

REGULAR MEETING

DELAWARE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MARCH 9, 2022

The regular meeting of the Delaware County Board of Supervisors was held Wednesday, March 9, 2022 at 1:03 p.m. in the Supervisors' Room of the Senator Charles D. Cook County Office Building, 111 Main Street, Delhi, New York, Chairman Tina B. Molé presiding.

The Clerk called the roll and all Supervisors were present except Mr. Davis. Mr. Wilson arrived shortly after roll call.

Mr. Marshfield offered the invocation.

Mr. Haynes led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The minutes of the previous public hearing and meeting were accepted as presented.

The Clerk noted that all communications received have been referred to their respective committees for review.

Chairman Molé granted privilege of the floor to Mr. Eisel who introduced John Campbell of Franklin.

Mr. Campbell asked the Board for support of the 250th birthday of the United States that will take place on July 4, 2026, and which is officially called the semiquincentennial. It is a very important time for history in our lifetime. Their hopes are that on July 4, 2026 and prior to then, they will have a lot of support from schools and area historians, and have a big ceremony on July 4, 2026. Leading up to then, they would like a lot of involvement from students, historians, and others. Obviously, they don't have any of that organized at this point, but they are working on it.

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) is involved as well as several historian groups. He is working with school superintendents to help get classes and education to our students. He believes that history is not one of the prime subjects today in our schools and hopefully they can show schools this is a big enough event that they will help in forming a celebration in 2026. This is a national task and he is involved in the state's organization of it. They are planning early and are looking forward to a very nice celebration. A resolution will be introduced at next Board meeting. Anyone who wants to get involved or has questions is asked to call him at (607) 829-2692.

The Board thanked Mr. Campbell.

Chairman Molé granted privilege of the floor to Supervisor Gladstone. Mr. Gladstone stated that because of the major shortage of volunteers in both the fire service and ambulance

service, the Public Safety Committee has been working to figure out a solution to fix the shortage. They put out an RFP to contract for a service that is temporary to help fill this void while local departments put together a plan for county supported ambulance services. Mr. Gladstone introduced Director of Emergency Services Steve Hood to present both options. He stated the Franklin Volunteer Fire Department will give a presentation at the next Board meeting. They want this important issue to be fully discussed, and it needs to be dealt with sooner than later.

Mr. Hood referenced a resolution that will be brought to the floor that is to allocate \$1.5 million of ARP funding to Emergency Services for a backup county ambulance service. The resolution does not specify what that service is. Basically, there are three options. The first option would be for the Board to vote “no” on the allocation and there would be no ARP funding. The money would go back to the ARP Committee for another consideration. A “yes” vote leads to two options. These two options are a county-owned, county-run ambulance service or a contracted service.

Mr. Hood gave a PowerPoint presentation on the pros and cons of a county-owned ambulance service versus a contracted service covering the following points:

County-owned Ambulance:

PROS:

- county owns and operates the ambulance service
- creates jobs locally
- designed as a long-term solution essentially to remain in place

CONS:

- \$2.39 million budget is an estimate of cost for the first year
- additional county departments and more county employees
- increased demands on the self-insurance fund—ES is high ranking for injuries
- start-up time projected to approximately 1 year
- county owns/maintains all the equipment
- billing services/insurance contracts
- to cease operations the county must follow DOH BEMS Policy 13-09 and lay off employees

CHALLENGES:

- Certificate of Operation (CON) Application process
- narcotics license/plan/safe/storage as required by ALS
- storage of medications/supplies
- hiring new staff/staffing shortage (Civil Service)
- medical director must be hired
- purchasing ambulances and other equipment
- additional county-owned building needed with space for ambulances/24-hour staff
- ePCR software and equipment for charting
- billing contracts with insurance companies
- contracts with medical billing companies
- many contracts/purchases will require additional RFPs

- creation of policies and procedures
- training new employees
- start-up time of 6 to 8 months minimum
- administrator must be hired to start the service

Contract Ambulance:

PROS:

- short start-up time most likely 4 to 8 weeks from final contract negotiations
- all-inclusive contract
- highest cost per year is known at \$1.9 million—there are no hidden costs
- can end the contract with written notice
- no additional county employees—no burden on the county self-insurance fund
- local job creation
- designed to be short term to allow agencies to formulate their own plans/solutions

CONS:

- Delaware County does not own the ambulance service
- can end the contract with written notice

CHALLENGES:

- contract negotiations

Mr. Hood referenced a handout of a projected budget for the cost of a county-owned service with two Basic Life Support (BLS) ambulances and one Advanced Life Support (ALS) fly car.

