CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Swackhamer called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES


DEPARTMENT REQUESTS

A. Public Works

1. Budget Transfer - Mr. Spagnoletti explained that CR 31 in Troupsburg and CR 129 in Woodhull were washed out due to the flood. Jeff Parker from the Soil & Water Conservation District has been moving earth in to fill it, but we will need rock to protect against future erosion. He requested authorization to transfer $106,000 from CR 6 and $76,000 from CR 94 to General Repairs for Rip Rap to cover a portion of the cost for CR 103 in Woodhull, CR 31 in Jasper and CR 71 in Jasper.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC WORKS TO TRANSFER $106,000 FROM CR 6 AND $76,000 FROM CR 94 AND APPROPRIATE A TOTAL OF $182,000 TO GENERAL REPAIRS – RIP RAP MADE BY MR. MALTER. SECONDED BY MS. FITZPATRICK. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

2. Flood Update – Mr. Swackhamer asked Mr. Spagnoletti to provide a summary of the flood damage. Mr. Spagnoletti reported there was major damage on CR 85 in Tuscarora and that road was closed down. We had to put in some rock and gravel in order to open the road back up. We will go back later this year and chip seal and blacktop next year. In Woodhull, blacktop was broken in the village and we removed it. We will go back later in the year and blacktop it. Outside of Woodhull on CR 103, that was washed out and we filled it in and Soil & Water put in rip rap to shore it up. There was major damage on CR 31 going through Jasper and Troupsburg. Four big sections of that road were washed out. We took creek gravel to fill in the road and we will
let that settle and blacktop it next year. About 500 feet will be chip sealed this year. The box culvert ditches were washed out. Other than some erosion on the edges of roads, we are pretty well caught up. We are finishing construction and paving, and doing the final cleanup. The big question now is CR 129 in Woodhull. That is a two-lane road and the big rock cut concrete wall was severely damaged. If we have to repair it, that will be a $400,000 - $500,000 job. We have to make a decision on what to do there, but for now we have a concrete barrier and it is now a one-lane road. Mr. Spagnoletti stated everyone worked well together and the job is pretty well done.

B. Community Services

1. Budget Adjustment – Mr. Wheeler stated Dr. Chapman is requesting authorization to accept $39,400 in revenue from New York State Office of Mental Hygiene. This represents the additional 20 percent of funding that was withheld at the beginning of the year. He requested authorization to appropriate this funding to the salaries and wages line item as well as other fringe benefit line items to cover the cost for the remainder of the year for an additional Grade XIV Staff Social Worker.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES TO ACCEPT ADDITIONAL NEW YORK STATE OFFICE OF MENTAL HYGIENE FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT OF $39,400 AND APPROPRIATE TO THE SALARIES AND WAGE AND OTHER FRINGE BENEFIT LINE ITEMS TO COVER THE COST FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE YEAR FOR ONE ADDITIONAL GRADE XIV STAFF SOCIAL WORKER POSITION MADE BY MR. MALTER, SECONDED BY MS. FITZPATRICK FOR DISCUSSION.

Ms. Fitzpatrick asked what is this position doing? Mr. Wheeler replied they are augmenting clinical work.

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

C. Public Health

1. Accepting and Appropriating COVID Vaccine Response Grant – Mr. Wheeler requested authorization to accept a NYS Department of Health COVID Vaccine Response Grant in the amount of $106,360.05. These funds will be used for communication and outreach to increase COVID vaccination rates.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF THE NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH COVID VACCINE RESPONSE GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF $106,360.05 MADE BY MR. SCHU. SECONDED BY MS. FITZPATRICK. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0. Resolution Required.

2. Accepting and Appropriating Funding for Public Health Corps Fellowship Program – Mr. Wheeler requested authorization to accept the New York State Public Health Corp Fellowship Program funding in the amount of $1,383,824. The State is allocating a number of “fellows” to each County in the State. These fellows will assist local public health departments with COVID response. The State would also like to increase and build every public health department’s infrastructure, so they could also be assigned to anything in Public Health; clerical, education, etc.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF THE NEW YORK STATE PUBLIC HEALTH CORPS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT OF $1,383,824.00 MADE BY MR. MALTER, SECONDED BY MS. FITZPATRICK. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0. Resolution Required.

