

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
November 2, 2022

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 1:01 p.m. by Public Works Committee Chairman Dwight Fanton.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Committee Chairman Dwight Fanton.

Roll Call: D. Fanton, K. Demick, G. Barnes (Arrived 1:06 p.m.), P. Curran, A. Cyr, D. Healy, J. Rumfelt, P. Stockin

Other Attendees: T. Boyde, R. Budinger, J. Burdick, A. Carrow, G. Hanchett, B. Harris, S. Havey, K. Hooker, C. Jones, T. Linn, J. Ricci, J. Ricketts-Swales, B. Riehle, D. Root, T. Ross, D. Scholes, T. Windus

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Legislator Rumfelt, seconded by Legislator Healy, and carried to approve the minutes of October 5, 2022.

Highway

Bridge Updates

Department of Public Works Superintendent Thomas Windus stated that the bridge crew has begun work on Local Bridge #25-03 on Watson Road in the Town of Ward. He explained that the detour is complete, and they are removing trees. Mr. Windus anticipates the project to be completed by the end of this year.

Pine Street Bridge Award

Mr. Windus requested a resolution to award the replacement of the Pine Street Bridge over Canacadea Creek to Twin Tiers Constructors, Inc. in the amount of \$3,641,000. He explained that the bid analysis was completed, and Popli Design Group recommended that they award the bid to Twin Tiers Constructors. Mr. Windus stated that he had a conference call the previous week with Highway Superintendents and DOT representatives in region 6 and there was a consensus vote to allow them to use rural county bridge funding of \$806,000 to cover the construction cost gap. Committee Chair Fanton thanked Region 6 for coming through with the additional funding. The request was approved on a motion by Legislator Demick, seconded by Legislator Healy, and carried. **Refer to Ways and Means**

Supplemental Agreement #2

Mr. Windus requested a resolution approving supplemental agreement #2 with Popli Design Group for the replacement of Pine Street Bridge over Canacadea Creek. Construction Support and Construction Inspection services are required for the next phase of the project that was not included in the original agreement. This supplemental agreement will increase the amount of the current agreement by \$406,000. The agreement completion date is extended to December 31, 2023. The request was approved on a motion by Legislator Cyr, seconded by Legislator Rumfelt, and carried. **Refer to Ways and Means**

County Route 26 Bridge Demolition to Bid

Mr. Windus requested authorization to go out to bid for the demolition of the County Route 26 bridge and that the bid, if authorized, would be scheduled to be opened December 8, 2022. Mr. Windus explained that they received all necessary concurrences for the NYSDOT as well as the environmental clearances. He stated that they hope to be able to push through the award process and start construction

by January 9, 2023, and they will have to be out of the water by April 1. Mr. Windus explained that they continue to monitor the abutment and that it continues to move. He implores everyone to stay off the bridge. The request was approved on a motion by Legislator Cyr, seconded by Legislator Demick, and carried.

County Route 26 Bridge Supplemental Agreement

Mr. Windus requested a resolution to accept and appropriate the approved Marchiselli funding for the Design and Right-of-Way Incidental phases not previously appropriated to Capital Project CR26 Bridge, Belfast, BIN 3330740. The project funding will now be 80 percent Federal, 15 percent State, and 5 percent Local. The following transfer is required to decrease the portion of County funding now being covered by Marchiselli funding, reducing the Local Share to 5 percent of the project instead of the 20 percent as budgeted. (\$76,750 down from \$271,000).

Budget adjustment requested as follows:

| | | | |
|-------|---------------|------------------------------|-------------|
| From: | | | |
| | H5980.5031.00 | CR 26, Belfast, County Share | (\$203,250) |
| To: | | | |
| | H5980.3097.00 | CR 26, Belfast, State Share | \$203,250 |

Reference resolution #116-22 for the original appropriation of funding before Marchiselli funding was awarded to Allegany County.

