

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 3, 2009

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Brown, Rymph, Scribner, Shay, Banks, Lindsay, Suprenant, Hurley, Campbell

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: None

SUPERVISORS: LaPointe, Wilbur, Henke

Sandy Huffer, Deputy Clerk

Kevin Hayes, County Administrator

Jim Fischbeck, Exec. Dir. Sewer District

Nick Riesman - Post Star

Roger Wickes, County Attorney

Willy Grimmke, Public Works Supt.

Phyllis Cooper, Treasurer

Public

AGENDA AS PRESENTED IN COMMITTEE NOTICE:

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Minutes - February 11, 2009
3. Department Request/Reports:
  - A. Sewer District
    1. State Revolving Fund - Intended Use Plan for "Shovel Ready Programs" (SRF/IUP)
    2. Payment for Use of County Owned Land at Kingsbury Transfer Station
  - B. Public Works
    1. Car Pool Overview
    2. Highway Equipment Purchases
    3. Highway Equipment Repairs - Shoulder Machine
    4. DPW Staffing
4. Sub-Committee Discussions
5. Other Business
6. Adjournment

Chairman Brown called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

A motion to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2009 meeting, was moved by Mr. Lindsay, seconded unanimously and adopted.

Chairman Brown asked Sam Hall, Veterans Director to address the committee. Sam met with Chairman Brown and Wilbur last week regarding transportation coordination issues within the County. Sam has volunteered to chair a committee to look into the possibility of coordinating the various areas of transportation within all departments across the County as well as the civilian providers. He will report findings and recommendations back to this committee. He would like a resolution appointing him the project officer so that when he reaches out to departments and organizations he will be working in an official capacity. Sam feels the County can do a better job of coordinating transportation. A motion to appoint Sam Hall project officer to study transportation issues for the County, was moved by Supervisors Shay and Banks, seconded by Mr. Hurley. Mr. Brown asked Sam to be sure to include a recommendation regarding pooling cars at certain spots overnight to try to cut down on the amount of miles. Mr. Lindsay asked that the study include people who have cars assigned to them 24/7. Mr. Hurley requested that the resolution include that the departments are directed to provide Sam all information available so there is a thorough accounting of how cars are used within the County. Chairman Wilbur

stated that this is on the budget officer's "To Do" list for 2009. Are we adding Sam to the sub committee? Gayle Hall stated that two subcommittees under the Public Works Committee, Transportation and County Vehicles could be combined. Mr. Henke stated that the people who are closest to the ground come up with the best solutions. The committee's consensus was for Sam to address items 1 (transportation) and 2 (county vehicles) on the "To Do" list and report back to this committee. If the committee isn't happy with the results they can reconstitute the sub committees. Sam anticipates this being an ongoing project. A motion to appoint Sam Hall project officer to study transportation issues for the County, was moved by Supervisors Shay and Banks, seconded by Mr. Hurley and adopted.

Chairman Brown asked Chris DeBolt, Planner to address the committee. Chris stated that there was a conference call yesterday with Senator Little regarding the stimulus money. The Senator's suggestion was to resubmit our project list to all of our elected representatives. One new project came to light in the conference call in that Irving Tissue of Fort Edward has a natural gas issue of inadequate supply. Now that they have some details on the stimulus money and the various categories it will be coming down in, the thought was to reexamine the list before resubmitting. Some of the projects on the list can be removed because they don't meet the criteria that we didn't know at the time the list was submitted as well as adding additional projects. He is looking for the committee's direction on developing a new list. He stated that we will not only have to work with elected officials but also state agencies because the funding will be funneled through these agencies. Willy suggested structuring this review the same as when the first list was developed. Chris asked that anyone aware of any new projects contact him. Kevin stated items already on state project lists would be considered first. Chris added that the indication is that the stimulus money will not affect the current priority list. The same procedure will be followed as when the first stimulus list was developed.

Mr. McIntosh asked if a new solid waste management plan could qualify for stimulus funding. Mr. Brown doesn't think it would qualify. Mr. McIntosh has a copy of a resolution from Dutchess County regarding stimulus money and recycling. Chris and Willy will look into this.

Chris stated that there is a good amount of money available in the stimulus plan for health and human services projects. This is not his expertise. He asked the committee if they would like him to familiarize himself with these and reach out to the appropriate departments to try to consolidate everything together. Kevin suggested allowing the department heads of health and human services to handle it.

