

Office of the Onondaga County Legislature

Court House, Room 407
401 Montgomery Street
Syracuse, New York 13202
(315) 435-2070 Fax: (315) 435-8434
www.ongov.net

0

EDUCATION AND LIBRARIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

APRIL 18, 2006

JAMES DIBLASI, CHAIRMAN

MEMBERS PRESENT: *Mr. Corbett, Mr. Holmquist, Ms. Mulroy, Mr. Kinne

ALSO PRESENT: see attached list

Chairman DiBlasi called the meeting to order at 11:15 a.m.

A motion was made by Mr. Kinne, seconded by Ms. Mulroy to waive reading of minutes and approve minutes as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

1. OCPL: Ms. Kate McCaffrey

a. Amending the 2006 County Budget to accept Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds for the Onondaga County Public Library and authorizing the County Executive to enter into contracts to implement this resolution (\$34,159)

Second year of a two year LSTA grant. Focus will be Spanish language instruction for library staff, Spanish translation of key printed pieces, outreach programs to the Latino community and library website access in Spanish.

A motion was made by Mr. Kinne, seconded by Ms. Mulroy to approve this item. Vote was unanimous; MOTION CARRIED.

b. Amending the 2006 County Budget to accept Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds for the Onondaga County Public Library and authorizing the County Executive to enter into contracts to implement this resolution (\$58,430)

*Mr. Corbett arrived at the meeting.

Second year of a two year LSTA grant to be used for specific staff training regarding technology skills related to the OCPL's forthcoming integrated library system. They have hired a trainer. Have asked the State for an extension while they resolve a vendor issue.

A motion was made by Ms. Mulroy, seconded by Mr. Kinne to approve this item. Vote was unanimous; MOTION CARRIED.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Johanna H. Robb

Deputy Clerk

* * *

COUNTY FACILITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

JAMES W. FARRELL, CHAIRMAN

APRIL 20, 2006

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Rhinehart, Mr. Kraft, Mr. Holmquist, Mr. Whelan, Mr. Kinne, Mr. Laguzza

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Sweetland, Mr. Meyer and see attached list (*Attachment 1*)

Chairman Farrell called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

A motion was made by Mr. Whelan, seconded by Mr. Rhinehart to waive reading of minutes and approve minutes as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

1. TRANSPORTATION: Acting Commissioner Mark Lynch

a. Approving the reconstruction and construction of improvements to various bridges in and for the County of Onondaga, New York, at a maximum estimated cost of \$1,275,000 and authorizing the issuance of \$1,275,000 serial bonds of said County to pay the cost thereof

b. Authorizing the reconstruction and construction of improvements to various highways in and for the County of Onondaga, New York, at a maximum estimated cost of \$7,525,000 and authorizing the issuance of \$7,525,000 serial bonds of said County to pay the cost thereof

Mr. Lynch noted that 1a. and 1b. are included in the 2006 Highway Plan (*on file with Clerk*). 1a. is the borrowing for the bridge portion of the work plan and 1b. is for the roadwork portion.

2006 Highway Plan

Highway Projects:

- Grand Avenue (from the City line to Bellevue Ave) - includes reconstruction of Fay Road, two bridges. \$3.7 million; \$3.2 million coming out of Highway and \$500,000 out of Bridges.
- Thompson Road Design (Island Rd at Northern Blvd. intersection to Rt. 31)- \$240,000 to start the design of the project- locally funded.

Federal Aid Projects:

Receive between 80% - 95% Federal and State funding depending on the phase of particular project.

- Jamesville Road Bridge - will go to contract this summer - majority of work will be done next year.
- Hosman Road - will go to construction this year, hope to have completed this year.
- East Taft Road (from S. Bay Rd. east to Northern Blvd.) - Highway widening and overlay project - still in design.

Traffic System Management:

- Soule Road - \$250,000 added to leftover monies allocated in last year's program - for turn lanes - work to be done this summer.
- Taft Road - \$100,000 for a traffic signal at a proposed new road at the North Medical Center - the existing driveway onto Taft Road would be eliminated.

Cold Mix Bituminous Reconstruction:

15 miles - \$150,000 from CHIPS money (have been told that it will increase this year (estimate \$250,000) - will not know until State budget is finalized. Have put \$100,000 in hot paving - if they don't receive the added \$250,000, will have to reduce paving.

Bridges: Borrowing \$1,275,000 for various county bridges - Oak Orchard Road, Watervale Road, Nichols Road and two on Grand Avenue.

Paving: 37.7 miles of hot mix paving (based on a cost of \$155,000 per mile) - if cost of oil and fuel keeps going up, they will have to reduce the miles. All items that they purchase through bids have escalation clauses. In answer to Mr. Whelan's question, Mr. Lynch said they use all their milling for either fill or driveways. They have done some recycling by having machines grind up the existing road, put it back down and pave over it. Mr. Holmquist asked about priority of jobs if prices go up and there is a need to cut back. Mr. Lynch said they are not listed by priority; they would have to review the list and establish a priority.

Guidrail: \$370,000 - for new projects and to keep existing up to acceptable level of service.

Bituminous Surface Treatment: 54.5 miles - \$777,000 - use slurry seal (for lower volume roads).

Testing: \$120,000 used to test surface of roads and also to help pay for a consultant to do a pavement management study.

