

GENERAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING

June 18, 2019

Present: Legislators Jerry King, Andrea Moroughan, Randy LaChausse, Thomas Osborne and Ronald Burns

Others: Legislators Larry Dolhof and Greg Kulzer, County Manager Ryan Piche, County Attorney Joan McNichol, Treasurer Patty O'Brien, Sheriff Michael Carpinelli, Dispatch Supervisor Cheryl LaLonde, Highway Supt. Warren Shaw, Deputy Highway Supt. Frank Platt, Planning Director Frank Pace, Recreation, Forestry & Parks Director Jackie Mahoney, Supervisor of Bldgs. and Grounds Matt O'Connor, Code Enforcement Officer Ward Dailey, Solid Waste Administrator Pete Wood, HR Director Chris Boulio; and reporter Nick Altmire. Reporter Julie Abbass entered the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

Committee Chair Legislator King called the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

Legislator Osborne made a motion to approve the 5/21/19 committee meeting minutes, seconded by Legislator Burns and carried.

Terry informed the next meeting date (7/16/19) conflicts with the Fair Parade recognizing that several Legislators wish to participate. Legislators posed alternate dates of 7/11 or 7/23. Terry announced her unavailability on 7/23. After brief discussion, Legislator King suggested both dates be posed for consideration by all Legislators.

Solid Waste Administrator Pete Wood proposed the attached Lewis County Solid Waste/ Recycling Transfer Stations Credit Policy to impose a 1.5% penalty for haulers' accounts over 30 days delinquent. Pete currently turns over accounts that are 90 days overdue to the County Atty. Ryan Piche noted a couple of haulers have made investments in their business, but remain delinquent to the County. He suggests that haulers, particularly those who are currently delinquent, be given a 60-90 day notice prior to the implementation date.

There was general agreement for Legislator King's suggestion to further review the policy and make a recommendation at the July committee meeting.

However, discussion ensued, and in response to Board Chairman Dolhof, Atty. McNichol and Legislator King suggested to define severely delinquent in the policy as 90 days delinquent. Pete Wood stated the time frame would fit into the prospective software that is also used by DANC. A September 1st or October 1st implementation date were discussed, but neither definitively. A docket to establish the policy was then approved to present an authorizing resolution at the July 2, 2019 BOL meeting.

Legislator King inquired whether issues relayed by the contracted hauler for the moe.down sponsors had been addressed. Pete had talked with the hauler, suggesting the sorting issue could

be addressed by the event sponsor placing recycle bins next to each trash bin during the moe.down. Pete will follow-up as a reminder to the event sponsor.

Ryan Piche announced Pete Wood's 6/28/19 retirement. Legislator King thanked him for his years of service.

Highway Superintendent Warren Shaw reported completion of profiling and replacement of 15-16 pipes on the Osceola Road that had been delayed by rainy weather. The materials had been previously stockpiled in close proximity for efficiency.

A huge rock (6'x10'x5') was removed from the edge of the Snell Road that had been impeding snow plowing. The rock was dragged into an adjacent field, blasted into sections and removed.

Blacktop profiling was completed on the Redfield Road, covered with crushed gravel and then grinded and oil mix to hold it together. The cold mix will be done in 3 weeks.

Water had been flowing across the roadway in a certain spot on the Osceola Road. It was ditched and filled in with crushed gravel that properly rerouted the water and stabilized the road.

Crushed gravel and blacktop dry grinding on the Lyons Falls Road has been completed. A cold mix will be applied later.

The NYSDOT had red-flagged the Highmarket Road Bridge due to substantial rotting and a contractor has been chosen to progress the project for rehab next summer. Warren will be closing the bridge for a 2-week period late August-Early September for temporary reinforcement that will allow traffic to safely cross the bridge until next summer. He will try to avoid it, but may have to detour buses for the first week of school.

The DMV parking lot had been doubled in size and widening of the River Street entrance will be completed next week. Legislator King strongly urged that leased property agreements include a credit for County improvements to the property. Ryan Piche relayed the understanding with the DMV property owner the County would make improvements estimated at \$3,500.

In response to Legislator King, Ryan Piche suggested he and Warren would choose 2 or 3 projects and pose a date for Legislators to tour.

Warren reported assisting NYSDOT with the Route 812 culvert project to dig out and pour a foot of stone, and the DOT planned to lay the pipe in today. He estimates opening of the route by the end of June.

In response to Board Chairman Dolhof, Ryan Piche reported receipt of the Town snowplowing proposal last week and would review and determine the need to negotiate.

Warren reported completion of the new CDL Test site with assistance from NYSDOT at the Business Park parking lot. The first test is scheduled for 6/24/19.

The Whetstone Gulf Road Bridge and the Moose Creek Bridge projects are in the design phase. Warren would propose them for Bridge NY funding. The Liberty Road Bridge would be done this year and the Highmarket Road Bridge in 2020.