SEWER DISTRICT - Jim Fischbeck, Executive Director of the Sewer District addressed the following items with the committee:

- ✓ State Revolving Fund - Intended Use Plan for "Shovel Ready Projects" (SRF/IUP) - The Sewer District has applications prepared for submittal to get on the IUP list. When applications are submitted they are assigned points and ranked depending on the seriousness of pollution. A municipality under a consent order will get a lot of points for stimulus funding. Jim feels that it is a long shot for Washington County Sewer District but will submit something.
- ✓ Payment for Use of County Owned Land at Kingsbury Transfer Station - Chairman Brown stated that for years the Sewer District has been using lands owned by Washington County

for their compost facility. He has been trying to get some funds paid to Washington County from the Sewer District to compensate the County for this land use. He has talked with Jim about this and they are in negotiations. Jim stated that sewer district residents are county residents too and feels they have paid their fair share through county taxes. This land was bought in 1991 for \$60,000. It is a 60 acre parcel of which only about one-third of this land is usable. The Sewer District uses 2 acres. Mr. Banks suggested a one time charge of \$6,000 and settle this for good. A motion to charge the Sewer District a one time charge of \$6,000 for use of county owned land for the compost facility, was moved by Mr. Banks, seconded by Mr. Lindsay. Jim stated that this is not in this year's budget and asked that this be paid next year. A motion to charge the Sewer District a one time charge of \$6,000 for use of county owned land for the compost facility, was moved by Mr. Banks, seconded by Mr. Lindsay and adopted. Supervisors Rymph, Suprenant opposed. Chairman Brown stated that the motion did not specify when the payment is due. A motion that half be paid no later than January 31, 2010 and the other half be paid no later than January 31, 2011, was moved by Chairman Brown, seconded by Mr. Banks and adopted. Phyllis Cooper suggested that the payment be made in February because the Sewer's cash is usually down in January. A motion to change the date the payment is due to half due no later than February 28, 2010 and half due no later than February 28, 2011, was moved by Mr. Scribner, seconded by Mr. Banks and adopted. A motion to declare that this resolves this issue for good, was moved by Mr. Suprenant, seconded by Chairman Brown and adopted. This should all be incorporated into one resolution.

PUBLIC WORKS - Willy Grimmke, Superintendent of Public Works addressed the following items with the committee:

- ✓ Car Pool Overview - Willy distributed car pool equipment listing (attached). The first two pages are the pool in its entirety, a total of 133 cars. The last two pages are public health and car pool, the two largest users of the fleet. Several years ago, the committee discussed what we wanted to do as far as fleet maintenance and age of the fleet and it was determined that vehicles should turn over at about 10 years and 100,000 miles. The current average of miles on all vehicles is 51,249. The average yearly mileage per vehicle is 10,016. The average age of the vehicles is 5.35 years. This is for the committee's information. Mr. Campbell asked if there is information on the average annual cost to maintain the vehicles. Willy did not figure that for today's meeting but will get that information for the committee. Mr. Shay feels we should be selling Sheriff's department gas guzzlers instead of transferring them into the car pool.
- ✓ Highway Equipment Purchases - There is \$90,000 in the 2009 budget to purchase a new boom truck for the bridge crew. Rather than purchasing a new boom truck, Willy would like to purchase a used boom truck for about \$10,000. He would also like to purchase a used bucket truck in the \$10,000 range. This would yield a \$70,000 savings. A motion to authorize these equipment purchases, was moved by Mr. Banks, seconded by Mr. Scribner and adopted.
- ✓ Highway Equipment Repairs - Shoulder Machine - Chairman Brown called Howe Brothers and asked if they would give an estimate to repair the shoulder machine and Willy has

agreed that the County would be willing to bring the machine to Howe Brothers in North Troy for an estimate. Pat Greenough spoke to Mr. Howe today and Mr. Howe is willing to come here to give an estimate. This estimate would just be to repair the brakes. Willy feels that even with the brakes repaired, it is a functionally obsolete piece of equipment. Willy informed the committee that if any other parts fail, they will probably have to get the parts made. A motion to have Howe Brothers come to the County, if they are willing, to give an estimate to repair the brakes and have a committee representative present, was moved by Mr. Shay, seconded by Mr. Scribner and adopted. Mr. Brown feels that due to the history, Howe Brothers should be compensated to prepare this estimate. A motion to authorize payment to Howe Brothers for an estimate, if they bill for it, was moved by Mr. Banks, seconded by Mr. Hurley and adopted.