Drainage: \$120,000 for various drainage projects throughout County.

Facilities Repair: \$100,000 - monies spent on the different facilities. Upped from \$50,000 last year - have two aging maintenance facilities with major issues. **Mr. Farrell said that a visit to the North Area Maintenance Facility would be scheduled prior to the next committee meeting.**

Mr. Kraft asked what the bond was last year; Mr. Lynch replied \$9.315 million. Mr. Lynch handed out a memorandum that shows past bond issues, past operating monies, and CHIPS monies from 1991 to 2006 (on file with Clerk).

Mr. Farrell asked what the cost for overlay and paving was two years ago. Mr. Lynch replied \$135,000 - it is now at \$155,000.

Mr. Kinne asked why they hardly ever make their goals for hot paving and surface treatment. Mr. Lynch said they would like to surface treat the secondary roads every five years - like to show what they would like to do and what they are doing - best they can with what they are given.

Mr. Laguzza requested information on the cost of the recycling per mile on both processes and the advantages and disadvantages to recycling.

Mr. Kraft realizes there are constraints on what they can do - is interested in the condition of the roads - hopes they would come to the legislature and tell them if they are in a crisis situation. Mr. Lynch replied that he is working with paving management people to come up with an answer - last year's increase helped significantly - doesn't think it is a crisis situation.

Chairman Farrell noted the challenge to the Commissioner and staff to specifically answer whether we are substantially increasing our future costs as a result of not maintaining the roads within the guidelines of the plan.

Mr. Lynch said the plan has a list of variables; they would like to be doing more than 37 miles per year - hopefully will have an answer within the next few weeks regarding the plan and the number of miles that should be done every year.

A motion was made by Mr. Kraft, seconded by Mr. Whelan to approve items 1.a and 1.b. A vote was taken and passed unanimously. MOTION CARRIED.

c. Confirming the appointment of Mark P. Lynch as Commissioner of Transportation for the County of Onondaga

A motion was made by Mr. Kraft, seconded by Mr. Kinne to approve this item. A vote was taken and passed unanimously. MOTION CARRIED.

d. Discussion: Process regarding funding for road construction and paving - Mr. Lynch

Chairman Farrell suggested meeting prior to next month's formal committee meeting for one half hour to discuss the process of approval and implementation of the work plan, with more discussion at the meeting, if necessary, and further discussions beyond that, if needed. Various members suggested one hour; Chairman Farrell will try to work out times with the Clerk so that it does not conflict with the Public Safety meeting.

Regarding the visit to the north area facility: Chairman Farrell will try to set it up for late in the first week of May. More committee members are available in the afternoon than morning.

2. FACILITIES MANAGEMENT: Mr. Manny Barbas

a. Authorizing an application for grant funds for historic preservation under the Environmental Protection Act of 1993 for the restoration of the exterior of the Onondaga County Courthouse (\$350,000)

A motion was made by Mr. Kinne, seconded by Mr. Rhinehart to approve this item.

Mr. Barbas said the Court House officially opened on January 1, 1907. Last roofing work on this building was in 1980; copper on building is 100 years old, clay tile on two major domes needs to be replaced as well as copper flashing on all ledges. This is not an authorization for bonds to do the project - it is authorization to apply for a grant. Estimate for the exterior renovation of the building was estimated in the end of 2005 at \$6.1 million if started in 2006. Would be a two-phase project - can only be done during construction season. Mr. Barbas said the design is not completed - would have to go out to bid next winter with work beginning next spring. Concerning grant, they are asking for the maximum amount (\$350,000) and are hopeful that they will get

another \$350,000 grant the following year for phase 2. It is a reimbursement grant - 50% matching - project has to be completed within five years of acceptance of grant - have to sign a legal covenant with State Historic Preservation that they will not change the use of the building or do any restoration that they would not concur with for twenty years. Deadline for application for grant is May 26, 2006. Mr. Barbas will present a Power Point in the future of all the problems with the building and why it has to be done. In answer to Mr. Whelan, Mr. Barbas said they are trying to make the grant specific to the work that they need to accomplish in phase 1. The Building is on the National Register designated for local importance - may have some state importance because it is a court house - grant is for state and federal designations, but they have been told that this building would qualify.

A vote was taken on this item and passed unanimously. MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Barbas handed out a chart concerning the implementation schedule for the Onondaga County District Heating & Cooling Plant Chiller Water Plant Energy Efficiency Improvements (*attachment 2*). Mr. Barbas suggested touring the plant in August or September.

3. PARKS: Commissioner Robert Geraci

The agenda was taken out of order.

c. Discussion: Interagency Marketing

Commissioner Geraci presented a promotional video for County Parks that they use when on the road and for new employees - put together by Parks Department with Channel 5 concerning the values and benefits of Parks and Recreation. This video won the NYS Recreation and Park Society Promotional and Marketing award of the year for communities over 250,000.

