

**ALLEGANY COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

February 7, 2018

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 9:13 a.m. by Chairman Curtis W. Crandall

LEGISLATORS PRESENT: Chairman C. Crandall, G. Barnes, W. Dibble, D. Fanton (9:57 a.m.), B. Harris, S. Havey (10:02 a.m.), J. Ricci, P. Stockin (Absent: J. Burdick, P. Curran, D. Decker, K. Graves, D. Healy, J. Hopkins, D. Root)

OTHERS PRESENT: T. Boyde, G. Green, R. Hollis, G. James, Y. Marks, M. McCormick, B. Riehle, D. Scholes, A. Young

DEPARTMENTAL PRESENTATION AND TOURS:

Public Works Department

Public Works Superintendent Guy James introduced some key staff members from his department: Dean Scholes, Deputy Public Works Superintendent; Yvonne Marks, Public Works Fiscal Manager; and A.J. Young, General Supervisor, who is in charge of day-to-day operations at our Friendship Shop. Mr. James indicated that Tom Windus, Engineer, is a critical part of the department; however, he was not able to attend due to illness.

Superintendent James distributed binders to all Legislators that provided an overview and touched on the complexity of the department. Mr. James stated that they may want to schedule some follow-up meetings and site visits to look at bridges, the landfill, progress upstairs, and various shops, etc.

Mr. James stated that they have a very diverse and complex department with over 33 specialized positions/job titles. The Public Works Department is the second largest County department with 100 full-time employees, 8 part-time employees, and 19 seasonal employees. Mr. James indicated that the seasonal employees are very important and vital to their operation and free up full-time staff to work on other projects. Mr. James also briefly talked about how other municipalities are an important part of their operation. Shared services are not anything new; they've been doing it for years. Public Works employees report to at least 17 different work locations all around the County, and their work place covers 1,034 square miles, which is equal to the size of Rhode Island. It takes 1.5 hours to cross the County diagonally on clear roads.

The Public Works Department is comprised of several different divisions – Administration, Buildings & Grounds, Engineering, Highway, and Solid Waste. The 2018 County Budget is \$118.6 million, and Public Works' portion is over \$17.3 million (14.8%) of the County operating budget, and these figures do not include our capital projects which total another \$7.7 million. Mr. James indicated that his Administration and Engineering staff are the hub and spokes that provide support, guidance, and assistance to the other divisions. The Buildings & Grounds Division performs the maintenance and upkeep of our

County buildings and facilities. Mr. James noted that there are at least 27 different facilities as well as 18 tower sites.

Our Solid Waste System used to take in approximately 24,000 tons of garbage annually (90 tons/day). After the Landfill closed in March of 2017, we handled approximately 8,300 tons in 9 months at our Transfer Stations, and that garbage was hauled to either Steuben County in Bath for \$26/ton or Casella's Hyland Waste Facility in Angelica at \$37.05/ton. Mr. James stated that although Casella charges \$11 more a ton, travel plays a big part, and sometimes it's more economical to take our garbage there. The Solid Waste System recycled over 1,575 tons of recyclables in 2017, and we hauled approximately 3.6 million gallons of leachate in 2017 at \$.025/gallon, costing us approximately \$90,000/year.

The Highway Division represents Public Works' largest division. We have 345.76 centerline miles of County Highway (all paved 20'-24' wide), and 691.48 edge-line miles. Mr. James indicated that they plan to hot mix pave approximately 33 centerline miles of County highways (9.5%) with CHIPS (Consolidated Highway Improvement Program) funding, and they plan to surface treat another 32 centerline miles (9.3%) with oil and stone which is funded locally in 2018. Although these are both great programs, 81.2 percent of our highways are not getting resurfaced this year. Mr. James stated that it costs \$100,000 to \$120,000 per centerline mile to pave a road with 1.5" of blacktop, and it costs \$17,000 to \$19,000 per centerline mile to oil and stone a road. Their goal is to pave a road with at least 1.5 of hot mix asphalt and then six to eight years later, surface treat it with oil and stone, and then re-pave it again with hot mix asphalt ten to fifteen years later. Because of this procedure, Allegany County has some of the best county roads in New York State. Every County highway gets centerline striped annually and edge-lines are done with the remaining funds based on traffic volumes. Public Works budgeted \$200,000 for striping in 2018.