In reply to Ms. Molé, Mr. Hood confirmed only a limited number of CON certificates are distributed. The state knows municipalities will succeed at first because of monetary backing to get established. After two years, the certificate is put in the cycle with other agencies and it may come up for contention at the regional council.

In answer to Mr. Marshfield, Mr. Hood verified that under a county-owned service, ongoing training and certification for employees would be a county expense. He stressed that these proposals are strictly for a backup service. Nothing is meant to take the place of the volunteers and they want the volunteers to continue their service.

Concurring with Mr. Eisel, Mr. Hood said the medical director must be a physician.

Mr. Hood stated in answer to Mr. Kosier, that under a contracted service, revenues taken in from billing would come back to the County.

In response to Mr. Wilson, Mr. Hood said the estimated revenue is approximately \$800,000 based on ambulances doing five calls a day under the reimbursement schedule AMR provided in the RFP. The amount could range from \$800,000 to \$1.2 million depending on what they are able to get as reimbursement. He stated AMR is a for-profit operation globally known and run.

Mr. Marshfield clarified that the estimate of \$1.2 million is for a total of five calls a day for both ambulances.

Responding to Mr. Valente, Mr. Hood said he believes the agencies around the County forming their own services is inevitable. He believes there is enough pride in these agencies so they will find their own solutions to their shortages whether it is a mixture of paid volunteers like Hancock or a not-for-profit like Sidney. The agencies around the County will come to that sort of solution at some point.

In reply to Mr. Wilson, Mr. Hood said he believes smaller agencies will eventually contract with larger agencies in the County. He said the smaller agencies are not having issues right now or very few of them are. The issue they are having is their increased load due to a larger call volume from other agencies not responding, which is having a trickledown effect on them.

Ms. Molé expressed that is what Bovina is telling her. They have a great volunteer system in Bovina and they can handle Bovina, it's the mutual aid around them where they are getting burned out. As far as their own town, they can handle it and that is what they want to do.

Mr. Taggart recognized the volunteers need help and he would like to see a way to monetarily reimburse them.

In response to Mrs. Scott, Mr. Hood said ambulance agencies can bill for services if they are based under a fire department.

Mr. Merrill stated there are options to pursue, but we don't have time; we have to do something now. The most immediate way to do that is to contract the service and get it out there and rolling and then study all the options that are available.

Ms. Scott indicated they know how many calls they receive but asked how many calls are they missing. She questioned how many people are self-transporting because there is too long of a delay.

Mr. Cetta declared there is no easy solution to this. He believes this backup service will evolve into a primary service for a number of agencies. Once we start this, this will continue and people will expect it. So once we start charging taxpayers, it will be forever just like a fire service. The Board has talked about this since he has been on the Board and most likely predates then. Is there a way or mechanism that we contract with an entity that can put a plan together that would cover all of Delaware County as the primary service because it will morph into that down the road. Let's not wait until then. Let's do it now. Let's find a company that we can contract with to develop a plan on how Delaware County can cover their residents on a full-time basis with the number of ambulances we need. It will not be two; it might be six or seven but what is the cost of that and how would that work to cover the whole County? He believes we need to take that step forward now and not wait and see how this goes and then move forward in a year or two or three.

Mr. Gladstone said the contract will give us a great idea on what will happen with a county system. If we move forward with a county-owned system, we need something in place now to fill this void.

Mr. Layton questioned what it will cost each town when the taxpayers need to start paying for the service.

Mr. Eisel said it will cost the taxpayers possibly as much as \$100,000 a year for each town. For the services in Stamford, Kortright, and Harpersfield, his budget increased 10%, but it is something they have to do. In conjunction with what Mr. Gladstone said about two additional ambulances and a fly car, having that and the other ambulance services, they can probably get a survey to see if there are future needs that require more ambulances. If this all works out, AMR could come on right away within two months, which is a benefit to our County, and they hope to be on the Stamford-Harpersfield-Kortright by the end of the year. That will eventually give us four additional ambulances and two fly cars.

In answer to Mr. Wilson, Mr. Marshfield stated that more or less, Emergency Services will direct where they want the ambulance to be located.

