

GENERAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
January 19, 2021

Present: Legislators Jerry King, Richard Chartrand, Ian Gilbert, Ron Burns, and Lisa Virkler.

Others present: Legislators Larry Dolhof, Greg Kulzer, Phil Hathway, Andrea Moroughan, and Tom Osborne; County Manager Ryan Piche; Treasurer Eric Virkler; County Attorney Joan McNichol; Human Resources Director Caitlyn Smith; and Information Technology Director Conner Biolsi.

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

Legislator Burns made a motion to approve the 12/15/2020 committee meeting minutes, seconded by Legislator Chartrand and carried.

Lewis County Sheriff Department – Sheriff Carpinelli

Sheriff Carpinelli questioned the committee about the delay in authorizing him to re-fill the deputy sheriff positions that he requested. Legislator King discussed the situation of a resident who was infected with COVID-19 and on isolation but seen several times out in the community and why the Sheriff couldn't assist with enforcing the isolation order. The Sheriff responded that he wasn't willing to do this because he felt that it would be intimidating someone to stay home and furthermore, he felt that it wasn't his duty to enforce any edicts by Governor Cuomo. Legislator King clarified that it would not be intimidating someone but to explain the importance of staying home as to not infect anyone else in the community. Sheriff Carpinelli warned Legislators to be very careful in using that as an excuse to interfere with operations of the Sheriff's Office, he suggested contacting the New York State police for assistance in matters that are not laws.

Legislator King expressed his concern that the Sheriff, who has been given most everything he has asked for, won't assist the county when they need help. Legislator Chartrand pointed out that at his age and with underlying health concerns he could very well have a negative outcome from contracting the virus and feels the appropriate thing is to encourage residents to stay home if they are infected and on isolation. He went on to further explain that Legislator Gilbert has cited law that a person could be convicted of for violating isolation orders from Public Health. Sheriff Carpinelli responded that the State Police, District Attorney, and himself won't enforce isolation orders because there is no law.

Legislator Gilbert explained that he did some research into how other counties were handling violations of isolation orders and found that someone can be charged under the states Reckless Endangerment statute. There is precedent to use that particular law in the context of transmission of diseases. People from the public have asked about what they should do if they know of someone who is violating isolation orders and unfortunately without the Sheriff's assistance there is not clear answer to give them. County Attorney Joan McNichol stated that Public Health law 12b is clear that violation of an isolation order is a misdemeanor.

Legislator Dolhof stated that over the last few years the Sheriff's budget has increased by 15% and several deputy positions were added, in part to increase the enforcement on the ATV & Snowmobile trails but that increase has never met the expectations of the board. There have never been any reports given or data provided to show any type of increase in that enforcement. Sheriff Carpinelli denied getting any additional deputy positions stating that they were all correction officers and referred to the Bonadio study that was done several years ago indicating that his department was understaffed. There was further discussion on the number of employees, specifically noting SRO's and Road Patrol Deputies.

Legislator Dolhof questioned what needed to be done going forward to get more statistics and more presence on the ATV trails. Sheriff Carpinelli stated that reports are given every year and that he needs more deputies. Sheriff Carpinelli felt strongly the information that was given out by the County Manager was not accurate. He explained that some of these positions were internal promotions and the vacant positions were never back filled. There was further discussion on the positions in the Sheriff's Department specifically Road Patrol Deputies and SRO's. Sheriff Carpinelli cited the Bonadio study stating they needed 6 more Road Patrol Deputies and he believed that the plan was to add 2 each year over the course of a 3-year period, which never happened.

Legislator Kulzer voiced his opinion that the Deputy Sheriff position should be re-filled because it is not a new position, therefore not increasing the workforce. Legislator King shared his opinion that the Sheriff needs to help the county when he is asked and do what he can. He feels strongly that isolation orders should be enforced by our county law enforcement. One possible direction would be, if the Sheriff continues to refuse to help, to use the money from the vacant position to hire someone who will help with the pandemic effort going on in the county. Legislator Hathway felt that violating an isolation order is a public safety concern. Legislator Gilbert stated that it is more than just a public safety concern it is about doing what is right to keep schools and businesses open in the county by controlling the spread of COVID-19. He asked for more clarification on the number of positions at the Sheriff's Department and what was requested over the last few years before deciding on whether to re-fill the vacant deputy position.

County Manager Ryan Piche explained that there are situations where our Public Health Nurses have had to hand deliver orders to residents who refuse to cooperate with pandemic requirements and have asked for a law enforcement presence because they are scared about the resident's reaction and the Sheriff has refused to help. Sheriff Carpinelli referenced the Governor's Police Reform and not being able to help because law enforcement is not supposed to assist, mental health professionals or social workers should. Sheriff Carpinelli stated that if a Public Health Nurse had to go to a resident's house and felt they were in danger they could call 911, explain the situation, and then it would be addressed but he felt that is not what is being asked of him or his staff.

Sheriff Carpinelli concluded by stating he and his staff are here to protect the residents of the county but will not enforce any edicts from the Governor. Sheriff Carpinelli responded to Ryan's example of a situation that a county employee felt unsafe, but the Sheriff did not assist, by stating that they need to call 911 if they feel unsafe and dispatch will follow the procedures in place to appropriately respond. Legislator Virkler took offense to the Sheriff stating that

Legislators were not being open and honest to the public and felt that was an unfair accusation to make. Legislator King concluded that there would be something put forward at the next Board meeting to give authorization for the Sheriff to re-fill the deputy position.

