

**GENERAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**  
**May 19, 2020**

Present via video conference: Legislators Jerry King, Ian Gilbert, Richard Chartrand, Andrea Moroughan, and Ron Burns.

Others present via video conference: Legislators Larry Dolhof, Greg Kulzer, Phil Hathway, Randy LaChausse, and Tom Osborne; County Manager Ryan Piche; Treasurer Eric Virkler; County Attorney Joan McNichol; Human Resources Director Caitlyn Smith; and Highway Superintendent Warren Shaw.

Committee Chairman Legislator King called the meeting at 1:02 p.m.

**Highway Funding Plan – County Manager Ryan Piche (attached)**

Ryan Piche shared the original budget plan for the Highway Department showing that we had many paving projects for 2020 but without a full staff that won't be possible. The original Budget plan showed \$2,322,180.47 in CHIPS funding for nine (9) various projects; \$1,966,613 of Tax Levy funding for three (3) projects & labor; and \$1,100,000 in Highway Capital funds for three (3) projects/items. This equates to a grand total of \$5,388,793.47 of spending. Ryan suggested shifting projects that the county would have funded to CHIPS funding. Ryan then showed the COVID-19 Adjusted Budget Plan: \$2,302,872.95 in CHIPS funding for eleven (11) projects/items, which includes some new equipment that we would have purchased in the next couple of years, our Siding & Highway project bid coming in much lower than anticipated, and paying off some leases on equipment; \$1,375,120 of Tax Levy funding for labor/payroll, which includes not hiring any summer workers and having 7 workers on furlough; \$550,000 in Highway Capital funds for two (2) projects/items. This equates to a grand total of \$4,227,992.95 of spending.

The total savings by making these adjustments is \$1,160,800.52. Legislator Hathway asked if there was any decrease or risk to CHIPS funding due to COVID-19, Ryan responded that it is an unknown at this point but we could still move forward with some of these changes to create a savings or come back to the drawing table to create a new plan. Legislator King questioned how the Highway Capital Fund balance was going to be utilized, Ryan responded that on his spreadsheet it lumps two separate Highway Capital fund accounts together, one for lease payments and the other for building projects. In the Original budget we would have spent \$1,100,000 towards these projects but now utilizing CHIPS funding it will only be \$550,000.

Legislator Moroughan reported that at her Soil & Water Board meeting Nichelle stated that the Town of Greig believes their CHIPS money will have been reduced by 40%. Ryan hasn't heard anything from NYSAC on any reduction in CHIPS funding at this point.

Legislator Burns made a motion to approve the 4/21/2020 committee meeting minutes, seconded by Legislator Moroughan and carried.

The following dockets were reviewed:

1. Resolution authorizing agreement and funding in the first instance for the construction phase of bridge replacement project (PIN 775374) known as CR48 (Highmarket Road) over North Branch Sugar River.  
YEA   5   NAY   0
  
2. Resolution to award bid and authorize a contract with ING Civil, Inc. in the amount of \$1,264,600.00 for the replacement of CR48 (Highmarket Road) over North Branch Sugar River in the Town of West Turin and to appropriate the funds into the Capital Bridge Program account.  
YEA   5   NAY   0
  
3. Resolution authorizing the implementation and funding in the first instance 100% of the Federal aid and State “Maschiselli” program-aid eligible costs, of a transportation Federal-Aid project, and appropriate funds for bridge replacement project (PIN775395) known as CR21 over Gulf Stream.  
YEA   5   NAY   0
  
4. Resolution appointing and designating the Lewis County Planning Director, or any Interim Planning Director, as the Certifying Officer for environmental review of the NYS Community Development Block Grant programs, as well as the Lewis County Fair Housing Officer, and HUD Section 3 Coordinator, to engage in activities required to maintain compliance with HUD regulations and implementation of fair housing education and enforcement resources.  
YEA   5   NAY   0
  
5. Resolution to appropriate payback CDBG funds in the Planning Department accounts in the amount of \$7,364.42 to be used for various community projects.  
YEA   5   NAY   0
  
