

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: PUBLIC WORKS - DPW AND PARKS, RECREATION & RAILROAD

DATE: JULY 31, 2012

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS BENTLEY
MERLINO
MONROE
CONOVER
WOOD
TAYLOR
FRASIER
DICKINSON
MASON

OTHERS PRESENT:

JEFFERY TENNYSON, SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
KEVIN HAJOS, DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
PAUL BUTLER, DIRECTOR OF PARKS, RECREATION & RAILROAD
SUSAN WILDER, SARATOGA & NORTH CREEK RAILWAY
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 LOEB
STRAINER
THOMAS
WESTCOTT
JULIE PACYNA, PURCHASING AGENT
MIKE SWAN, COUNTY TREASURER
DON LEHMAN, *THE POST STAR*
AMANDA ALLEN, DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD

Mr. Bentley called the meeting of the Public Works Committee to order at 9:30 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Dickinson, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the prior Committee meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Paul Butler, Director of Parks, Recreation & Railroad, who distributed copies of his agenda to the Committee members; *a copy of the Parks, Recreation & Railroad agenda is on file with the minutes.*

Commencing his agenda review, Mr. Butler pointed out that the first item listed pertained to an update on Saratoga & North Creek Railway (SNCR) operations by Jack Kilgallon; however, he noted, since Mr. Kilgallon was not in attendance they would proceed to the next item which consisted of a presentation by Sue Wilder, of SNCR, regarding the prospective replacement of the Thomas the Tank Engine event. Mr. Butler advised that the agenda packet included several handouts provided by SNCR pertaining to their rationale for the replacement, as well as an outline of the two alternate events suggested.

Mrs. Wilder began by noting SNCR's contractual obligation to facilitate the Thomas the Tank Engine event and explaining that as with many events of this sort, attendance figures had declined as the event was repeated over successive years. Additionally, she pointed out that the Thomas the Tank Engine franchise required the use of specific merchandise and food vendors which did not benefit the businesses of the Town of Johnsbury where the event was held. Mrs. Wilder advised SNCR respectfully requested that the County relieve them of the obligation to provide for the Thomas themed event in favor of two others which they believed would bring renewed interest to the area while benefitting the towns along the rail line. She proceeded to review the information provided in the agenda packet detailing the two alternate events proposed, the first of which was an event filled weekend based on the history of President Teddy Roosevelt's North Creek association and his mark in national history with the major focus being on children's interactive activities, local heritage tourism and re-enactors depicting Adirondack lifestyles

in the 1900's. The second event proposed featured a Halloween/harvest themed train ride to the 1,000 Acres Ranch in the Town of Stony Creek for an afternoon of harvest fun and activities centered around preparing for Halloween, such as a pumpkin patch, pumpkin decorating, hay rides, live entertainment and face painting. *Complete outlines of both events as provided by SNCR are included in the agenda packet.*

In other railroad related news, Mrs. Wilder apprised SNCR had acquired two school busses they painted to look like part of the train which were being used to shuttle passengers around the Town of North Creek, to the Gore Mountain resort and to the nearby garnet mines. She added that the Business Alliance of North Creek had also provided two golf carts which were used to shuttle riders up and down Main Street. Mrs. Wilder stated that SNCR was now successfully connecting with Amtrak trains at the Saratoga Springs Station, providing four opportunities per day for riders to travel to and from the Town of North Creek and other stops along the way. She advised that once SNCR had firmly established operations at the Saratoga Springs and North Creek Stations, they intended to begin fostering the stations in-between. Mrs. Wilder concluded SNCR's long term goal was to create and maintain a working relationship with Warren County to benefit existing area businesses and events and encourage new ones to spring up along the tracks.

Mr. Taylor questioned whether either of the alternate events proposed were established in other areas and Mrs. Wilder replied a pumpkin patch themed event was organized for another of SNCR's rail lines which had been very well received. Mrs. Wilder advised parents enjoyed taking their children to these types of outdoor events which provided entertainment without being too challenging. She then distributed flyers outlining upcoming SNCR family friendly events, a copy of which is on file with the minutes.