D. Sheriff’s Office

1. Acceptance of STOP-DWI Plan for 2022 – Sheriff Allard requested approval of the 2022 STOP-DWI Grant Plan. This plan is virtually identical to last year.
MOTION: ACCEPTING THE 2022 STOP-DWI GRANT PLAN AS PRESENTED BY THE SHERIFF AND FORWARDING TO THE FULL LEGISLATURE FOR APPROVAL MADE BY MR. MALTER. SECONDED BY MR. SCHU. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0. Resolution Required.

2. Jail Overtime – Mr. Malter asked what will your overtime numbers look like by the end of the year? Sheriff Allard replied we most likely will need more money. We have had numerous constant watches and we are backfilling because staffing is low. We have six full-time vacancies and we have seven people signed up for the test. Mr. Malter stated it looks like your overall budget for salaries and overtime will be over. Sheriff Allard stated I believe so and our outlook is bleak.

Mr. Van Etten stated with the departmental analysis that Finance provided, the Jail, compared through the end of August this year versus last year, is at $661,000 this year and was $243,000 last year; why? Sheriff Allard stated I haven’t seen that analysis and I don’t have an answer. Mr. Van Etten stated the other question is with the Jail contractual line – it was $1.4 million last year and is $1.8 million this year.

E. Emergency Services/911

1. FY21 SHSP – Mr. Wheeler requested authorization to accept the FY21 SHSP in the amount of $110,965. This is the grant that provides funding to both Emergency Services and the Sheriff’s Office for terrorism prevention. Emergency Services will receive $83,224 and the Sheriff’s Office will receive $27,741.

MOTION: ACCEPTING THE FY21 STATE HOMELAND SECURITY PROGRAM GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF $110,965 WITH $83,224 BEING ALLOCATED TO EMERGENCY SERVICES AND $27,741 BEING ALLOCATED TO THE SHERIFF’S OFFICE MADE BY MR. MALTER. SECONDED BY MS. FITZPATRICK. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

2. FY21 LEMPG – Mr. Wheeler requested authorization to accept the FY21 LEMPG in the amount of $41,441.

MOTION: ACCEPTING THE FY21 LEMPG IN THE AMOUNT OF $41,441 MADE BY MR. MALTER. SECONDED BY MS. FITZPATRICK. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

F. Commissioner of Finance

1. Monthly Reports – Ms. Fitzpatrick asked does the wage line include overtime and temporary hire? Mrs. Hurd-Harvey replied yes, it is the total wages.

Mr. Van Etten asked with the Landfill, revenue is $1.1 million higher than last year to-date. Last year the equipment line was $1.6 million and this year it is $300,000. He asked for an explanation. Mr. Spagonletti replied the difference in equipment line year to year is mainly because we do our purchases later in the year.

Mrs. Hurd-Harvey stated I will follow up on the questions regarding the Jail contractual and revenue line items. Mr. Wheeler suggested going forward to copy the department heads on that quarterly report. Mrs. Hurd-Harvey stated she will do that.

Mrs. Hurd-Harvey stated with regard to Landfill revenue, everything is up. Casella had stopped sending refuse in 2020, but have started sending again in 2021. There were two large soil projects and they took in 6,000 tons more than they did in 2020. Leachate is way up because of the rain. There was also a new vendor for scrap metal and recycling and there was a market rebound there.

2. Property Tax Auction Update – Mrs. Hurd-Harvey stated the State passed a law barring any further foreclosure actions unless you send out letters that are 30 days in advance. We have decided that it is a little risky to pursue the auction. With your approval, we will not proceed with the property tax auction. Mr. Malter asked does that expire after the first of the year? Mrs. Hurd-Harvey replied after January 15, 2021. Ms. Prossick stated that will be subject to extension.

Finance Committee
Wednesday, September 8, 2021
Mr. Malter asked how many vacant properties do we have? Mrs. Hurd-Harvey replied we have quite a few, but we still need to send a letter out. There are probably a couple dozen. Mr. Malter commented the longer we leave those properties vacant the more they deteriorate. Ms. Prossick stated the issue if they are vacant is we have to send a letter 30 days before the sale. If we get that affidavit back, then it has to be pulled from the sale. It was starting to look like it would be an administrative situation for the Finance Office and the Law Department to keep track. We do not know if this will be extended again. Our normal petition for foreclosure is filed for November 1st and we would like to proceed with that. We could pull those off the petition for the next round. Mr. Malter stated so this would be an administrative nightmare? Ms. Prossick replied yes. We could end up with orders to show cause and we could end up having numerous ones. We are trying to figure out a process to clear the backlog and still move forward.