Mr. Coley passed out a report concerning Onondaga County Parks Marketing and Promotions Update (*attachment 3*). Mr. Cooley said they have met a couple of times with MOST, Everson Museum, Erie Canal Museum concerning cross-marketing. An example: Lights on the Lake Program dedicates 13 pages to attractions, holiday shows and everything that is going on in Syracuse. They have also had interaction with CVB and Finger Lakes Tourism Organization. **Mr. Farrell requested a goal of one new item a month on the marketing list.**

a. Discussion: Status of Friends Agreements

Commissioner Geraci stated that they have a signed agreement with the friends of the Zoo and Friends of Historic Onondaga Lake; Carpenters Brook Fish Hatchery agreement is on the County Executive's desk to be signed, and they are working on getting the Friends of Beaver Lake memorandum of understanding signed. By June of this year, all agreements should be in place. Mr. Geraci supplied copies of all the agreements to the committee members (*on file with Clerk*).

Mr. Kraft asked if there is any provision for termination in the agreements; Mr. Geraci replied that they are open ended. Ms. Tarolli said that either party could walk away from it - goal is to reduce to writing the current understanding of the parties concerning operation. Chairman Farrell said, through clear understanding, the goal is to enhance those relationships over time.

b. Discussion: Plans for Pratt's Falls and Highland Forest

Chairman Farrell thanked Mr. Geraci and the Parks staff for the informative tours of Pratt's Falls and Highland Forest.

Projects that need to be done will be discussed at a later date.

e. Discussion: Future of the Elephant Program - Mr. Chuck Doyle

Mr. Geraci said they have some short term strategies in terms of what needs to be done - don't have to do anything immediately in terms of a major investment - ultimately do have to make a decision, as a community, concerning what we want to do.

Mr. Doyle said that Rosamond Gifford Zoo has been known as leader in elephant management and reproduction since 1990. They started looking at what they should do back in 1998; in 2000, as a result of an anonymous donation, they built a four-acre outdoor exhibit. If they are going to continue to be a breeding institution, they need to house two males and six females. If the decision is to stay status quo, need to move out the breeding females. Mr. Doyle said after they determine some rough numbers and discuss ideas, a presentation would be made to the Legislature, Executive branch and the Friends of the Zoo to see what level of commitment they want and can afford. Mr. Geraci said two elephants are being put on loan in Canada that will take care of the current crowding problems at the zoo.

Mr. Laguzza asked if the American Association of Zoos and Aquariums Species Survival Plan Management Group has standards for breeding. Mr. Doyle said they have standards such as for housing, care, and medical care (28-page document). Mr. Doyle said they do not want to just meet minimum standards, because standards keep changing as they learn more. Regarding Mr. Laguzza's question concerning if they have enough acres, Mr. Doyle said the four acres they have now far exceeds the minimum;

if they build a new barn it will probably increase the area to 6 acres. Mr. Laguzza asked Mr. Doyle what he would like to see regarding the herd; Mr. Doyle said two males, six females with offspring - at times up to ten - goal is to keep families together. Mr. Geraci said we have to decide whether to have the breeding capacity or a much-reduced capacity - can't stay where we are today. Chairman Farrell said he would like to have a broader discussion, rather than just elephants, concerning what other alternatives there are and the estimated costs of those as well as the elephant program. Mr. Sweetland asked what the goal of the elephant program is - are elephants always going to be owned by the zoo and on loan someplace or are we going to be selling offspring. Mr. Rhinehart said they would need to know the goals, benefits and what the taxpayer gets out of having a breeding program.

Discussion: Pest Control Summary

No discussion.

Chairman Farrell adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Johanna H. Robb

Deputy Clerk

* * *

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE MINUTES

APRIL 25, 2006

WILLIAM H. MEYER, CHAIRMAN

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mrs. Baker, Mrs. Rapp, Mr. Ryan, Mr. Warner, Mr. Farrell, Mr. Corbett, Mr. Kraft, *Mr. Stanczyk

ALSO PRESENT: *see attached list*

Chairman Meyer called the meeting to order at: 9:30 a.m.

A motion was made by Mr. Meyer, seconded by Mr. Corbett, to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the proceedings of the previous committee meeting. MOTION CARRIED.

1. FINANCE: Mrs. Karen Carney, Director, Real Property Tax Services

a. Approving and directing the correction of certain errors on tax bills

A motion was made by Mr. Meyer, seconded by Mr. Corbett to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED

2. HEALTH: Ms. Kathy Corrado

a. Abolish Latent Print Examiner 1, Gr. 11 @ \$41,186- 445,658 effective May 13, 2006

Abolish Latent Print Examiner 2, Gr. 12 @ \$43,904 - \$48,678 effective May 13, 2006

Abolish Latent Print Examiner 3, Gr. 13 @ \$48,704-\$54,012 effective May 13, 2006

Abolish Firearms Examiner 1, Grade 11 @ \$41,186 - \$45,658 effective May 13, 2006

Abolish Firearms Examiner 2, Gr. 12 @ \$43,904 - \$48,678 effective May 13, 2006

Abolish Firearms Examiner 3, Gr. 13 @ \$48,704 - \$54,012, effective May 13, 2006

Abolish Forensic Chemist 1 (Criminalistics), Gr. 11 @ \$41,186 - \$45,658 effective May 13, 2006

Abolish Forensic Chemist 2 (Criminalistics), Gr. 12 @ \$43,904 - \$48,678 effective May 13, 2006

Abolish Forensic Chemist 3 (Criminalistics), Gr. 13 @ \$48,704 - \$54,012 effective May 13, 2006

Create Senior Latent Print Examiner, Gr. 33 @ \$50,598 - \$71,624 effective May 6, 2006