Mr. Hood explained that the ambulances would be moved according to system status management which is moving ambulances around the areas that need them the most.

He clarified that once the contract is signed, they will be Delaware County ambulances. Mr. Merrill added the ambulances will be branded as "Delaware County."

Concurring with Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Hood said these will be 911 ambulances only and will not be doing transfers out of the County. They will be transporting to local hospitals only.

In reply to Mr. Wilson, Mr. Hood stated with the exception of Hancock, Sidney, and Middletown where the Margaretville Hospital has a hospital-based ambulance service, all the other ambulance agencies in the County are volunteer. For the concerns about paying twice for service, he likens it the villages that have police services. If the village police are not in service for that day, who comes in to do the work—the Sheriff's Department or State Police. Both are taxpayer-funded entities. That system is already in place and taxpayers are paying for that service twice. An ambulance service is no different. If an ambulance is not in service, a county ambulance will come do the work. Emergency services works that way for fire departments, law enforcement, and ambulance service.

Agreeing with Mr. Hood, Mr. Merrill stated that is certainly true with their police department. If the tones go out and they are the closest ones, they are going to be there first until somebody else shows up.

Mr. Vernold expressed that this is a big issue with Hancock taxpayers. They already pay \$250,000 a year from taxes to fund their ambulance service. If a county-wide back up ambulance service becomes effective, his taxpayers will have to pay twice for both ambulance services.

Mr. Marshfield said if the County forms their own ambulance squad, then all the taxpayers will have to pay for the service.

Mr. Merrill opined that the concept of being part of a county is to do things countywide. Frankly, Colchester pays one of the largest percentages of the county budget because they happen to have a very good tax base.

Mr. Valente agreed saying the Town of Davenport pays for a lot of watershed affairs maintenance and they are not in the watershed. It is also reminiscent to people who don't have children in school but they pay school taxes. It is something called for the greater good. As citizens of Delaware County, he never did object to paying for maintenance of the New York City watershed because he considered himself a Delaware County resident.

Mrs. Scott said that ultimately we are talking about human life here. If the ambulance does not come in a timely manner, people die. If we are at the breaking point where people are not getting ambulance service and they have to drive their loved one who is having a life-threatening situation, that will not have a good outcome.

Mr. Vernold stated that is the reason Hancock started their service. They were waiting for ambulance service from Cooperstown.

Mr. Gladstone noted that people have to wait in Middletown for an ambulance when the hospital's ambulance is doing transfers to Kingston.

Mrs. Scott said the ambulance services want to do the hospital transfers because they know they will be paid and that equals big dollars.

Mr. Hinkley said that for Roxbury and Grand Gorge fire districts, virtually all of the mutual aid ALS comes from Margaretville Hospital because there is no other source. That system is potentially on shaky ground should Westchester Medical Center decide they want to send both ambulances somewhere else. There are other issues going on there and it is anyone's guess how long that ambulance service will be there. Mr. Hood added that those ambulances will now only go to the Roxbury town sheds.

Mr. Hinkley shared that he has been an EMT for almost 40 years. They are down to about three EMTs and of the three, two are well over 60 years old. They are reaching a point where it is very difficult to get trained EMTs, especially ALS. About the only way someone can support the training they need for ALS is they have to be working for a paid service or they have to be in a college program or something similar where they are looking at a future in this type of service. That is the state of EMS. He believes that within ten years, there will be a full county ambulance service. It is just the nature of volunteerism and the amount of training involved to stay a volunteer EMT is insurmountable for many people, especially young families.

In response to Mr. Taggart, Mr. Hood stated that typically either party could terminate the contract with a 90-day written notice. Noting the cost to set up and operate an ambulance system, Mr. Taggart would prefer to lengthen the escape clause to 120 days.

Mr. Merrill stated they would look at all of the options and find out what a county-wide service would cost, how long would it take to implement it, and how it would be billed.

Mr. Cetta reiterated they need to start now and not wait to figure out how the contract works. Let's start now. Mr. Hinkley agreed saying to keep their eye on the goal, they need to start working on what it will take to turn this into a county service.

Mr. Cetta asked if there is an organization or entity that can look at the County as a whole as to the number of calls and the size of the county, and put a strategic plan together on how to cover the county.

Mr. Vernold said when they started the Hancock ambulance service, they used an attorney from Syracuse who specializes in this. There certainly are people who know what to do. He asked the person who helped them set up their service to attend the next Board meeting.