Allegany County has 122 bridges (>20'), 181 town bridges, and 2,172 culverts (<20'), and 4,400 County road signs. There are also 108 State-owned bridges for a total of 411 bridges in Allegany County. Mr. James mentioned that he also has a separate bridge presentation. Mr. James stated that they keep track of over 50 different statistics for each bridge, and some of those categories include: the year the structure was built, size and dimensions, skew geometry, contractor, painting schedules, drainage area, deck supplier, timber species, treatment types, pavement membranes, cost, etc. We plan to design and build six bridges or culverts in 2018 with our own workforce in the towns of Amity, Birdsall, Centerville, Cuba, Genesee, and Hume. Mr. James mentioned that the Hume and Centerville projects are getting recycled Tappan Zee Bridge Panels. Since 1988, we have built 166 new bridges and rehabilitated another 102 totaling 218 of our 303 bridges, or 72% in the last 30 years. Some of the bigger projects exceeded what our crews can handle and thirty-three (15%) were done by outside contractors, while 185 (85%) were done in-house. In the past five years, we have painted 185 (61%) of our 303 bridges. Allegany County ranks third in New York State with the lowest percent deficient rating at 15.46 percent, and we also rank third in highest overall condition rating with a score of 5.837 on a scale from one to seven. Our program is near the top in the state and is a result of a long-time commitment by many people. Legislator Brooke Harris asked Mr. James to explain how the bridge program works, and Mr. James provided an overview noting that towns not selected in a given year are encouraged to apply again. Legislator Gary Barnes asked how deficient a bridge has to be before the weight limit is reduced. Mr. James explained that a degree of conservatism is built in, but when a rating goes below five on a scale from one to seven, the

structure is determined to be deficient. Each structure is evaluated individually, and it is the NYS Department of Transportation (NYS DOT) that makes those determinations and any weight limit reductions.

Mr. James indicated that he believes we need to improve on our equipment purchases. Although Public Works plans to purchase some new equipment in 2018 (two new 10-wheelers, two new small dump trucks, a fork lift, and four fleet pickups), Mr. James asserted that we need to start budgeting more money for equipment purchase in the future as our fleet is rapidly aging, and our Solid Waste System demands have changed with the closure of the Landfill. We are currently budgeting less for equipment than we did 10-15 years ago. Within the next few years, we will need a new bridge crane at over \$1 million and a new under bridge inspection unit at \$800,000. We should also look at lease agreements for big trucks and equipment. Mr. James mentioned how purchases are handled in a few other counties.

Superintendent James also mentioned that our building facilities will need upgrades in the near future. The Public Safety Facility deteriorates much faster than the other offices due to it being a 24/7/365 operation. Legislator William Dibble asked about the condition of the garage by the Tronetti house.

Mr. James stated that he believes that our Public Works Department should run like a business, not like a government! He expects production and efficiency as we are all taxpayers. Mr. James declared that our dedicated staff take pride in all of the work they do for the taxpayers, and they are all constantly trying to sell people on our County, and the Public Works Department does receive a lot of compliments. Mr. James stated that his door is always open, and he encouraged Board members to come to his office at any time to discuss any questions or concerns they may have.

Weights and Measures

Gilbert Green, Director of the Weights and Measures Department introduced himself, noting that he has been in the position for almost 15 years. Mr. Green stated that he is currently the Secretary of the NYS Weights and Measures Association as well as a past President. Mr. Green briefly explained his qualifications, noting that he graduated from Alfred State College in December 2000 with a degree in Mechanical Design Engineering. Mr. Green talked about some of his outside interests and positions indicating that all of these activities have helped with his job because he has learned to make quick, accurate decisions and interact with a wide variety of backgrounds, proficiency, and knowledge.

Mr. Green operates with an annual budget of approximately \$78,000. Some of the services provided by the department include the following:

1. Check all commercial equipment in the County for accuracy:
 - a. Fuel pumps
 - b. Fuel pumps for octane/cetane levels
 - c. Store scales
 - d. Truck scales
 - e. Fuel oil trucks
 - f. Pharmacy scales

- g. Timing devices
 - h. Bulk tanks
 - i. Any other device that weighs or measures items for public sale
2. Randomly check commodities for package accuracy
 3. Randomly check commodities and scanners for pricing accuracy

Mr. Green explained various measuring devices and distributed a sheet listing different types of establishments and how many establishments can be found in each jurisdiction as well as how many times each is inspected. Legislator Gary Barnes asked if Mr. Green had the equipment he needed, and Mr. Green indicated that he did, noting that counties will sometimes share specialized measuring equipment when needed. Legislator John Ricci asked if Mr. Green checks octane levels, and Mr. Green indicated that he checks them all once a year. Chairman Crandall noted that Weights & Measures is a mandated program.

Board of Elections

Board of Elections Commissioners Richard “Rick” Hollis and Michael McCormick greeted Board members as they arrived at the offices located at 6 Schuyler Street in Belmont. Mr. Hollis and Mr. McCormick provided a tour of their facility, and the fire-proof safe was pointed out. The process for handling voter registration files was discussed. Record storage was discussed as well as how long certain election records need to be saved. They discussed how records are purged and how others are scanned and saved. A monthly conference call is held with the NYS Board of Elections for direction and discussions on operations. They left the facility at 6 Schuyler Street, and proceeded to the machine storage facility on Court Street. The Commissioners explained why the County is now storing the machines, and machine replacement and costs associated with replacing the machines were discussed. Space needs and facilities were discussed, and County Administrator Boyde mentioned that there is a plan to ensure compliance.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Legislator Havey, seconded by Legislator Dibble, and carried at approximately 11:00 a.m. so that the regular standing committee meetings could be held.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Rigby Riehle, Clerk of the Board
Allegany County Board of Legislators