Board Chairman Dolhof reminded that the County had lost anticipated State funding of \$240,000 for winter damage recovery.

Warren stated that oil prices are fairly stable. In response to Legislator Moroughan, he confirmed that CDL testing included tractor trailers. Initially they expect to schedule testing 1 or 2 days per week.

Sr. Code Enforcement Officer Ward Dailey reported he had presented the Town of Diana structure fire property for action by the Board on 5/2/18. The frame and flooring remains standing and needs to be demolished. In response to Legislator King, Patty O'Brien later affirmed the property taxes were up to date. In response to Board Chairman Dolhof, Ward would research data relative to the age of the manufactured home to determine the need for an asbestos survey. The slab base of the home would not be removed and the debris would be trucked to the landfill not buried on site. Pursuant to the Safe Structures Local Law, demolition costs would be added to the next property tax bill.

Ryan Piche cited two other unsafe structures that were each ultimately demolished and taken care of by the respective owner.

Demolition assistance would be requested from the Town of Diana, and the County would reimburse them upon receipt of property tax payment.

Legislator LaChausse made a motion to set a public hearing on August 6, 2019 providing the owner an opportunity to be heard, or any other interested party. The motion was seconded by Legislator Burns. Terry Clark reminded the hearing time may be 10 a.m. if the Board chooses to change the time of the Board meeting to accommodate the Employee Appreciation Luncheon. The motion carried. Several Legislators offered to help cook and serve at the luncheon. Terry reported that Legislator Chartrand is assisting with luncheon plans.

Ryan Piche announced that the home rule legislation to waive the residency requirement for the Lewis County Assistant District Attorney had been adopted by the State Legislature today and awaits the Governor's signature.

Terry Clark reported that Resolution No. 19-2019 approved an Agreement with Bark Eater Events, LLC to use County reforestation lands in the Town of Lyonsdale for the annual "Peak to

Brew Relay Race” on August 8th and 9th. Legislator LaChausse made a motion to correct the dates to August 9th and 10th, 2019, seconded by Legislator Burns and carried.

The following docket items were then reviewed and authorizing Resolutions approved:

1. Agreement between the County of Lewis and ABJ Fire Protection Co. to perform sprinkler and backflow preventer inspections at the Lewis County Court House, Public Safety Building and the Department of Social Services from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020 at quarterly installments of \$325.00 for Lewis County Court House; \$400.00 for Lewis County Public Safety Building; and one annual payment of \$110.00 for Lewis County Department of Social Services which equates to \$3,010.00.
2. Agreement with the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets and appropriate grant funds for the purpose to develop a County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan in the amount of \$50,000.
3. Accept and close each the Radio System Project and Interoperability Base Stations Project (a balance of \$191,033.20 and \$78,166.97 respectively due to EF Johnson).
4. Appropriate additional NYS STOP-DWI 2018-2019 “Crackdown” grant funds for enforcement during the moe.down concert event; and rollover 2017-2018 grant funds.
5. MOU between Department of Recreation, Forestry and Parks and BOCES to enable its students to gain hands-on field experience on County reforestation property for management, conservation and educational experiences and activities by its students. The Director of LCRFP shall be provided with prior notice and authorize all dates, locations and scheduled activities by the students to be supervised by BOCES teachers and/or administrators at all times. Zero County cost and term is 9/1/19 through 8/31/20.
6. Bridge Replacement CR 43 (East Road) over Moose Creek to appropriate and pay in the first instance 100% of the federal and non-federal share of the cost of the Preliminary Engineering/Design and Right-Of-Way (ROW) Incidentals Phases being \$158,000 made available to cover the cost of Preliminary Engineering/Design Phase (\$150,000.00) and (ROW) Incidentals Phase (\$8,000.00); with the local share cost being \$31,600.00 if no other state-aid is approved.
7. A docket to establish Lewis County Solid Waste Transfer Stations Credit Policy for haulers who are delinquent on payment to the County was previously approved.

At 2:00 p.m. the sole bid received for re-pointing of the brick on the Court House and Public Safety Buildings was opened. Continental Construction bid \$63,000 for the Court House and \$23,000 for the Public Safety Building. Ryan Piche cited the \$50,000 appropriation for the Court House, noting the PSB was an add-on to the project. Patty O’Brien reported \$300,000 in the Capital buildings account. In response to Legislator inquiries, Matt O’Connor stated that re-bidding the project would move the work to next summer. Three contractors had previewed the building project, but only one had bid. He deemed there were no issues if the project were delayed.

Legislator LaChausse made a motion to recommend rejecting the sole bid, seconded by Legislator Burns and carried. Legislator Moroughan made a motion to recommend re-bidding the project this fall, seconded by Legislator Osborne and carried.

At 2:12 p.m. Legislator Moroughan made a motion to enter executive session to review Solid Waste Administrator candidate applications, seconded by Legislator Burns and carried. At 2:25 p.m. Legislator LaChausse made a motion to re-enter the regular meeting, seconded by Legislator Osborne and carried.