The request was approved on a motion by Legislator Demick, seconded by Legislator Rumpfelt, and carried. **Refer to Ways and Means**

Equipment

Mr. Windus explained that they are having issues with both of their D7 bulldozers. He stated that they had asked to replace their old graders in their 2023 Budget, but the bulldozers are now the priority. Mr. Windus explained that they need a reliable bulldozer and that the D7 replacement cost is approximately \$800,000. Mr. Windus stated that they are recommending the purchase of a D6 bulldozer at approximately \$600,000. They are also asking for permission to place the two D7 bulldozers in the equipment auction with a preset minimum dollar amount. Mr. Windus stated that their goal is to reprioritize and purchase a bulldozer instead of a grader.

Legislator Demick commented that they need the grader but almost every Town has a grader that they could share through the municipal agreement. Legislator Demick stated that the issues with the bulldozers are serious, and he does not want anyone to get hurt. The request was approved on a motion by Legislator Rumpfelt, seconded by Legislator Healy, and carried.

Solid Waste

Repairs to Runway

Mr. Windus stated that the runway repairs to the Alfred Transfer Station were completed by the bridge crew along with help from District 3.

Secondary Leachate Line

Mr. Windus stated that the annual flushing of the secondary leachate lines at the County Landfill has been completed.

Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) Update

Mr. Windus stated that the updated SWPPP was submitted to NYSDEC for their review, and they were given a verbal concurrence to the findings and proposed upgrades. Mr. Windus explained that they are proposing to line the two north stormwater basins and direct-pipe the outlets under County Route 48 directly to the Genesee River. They are also proposing the installation of a french drain along the east side of County Route 48 to catch any groundwater to dry up the County Route 48 roadbed. Mr. Windus stated that these measures would assure that the stormwater basins are not adding to the groundwater surcharge under County Route 48. Mr. Windus stated that they will request a proposal from LaBella for the design work and come back to the committee for consideration.

Buildings and Grounds

Fire Code Inspections

Mr. Windus explained that fire code inspections have been taking place and only minor issues were found. Mr. Windus stated that any issues will be addressed, and the work will be completed in a timely manner.

Remodel of Health Clinic

Mr. Windus stated that they completed the remodeling of the Health Clinic on the ground floor.

Old Business

Friendship Shop Update

Mr. Windus stated that they are back at the drawing board looking for potential locations suitable for rebuilding the Friendship shop.

New Business

Renewal of Lease with Duane and Terry Gelser

Mr. Windus requested approval to lease a parcel of land on County Route 15A from Duane & Terry Gelser. The lease shall be for the term of five years, from January 15, 2023, to January 14, 2027. The yearly rental will be \$250. Mr. Windus explained that they use this lease to store chip sealing stone and other resurfacing supplies. The request was approved on a motion by Legislator Healy, seconded by Legislator Demick, and carried. **Refer to Ways and Means**

Request to Fill HMEO II

Mr. Windus requested to fill one full-time Heavy Motor Equipment Operator II (AFSCME bargaining unit, Grade: 14, Step: Base to 7) and all subsequent positions in the Department of Public Works. The annual salary of this position is estimated to be between \$39,673.09 and \$48,398.06, with benefits estimated to be between \$17,313.34 and \$21,120.91. This position is funded with 100 percent County funds and is included in the 2022 Budget. Mr. Windus explained that this is an unfunded open position. He stated that one reason to fill this position is for retention and future advancement of employees. Mr. Windus explained the HMEO II position is the operator and that all the district crews and bridge crews have operators. He explained that if that operator is off, they have no one to lend from the Friendship shop. Filling this position will enable them to lend a capable person. The request was approved on a motion by Legislator Rumfelt, seconded by Legislator Demick, and carried. **Refer to Ways and Means**