Mr. Eisel said they use an attorney from Albany who is working with them in Stamford. The attorney has put a lot of services together and he may also be helpful.

Ms. Molé thanked Mr. Hood.

Mr. Haynes offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 53

**TITLE: AUTHORIZATION FOR AWARDS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

LETTING OF FEBRUARY 24, 2022

Notice to bidders and proposals received having been filed and the bidding procedures and documents having been approved by the County Attorney:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the County Department of Public Works is authorized to make awards to the lowest bidders meeting specifications as follows:

PROPOSAL NO. 2-22 Asphalt Concrete & Related work to: Cobleskill Stone
Products, Inc., P.O. Box 220 Cobleskill, N.Y. 12043

Bid Price: See Summary Sheet

PROPOSAL NO. 3-22 Asphalt Concrete & Related Work for Parking Lots, Sidewalks & Misc. Small Jobs to: Cobleskill Stone Products, Inc., P.O. Box 220 Cobleskill, N.Y. 12043

Bid Price: See Summary Sheet

PROPOSAL NO. 5-22 Hot Mix Asphalt, FOB Supplier's Plant to: Broome Bituminous Products Inc., 416 Prentice Road, Vestal, NY 13850; Chenango Asphalt Products Corp., East River Road, Norwich, NY 13815; Cobleskill Stone Products, Inc., P.O. Box 220 Cobleskill, N.Y. 12043; Tri-City highway Products, Inc., 145 Podpadic Road, Richmondville, NY 12149

Bid Price: See Summary Sheet

Towns may participate in these bids.

All original bids and a summary sheet of the bids received are on file for inspection at the office of the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors.

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Valente and adopted by the following vote: Ayes 4424, Noes 0, Absent 375 (Davis).

Mr. Haynes offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 54

TITLE: AUTHORIZATION FOR AWARDS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

LETTING OF FEBRUARY 25, 2022

Notice to bidders and proposals received having been filed and the bidding procedures and documents having been approved by the County Attorney:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the County Department of Public Works is authorized to make awards to the lowest bidders meeting specifications as follows:

PROPOSAL NO. 7-22 Stone & Gravel Products to: Carver Sand & Gravel LLC, 494 Western Turnpike, Altamont, NY 12009; Burton F. Clark, Inc., PO Box 427, Delhi, NY 13753; Cobleskill Stone Products, Inc., PO Box 220, Cobleskill, NY 12043; Eric J Dahlberg Construction LLC., 696 Potter Mtn Rd., Gilboa, NY 12076; Hanson Aggregates New York LLC, 5126 South Onondoga Rd., Nedrow, NY 13120; LaFever Sand & Gravel, LLC, 3135 Co Hwy 6, Bovina Center, NY 13740; Masonville Stone Inc., 12999 St.

Hwy 8, Masonville, NY 13804; Platterkill Mine LLC., 871 Bull Hill Rd., Gilboa, NY 12076; E&R Popes Excavating, LLC, 1073 Co. Hwy 1, Mt. Upton, NY 13809; Robinson Bros Excavating, 29119 St Hwy 10, Walton, NY 13856; Schaefer Enterprises of Deposit, Inc., 315 Old Route 10, Deposit, NY 13754; Seward Sand & Gravel, Inc., 532 Co Hwy 58, Oneonta, NY 13820;

Bid Price: See Summary Sheet

PROPOSAL NO. 8-22 Gravel Processing to: Burton F. Clark, Inc., PO Box 427, Delhi, NY 13753

Bid Price: See Summary Sheet

Towns may participate in these bids.

All original bids and a summary sheet of the bids received are on file for inspection at the office of the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors.

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Kosier and adopted by the following vote: Ayes 4424, Noes 0, Absent 375 (Davis).

Mr. Haynes offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 55

**TITLE: AUTHORIZATION FOR AWARDS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

LETTING OF FEBRUARY 23, 2022

Notice to bidders and proposals received having been filed and the bidding procedures and documents having been approved by the County Attorney:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the County Department of Public Works is authorized to make awards to the lowest bidders meeting specifications as follows:

PROPOSAL NO. 9-22 Transit Mixed Concrete to: Otsego Ready Mix, Inc., 6459 St. Hwy 23, Oneonta, NY 13820; Hanson Aggregates NY LLC, 5126 South Onondaga Rd., Nedrow, NY 13120.