Sheriff Michael Carpinelli took exception to his request being denied to purchase items for deputies claiming he is over budget. He declares being within allocations of his initial proposed budget, but the adopted budget had been pared back for jail and road patrol. Legislator King referenced the Sheriff exceeding budget allocations in 2018 and his agreement it would not happen again. The year-to-date overtime amount puts the budget in jeopardy of exceeding allocations again this year. Legislator King asked the Sheriff to fund the desired items within his budgetary accounts.

Sheriff Carpinelli stated that some Legislators did not know what it takes to properly operate the jail and road patrol. He assigns one deputy in the north and one in the south reporting that every call takes 2 officers. He fears someone will get hurt. The Drug Task Force comprised of deputies, State Police and other units have combated and diminished the drug problem in this County. The deputies assigned are passionate and committed to the mission.

The Sheriff purports that as long as Governor Cuomo is in office the Commission of Corrections regulatory requirements will “cost us”, unless there is successful push back or changes. He referenced having no control over the unbudgeted \$45,000 inmate helicopter transport expense. “I don’t think I’ve been unreasonable”, he said. Over the past 8 years his proposed budget has been cut by the Board of Legislators (BOL) and it’s not working. Proposed expenditures are not frivolous, he said, contending he is not overspending his budget allocations.

As Purchasing Officer Ryan Piche reported putting a hold on the Sheriff’s purchase request. The Sheriff’s Jail budget is 3.6% increase over previous year and the Road Patrol represents a 9.7% increase. All other departments are held to adopted budget appropriations so that the overall budget remains within the State imposed 2% Tax Cap.

The Sheriff cited primary expenses are for personnel and union costs that are negotiated and adopted by the BOL. There are riots going on in jails all over the State, he said, due to drug abuse. In his 8 years as Sheriff he has never asked for a salary increase. Sheriff Carpinelli invoked that “When he proposes a budget, the Legislators should adopt it, then he would stay within his budget. Don’t cut it and then ask him to stay within a lower budget! “ He concluded that he and his employees do the best they can to keep the public safe.

Ryan Piche reported the Sheriff's proposed 2019 budget of \$3,239,000 was cut by \$178,000 to \$3,061,000 which still represents a 9.7% increase from 2018, unlike any other department. We can't do more if we are to remain within the 2% Tax Cap, he said. Sheriff Carpinelli asked that they don't fight him, instead urged them to fight "Albany". While recognizing the Board submits some opposing resolutions, he insists they don't do it enough.

Legislator King affirmed the adopted budget is his to spend, while citing that year-to-date overtime expenditures indicate potential over budget by year end, asking that he stay within allocations, repeating the Board does not want a repeat of last year.

Legislator Osborne admitted not understanding the need for overtime suggesting maybe he doesn't need to know. He agrees the helicopter inmate transport costs are ridiculous. He relayed constituents inquiring of him why three (3) sheriff patrol vehicles are parked at Sliders in Watson or any other convenient store at the same time, while realizing deputies are entitled to a lunch. Legislator Osborne having been in the same situation appreciates that deputies who are required to wear a badge are a target. He also asked why there are boat patrols on Brantingham Lake on a Friday afternoon when there is no boat traffic?

Sheriff Carpinelli did not respond to the inquiries. He proclaimed pride for clearly voicing his opposition to the Governor's initiative to legalize recreational marijuana. He credits the NYS Sheriff's Association and Teachers' Union for inciting the State Legislature not to adopt the legislation. However, if it were adopted he strongly urges the County Legislature to exercise their discretion to declare Lewis County a "No dispensary County", thereby prohibiting any local sales.

In conclusion, the Sheriff offered to provide a department update at any time, except the Narcotics Team for confidential reasons. That team does a great job despite being in very dangerous situations, he said, very proud of what they have accomplished resulting in lesser drug overdoses.

Board Chairman Dolhof asserted the \$300,000 additional appropriation over 2018 was substantial.

Legislator Moser suggests a County-wide event permit system/policy be established so the Board would be aware of major events that require special/additional law enforcement or other services. The County could then request/negotiate with the event sponsor to be accountable for associated County cost.

Legislator Osborne agreed the Sheriff's budget should continue to be monitored.

Ryan Piche clarified the only control is over the Sheriff's discretionary Department Items Account of \$60,000 for guns and ammunition purchases. He will continue to hold the requested purchases until later in the year when there is confidence of remaining within budgetary

appropriations. Legislator King reiterated that in October-November 2018 the Board was informed of the need for substantial Sheriff allocations to cover budget expenditures and did not want it repeated. He agrees to delay purchase approval. Board Chairman Dolhof relayed the Sheriff's statement to him that the first thing he would cut from his budget would be ATV recreation patrols.

Legislator Osborne made a motion at 2:57 p.m. to adjourn, seconded by Legislator Burns and carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Terry Clark, Clerk of the Board