Request to Fill Building Maintenance Mechanic

Mr. Windus requested to fill one full-time Building Maintenance Mechanic (AFSCME bargaining unit, Grade: 15, Step: Base to 7) and all subsequent positions in the Department of Public Works. The annual salary of this position is estimated to be between \$40,907.78 and \$50,996.73, with benefits estimated to be between \$17,852.15 and \$22,241.88. This position is funded with 100 percent County funds and is included in the 2022 Budget. The request was approved on a motion by Legislator Rumpfelt, seconded by Legislator Cyr, and carried. **Refer to Ways and Means**

Request to Fill Heavy Equipment Mechanic

Mr. Windus requested to fill one full-time Heavy Equipment Mechanic (AFSCME bargaining unit, Grade: 14, Step: Base to 7) and all subsequent positions in the Department of Public Works. The annual salary of this position is estimated to be between \$39,673.09 and \$48,398.06, with benefits estimated to be between \$17,313.34 and \$21,120.92. This position is funded with 100 percent County funds and is included in the 2022 Budget. Mr. Windus explained that this is a recurring request because people are leaving County employment to work elsewhere for more money. Mr. Windus read a text from the incumbent that quit that day which expressed that the pay was too low, and they could not afford rent and groceries. The request was approved on a motion by Legislator Demick, seconded by Legislator Rumpfelt, and carried. **Refer to Ways and Means**

Promotion of Rob Langdon to Junior Engineer

Mr. Windus stated that they promoted Rob Langdon to the Junior Engineer position and that they are excited about that move, and they are confident he will do a phenomenal job.

Request to Fill Senior Engineering Technician

Mr. Windus requested to fill one full-time Senior Engineer Technician (PEF bargaining unit, Grade: 5, Step: Base to 11) and all subsequent positions in the Department of Public Works. The annual salary of this position is estimated to be between \$41,922.06 and \$58,029.97, with benefits estimated to be between \$18,294.79 and \$25,324.28. This position is funded with 100 percent County funds and is included in the 2022 Budget. The request was approved on a motion by Legislator Cyr, seconded by Legislator Healy, and carried. **Refer to Ways and Means**

Town Hourly Rates and Insurance Co-Pay

Mr. Windus stated that the summary of the town hourly rates and insurance co-pays is in response to a request from Chairman Fanton. Mr. Windus stated that he appreciated the help of the Town Highway Superintendent Association and Bonnie VanHousen for helping him send it out to everybody. Mr. Windus explained that they are losing good employees and have multiple open positions that they cannot fill due to the current salaries offered. Mr. Windus noted that he does not believe that all the towns have a step system. Mr. Windus stated that he is hopeful that something can be done about this soon so they can hire and retain quality employees.

Legislator Demick stated that as a past Town Highway Superintendent, he is not shocked that they are having difficulty hiring and retaining employees after seeing the hourly wage sheet. Mr. Demick explained that most towns do not have a step system in place. Mr. Demick stated that he has hopes that as they continue to work on the salary issue, it will funnel down to the town as well.

Legislator Rumpfelt agreed and explained that they are trying to hire employees in the Village of Andover, but they can't compete with private sector pay rates.

County Administrator Carissa Knapp explained that the sheet lists all the union positions but the MEO positions near the bottom list the base salary. Ms. Knapp stated that they can start people at higher steps than the base if appropriate. She stated that they should go back to the Towns and ask if this is their base rate or if they have a step system. Ms. Knapp also stated that the insurance copay is 25 percent for new employees unless they're taking the high deductible plan which is a 5 percent copay. Ms. Knapp then explained that if you look at the equity contributions as a percentage, you don't know what their premium equivalency is; therefore, 25 percent in one place could be much cheaper than 25 percent elsewhere. Ms. Knapp stated that they need more detail before comparing them to make sure we have accurate comparisons.

Legislator Root stated that upon doing some of her research, she realized that they are starting employees with a 25 percent deduction on their insurance which makes their hourly wage less than minimum wage. Legislator Root stated that this is something they should investigate.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 1:25 p.m. following a motion by Legislator Rumpfelt, seconded by Legislator Barnes, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Tiffany Linn, Confidential Secretary
Allegany County Board of Legislators