MOTION: RESCINDING RESOLUTION NO. 169-21 RELATIVE TO SETTING THE DATES FOR THE 2021 DELINQUENT REAL PROPERTY TAX PUBLIC AUCTION MADE BY MR. MALTER. SECONDED BY MS. FITZPATRICK. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0. Resolution Required.

Ms. Prossick clarified this does not apply to normal landlords. The law excepted other governmental entities. This law takes away your right to proceed. Mr. Swackhamer asked how many properties are we looking at? Mrs. Hurd-Harvey replied there are about 140. For the letters we will send out in November, there are about 600 properties; we didn’t send out letters last year so we have two years to clear.

G. County Manager
1. Guthrie Tax-Exempt Bond Support Resolution – Mr. Wheeler stated we have been approached by Guthrie as they are in the process of issuing a tax-exempt bond and need a resolution from us per IRS code. The bond is $250 million through Central Bradford Progress Authority and there is no cost for us. They need every government entity that the project is in to pass a resolution. Ms. Prossick commented there are several projects included in the bonding. Mr. Wheeler stated we do know that they have talked about upgrades and renovations.

MOTION: SUPPORTING THE ISSUANCE OF A $250 MILLION BOND THROUGH CENTRAL BRADFORD PROGRESS AUTHORITY FOR GUTHRIE MADE BY MR. SCHU. SECONDED BY MS. FITZPATRICK. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0. Resolution Required.

2. Emergency Purchase – Mr. Wheeler stated he wanted to inform the committee of an emergency purchase relative to school COVID testing. Late last week the NYS Commissioner of Health issued a directive requiring testing of unvaccinated staff at schools and then also the availability of testing for staff members that volunteer or have permission. There are only a few companies with these capabilities. I’ve had multiple calls with the superintendents and the one company that fits the bill best is Quadrant, a lab company out of Syracuse. They also have facilities in Buffalo and Albany. This would be a pooled saliva test; so a self-administered cheek swab that the unvaccinated staff would do. The lab company then has the ability to test that pool and if there is a positive, they can go back and figure out who the positive is. We will need 40,000 tests at a minimum and the cost is $20.00 per test. We signed a contract for $800,000. This was signed under emergency procurement, and again, this is all paid for by the $2.8 million that you accepted and received for testing. He stated they have found that the rapid antigen test from Binax is in short supply. There is another company and we are looking to be able to get another brand of rapid antigen tests as the schools are using those. That will probably be about $80,000.

MOTION: TO ADJOURN REGULAR SESSION AND RECONVENE IN EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO PUBLIC OFFICERS’ LAW, ARTICLE 7§ 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: AUTHORIZING THE COMMISSIONER OF FINANCE TO ACCEPT A NON-REFUNDABLE UNDERTAKING OF $12,613.14 RELATIVE TO PARCEL #118.00-01-034.000, SITUATE IN THE TOWN OF URBANA, TO DEFER THE ENFORCEMENT OF SALE UNTIL MARCH 31, 2022, SAID UNDERTAKING TO BE PAID WITHIN THIRTY DAYS MADE BY MR. SCHU. SECONDED BY MS. FITZPATRICK. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

MOTION: TO ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION AND RECONVENE IN REGULAR SESSION MADE BY MS. FITZPATRICK. SECONDED BY MR. MALTER. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Committee Membership – Mr. Van Etten stated in speaking with Mr. Roush last week, Mr. Roush brought up the fact that he is ending his career this year and we would not be best served with him continuing on Finance, and he wanted to see someone else on the committee to do the budget. Mr. Van Etten stated he asked for his letter of resignation and that is on file. He is appointing Jeff Horton to serve the remaining three months. He stated that he would like to recognize Mr. Roush for his many years and thanked him for his service.

Mr. Malter asked when are the budget workshops? Mr. Wheeler replied we are targeting the same day as Finance next month and we will get you all of the information prior to those meetings.

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, October 12, 2021
9:00 a.m.

Please send agenda items to the Clerk of the Legislature’s Office
NO LATER THAN NOON
Wednesday, October 6, 2021