Following further discussion, motion was made by Mr. Dickinson, seconded by Mr. Monroe and carried unanimously to relieve SNCR of their obligation to provide for the Thomas the Tank Engine event in favor of the two alternate events proposed for one year, following which a review of the results of these events would be made to determine whether the obligation to provide for the Thomas event should be removed permanently. The necessary resolution was approved for the August 17th Board meeting.

Resuming the agenda review, Mr. Butler introduced discussion on the possible transfer of the insurance recoveries received for fire damages to the "White House" building located in the Town of North Creek which was currently being used by SNCR for office space. Paul Dusek, County Administrator, advised he had discussed this matter with Martin Auffredou, County Attorney, prior to the Committee meeting. He said it was Mr. Auffredou's legal opinion that since the Railroad Operator Contract essentially assigned maintenance responsibilities for County-owned property associated with the railroad to SNCR for expenses not exceeding \$50,000, there was no authority for the County to transfer the insurance recoveries received.

Mr. Butler continued to the Items of Interest section of the agenda, which he outlined as follows:

- * Several of the items currently being sold at the Up Yonda Farm gift shop were displayed for the Committee's review. Mr. Butler noted that some of the items, like the walking stick, were made by Up Yonda staff. Jeff Tennyson, Superintendent of Public Works, reminded the Committee that at a prior meeting they had approved a request to establish a gift shop at the Up Yonda facility to meet the demand of young children seeking a souvenir as a token of their visit; he added that the items being sold were relatively inexpensive with some items being only \$.25.
- * Mr. Butler circulated two photos amongst the Committee members, the first of which portrayed the new galvanized roof placed on the Fish Rearing Building for Ponds 6-9. He said the new roof, which was completed on May 24th, replaced a 20-year old fiberglass roof and he noted the project had been in planning for the past two years. Mr. Butler apprised the second picture reflected progress on the new

Fish Rearing Pond 11 which was being constructed from silo staves. He noted that it had been very difficult to find a local manufacturer for the staves, but following a two year search they had finally found one. Mr. Butler stated the new pond would replace an older one that was deteriorating and no longer held water; he continued that the new pond was 26' in diameter and he anticipated it would produce healthier fish due to its circular form. In response to a question posed by Mr. Dickinson, Mr. Butler advised that silo staves were a proven and effective means with which to build the pond as it was not affected by frost like laid stones would be. Mr. Butler continued that the new pond would also be safer and easier for staff to maintain because it was only 30" deep. Mr. Tennyson noted the old pond was the one that had been flooded out the prior year and some of the fish were lost; he added that the new pond was being built at a higher elevation in an effort to prevent this from recurring.

A brief discussion ensued.

Concluding the agenda review with the Referrals section, Mr. Butler said there was only one item listed, pertaining to the transfer of insurance recoveries to SNCR for damages to the "White House" building. He stated that because this item had been addressed earlier in the meeting, it could be removed from the Referral List.

There being no further Parks, Recreation & Railroad business to discuss, privilege of the floor was extended to Mr. Tennyson who distributed copies of the DPW agenda to the Committee members; *a copy of the DPW agenda is also on file with the minutes.*

Commencing with the agenda review, Mr. Tennyson noted the Overtime Report included on page 1 which indicated that the total hours accrued through the month of July for all Public Works Divisions was consistent with the average for prior years. Relative to the Fuel Report included on agenda page 2, Mr. Tennyson advised the DPW fuel expenses were currently under budget and he anticipated the budget would be maintained for the remainder of the year, provided there were no severe storms.

Mr. Tennyson advised agenda page 5 included a request for a new contract for repairs to the Lanfear Road (CR 76) over Stony Creek Bridge with the lowest responsible bidder to be determined subsequent to the September 5th bid opening. He said prior approval would allow the repair work to begin immediately following the bid opening, rather than having to wait until the September Board meeting. Mr. Tennyson explained this was a Federal Aid project with a 5% Local Share that would address the abatement of the existing paint, which contained asbestos, re-painting and some steel repairs, extending the life of the bridge structure and in removing the asbestos paint, making it accessible to the County Bridge Crew for future repairs.

