

GENERAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
February 15, 2022

Present: Ian Gilbert, Chair; Richard Chartrand, Vice-Chair; Phil Hathway; and Josh Leviker. Legislator Moroughan was absent.

Others present: Legislators Larry Dolhof, Ron Burns, Jeffrey Nellenback, Lisa Virkler and Tom Osborne; County Manager Ryan Piche; County Attorney Joan McNichol; Treasurer Eric Virkler; Human Resources Director Caitlyn Smith; and Information Technology Director Conner Biolsi.

Committee Chair, Legislator Gilbert, called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

Legislator Leviker made a motion to approve the January 18, 2022 committee meeting minutes, seconded by Legislator Chartrand and carried.

ATV Study Results – Jackie Mahoney, Recreation, Forestry & Parks Director

Jackie explained that the county contracted with Camoin Associates and Jefferson Community College to create and implement a study on Lewis County Off Highway Vehicles and the economic and fiscal impact that it creates. The information presented was gathered from the Lewis County permit sales and a one day on the trails survey.

Many respondents from the survey came from Lewis County but it does spread all the way out to Ohio and East New Hampshire. The demographics were 76% male and 24% female; most people owned their OHV; 68% of people ride an ATV, 58% ride a Side by Side, and 10% ride a dirt bike, people could choose multiple options. Enforcement was measured and 61% of people encountered at least one or more law enforcement officers in a typical day. The majority of people, at 57%, states their overall OHV recreation experience in Lewis County was excellent and 38% rated it as good.

Another portion of the survey focused on fiscal aspects. It was determined that 59% of people spent more than \$10,000 on their last OHV purchase, and 21% spent more than \$20,000. Only 57% of OHV's are registered in NYS, while 22% are purchased outside of NYS. There are roughly 6,086 OHV trail users each year, local users spend a total of 30,626 days using the trails each year, and non-local users spend a total of 71,460 days using the trails each year. A non-local OHV user spends roughly \$93.00 a day which is broken down into lodging, food & drink, entertainment, gas, convenience stores, OHV equipment, OHV repairs, shopping, and other.

Legislator Dolhof asked for a more in-depth explanation of how the study got to 6,086 total OHV trail users a year, Jackie explained that the percentage of the survey results that were either a permit holder or not were used in conjunction with the permit sales data. Jackie voiced her opinion that this number is low as they only did a one-day survey and didn't separate the data out as much as they should have. In response to Legislator Hathway, Jackie stated that there were over 1,500 respondents to the survey.

The OHV user spending supports 97 jobs, with \$2,817,469.00 in employee earnings, and \$8,277,850.00 in sales, which roughly equates to \$140,563.00 in annual tax revenue for the county. The estimated potential revenue from unregistered vehicles would be \$115,307.00, and the potential sales tax revenue of \$1,865,239.00.

The average spending of net new OHV users, based on the 71,460 days on the trails, equates to \$6,626,658.00. The annual economic activity from local users is roughly \$28,393,077. There are also many jobs that can be attributed to OHV trail use such as food & beverage stores, gasoline stations, accommodations, food & drink places, and motor vehicle and parts dealers. Legislator Dolhof voiced his concern that the study wasn't done until the very last week of the year, so it seems that the numbers could be on the low side.

Ryan Piche commented that this information was sent to Park Strategies, the lobbying group in Albany, and they were impressed with the data and felt this was a great step forward. This will help build a quantitative case for our cause. Ryan suggested there could be a revised report in two years with what we have learned this time around.

