

MINUTES

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, July 7, 2021 8:30 a.m.

Present: Supervisors Chatfield, Kolczynski, Spickerman, Verno, Emmel, Groat, Eygnor and Miller, County Administrator Rick House, Fiscal Assistants Ken Blake and Brian Sams, Weights and Measures Director Rich Molisani, Deputy Director Ted Dymont, Soil and Water Conservation District Director Lindsey Gerstenslager, Public Works Superintendent Kevin Rooney and Deputy Superintendent Scott Kolczynski.

Supervisors approved minutes from the June 2nd Committee meeting.

Weights and Measures monthly report was included with the agenda. The new Deputy Director, Ted Dymont, was introduced to members. He will be moving into the position of Director upon Mr. Molisani's retirement at the end of the year. During June 300 devices were inspected, 11 gasoline samples and 2 diesel fuel samples collected. A \$600 penalty was imposed for a petroleum error detected at a fuel station.

Ms. Gerstenslager updated the Committee on the following:

- Water Quality: The District is reviewing community health considerations related to drought conditions. Northern watersheds flow directly into Lake Ontario, while southern watershed flow into the Seneca River and Oswego River. The water level of Lake Ontario has reached a critical low; as a result, the Soil and Water Conservation District started weekly water quality assessments. Low water quality is an issue for several industries and habitats. Low water levels on the Lake will have a financial effect on the County. Low water levels are anticipated for the immediate future. Lake levels are within PLAN 2014 low water limits. There is a weekly update on water conditions on the Soil and Water website under 'water quality'.
- Ag Drainage Program: Mrs. Gerstenslager reviewed how connecting waterways through agricultural drainage will be impeded in the future due to changes in State and Federal regulations. The drainage project on Ryder Road is complete and work is underway on Dutch Street. Not all projects on the District's rotation list can be completed in 2021 due to budget restraints. The District maintains over 111 miles of drainage.
- Aquatic Vegetation: Weed harvesting has been a challenge this year due to low water levels, weed conditions and summer recreation on the embayment waterfront from west at Putneyville to Blind Sodus Bay. Scheduling of the harvester is posted on the District's webpage under 'weed harvesting'. The District is working with homeowner associations in the area so lake front property owners are aware of what is occurring with lake levels. The District adapted their weed harvesting equipment to work during low water levels. The Aquatic Vegetation system has nine access points to the Lake; the majority are unusable due to the low water levels, which has resulted in additional transportation to remove the weeds. The Office is receiving many calls each day regarding the need for additional weed removal.
- Community Assessment: Ms. Gerstenslager stated the need for waste management research, review and planning as most of the landfills that receive Wayne County waste will be closing in the next five years. During the pandemic, the District received increased requests for agricultural chemical waste, household chemical waste, tire recycling and electronic recycling. She encouraged community collection days as they are successful at keeping many products from being disposed of improperly.

- REDI Projects: Blind Sodus Bay (west) SEQR declarational was complete and permitting process is 90% complete. Blind Sodus Bay (east barrier bar) SEQR declaration of impacts meeting scheduled for July 12th. Port Bay Barrier Bar Project has 60% of the design and SEQR package submitted for review. This project may be over budget. All projects are on schedule and moving forward.

The following transmittals were presented for the Public Works Department:

--Authorization to declare four vehicles surplus and sell through auction. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization to grant a 40-foot easement to cross County property at 6886 Geneva Road, Sodus, to Fred Schmidt and Diane Upham. A County owned corridor goes through their property. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization to abolish the position of Senior Account Clerk and create and fill the position of Account Clerk. Mr. Rooney noted the Senior Account Clerk position is vacant; however, he does not believe a new employee should be placed in a senior position. Mr. Rooney said he would like to post the job immediately; he will not fill the position until after the Board approves it. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization to re-establish a five-year sole source vendor and sign an agreement with PASCO Building Automation Systems for the provision of inspections, technical support and software services to the energy management systems in the Hall of Justice, Public Safety Building and Nursing Home at a cost of \$18,000. The County's Purchasing Agent reviewed this contract. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization to allow up to a five-year contract on construction management and code enforcement services for public works projects. Mr. Rooney noted the County's Purchasing Policy only allows three-year contracts. Approved 5-0.

Mr. Rooney updated the Committee on the following:

- Crescent Beach REDI Project: 90% of project design is in for review. Low water levels of the Lake are holding up the project; low levels could also increase costs. The project is anticipated to take over a year and is anticipated to be within budget. The State will not be appropriating any additional REDI funds for this project.
- Highway Project Status: Large road projects are underway in Rose and Ontario; both should be completed within three months. Mr. Rooney said he is struggling to fill summer and vacant positions in his Department. Due to current staff shortages, small work orders are not being addressed.
- Electric Vehicles: Mr. Rooney stated in the past he has not supported the purchase of electric vehicles; however, the State will not allow the sale of any fuel-consuming vehicle after 2035. There is a lack of infrastructure to support charging stations at this time in the County. Mr. Rooney surveyed other counties to learn if they have alternative fuel vehicles in their fleet, many have already purchased electric cars. He asked if a countywide infrastructure study should be performed to see if there is interest by school district, other municipalities and business for electric vehicles and charging stations. NYSERDA has a small amount of funding for such projects. On State bid, alternative fuel vehicles cost \$23,000-\$24,000. Mr. Rooney did not know the annual cost to operate an electric vehicle. The cost for installation of electric vehicle charging stations was questioned.

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- Space Needs: The Public Defender requested permanent use of the County's Compliance Officer Office and future use of Senator Pam Helming's Satellite District Office, both on the second floor of the Court House. PD staff are currently utilizing the Compliance Office and the Representative for Pam Helming is only in that office one or two times a month. Mr. Miller questioned if part-time Public Defenders have their own offices. Scott Kolczynski said other space is being looked into for the Senator's local office.
- 9 Pearl Street Project: Scott Kolczynski said the project should conclude under budget, but will not be completed on schedule due to backed-up material supplies.

The meeting adjourned 9:30 a.m. The next meeting of the Public Works Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, August 4th at 8:30 a.m.