I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Swackhamer called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES


III. DEPARTMENT REQUESTS

A. Public Works

1. Appropriate Grinder Revenue – Mr. Spagnoletti explained we typically spend about $35,000 per year for parts, repairs and teeth for the grinder. This year we will need to spend an additional $10,000 to repair the turbo charger. We currently have $147,000 in grinder revenue and he requested authorization to transfer $50,000 of the revenue into the parts and repairs line item within the grinder capital project.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC WORKS TO TRANSFER $50,000 FROM PAVEMENT GRINDER REVENUE INTO THE PARTS AND REPAIRS LINE ITEM WITHIN THE GRINDER CAPITAL PROJECT MADE BY MR. ROUSH. SECONDED BY MR. MALTER. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

Mr. Spagnoletti noted we purchased the grinder seven years ago and the machine has already paid for itself. We are in good shape and this was a good purchase.

B. Public Health

1. COVID-19 Enhanced Detection Grant Budget Modification – Mrs. Smith explained they have received additional grant funds in the amount of $401,929 for the period February 1, 2021 through March 31, 2023. She requested authorization to adjust the budget for the remainder of the year to reflect the additional funding. The total revenues to be budgeted for the period July 1, 2020 through March 31, 2023 is $1,712,769.
MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND NURSING SERVICES TO ACCEPT ADDITIONAL FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF $401,929 FROM THE COVID-19 ENHANCED DETECTION GRANT FOR THE PERIOD FEBRUARY 1, 2021 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2023 AND TO ADJUST THE REVENUE BUDGET TO $1,712,769 FOR THE PERIOD JULY 1, 2020 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2023 MADE BY MR. SCHU. SECONDED BY MR. MALTER FOR DISCUSSION.

Mr. Van Etten asked is this for extra staff or current staff? Mrs. Smith replied both. Ms. Fitzpatrick asked what will happen to your extra staff? Mrs. Smith replied they will not become permanent in our department as we have them through a temp agency. We will have them for as long as we need them. Ms. Fitzpatrick asked since cases are down, how much longer will you need the extra staff? Mrs. Smith stated we are still doing vaccine clinics. We are waiting to see if or when the booster shots happen. Now there is talk of possible testing in the schools; swabbing in the fall. There are things on the horizon that we need to see if they come to fruition.

VOTE ON PREVIOUS MOTION: ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

C. Planning
   1. Accepting and Appropriating Woodlands Community Development Block Grant- Mr. Sousa requested authorization to accept the CDBG Grant for the Woodlands Project for electrical and pavement improvements.

MOTION: ACCEPTING AND APPROPRIATING THE CDBG WOODLANDS ELECTRICAL AND PAVING IMPROVEMENTS GRANT MADE BY MR. MALTER. SECONDED BY MS. FITZPATRICK. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 4-0-1. (MR. SWACKHAMER ABSTAINED AS HE OWNS PROPERTY IN THE DEVELOPMENT) Resolution Required.

D. Commissioner of Finance
   1. Monthly Reports – Mrs. Hurd-Harvey asked if there were any questions on the monthly reports.

   2. Appropriation of Reserved Fund Balance for Waneta/Lamoka Lakes’ District – Mrs. Hurd-Harvey explained the district has incurred unforeseen testing and treatment costs in excess of their 2021 budgeted expenditure budget. They are requesting an appropriation of $10,798.91.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE COMMISSIONER OF FINANCE TO APPROPRIATE $10,798.91 OF RESERVED FUND BALANCE FOR THE WANETA/LAMOKA LAKES’ DISTRICT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021 MADE BY MR. MALTER. SECONDED BY MS. FITZPATRICK. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0. Resolution Required.

3. MUNIS Project Update – Ms. Fitzpatrick asked how is the project going? Mrs. Hurd-Harvey stated we had a first meeting with the steering committee and talked about scheduling and how to proceed. We had required half-day sessions remotely and we are still working on that, but we are getting some push back from MUNIS. The feedback from other counties was that the full day was tough and they were suggesting half-days.

E. Community Services
   1. New Contract - Dr. Chapman requested authorization to enter into a contract with Research Foundation for Mental Hygiene. The contract period will be April 1, 2021 through September 29, 2021 and will be for the receipt of grant funds in an amount up to $33,000. He explained he wrote and submitted a proposal for grant funds for the M.A.T. (Medication Assisted Treatment) Program.
F. County Manager