6. Resolution setting a public hearing for July 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. to provide residents of Lewis County with the opportunity to offer any comments on the accomplishments of the current CDBG Lewis County Direct Homeownership Assistance Program.  
YEA   5   NAY   0
  
7. Resolution authorizing the renewal of the software maintenance agreement between the County of Lewis, by and through the Lewis County Probation Department and AutoMon, LLC for the term of August 14, 2020 through August 13, 2021 at a cost not to exceed \$5,921.74.  
YEA   5   NAY   0
  
8. Resolution authorizing MOU with AT&T to allow access to the Montague Tower to assess feasibility of leasing space on that Tower.  
YEA   5   NAY   0

Legislator King began discussion on the Special Events Permit Local Law which was brought back to committee for additional feedback. He felt that the Local Law started out by

addressing two events that have had issues in the past but then morphed into something to try and cover every situation imaginable. Legislator King would like to see the Special Event Permit Local Law start by addressing the issues with two of the larger events in Lewis County and then in the future if other things become a problem just make amendments to address them.

Legislator Dolhof stated that there can't be a Local Law that singles out certain events. Joan McNichol confirmed and suggested using a generic statistic to regulate like the number of attendees of an event. Legislator King suggested using 250+ people as benchmark. He also felt strongly that there should be one fee for everyone and not allow certain people or events to have the fee waived. Legislator Dolhof noted that he would like to see changes made and things finalized on the Local Law so that when it is brought forward next time it doesn't end up back in committee but moves forward to a public hearing.

Legislator King voiced his opinion that he thinks the Local Law should be re-worked and then put forward but also feels strongly that the Towns need to put their own Local Laws forward to protect their interests. Legislator Osborne brought up the point that maybe the criteria could be any special event that charges an admission fee. Joan McNichol didn't think that would be a good idea and she went on further to explain that the purpose of this Local Law was to improve communication regarding events. There were instances in the past where events were being organized and no one from the county was even aware until after the event was over and complaints about property damage would be received. This Local Law was allowing for more open communication between law enforcement, various other county departments and event organizers to make sure safety regulations were being adhered to.

Legislator Moroughan brought up local chicken bbq's being put on by local fire departments, if they have 350 halves would they need a permit? Legislator King felt that trying to regulate the normal events that haven't had any problems in the past is what is wrong with the Local Law as it is currently written. He feels that a chicken bbq poses no problems as most people are just pulling up getting their chicken and leaving. Most of the committee agreed with using the 250+ attendees as the threshold. Legislator Kulzer felt that it should also include anything that would affect county roads.

Legislator Chartrand voiced his concern of who is enforcing this, if it is supposed to be the Sheriff then let's make sure he is willing to do it before pushing this forward. Joan stated that any law enforcement agencies in our area have the right to enforce this. Legislator Dolhof pointed out that the way the Local Law is currently written it only covers county property and county roads and he feels that some ATV events will advertise it as just under 250 people. A few of the Legislators felt that if that situation does arise that they are subject to a fine or having the event closed down.

Legislator Dolhof directed everyone to send their comments to Joan so she can work on redrafting this for the next Committee meeting so it doesn't get pushed back. Legislator Moroughan asked what the cost of the permit would be, Joan responded that it would probably be a flat fee of roughly \$20.00. Legislator LaChausse questioned the insurance requirements, Legislator Dolhof responded that there was language in there that gave the county discretion on waiving those limits or lowering them if needed.

Joan directed everyone to email her any comments or concerns they have so she can work on changing the Local Law.

At 1:43 p.m. Legislator Moroughan made a motion to enter into attorney client privilege session to discuss a specific personnel matter and possible liability, seconded by Legislator Chartrand and carried.

At 2:28 p.m. Legislator Chartrand made a motion to enter back into regular session, seconded by Legislator Gilbert and carried.

Legislator Hathway asked to meet with the District Attorney to get a more firm answer to his question on how the Diversion program would affect the local Towns budgets. Her answer is very vague and Towns need to know or at least have an idea of how it will affect their budget. Ryan said he would set this meeting up and any Legislators wanting to participate should let him know.

At 2:41 p.m. Legislator King made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Legislator Chartrand and carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cassandra Moser, Clerk of the Board