Motion was made by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Mr. Merlino and carried unanimously to approve the aforementioned request and the necessary resolution was authorized for the August 17th Board meeting. *A copy of the request is on file with the minutes.*

Moving on, Mr. Tennyson directed the Committee members to agenda page 6 which reflected a request to extend the existing grant with the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) in an amount not to exceed \$55,200 to include Supplemental Agreement No. 6 for the Beach Road (CR 51/6) Reconstruction Project. He explained the additional grant funding was being provided to cover the engineering work associated with reconstruction of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) owned portion of Beach Road. Mr. Tennyson pointed out that, although the County would provide the initial funding for the additional engineering work, no Local Share was associated with this grant funding and 100% State and Federal reimbursement would be received, as outlined on agenda page 10. He stated that the County would be providing

initial funding for this phase of the engineering work only and confirmed that NYSDEC would provide separate grant funding and their own cash flow for the construction phase of the work.

Motion was made by Mr. Dickinson, seconded by Mrs. Wood and carried unanimously to approve the request to amend the existing NYSDOT grant and the necessary resolution was authorized for the August 17th Board meeting. *A copy of the request is on file with the minutes.*

In relation to the prior request, Mr. Tennyson advised agenda page 14 reflected a request to amend the existing contract with Barton & Loguidice, PC in an amount not to exceed \$55,200 to include Supplemental Consultant Agreement No. 5 for the Beach Road (CR 51/6) Reconstruction Project for the additional engineering work sought for the NYSDEC portion of the project.

Motion was made by Mrs. Wood, seconded by Mr. Monroe and carried unanimously to approve the request and the necessary resolution was authorized for the August 17th Board meeting. *A copy of the request is on file with the minutes.*

Mr. Tennyson advised the next agenda item consisted of a request to fill the vacant position of Assistant Engineer #2 with an annual salary range of \$43,000 - \$48,000, due to retirement; he noted that Chaz Barrie, a long-time County employee, had recently retired from the position. Mr. Tennyson advised that Mr. Barrie's efforts had focused on architectural-type plans such as picnic pavilions, roof replacements and other structural design plans and he was the person typically assigned those projects that did not fit traditional programs. He continued that Mr. Barrie had also been charged with managing the County's fuel system following the termination of the Fuel System Manager a few years ago, learning the system in place at that time and eventually shepherding the Countywide system through a major rehabilitation of the fuel system over the last year which had affected all 38 different agencies in the County. Mr. Tennyson stated that Mr. Barrie and his versatile abilities would be missed. He said he had discussed the vacancy with Mr. Dusek and in consideration of current staffing levels compared to projected DPW projects, the position was determined to be necessary. Mr. Tennyson noted Mr. Barrie's salary upon retirement was \$48,000 and he said he would like to immediately advertise the vacancy with an annual salary range of \$43,000 - \$48,000, along with a notation that the filling of the position was contingent upon final approval by the Board of Supervisors at the August 17th Board meeting.

Motion was made by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Mr. Merlino and carried unanimously to approve the request to fill the vacant position of Assistant Engineer #2, as outlined above, and refer same to the Personnel Committee. *A copy of the Notice of Intent to Fill Vacant Position form is on file with the minutes.*

Agenda page 22 included a request for a transfer of funds in the amount of \$20,000 between two road projects, Mr. Tennyson stated. He expounded that the Diamond Point Road Project was nearing completion and would be under budget; therefore, he continued, he was requesting that the funds be transferred to the Haviland Road Project, where they were needed.

