

INFRASTRUCTURE & FACILITIES
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

August 28, 2007

County Office Building, Oswego, NY

4:30 P.M.

Present: Committee: Legislators M. French, Chairman, C. Brewer, B. Brown, D. Chalifoux, A. Gearsbeck, P. Natoli, L. Ponzi, M. Potter, P. Vasho

Department Heads: Interim DPW Superintendent K. Ospelt, B&G Superintendent Joe Taormina, Airport Manager Bruce Bisbo, Director of Solid Waste Programs Frank Visser

Staff: D. Burrige

Guests: Legislators Chairman Russ Johnson, Shawn Doyle, Barry Leemann, County Administrator Phil Church, DEC Sergeant Steve Rawson and members of the press.

1. Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Chairman French. A motion to approve the minutes of the July 24, 2007 and August 14, 2007 meetings was made by Legislator Brewer, seconded by Legislator Chalifoux and carried. Legislator Brown abstained.

2. Buildings and Grounds

Chairman French asked for an update on the outage that occurred at the Public Safety Center. Joseph Taormina, Superintendent advised that at approximately 1:00 a.m. on Saturday morning the building lost power. People who were on call responded. The generator did not kick on because for some unknown reason, the breaker to the generator that feeds back to the building tripped off. The building went to single phase and a number of components were lost. The major lost was the computer program that runs the jail. A number of by-passes were completed. There were never any security problems, but there were some associated problems. Superintendent Taormina went on to explain that the computer program has since been located, downloaded and everything was back on-line as of 10:00 this morning. The E-911 Department had to temporarily transfer to Fulton and we were advised that they never experienced any down time. Philip Church, County Administrator advised that both Mike Allen and Sheriff Reuel Todd reported to the Public Safety Committee yesterday that E-911 was never interrupted and the security at the jail was never comprised. Both department heads were also very complimentary of Joe and his staff for how they responded and handled the situation. Legislator Ponzi asked if the County has insurance to cover the damage and expenses. Superintendent Taormina advised that the County Attorney was already looking into it.

a. Schedule of Capital Projects

Superintendent Taormina advised that the bid opening was today for the two capital projects his department is working on; painting at the Oswego Court House and gutter work at the Pulaski Court House. The two (2) bids received for the painting at the Oswego Court House had a wide disparity in price, so before the bid is to be awarded, the architect wants to look into it and talk to both vendors. The two (2) bids received for the gutter work at the Pulaski Court House came in way higher than expected and the architect has no idea why. Both bids for this project have been rejected and this capital project will need to be re-visited. No action is needed on these capital projects at this time.

3. Solid Waste

Frank Visser, Director of Solid Waste Programs, updated the Committee on the next Household Hazardous Waste Day. It is scheduled for September 15th. He has talked with the contractor and they also advised that they weren't comfortable with what happened the last time either. Changes for this time will include doubling up on the unloading lines so that there will be twice as many. Also, people complained about there being no traffic control on Route 3. Director Visser has talked with the Sheriff and he advised that he could provide someone to be there. He will call the Sheriff to remind him. Hopefully by changing these two items, things will go a little better.

a. Budget Modification – Repairs and Parts

Director Visser asked for approval of a budget modification to move money around within the Energy Recovery Budget. Two accounts are running quite low. Account #5422, Equipment Repairs and Maintenance does not have enough to cover the cost of a turbine repair that came in higher than expected. He would like approval to move \$20,000 out of Other Supplies and Expenses into this account, as well as, move \$20,000 from one parts account to another parts account. Motion to approve the budget modification was made by Legislator Brown, seconded by Legislator Gearsbeck with all in favor. Motion carried.

b. Budget Modification – Equipment Reserve

Director Visser discussed the catalog of equipment for his department and explained how the equipment has been categorized. With the information, a 5-year plan was developed to look at what needs to be replaced and when. This was done to try to spread the purchase of equipment out in order to get some what of a stable replacement amount in the budget every year. What stands out now is the need for a new truck to haul leachate. In the past and in looking at the equipment list and quotes, equipment was purchased at certain periods of time, all at once. This equipment now has failed, all at once. Director Visser asked for approval to purchase a tractor trailer with a tanker out of the Equipment Reserve Account. The purchase would be for a 9,000 gallon tanker versus the 6,500 gallon ones they have now. This would allow them to haul 50% more per trip thus resulting in fewer trips and in the end saving money. Motion to approve the purchase of a tractor trailer with a 9,000 gallon tanker was made by Legislator Chalifoux and seconded by Legislator Vasho. When discussion was opened, Chairman French asked if the County would be looking into the possibility of connecting into the Town of Volney's sewer system and should a feasibility study be done. Director Visser advised that it has been discussed a couple of times and there is definitely an interest from the City of Fulton. He did not believe that the Town of Volney had been approached and suggested that somebody would just need to take charge of it. After discussion was completed on what needed to be done, a motion to direct the Chairman of the Legislature to investigate the feasibility of connecting into the sewer system was made by Legislator Gearsbeck and seconded by Legislator Potter. When the call for vote was asked, the original motion to purchase a tractor trailer with a 9,000 gallon tanker was approved and carried. The second motion, directing the Chairman of the Legislature to investigate connecting into the sewer system, was called to a vote, approved and carried.