Create Senior Firearms Examiner, Gr. 33 @ \$50,598 - \$71,624 effective May 6, 2006

Create Senior Forensic Chemist (Criminalistics), Gr. 33 @ \$50,598 - \$71,624 effective May 6, 2006

Abolish Director of Criminalistics, Gr. 33 @ \$50,598 - \$71,624 effective upon completion of the incumbent's probationary period in Senior Latent Print Examiner

Ms. Corrada explained that the Director of Criminalistics position was a lab director that was created to supervise many disciplines in the laboratory. 3 additional other forensic examinations are performed, cases in laboratory have increased significantly. It is too much for one person to do--working on average of over 50 hrs/week. This is asking to abolish the Dir or Criminalistics (supervisor position) and promote 3 scientists positions to supervisor positions in firearms, latent prints and chemistry. Will allow more direct oversight and be more in line with DNA and toxicology sections of the lab. It will abolish 4 positions; create 3; salary savings of \$38,000.

A motion was made by Mr. Warner, seconded by Mrs. Rapp to approve these items; passed unanimously. MOTION CARRIED.

3. Stop DWI: Mr. Barry Weis

a. Amending 2006 County Budget to accept funds for the STOP DWI Gone4ever Program (\$27,700)

A motion was made by Mr. Ryan, seconded by Mr. Warner to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

4. TRANSPORTATION: Mr. Mark Lynch, Commissioner

a. Authorizing the reconstruction and construction of improvements to various bridges in and for the County of Onondaga, New York, at a maximum estimated cost of \$1,275,000 and authorizing the issuance of \$1,275,000 serial bonds of said County to pay the cost thereof

Copies of the work plan were distributed. Mr. Farrell said that it was determined at program committee that the Commissioner and his staff will evaluate how the plan works in the long-term management plan that the county has; will look at it from a long-term standpoint.

A motion was made by Mr. Ryan, seconded by Mr. Farrell to approve this item.

Mr. Ryan questioned funding -- pay as you go vs. bonding. Mr. Lynch responded that there is \$2.75 million in local money, \$4.1 million in State money; \$8.8 million total for bonding total both projects. In 2005 - \$9.3 million total bonding, \$2.1 million from operating, and \$3.87 million from State. Mr. Mareane said they have been trying to shift from debt to cash.

A vote was taken on the motion to approve; passed unanimously. MOTION CARRIED.

b. Authorizing the reconstruction and construction of improvements to various highways in and for the County of Onondaga, New York, at a maximum estimated cost of \$7,525,000 and authorizing the issuance of \$7,525,000 serial bonds of said County to pay the cost thereof

It was reported that 15 miles of cold mix are being done--it is in line with the past; doing 38 miles of paving. Last year they ramped up significantly to try to catch up, but 38 miles is in line prior to then. The miles are based on cost of asphalt in April; if cost goes up, may have to cut down the numbers. 54 miles of surface treatment is close to what they have done in the past.

****Mr. Stanczyk arrived at the meeting.***

Mr. Farrell questioned how much effect will the cost increase have; Mr. Lynch guessed that they may have to cut 1 or 2 miles. Asphalt suppliers are bid: Barrett in Jamesville, Barrett in Phoenix, and Hanson in Skaneateles. They are the only suppliers; price has gone up about 18% from last year.

A motion was made by Mr. Farrell, seconded by Mr. Warner to approve this item. Passed unanimously MOTION CARRIED.

5. SHERIFF: Chief William Peverly

a. **Amending the 2006 County Budget and authorizing the Onondaga County Sheriff's Office to receive proceeds from the federal government resulting from seizures of assets following investigations of illegal drug possessions and or sale and authorizing the County Executive to enter into contracts (\$54,763).**

A motion was made by Mr. Warner, seconded by Mr. Corbett to approve this item.

Chief Peverly stated this is available as a result of investigations into the illegal sale and possession of drugs, covers about 15 investigations with a variety of law enforcement organizations; this is the county's percentage share of assets seized. It is not known how many were convicted. Over \$33,000 will be used to fund a lieutenant position; the rest invested in drug enforcement unit for ongoing expenses. A deputy was going to retire, went on vacation and then pulled his papers before last day on payroll and decided to stay. Meanwhile, a promotion was made. Other people will be retiring. There was approval to fill positions temporary that was on the organization chart. **Mr. Ryan asked that Chief Peverly meet with the Personnel Department to get a game plan in the event it happens again.**

A vote was taken on the motion; passed unanimously. MOTION CARRIED.

Chief Peverly reported that the helicopter will be up the 2nd week in May - report will be coming soon.

6. VAN DUYN: Mrs. Roberta Sprague, Commissioner

a. **Amending the 2006 County Budget to accept New York State Department of Health, Bureau of Health Economics grant funds to support the Van Duyn Behavioral Care Unit and authorizing the County Executive to enter into contracts (\$1,021,339).**

A motion was made by Mrs. Baker, seconded by Mr. Ryan, to approve this item.

Ms. Cheryn Powell stated the deadline was August 1, 2005. Received noticed in December. The grant will be used to offset salary, benefits, training, laundering system maintenance fee, bed & chair alarm upgrades. This will reduce 2007 deficit by \$300,000; most of the money will be used to reduce 2006. In Behavioral Care Unit

40% of patients have primary diagnosis of dementia, 70% have secondary diagnosis of dementia.