Capital Projects – C&S Companies Representatives

Chuck Brooks, P.E. from C&S Companies introduced himself; Patrick Currier, RA; and Mike LaMontagne, AIA, LEED AP. Chuck Brooks highlighted that C&S is a full-service architecture and engineering firm; has in-house construction services; 20 offices nationwide, with six offices including headquarters in NY; 500+ employees; 100+ licensed professional and more than 45 professionals certified in green building and sustainability; 50 years of providing AE services for almost every county in NYS and more than 50 cities, towns and villages; Currently designing new maintenance facilities for Madison County, Town of Massena, and NYSOPR&HP; Dedicated North Country project manager and complete team access.

Mike reviewed the proposed organizational chart and explained that there would be two project engineers, one for the DSS building renovation and one for the Highway Facility project. Each member of the team would be able to handle unique aspects of the projects. He went on to review a few recent projects highlighting the similarities of what Lewis Counties projects would be. Mike went through the proposed project planning that would be offered through C&S Companies. They start with the end in mind; identify goals and measures of success; determine risk factors and long lead items; develop a detailed project schedule with intermediate deliverables, allow time for Q&A/Review sessions, and set realistic milestones and stick to them; Budget and Financing plan; and always have open and frequent communication.

The C&S Project approach would be to determine what is going to be built, where it is going to be built, how it is going to be built, how it is going to be paid for. The answers would be through stakeholder engagement, site development, project planning, and identifying funding sources and requirements. They would engage each department to determine what their exact needs will be, vet every issue, and make sure communication is ongoing. They utilize an integrative design approach, a good understanding of current and future needs, sustainability, inter-discipline collaboration, and regulatory knowledge as part of the project planning. C&S has technology that allows them to gather data through a 3D scanner which can take measurements and assist with designing spaces.

Mike concluded the presentation with highlighting their relevant experience, attention to detail, cost & schedule control, in-kind services on projects. Legislator Hathway questioned if they have been through the process of getting maximum reimbursement from the state on certain projects, Mike responded that they have been through that with other entities. Chuck reassured legislators that they have a specific person who focuses on grant funding and would be added to the proposed team. Legislator Hathway also questioned if the projects would have environmentally friendly components to go along with our “Naturally Lewis” theme, Mike responded that it would be incorporated as much as possible. Legislator King inquired about the cost shift of having work done when the building was empty versus working in Phases on the building in order to keep employees in a workspace. Mike stated that it would be more costs effective to have the building empty so the contractor has full access, but they would look into

getting some figures together to compare. The Committee felt comfortable moving forward to a proposal phase with C&S Companies for the DSS and Highway Facilities projects.

The following dockets were reviewed:

1. Resolution to appropriate funds in the Highway Department accounts in the amount of \$132,051.16 for various annual lease payments, funds will be transferred from Project HAD Capital Equipment.
AYE 5 NAY 0

2. Resolution approving and directing the placement of a stop sign on the Parker Road where it intersects with County Route 27 in the Town of Montague. *Highway Superintendent Timothy Hunt explained that this was being requested by the Town of Montague and he agreed that there should be a stop sign. He also explained that after looking into the law further he realized that he has the authority to make these decisions without bothering the Board with them.*
AYE 5 NAY 0

3. Resolution appointing Jaylyn Yuhas-Heames, Executive Director of Snow Belt Housing Company, Inc to replace Cheryl Shenkle-O'Neill on the Lewis County Fair Housing Task Force.
AYE 5 NAY 0

4. Resolution to set virtual public hearings to be held simultaneously on Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. to solicit the views of County of Lewis citizens regarding: 1) Consolidated Funding Applications for Community Development Block Grant applications for a small business loan/grant in an amount not to exceed \$200,000.00; and 2) CDBG Community Planning funding for a countywide Housing Needs Assessment and Market Analysis in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.00 (with the required 5% cash local match paid from 2021 Community Development Funds).
AYE 5 NAY 0

5. Resolution to set a virtual public hearing to be held on March 2, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. for the purpose of receiving public comment to consider the requests and recommendations of the Lewis County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board, for inclusion of the two (2) properties located in the Town of New Bremen into Agricultural District # 6.
AYE 5 NAY 0

6. Resolution authorizing agreement between the Probation Department and Rubenzahl, Knudsen & Associates Psychological Services, P.C. to provide sex offender evaluations and counseling for individuals and psychological evaluations and treatment for juvenile delinquents/adolescent offenders when required for the period beginning January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021.
AYE 5 NAY 0

7. Resolution appropriating funds in the STOP DWI accounts in the amount of \$17,000.00 for 2020/2021 STOP-DWI program and authorizing stipend for administrative assistant services.

AYE 5 NAY 0

8. Resolution authorizing public parking lot lease between Diana Land Management, LLC and the County for the purpose of using the premises located at the intersection of Goose Pond Road and snowmobile trail S84B as recreational public parking.

AYE 5 NAY 0

9. Resolution authorizing agreement between Lewis County Sheriff's Department and Transitional Living Services of Northern New York to provide mental health counseling and other related mental health services for the inmates in the Sheriff's custody for the term beginning January 1, 2021 and ending December 31, 2021 at a cost of \$150.00 per hour.

AYE 5 NAY 0

10. Resolution for 2021 budget amendments in the Solid Waste Department accounts for various changes to improve accounting information within Munis.

AYE 5 NAY 0

11. Resolution to appoint Timothy Hunt, Lewis County Highway Superintendent, Lowville, New York to fill the un-expired term of Warren Shaw as a member of the Lewis County Traffic Safety Board effective February 3, 2021 through December 31, 2021.

AYE 5 NAY 0

The following motions were made:

1. Legislator Burns made a motion to authorize Highway Superintendent Timothy Hunt to send out an RFP for stone & gravel bids, seconded by Legislator Chartrand and carried.

At 3:03 p.m. Legislator Virkler made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Legislator Burns and carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Cassandra Moser, Clerk of the Board