c. Resolution Awarding Professional Services – Solid Waste Plan

Director Visser advised that an RFP was put out to update the Solid Waste Management Plan, Formulate Flow Control and update the Local Solid Waste Law. Two (2) responses were received with the total costs being within \$300.00 of each other. Director Visser compared the two proposals and feels that the Gerhardt proposal is superior to Cashin. His recommendation is to award the professional services contract to Gerhardt, LLC at the cost of \$98,300. Motion to approve awarding the professional services contract to Gerhardt, LLC was made by Legislator Brown and seconded by Legislator Brewer. When the floor was opened for discussion, Legislator Gearsbeck asked for clarification on what exactly was being voted on and asked if it was solely for flow control. Director Visser explained that this would draft the flow control law and update the Solid Waste Management Plan. To vote for a new law, it would have to go before the full legislature. Chairman French noted that the vote was to award a professional services contract to hire a company to give the County direction on Solid Waste. When call for vote was asked, the motion was approved and carried. Legislator Gearsbeck opposed.

d. Budget Modification – Solid Waste Plan

Director Visser noted that this budget modification is asking for approval to move money to pay for this RFP. His department originally budgeted \$400,000 for boiler repair, based on quotes received from the contractor, which were higher than what costs actually came in at. There is money left in that project that can now be transferred over and be used for this RFP. Motion to approve the budget modification was made by Legislator Brown, seconded by Legislator Vasho with all in favor. Motion carried.

e. Resolution Authorizing State Contract – HHW

Philip Church, County Administrator noted that this resolution was to authorize the Chairman of the Legislature to enter into the contracts necessary to accept the monies from the State for the Household Hazardous Waste. Motion to approve the resolution was made by Legislator Chalifoux and seconded by Legislator Brown. All were in favor and the motion carried.

f. Update on Fish Waste Issue

Director Visser advised that he really could not give an update on this issue and noted that the last time he talked with Mr. Wheeler it was left that he was going to have a meeting with the Town Board. Director Visser has tried a couple of times but has not been able to get a hold of Mr. Wheeler. Legislator Potter noted that this is getting to be a big ball of problems and there are now volunteers who are trying to help dump the fish guts. Legislator Doyle advised that he was prepared to give a report to the Committee. Since the last meeting there has been an organization that has been coming together to try and deal with this issue. A meeting was held at the Mayor's Office on August 20th where they met and talked with the zoning officials from the Town and the two Villages, as well as, met and talked with Todd Butler who handles the waste disposal for the Village of Pulaski. Mr. Butler advised that he would provide the dumpsters with liners if they could find a suitable place to put them. The Village has agreed to host the dumpsters in the secure compound area around the Village Sewage Treatment Plant. An area was found that will allow for two to three dumpsters, they will be lined, secured and there will also be materials there in case there is any kind of leak. Waste will be accepted in these dumpsters on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:00 to 12:00 and once 12:00 comes, the dumpsters will be hauled out of there so that no fish waste is sitting there. Legislator Doyle noted that a second meeting was held on August 23rd and at that meeting they formed what is called The Salmon River Fish Waste Cooperative.

This cooperative is designed to run as an emergency measure to handle fish waste generated during the 2007 Salmon River Run. Legislator Doyle went on to explain who has joined the cooperative, who were the members elected into office for this cooperative and noted that the Chamber of Commerce has agreed to handle the money. Chairman French asked if anyone has checked with the City of Oswego to see what they do with their fish waste. Legislator Doyle noted that the City of Oswego has a grinder in with their sewage treatment plant which is a lot better, bigger and handles more volume than what the Village of Pulaski does. The Pulaski Sewage Treatment plant cannot handle more volume and the Mayor has recently found out that it would cost \$17,000 to put a grinder in. Chairman Johnson asked if it would be logical to start looking at the possibility of helping to get funding for the grinder that could be there so the waste would not have to be transferred. Legislator Doyle noted that the Village of Pulaski is very concerned about putting that volume of waste through a sewage treatment plant with a very narrow river outlet right there. After additional comments, Legislator Doyle closed by stating that these people understand that they need to raise the price per fish and they are willing to pay more for this. This is a very unique problem and this industry is just asking for some relief. Chairman French noted that since they were coming into the heart of the season he asked that Legislator Doyle report back to this Committee next month on how the collection of fish waste is progressing and how it is working.