A vote was taken on the motion; Passed unanimously. MOTION CARRIED.

7. WAYS & MEANS MISCELLANEOUS: Mr. Joe Mareane, Chief Fiscal Officer

a. **2006 Transfer of funds from Acct. 650-6650 Contingent Account in the amount of \$58,691 to Acct. 676-6676 County Tourism Grant to cover increased 2005 costs of Dome Traffic Control (\$58,691).**

The bill from the City arrived after the 2005 books were closed; accrued money set-aside for 2005 for Dome traffic control costs. Due to NCAA regionals, the costs exceeded the budget - need to transfer money out of ROT fund balance to the bill.

Mr. Stanczyk questioned the status and the University's reaction. Mr. Mareane explained that effective in 2006 the County will not be involved in Dome traffic control. The University and City have acknowledged it and are making plans for traffic control efforts. The City has covered expenses so far this year.

A motion was made by Mr. Warner, seconded by Mr. Farrell to approve this item.

Mrs. Rapp stated that when the OnCenter has an event, they contract with Syracuse Police and pay for their own traffic control. Mr. Stanczyk replied that agreements were made 25 years ago when the Dome was built.

Vote was taken on the motion. AYES: (7) Mrs. Baker, Mr. Corbett, Mr. Farrell, Mr. Kraft, Mr. Warner, Mr. Stanczyk, Mrs. Rapp, Mr. Meyer: NOES: 0 ABSTAINING: 1 (Mr. Ryan). MOTION CARRIED.

b. **Authorizing the sale of certain County of Onondaga tax liens on real property located within the City of Syracuse to American Tax Funding Services, LLC**

A motion was made by Mr. Stanczyk to approve this item.

The City made a similar initiative several years ago - bundled a lot of tax liens and tax delinquent properties, and sold them; County participated in it. The City had decided to repeat that in a slightly different way. The City will sell delinquent tax liens to a single vendor for \$.87 on the dollar - City will collect about \$3.5 million of its delinquent taxes. If County participates, it would

get the \$.87/\$1.00 on liens. The yield to County would be about \$3.1 million of \$3.6 million in liens that are out there. It is an acceleration of revenues that would be collected over a long period of time. Tax liens currently held by MBBA will be purchased by a new vendor so no owners will have lien control by two different companies. This went through an RFP process with City.

About \$1 million is in 2006; money collected today is money that will be collected in the future. It will come into fund balance and be designated. Mr. Colon explained that it is a revenue of the year received--can increase fund balance at year-end, and it is the legislature's discretion on what to do with that money - it cannot be put into capital fund balance.

John Gamage said prior to closing, letters will be sent to people and there will be advertising in newspapers; it is last chance before turned over.

Mr. Ryan asked about city properties included, i.e. Hotel Syracuse. Mr. Gamage said that the Hotel has been resolved. Properties excluded are vacant lands, properties in litigation, properties with potential demolition are reviewed, environmentally contaminated properties - about 1,500 properties total in the pool.

Mrs. Baker seconded by the motion. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

8. Water Environment Protection: Mr. Richard Elander, Commissioner

a. Amending the 2006 County Budget to provide additional funds for participation with Syracuse University in the 2006 Federal Work Study Community Service Program (\$3,600).

A motion was made by Mr. Corbett, seconded by Mrs. Baker to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

b. Appropriating \$1,900,000 of the proceeds for the bonds authorized to be issued pursuant to Bond Resolution No. 231 dated September 7, 1999 to provide funds for engineering and other related expenses of the Clinton Street conveyances and regional treatment facility projects (\$1,900,000).

\$700,000 was approved last fall for preliminary engineering; it has been completed with exception of archeological activity. A report was sent to all legislators. Asking for \$1.9 million of remaining funds included when project was authorized to complete final design of RTF at Clinton. Will take a year to do final design, will start construction at the end of Spring 2007, completing in early 2011. Critical to maintain some momentum. The engineering firm expects to have 50% on the design by mid-October, at a cost of \$1 million. Nothing found in preliminary engineering report that would lead to a recommendation that they should not build on the site. They do not know what the Judge's decision on the City's appeal, eminent domain case with Midland project, will be. Time is running out; each month delay on Clinton project has a \$350,000 inflation cost.

A motion was made by Mr. Corbett, seconded Mr. Farrell to approve this item. AYES; 7 (Mrs. Baker, Mr. Corbett, Mr. Kraft, Mrs. Rapp, Mr. Ryan, Mr. Warner, Mr. Meyer; NOES: 0; ABSTAINING: 1 (Mr. Stanczyk), Out of Room: Mr. Farrell. MOTION CARRIED.

c. Authorizing the settlement of condemnation proceedings for the acquisition of real property necessary for the construction, operation and maintenance of the Liverpool Pump Station improvements (\$261,350).

The legislature previously approved \$76,000 for the property owners; they did not agree; entered into eminent domain. The owners had it appraised for \$323,500; county reappraised - \$199,000. Law Department recommends settling on \$261,000; understands that the owners will accept it and any exposure to any additional interests, attorneys and appraisal fees would go away.

A motion was made by Mr. Corbett to approve this item.

It was stated that the owner's original request was \$1 million, which was not provided for by an appraiser.