1. Contingent Fund Transfer- Mr. Wheeler requested a Contingent Fund transfer in the amount of $40,000 to his budget. He explained $20,000 will cover the cost of a contract with Bonadio to conduct a HIPAA audit as well as the Controls audit of the Sheriff’s Office. He stated the remaining $20,000 will cover the cost of a contract with The Burke Group to do the CSEA Salary Study.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF $40,000 FROM THE CONTINGENT FUND INTO THE COUNTY MANAGER'S BUDGET TO COVER THE COSTS OF A HIPAA AUDIT, CONTROLS AUDIT FOR THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE, AND CSEA SALARY STUDY MADE BY MS. FITZPATRICK. SECONDED BY MR. SCHU. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0. Resolution Required.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Moratorium on Unpaid Water/Sewer Bills – Mr. Potter stated back when the Governor was issuing moratoriums, he issued a moratorium on the re-levy of unpaid water bills. I don’t know if that includes sewer bills or not. That was a 180-day moratorium from the time he ended the emergency declaration. That takes it to December 20, 2021. My question is, are we still going to be able to re-levy unpaid water and sewer bills on the 2022 taxes? I know of at least one water district that has 25 – 30 percent of the customers just do this annually. If the water district doesn’t have that revenue for a year plus, that would be a hardship. Ms. Prossick replied I think it can be done; we have had these discussions with the towns all along, because the tax date they go out is the 1st. The problem is going to be getting the numbers on the re-levy in a timely manner on the November date to get them on the bills. She stated she, Mrs. Hurd-Harvey and Mr. Wheeler discussed it and we are thinking it is going to be some communication to the towns to get everyone on board on how to do this; it could be done. Otherwise, we will have some that are and some that are not and it will be an administrative mess. It will take some communication from the Commissioner of Finance to these towns, with our assistance, to see if we can get everyone on board and figure out how to do it. It could happen, but the bill is 1/1/22. We will try to work through it and get back to everyone. Mrs. Hurd-Harvey commented I see no reason that we cannot do it. Mr. Malter asked is this mostly villages? Mr. Wheeler replied there are quite a few towns that have it. Mr. Potter stated there are about half the towns in my district that have water and/or sewer.

Mr. Horton commented in Campbell we have a number that do not pay, especially with rental properties. They just don’t pay the water bill throughout the year; they let it go onto the tax bill and then they pay that every year. It’s not a problem of it being paid, it’s just always levied. It’s a concern in our town as well. Mr. Van Etten asked aren’t they charged a significant late fee? Mr. Potter replied we cannot charge a late fee under the moratorium. Mr. Van Etten asked what about previously? Mr. Potter replied yes, but the State regulates the amount of the late fee and it can only be on that month’s bill; you cannot compound it. Mr. Potter asked is this just for water or sewer too? Ms. Prossick replied I don’t think sewer is included. Mr. Swackhamer asked are they billed for two bills? Mr. Potter replied there are people that do not pay all year and then it goes onto their tax bill. Mr. Wheeler stated it is essentially two years’ worth. Mr. Potter stated if it doesn’t happen this year, then those individuals will have two years of back bills on their taxes. Mrs. Jordan explained unpaid 2021 water bills will go onto the 2022 town and county tax bill.

MOTION: TO ADJOURN REGULAR SESSION AND RECONVENE IN EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO PUBLIC OFFICERS’ LAW, ARTICLE 105.1.H. THE PROPOSED ACQUISITION, SALE OR LEASE OF REAL PROPERTY OR THE PROPOSED ACQUISITION OF SECURITIES, OR SALE OR EXCHANGE OF SECURITIES HELD BY SUCH PUBLIC BODY, BUT ONLY WHEN PUBLICITY WOULD SUBSTANTIALLY AFFECT THE VALUE THEREOF MADE BY MR. MALTER. SECONDED BY MS. FITZPATRICK. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.
MOTION: TO ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION AND RECONVENE IN REGULAR SESSION MADE BY MR. MALTER. SECONDED BY MS. FITZPATRICK. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

B. Sales Tax – Mr. Van Etten thanked Mrs. Hurd-Harvey for emailing the sales tax information. The payment was $30,173,000 which is $6 million more than last year and $4 million more than 2019. Mr. Wheeler explained everyone is seeing these swings across the State. Mrs. Hurd-Harvey stated the information she received from NYSAC from the Department of Taxation is that they are trying to adjust for the big decline last year. They look at three years of history and are trying to adjust for the big decline last year. They estimate a few payments and then true it up. Mr. Swackhamer commented there have not been any auto sales and that will catch up with us. Mr. Wheeler stated that will. He would estimate that about 17 – 18 percent of our sales tax comes from fuel. Mr. Malter stated we also have online sales. Mr. Swackhamer stated Simmons-Rockwell is laying off people as they have nothing to sell. Mr. Malter commented used car sales are booming.

C. VRBO – Ms. Fitpatrick asked have you heard anything from VRBO? Mr. Wheeler stated he has not heard anything and has also contacted Senator Schumer’s Office. He stated that Sullivan County just reached the first agreement in the State with VRBO and Ms. Prossick is in contact with them. He noted that Airbnb has been very open.

MOTION: TO ADJOURN MADE BY MR. SCHU. SECONDED BY MS. FITZPATRICK. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted by

Amanda L. Chapman
Deputy Clerk
Steuben County Legislature

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR**
Tuesday, August 10, 2021
9:30 a.m.

Please send agenda items to the Clerk of the Legislature’s Office
NO LATER THAN NOON
Wednesday, August 4, 2021