4. Highway

a. Budget Modification – Paving Projects

Kurt Ospelt Interim Superintendent requested approval for a budget modification to transfer funds from the Capital Reserve – Road Construction into Capital Project – Paving Area. The request is for an additional \$850,000 so his department can continue on with the paving projects for 2007. This request will also allow for his department to recapture the CHIPS money available to the County. Motion to approve the budget modification was made by Legislator Chalifoux and seconded by Legislator Brown. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Interim Superintendent Ospelt updated the Committee on the railroad crossings that have been completed. Railroad crossings on County Route 85, Stoney Robby Road and Honey Hill Road were repaired using a total of 888 ton of blacktop at a cost of \$10,003 which will be billed to the NRG. It is up to the railroad department to maintain their tracks but since they did not have it in the works right away or in their budget the County put them on notice. Interim Superintendent Ospelt noted that the NRG was ok with the county paving the crossings and sending them the bill. The only stipulation in there for us is that if they need to have the tracks reopened, the County will have 30-days to go in there and remove the blacktop. Chairman French commended the crew for the job they did on the tracks.

b. Airport – DEC Training Track Lease

County Administrator Church advised that a couple of weeks ago Sergeant Steve Rawson from the DEC and Bruce Bisbo visited him requesting that the County take a look at extending the lease for the EVOC track at the County Airport. This came about because the current lease expires in a couple of years and the DEC is now looking for a sight to construct a training academy. The request today is asking for a motion from the Committee indicating its interest in extending the track lease and authorizing the County Administrator, the County Attorney and Bruce Bisbo to renegotiate a new draft lease. County Administrator Church noted that when the County looked to formulate the Solid Waste System, the law was amended to allow the County to enter into lease agreements longer than five (5) years. This lease would be applicable under that law and could go as far out as 20 years. The draft proposal he received includes fixed prices and his recommendation would be to remove the pricing from the lease and have that be something that would be renegotiated over the 20 years.

County Administrator Church advised that this Committee could send a signal today by stating its interest in renegotiating a longer lease by giving authorization to renegotiate. This would be a good indication to the developer and the DEC that the County would like to see the Airport be considered as a viable sight for the training academy. Sergeant Rawson stated that they have been in the County of Oswego for a number of years and the officers like it here. In his opinion, not only would the track serve as a good anchor, but if the lease was extended for 20 years, it would say the County is in this for the long haul and the Airport would be a viable sight for the training academy. Motion to approve renegotiating a longer lease for the EVOC track at the County Airport was made by Legislator Brown, seconded by Legislator Chalifoux with all in favor. Motion Carried.

5. Bid Reports

County Administrator Church reviewed the list of bids and RFP's awarded for the month. The first bid for Boiler Tube Replacement was awarded to Frank Lill & Son of Webster, NY in the amount of \$167,467.00. The second bid for Concrete was awarded to Rural Hill Sand and Gravel of Belleville, NY in the amount of \$16,652.00. This third bid for A588 Steel Materials are materials that are different from the normal steel bid. Only one bid was received and awarded to Chemung Supply of Elmira, NY in the amount of \$34,237.03. The next bid for Bridge Decking under Capital Project 128 is part of the new strategy of bidding per contract rather than on a supply contract. One bid was received and awarded to Chemung Supply of Elmira, NY in the amount of \$25,201.75. The fifth bid is for Service Body for Truck which was awarded to the low bidder of Viking-Cives of Harrisville, NY for \$15,788.00. The last bid for Bridge Decking under Capital Project 129, one bid was received and awarded to Chemung Supply of Elmira, NY for \$32,303.50. Motion to approve awarding the bids was made by Legislator Vasho and seconded by Legislator Brown. During discussion, Legislator Vasho asked what the reasoning was for only receiving one bid from Chemung Supply all the time. County Administrator Church did not know why other vendors were not bidding but he advised that he would call around and see if he could find out why. The motion was called to vote with all in favor and motion carried.

County Administrator Church advised that he has received a request from the Great Pumpkin Festival to utilize the county parking lot so that the farmers can come in and unload their pumpkins. This is a standard thing that is done every year. Motion to approve use of the county parking lot during the Great Pumpkin Festival was made by Legislator Vasho, seconded by Legislator Natoli with all in favor. Motion carried.

As informational to the Committee, Director Visser advised that he received and approved a request from Jane Murphy to borrow the Recycling Character from the Solid Waste Department. This character would be used at the International Literacy Day to be held at the Armory in Oswego on September 8th.

Legislator Doyle advised that he received a call from a constituent on the Dry Ridge Road in the south part of the Richland Township. There was an ambulance call to her house and for some reason the driver did not realize that the bridge was still closed. He noted that the County still has responsibility on this bridge whether it will ever be repaired or torn down. It is a wooden bridge that the County owns, the railroad owns the abutment and the Town owns the rail. He noted that the town is continuing to grow and this really isolates the south portion of the township from Route 11. Interim Superintendent Ospelt discussed the history of this. He believes that the Railroad Department owns the super structure which is everything underneath. The only part that the Highway Department owns is the traveling surface which the last time he was there looked to be in good shape. The super structure is made of wooden beams that were all rotted. The Railroad Department at one time was willing to give the County money for rehab to this bridge whether it be putting up a new bridge or making a grade crossing.