Mr. Ryan said that this has become the standard operating procedure--licenses should be taken away from the appraisers for it; it costs the taxpayers a lot of money.

If this is not settled, it will go to court and the judge decides --the property owner is potentially entitled to interest, attorneys and appraiser fees--could be an additional \$110,000.

A vote was taken on the motion. Voting AYE: (7) Mrs. Baker, Mr. Corbett, Mr. Farrell, Mr. Kraft, Mrs. Rapp, Mr. Warner, Mr. Meyer; NOES: 2 (Mr. Ryan, Mr. Stanczyk). MOTION CARRIED.

9. EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS: Mr. Steven Wisely, Commissioner

a. **A Local Law authorizing the County to enter into a lease agreement with Syracuse Senior Citizens Project Corporation**

b. **A Local Law authorizing the County to enter into a lease agreement with LeMoyne College**

c. **A Local Law authorizing the County to enter into a lease agreement with Fletcher Gravel, Co., Inc.**

d. **A Local Law authorizing the County to enter into a lease agreement with Regency Towers Associates**

e. **A Local Law authorizing the County to enter into a lease agreement with the Village of Baldwinsville**

f. **A Local Law authorizing the County to enter into a lease agreement with Syracuse Housing Authority.**

A motion was made by Mr. Ryan, seconded by Mr. Stanczyk to approve items 9a-f. Vote was taken individually on each item: Item 9a: Passed unanimously; Item 9b: Passed unanimously; Item 9c: Passed unanimously; Item 9d: Passed unanimously; Item 9e: Passed unanimously; Item 9f: Passed unanimously. MOTION CARRIED.

10. OCPL: Ms. Kate McAffrey, Deputy Director

a. **Amending the 2006 County Budget to accept Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds for the Onondaga County Public Library and authorizing the County Executive to enter into contracts (\$34,159)**

This is offered to all libraries, 30 staff members had language instruction

A motion was made by Mr. Ryan, seconded by Mr. Stanczyk to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

b. **Amend 2006 County Budget to accept Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds for the Onondaga County Public Library and authorize the County Executive to enter into contracts (\$58,430)**

A motion was made by Mr. Ryan, seconded by Corbett to approve this item.

Project intended to prepare for new integrated library systems; year 2 focused on vendor training, to bring in staff from all libraries to work with vendors on various components of the integrated system. Since there is no selected vendor, the State was contacted and have allowed activities of the grant to be extended as long as money is spent by April 30, 2007.

There was discussion on the vendor selection: 2 vendors are being looked at. A new committee is in place; will hopefully come back in two months with a recommendation. Discussion continued on the committee membership, 8 members in place (Mr. Joe Mareane, Ms. Lynn Shepard Scott, Mr. Fran Simmonds, Mr. Tony Rivizzigno; 2 library board members, and 2 library staff members). Mr. Ryan suggested that having someone come in and analyze it and make objective decisions. Mr. Mareane replied that he did not think that was necessary

Chair Meyer stated that member libraries and city branches should be on the committee.

Mr. Ryan made a motion that the County Information Systems Committee include a member from the suburban libraries, a member from the city libraries, and a member from the Education and Libraries Committee, seconded by Mr. Corbett. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

The grant provided for a trainer who will work with tech support; in city alone there are 300 pc's to maintain. This will provide supplementary support, so each library will send liaisons to be trained; save tech support for higher level tasks. It will be done at central library and at libraries that have labs. **Chairman Meyer suggested that they also go to the member libraries to train.**

A vote was taken on Mr. Ryan's motion to approve the item. Passed unanimously. MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Stanczyk left the meeting.

11. Facilities Management: Mr. Mannie Barbas

a. **Authorize an application for grant funds for historic preservation under the Environmental Protection Act of 1993 for the restoration of the exterior of the Onondaga County Courthouse (\$350,000)**

The Court House will be 100 years old in 2007. He distributed an executive summary of a comprehensive study done at the end of 2005. The grant has cap of \$350,000; matching 50% share. The project will be in the \$7 million range. All copper (5 domes) needs to be replaced; 2 clay tile roof domes need to be replaced. No major re-pointing done in many years, all masonry has to be re-pointed before it can be washed; all copper needs to be replaced; windows in courtyard need work-caulking and sills, art

glass in court yard, entry door refinish and some replaced. Will be done in 2 construction seasons, a 2-phase approach and will try to get as much grant money as possible. Building is on a national registry as part of the Columbus Circle district, but only has local importance - not state and national importance; limits the types of grants available.

A motion was made by Mr. Farrell, seconded by Mr. Meyer to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

12. Law Department:

a. Settlement of Claim

A motion was made by Mr. Corbett, seconded by Mr. Meyer to exit regular session and enter executive session for the purpose of discussing legal matters. Passed unanimously. MOTION CARRIED.

A motion was made by Mr. Corbett, seconded by Mr. Meyer to exit executive session and enter regular session. Passed unanimously. MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Kraft left the meeting.