The following dockets were reviewed:

1. Budget Amendment in Emergency Management Department in the amount of \$5,000.00 from Contingency for an unexpected vehicle repair.
AYE 4 NAY 0
2. Authorizing Agreement with US Ecology for Vacuum Truck and Separator Maintenance, and Waste Disposal Services for the Lewis County Highway Department.
AYE 4 NAY 0
3. Authorizing Purchase-Lease Agreements between the County of Lewis and Tracey Road Equipment, Inc. & Key Government Finance, Inc. for Highway Department Heavy Trucks with Dump Boxes.
AYE 4 NAY 0
4. Authorizing Opening of Certain Portions of County Roads for ATV Special Event.
AYE 4 NAY 0
5. Authorizing One-Time Funding and Agreements with Lewis County Snowmobile Clubs. *Legislator Hathway questioned if it would be possible to also do this for the Lewis County ATV Clubs as they also are volunteer based, Legislator Gilbert responded that he didn't think it would be a problem to put together something for next month. Legislator Leviker abstained.*
AYE 3 NAY 0
6. Awarding Bid and Authorizing Agreement between the County of Lewis and Paragon Construction for the Construction of a Bath House Facility at Singing Waters Park in the Town of Greig at a cost of \$318,200.00. *Ryan Piche reported that this resolution will be brought forward at the February 24th Special Board meeting.*
AYE 4 NAY 0

7. Authorizing a One-Year Agreement with Copenhagen Central School District and the County of Lewis to Provide a School Resource Officer During the 2022/2023 School Year. *Legislator Hathway questioned why this is only a one-year contract instead of a three-year contract. Legislator Gilbert sited that the 85% and 15% split was good. Human Resource Director, Caitlyn Smith stated that due to the time frame of hiring additional staff this needed to be done now for the upcoming school year. Legislator Dolhof stated that no one has reached out to the school to see if they would even be interested in a three-year contract, citing the draw back would be that if they aren't paying their fair share the county is locked in for three years. County Attorney, Joan McNichol stated that a one-year contract is preferred so the Board can review to see if they want to continue with the SRO and to make sure obligations are being met. Legislator Hathway made a motion to amend the wording from "trails" to "recreation" where it referred to the days of recreation patrol as being Wednesday through Sunday, citing that the Lake is often busiest on the weekends, seconded by Legislator Chartrand and carried.*

AYE 4 NAY 0

8. Appropriating Funds in the Solid Waste Department in the amount of \$69,782.00 from Liberty Mutual Insurance Company for vehicle accident repair expenses.

AYE 4 NAY 0

9. Authorizing Amendment to Agreement between Lewis County o/b/o Solid Waste Department and Barton & Loguidice for Design & Construction Modifications, Re-Bid Proposal and Construction Management Services for Scale House Project. *Ryan explained that the first set of bids were rather high, so there have been some changes made which should cut some costs and then the project will be re-bid. The major changes are reducing the amount of conduit needed by placing the building on the other side of the scales and using a leach field instead of a full-on septic tank.*

AYE 4 NAY 0

10. Amending Compensation Plan with Reference to the Highway Department to Create one (1) temporary Senior Account Clerk position at Grade 19.

AYE 4 NAY 0

Motions:

1. Legislator Chartrand made a motion to award bids for sand, gravel, crushed stone and concrete based on project locations in accordance with the tabulation of all bids prepared by the Highway Superintendent and placed on file with the Clerk of the Board, for the period of 4/1/2022 to 3/31/2023, seconded by Legislator Leviker and carried.

2. Legislator Hathway made a motion to authorize Sheriff Carpinelli to refill one (1) part-time Deputy Sheriff position effective immediately, seconded by Legislator Gilbert and carried.

County Manager Ryan Piche reminded everyone that the bid opening for the 2022 Facilities Improvement Project is scheduled for Wednesday, February 16th at 3:00 p.m. This will give KT Construct & Consult time to review the bids and vet the contractors. The Special Board meeting

on February 24th will be to award the contracts. This will make sure things are moving along and it will give the chosen contractors early notice so they can begin the process of ordering supplies.

Legislator Gilbert reminded everyone of the Snowmobile Ride scheduled for Friday, February 18th. Everyone who would like to attend must meet at Snow Ridge Ski Resort at 9:00 a.m. Jackie Mahoney will be driving her truck and has room for a few people who don't want to go by snowmobile.

There being no other business to come before the committee, Legislator Leviker made a motion to adjourn at 1:50 p.m., seconded by Legislator Hathway and carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Cassandra Moser, Clerk of the Board