, they had determined the most cost effective option to be using hauling services from Waste Management with disposal at the Wheelabrator site; he added the tipping fee for disposal would be \$58 per ton and the hauling fees would vary by town based upon their distance from the disposal facility. Mr. Dusek advised the process was now at a point where they needed to decide whether or not to move ahead with the collective process proposed.

Mr. Belden said the initiative had been discussed at a recent Town of Hague Board meeting where they had decided to maintain their current disposal practices as they were more cost prohibitive than the County bid would be due to the hauling distance. He then asked each of the Supervisors in attendance to advise whether their Town would be interested in participating in the combined bid.

Mr. Conover advised he had reviewed the bids and determined a savings could be attained if the combined bid was used; therefore, he said, he believed the Town of Bolton would participate.

Mr. Merlino stated that if the figures provided in Ms. Pacyna's correspondence proved true, there would be a beneficial savings to the Town of Lake Luzerne for trucking fees and he anticipated their participation.

Mr. Goodspeed said he would prefer to defer comment on the matter because the Town of Johnsburg had a very

different situation evolving concerning privatization of solid waste removal.

Mr. Bentley noted a Town of Horicon Board meeting was scheduled for the following evening where the issue would be discussed, but advised the new bids represented a savings, which was promising.

Mr. Thomas advised the hauling fees reflected a savings to the Town of Stony Creek and he was prepared to support the combined bid.

Chairman Stec said he had reviewed the information and determined a savings could be obtained through the combined bid; however, he added, this issue had not been brought to the Queensbury Town Board for review or action.

Mr. Geraghty apprised the Town of Warrensburg would likely use the combined bid for disposal as the tipping fees proposed were lower than what was currently paid, but noted they would not participate in the hauling portion as they already did this at the Town level.

Motion was made by Mr. Taylor and seconded by Mr. Champagne to authorize Mr. Dusek to secure a contract for solid waste disposal and hauling services with Waste Management and Wheelabrator, respectively.

Chairman Stec questioned what party the individual towns would be contracting with and Mr. Dusek responded the County would contract with the hauler and the disposal facility and the towns would contract with the County through inter-municipal agreements, likely using some sort of direct billing measures to remove the County from the financial aspects of the process. Mr. Dusek said he needed to know which towns preferred to participate in the bid in order to relay the information to the bidders and insure they were still interested in contracting as, although participation of all of the towns was not guaranteed, the entire group was presented as a whole in the bid documents. Chairman Stec then asked what term would be associated with the contract and Ms. Pacyna advised it would have a one-year term with a one-year renewal option.

Following further discussion on the matter, Mr. Belden called the question and the previously mentioned motion was carried unanimously and the necessary resolution was authorized for the October 21st Board meeting.

There being no further business to come before the Public Works Committee, on motion made by Mr. Bentley and seconded by Mr. Conover, Mr. Belden adjourned the meeting at 12:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Amanda Allen, Sr. Legislative Office Specialist