Motion was made by Mrs. Frasier, seconded by Mr. Dickinson and carried unanimously to approve the aforementioned request for a transfer of funds and refer same to the Finance Committee. *A copy of the request is on file with the minutes.*

Continuing with the agenda review, the Items of Interest section was reviewed as follows:

- * Beach Road Reconstruction - A current photo of the eastern end of Beach Road, near the Garrison Restaurant, was circulated; *a copy of the photo is on file with the minutes.* Kevin Hajos, Deputy

Superintendent of Public Works, advised that completion of the installation of drainage facilities for this portion of the Project would be completed by the end of the week and the road reconstruction in that area would begin at the start of the following week, with the anticipation that the paving would be completed in another two weeks. Mr. Hajos said they had requested that the paving be completed by the end of each week so that any weekend traffic would not have to travel over gravel surfaces. In response to an inquiry made by Mr. Dickinson, Mr. Hajos apprised that the project included a full reconstruction of Beach Road which included a new sub-base and pavement. Mr. Tennyson added the work done to date had included installation of new sub-structures which required deeper excavation. Mr. Hajos said the West Brook culvert work had started, as well, and they were currently putting in sheeting for the coffer dam; he added that during the following week they would begin the excavation for the first section of box culvert to be placed in that area and he said box culvert #2 should be installed by August 13th. Two test strips for the porous pavement application were scheduled to be installed during the week of August 13th at the Warrensburg DPW facility, Mr. Hajos apprised. Photos of the work being done on and around West Brook Road were also circulated, copies of which are on file with the minutes. Mr. Tennyson detailed a photo portraying the reconfigured intersection of West Brook and Beach Roads and another that showed the section of West Brook Road that had been re-striped for two lane traffic and the turn-off for the West Brook parking lot. Mr. Hajos advised reconstruction work on the west end of Beach Road, stretching from Canada Street to Fort George Road, would not begin until after September 10th.

- * West Brook Parking Lot Progress - Mr. Hajos said that, as previously noted by Mr. Tennyson, the intersection of West Brook and Beach Roads had been reconfigured, as well as the intersection of West Brook Road and State Route 9; he then detailed photos of both intersections, copies of which are on file with the minutes. He advised all of the bases for the parking meters had been installed and they were now awaiting finalization of a supplier contract for the actual parking meter delivery. Mr. Tennyson added that improvements had been made to contracts with the parking meter supplier and it was his understanding the Treasurer's Office had completed the final account paperwork and he final configuration of the parking meters had been submitted and they were expecting the meters to be delivered in the near future; he anticipated that by the end of the following week, the meters would be received and installation could begin. Mr. Tennyson reminded the Committee their initial plan was to install four meters in the existing pavement width and with expansion of the parking area to occur as grant funds were received, following which an additional five meter pay stations would be introduced. Mr. Monroe questioned the planned parking configuration and Mr. Tennyson advised they would incorporate parallel parking. He added that although there was some discussion about implementing parallel parking on both sides of the parking lot, there was not sufficient pavement width to allow it; however, he said, they could allow parking on the edge of the pavement. Mr. Tennyson clarified that they would not be striping individual parking spots, but rather a parking lane as they had found they would be able to accommodate more vehicles in this manner due to various vehicle lengths. Mr. Dickinson noted the intersection of Beach Road with State Route 9 included a blind corner with a stop sign very close to Route 9 and Mr. Hajos responded that to alleviate this concern, the road had been painted to warn drivers they were approaching a stop sign and he advised the intersection would eventually be reconfigured in connection with the West Brook Project. A brief discussion ensued.
- * 13th Lake Road Bridge Over 13th Lake Creek Repairs - Before and after photos of work on the 13th Lake Road Bridge were circulated and Mr. Hajos briefly outlined them; *copies of the photos are on file with the minutes*. Mr. Tennyson noted this work was some of the more significant concrete work completed by the County Bridge Crew.

Relative to other ongoing projects not noted in the agenda, Mr. Hajos advised paving work on Haviland Road in

the Town of Queensbury was taking place that day and he expected it to be finished by the following afternoon. Additionally, he circulated photos of the completed CR44 (Hadley-Luzerne) Bridge work in the Town of Lake Luzerne which had been finished on July 17th; *a copy of the photo is on file with the minutes.*

Concluding the agenda review with the Referrals section, Mr. Tennyson announced there were no items to discuss.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, on motion made by Mr. Dickinson and seconded by Mrs. Wood, Mr. Bentley adjourned the meeting at 10:16 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Amanda Allen, Deputy Clerk of the Board