- ✓ DPW Staffing - Chairman Brown stated that there has been a lot of talk about the two roving foreman. Chairman Brown stated DPW staffing has been a contention for years. Hopefully discussion will resolve questions. There was a recent incident that precipitated more discussion. Willy stated that one of the general foreman's truck slid on a snowy road and the truck was totaled. This happened in the Town of Dresden and the foreman lives in the Town of Jackson. Mr. Suprenant asked if there was a better way to check the road conditions in the Town of Dresden rather than having someone come all the way from the Town of Jackson. Willy asked the committee to lay out all of their concerns and he will address them in writing at the next committee meeting. Willy stated that six of the eight barn foreman are funded during snow and ice season. Mr. LaPointe noted that the Dresden foreman is out on disability and the Jackson foreman is filling in for him. Willy added that this individual only works for highway during snow and ice events. He is normally a solid waste employee and serves as solid waste general foreman. The employee on disability is expected to retire next month. Willy was also asked to provide a department organizational chart. Mr. Hurley also requested Willy provide detailed job descriptions and an analysis as to whether or not the responsibilities of foreman can be assumed by other people. Mr. Hurley requested a written procedure of how assessment of road conditions are done. Also, should Town Highway Superintendents be involved in checking road conditions? Mr. Hurley would like justification for state snow and ice, including an equation that defends that we are fully reimbursed by the state. This is an item on the budget officers "To Do List" and is due to be completed in May. Mr. Banks stated that we get salary, benefits and equipment rental reimbursement. Chairman Brown clarified that it is only during a snow/ice event that we get reimbursement. Willy examined this last summer and state snow/ice contract yields about \$2 more per hour than cost. Chairman Brown stated that there has been a lot of questions about the Deputy Highway Superintendent and asked that Willy be sure to include the Deputy Highway Superintendent's job description/duties/responsibilities. Another concern raised is trucks out on the roads when it's not snowing.

SUB-COMMITTEE DISCUSSIONS: Paving - Study County vs. Contracting - Willy informed the committee that when he sends out pavement delivered bids he will add an alternate for pavement placed.

OTHER BUSINESS - Mr. Rymph asked for an update on CHIPs. The Governor is proposing that CHIPs

be restored to last year's funding level. With stimulus funding coming, the state will not have to spend their share of federally funded projects, so the state is proposing passing those savings down through CHIPs.

Willy went to DOT yesterday to discuss ongoing projects. One project that we are administering but do not have money in are the two railroad bridges in Whitehall, which will be funded by stimulus. Bids for this project will be going out in about a month. This frees up about \$2 million in bridge rehab funds. If we can get federal highway administration approval, Willy wants to amend the CR 12 Truthville bridge project to include Lower Turnpike as the detour. Kevin stated that once we know where federal funds are going to go, we will need to amend various capital projects. Mr. Lindsay asked about the status of the railroad paying our costs to administer the Whitehall railroad bridge projects. Willy will have to check his notes on that. We may be able to do single course overlays on federal aid eligible roads. Unfortunately the County doesn't have a lot and some were recently paved. As far as towns roads, this would be largely limited to Kingsbury and Fort Edward. County Engineers are out this week doing pavement evaluations on those federally eligible roads and prioritizing them.

Mr. Campbell reported that there are cracks on CR 31 in Hebron near Middle road that was re-paved two years ago.

Local Law A - Hauler license law. Roger Wickes would like to meet with some committee members to review comments from last time this law was introduced. Supervisors Brown, Hurley and Wilbur will meet with Roger this afternoon. Chairman Brown asked if private industry should be consulted. Willy suggested contacting the Solid Waste Association of America and/or their New York chapter for a more global perspective.

Chairman Brown asked if there was any interest in establishing a subcommittee similar to the Covered Bridge Advisory Committee for recycling/solid waste. Chairman Brown thinks this could be an avenue where there could be some simple communication between the recycling community and this committee. There was a Recycling Advisory Committee that hasn't met since 1997.

Mr. Shay asked about experimental Sunday hours. Kevin feels we should look at summer/winter hours because the stations are much busier in the summer.

Ms. Frisch stated that their group is energized and would be willing to work to find funds or help to establish programs for recycling and would bring these ideas back to the committee for evaluation. Kevin feels we should look at a Start type program. Chairman Brown stated he is not against a recycling coordinator but doesn't want to spend the money for one. If there is someone who wants to volunteer, that's great. We don't need to be building more infrastructure that we cannot finance in the future. That is consistent with what we are trying to do in all aspects of the budget. Mr. McIntosh stated more information is needed regarding the waste stream in the County. Chairman Brown stated hopefully the hauler licensing local law they are considering would provide that information. Mr. Hurley suggested checking what systems are in place in comparable counties in the state. This would be a good source of information. Regarding educating the public on how they can reduce their waste costs and how they can increase recycling, Chairman Brown feels if we engage the schools systems, they could do most of

it at minimal costs, if any.

Mr. Pate asked if the committee or Board of Supervisors could do a resolution to instruct schools how to recycle. The schools should get involved and educate kids about recycling. Chairman Brown suggested the group get together and present a proposal for ways to educate the public on recycling. Mr. Shay suggested possibly having the Deputy Superintendent take on the duties of recycling coordinator. Willy said he has worked with some schools on recycling. Ms. Frische asked that the committee allow her group to work with the schools and come up with a proposal that they would bring back to the committee to evaluate. She stated that some schools are using a private vendor, Green Fiber, who pays them \$25 a ton for recyclables, rather than delivering the recyclables to the transfer stations where it benefits the County financially. Chairman Brown told Ms. Frische to go ahead and put a proposal together and the committee will look at it.

The meeting adjourned at 12:25 PM.

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