13. Aging and Youth: Mrs. Pinsky, Commissioner

a. Amending the 2006 County Budget to provide the Department of Aging and Youth - Office for the Aging with additional grant funds beyond the estimated dollars appropriated in the 2006 County Budget and authorizing the County Executive to enter into contracts (\$62,650)

Accepting additional \$50,000 -- Long Term Care Insurance Education and Outreach Program and \$12,650 Health Insurance Information, Counseling and Assistance Program. A person has been hired to go out and talk about the program - speaking mostly to 40-60 age group. Mr. Meyer said many people don't understand this, hasn't evolved to a level of being like a Medicare supplement; it is difficult to compare and to qualify for it.

There was discussion on the look back period for Medicaid, which is now 5 years; it used to be 3 years.

A motion was made by Mr. Warner, seconded by Mr. Ryan to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

DEBORAH L. FICHERA, Clerk

Onondaga County Legislature

* * *

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMITTEE

April 18, 2006

JAMES CORBETT, CHAIRMAN

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Whelan, Mr. Farrell, Mr. Rhinehart, *Mr. Kraft, **Mrs. Winslow

ALSO PRESENT: *see attached list*

Chairman Corbett called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

A motion was made by Mr. Farrell, seconded by Mr. Rhinehart, to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the proceedings of the previous committee meeting. MOTION CARRIED.

1. LAKE IMPROVEMENT: Ms. Sue Miller

a. ACJ Update

§ 60% of concrete is placed at Midland

§ 12' diameter pipe arriving; trench for conveyance pipe in; dewatering wells installed; will be laying pipe

§ Electrical contractor has started

§ Phase III-Midland Project--working on 50% design for continuation of conveyance pipeline

§ Held public hearing on Clinton project-public comment period closed 3/23/06; received 1 written comment from Mr. Heath on behalf of the Nation

§ Responsiveness summary is on file with Clerk of the Legislature; copies mailed to all speakers at the meeting (20); letters sent to those who participated, but didn't speak, stating where they could obtain the responsiveness summary; it is on the website. Biosolids handling at Metro - pile driving is done. Lake Day is June 3, 2006 at Onondaga Lake Park

§ Sewer Separation Project--awarded to C.O. Falter for nos. 47 & 48; work will commence in next 30 days

§ Harbor Brook--will start conveyance work in 2007

2. WATER ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION: Mr. Richard Elander, Commissioner

a. Amending the 2006 County Budget to provide additional funds for participation with Syracuse University in the 2006 Federal Work Study Community Service Program (\$3,600).

A motion was made by Mr. Farrell, seconded by Mr. Whelan to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

****Mr. Kraft arrived at the meeting.***

The agenda was taken out of order.

d. Authorizing the settlement of condemnation proceedings for the acquisition of real property necessary for the construction, operation and maintenance of the Liverpool Pump Station improvements (\$261,350).

Mr. Elander said that the 3 acres is where the tank actually sits. There was an appraisal done; legislature authorized condemnation for \$76,000 in 2001; the owners did not accept. The owners did their own appraisal, which was \$323,000. The County had the property reappraised, \$199,000. Mr. Murphy, County Attorney, recommends splitting the difference, \$261,000, not going to court; leaves a remaining payment of \$185,000. The cost of easements was discussed; Mr. Murphy said that it was \$100,000 for all of them.

Chair Corbett asked if this were denied, what the next recourse would be. Mr. Murphy replied that it would go to trial - with eminent domain there would be attorneys & appraisal fees, interest--could be another \$ 1 million.

Mr. Kraft made a motion to exit regular session and enter executive session for the reason of discussing pending litigation; seconded by Mr. Whelan. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

A motion was made by Mr. Kraft, seconded by Mr. Whelan to leave executive session and reconvene regular session. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

Chairman Corbett stated, for the record, that no action was taken during executive session.

A motion was made by Mr. Farrell, seconded by Mr. Rhinehart to authorize the settlement of condemnation proceedings for the acquisition of real property necessary for the construction, operation and maintenance of the Liverpool Pump Station improvements (\$261,350)

Voting Aye: (4) Mr. Farrell, Mr. Rhinehart, Mr. Kraft, Mr. Corbett; Noes: 0; Abstaining: (1) Mr. Whelan; MOTION CARRIED.

c. Authorizing and ratifying the County of Onondaga to act as lead agency for the Clinton Street Sewer Improvement Project (the "Project") under (SEQRA) and (SERP), determining the classification of a Type 1 Action, adopting a Negative Declaration, and authorizing the publication, circulation, service and filing of the Environmental Assessment Form, DEID, and the Negative Declaration

*****Mrs. Winslow arrived at the meeting.***

Mr. Elander stated that all SEQR documents are on file with the Clerk of the Legislature, as set forth in the resolution.

A motion was made by Mr. Whelan, seconded by Mr. Farrell, to approve this item. Voting Aye: (5) Mr. Rhinehart, Mr. Farrell, Mr. Kraft, Mr. Whelan, Mr. Corbett; Noes: 0; Abstaining: (1) Mrs. Winslow.

b. Appropriating \$1,900,000 of the proceeds for the bonds authorized to be issued pursuant to and Resolution No. 231 dated September 7, 1999 to provide funds for engineering and other related expenses of the Clinton Street conveyances and regional treatment facility projects (\$1,900,000)

The legislature approved \$700,000 last summer for preliminary design, evaluation, investigation of the Clinton Station lot (Trolley lot). Legislators were sent a copy of EEA report, dated March 27, which explains the findings. The intent was to see if anything related to that lot was not appropriate--nothing extraordinary was found. The report states that the Trolley lot is appropriate for construction of the RTF. Preliminary design was included with that presentation. If approved at May session, can have in done by May 2007. If that is the case, then construction on the entire Clinton Project should be done by May of 2011.

§ Site is owned by City of Syracuse,

§ Have not received expedited judges decision on the Midland condemnation.

§ Didn't go into final design last year--did not want to pay for 2 designs; now time is almost out.

§ No reason to believe that the judge will not rule in favor of County.

§ Asking for money for final design on Clinton site; there is no money to go forward. Mr. Clare put together reasons why Dickerson site was not chosen (***attachment 1***). Possible to have a 17-month delay to get Dickerson site to where they are now on Clinton Street Site; \$350,000/month is the inflation factor --for 17 months it is about \$8.5 million, assuming successful in defending a suit expected to be brought on by Rescue Mission.

County is represented by in-house and back-up attorneys. Mr. Whelan discussed the court order and questioned if the judge can be contacted to get an idea for the timeframe. Mr. Elander explained that it is a 3-judge panel in NYC, Federal Court, 2nd District Court of Appeals. The County Law Department regularly contacts the court clerk. Mr. Whelan questioned the ability to soften to the original dates, as a decision has not been made and do not want to spend twice for design. Mr. Elander stated that the DEC expects the County to exhaust all consent order dates. It was explained that all property acquisition is included in the resolution. The \$1.9 million covers final design (\$1.3 million was for final design--final design activities including property acquisition for conveyances for Clinton; \$700,000 was for the preliminary design work on RTF.)

Mr. Kraft requested that if this passes, that due diligence proceed, and the legislature is kept informed.

There was discussion on test pourings--everything has been done for the site. There will be additional geotechnical pourings necessary, specifically related for design. Property has to be acquired before the final archeological digs are done.

Chairman Corbett said it was incumbent upon Onondaga County to go as far as they can; show due diligence, or down the road there may be fines levied for not reaching milestones. Must be able to back up everything that is done; otherwise, it will cost the taxpayers much more down the road.

There was discussion on the contract and language. Mr. Elander said that the final design has been bid; have a proposal from an engineer to do the work. Mrs. Tarolli, County Attorney, stated that contracts include a right to terminate clause; never pay a lost

profit, and only pay claims for work done.

Mr. Clare indicted that the process of a municipality taking control of property through eminent domain, might be longer than a 3-month period for the Judge to give actual title to the property.

A motion was made by Mr. Farrell to approve this item, seconded by Mrs. Winslow. Voting Aye: (5) Mr. Kraft, Mrs. Winslow, Mr. Farrell, Mr. Winslow, Mr. Whelan, Mr. Corbett. Abstaining: (1) Mr. Rhinehart

Mr. Kraft expressed concern about the parking and the appearance that \$4.2 million is a reasonable number; this is the first he has seen of it--not aware that the legislature has voted on it or supported it. Appears that \$4.2 million is put on the table before there is a conclusion. He doesn't believe that we will get any more federal or state aid because of it. Mr. Elander said that absolutely expect to get additional state and federal aid for these projects beyond what was received. The parking on top of the RTF is estimated to cost \$4.2 million; this was not meant to say that it was authorized--it conveys that there are a number of options relative to parking. It has been stated at all public hearings that the County will replace the parking; (parking mitigation program) are committed to it and trying to find the appropriate manner.

Mr. Whelan asked for status reports on the acquisition. He asked about the cost to park and who gets the revenue; Mr. Elander replied that it is has not been determined.

3. Confirming appointment to the Onondaga County Resource Recovery Agency (Mr. Donnelly)

A motion was made by Mr. Kraft, seconded by Mrs. Winslow to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

4. Confirming appointment to the Region 7 Fish and Wildlife Management Board (Mr. Corbett)

A motion was made by Mr. Kraft, seconded by Mr. Whelan to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

5. Establishing the Adoption of Pesticide Awareness Week in Onondaga County

A motion was made by Mr. Farrell, seconded by Mr. Whelan to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

6. Declaring the policy of this Legislature that signage shall be posted at Onondaga County Parks and County Facilities where pesticides or herbicides have been used

Mr. Rhinehart said that this is declaring that whenever our employees apply pesticides or herbicides that they post signs in the same manner that commercial applicators do. A list of pesticide that qualify is established by our Health Dept. One area of concern is ball fields. Would give our employees and parks patrons' knowledge what they would be walking through.

A motion was made by Mr. Whelan, seconded by Mr. Farrell to approve this item. Voting Ayes: Mr. Whelan, Mr. Farrell, Mrs. Winslow, Mr. Rhinehart, Mr. Corbett; Voting No: 0; Abstaining: Mr. Kraft. MOTION CARRIED.

Chairman Corbett said that the issue of burning materials at OCRRA has been in the newspaper recently. OCRRA will be discussing it at their next board meeting; they will be asked to come to the May committee meeting to discuss it.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

DEBORAH L. FICHERA, Clerk

Onondaga County Legislature

Related Documents

- [4-19-06 Health Attach](#)
- [4-18-06 ED & LIB Attach](#)
- [4-20-06 CO FAC ATTACH 2](#)
- [4-20-06 CO FAC ATTACH 3](#)
- [4-18-06 ENV PROT ATTACH](#)