Bid Price: See Summary Sheet

PROPOSAL NO. 10-22 Steel Structural Shapes, Misc. to: Chemung Supply Corp., PO Box 527, Elmira, NY 14902

- Bid Price: See Summary Sheet
- PROPOSAL NO. 11-22 Used Steel Pipe & New Steel Pipe End Sections to: Allegany Pipe & Tubular, 2954 Co Rt 22, Andover, NY 14806-9616; Chemung Supply Corp., PO Box 527, Elmira, NY 14902
- Bid Price: See Summary Sheet
- PROPOSAL NO. 12-22 Interlocking Steel Sheet Piling to: Chemung Supply Corp., PO Box 527, Elmira, NY 14902
- Bid Price: See Summary Sheet
- PROPOSAL NO. 13-22 Steel Reinforcing Bars to: Chemung Supply Corp., PO Box 527, Elmira, NY 14902
- Bid Price: See Summary Sheet
- PROPOSAL NO. 14-22 Epoxy Coated Steel Reinforcing Bars to: Chemung Supply Corp., PO Box 527, Elmira, NY 14902
- Bid Price: See Summary Sheet
- PROPOSAL NO. 16-22 Gabions to: Chemung Supply Corp., PO Box 527, Elmira, NY 14902
- Bid Price: See Summary Sheet
- PROPOSAL NO. 20-22 Steel Sign Posts to: Chemung Supply Corp., PO Box 527, Elmira, NY 14902
- Bid Price: See Summary Sheet
- PROPOSAL NO. 21-22 Lubricating Oils to: Superior Lubricants Co., Inc., 32 Ward Road, North Tonawanda, NY 14120
- Bid Price: See Summary Sheet
- PROPOSAL NO. 23-22 Portland Cement to: Pickett Building Materials, 6459 State Highway 23, Oneonta, NY 13820.
- Bid Price: See Summary Sheet

Towns may participate in these bids.

All original bids and a summary sheet of the bids received are on file for inspection at the

office of the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors.

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Kosier and adopted by the following vote: Ayes 4424, Noes 0, Absent 375 (Davis).

Mr. Marshfield offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 56

**TITLE: 2022 BUDGET AMENDMENT
APPROPRIATION OF AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN (ARP) FUNDING**

WHEREAS, the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 appropriated funding to governmental municipalities to assist in the economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Delaware County was awarded a total of \$8,572,706 from the US Department of Treasury (USDT) to be used for eligible costs incurred during the period March 3, 2021 and ending on December 31, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Committee has done a thorough and impartial review of proposals and has approved the following project for funding:

- Emergency Services countywide backup ambulance services: \$1,500,000.00

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the 2022 Budget be amended as follows:

INCREASE REVENUE:

10-11325-44408902/1327889/888	Fed Aid Other-ARP	\$1,500,000.00
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INCREASE APPROPRIATION:

10-13640-54584000/1327889/888	DES – Ambulance Services - ARP	\$1,500,000.00
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The resolution was seconded by Mr. Merrill.

Mr. Marshfield stated the ARP Committee probably went overboard analyzing this request. The Finance Committee and the Public Safety Committee said they wholeheartedly support this. People from AMR came to speak with the committee. They started all of this in August 2021. This resolution was altered to allocate funding to any ambulance backup service, not specifically AMR. He emphasized how much this has been analyzed and felt it was a good plan for the County. Does it fit the whole County, no, it doesn't. Whatever plan they use is not going to fit the whole County.

He expressed there is \$4.8 million left in the ARP fund. It is important to the committee that the funds are obligated. Once they obligate the funding, it has to be spent by the end of 2026. After this \$1.5 million is taken from the funding, they will have \$2.259 million left out of the \$8.5 million. If the Board wants to allocate this funding, they need to approve the resolution because the ARP fund is getting down. They have a vendor that will be talking to the committee regarding a \$1.9 million project and they have received a request for \$500,000 to upgrade the wastewater system for the two milk plants that employ 500. The system has to be upgraded. Originally, the request was for a couple million dollars but they found other funding so they were able to get the request down to half a million. It is still an enormously important project for our County.

Mr. Merrill expressed the committee has more requests than available funding.

Mr. Vernold thanked the ARP committee for the work they are doing with the ARP funds.

The resolution was adopted by the following vote: Ayes 4424, Noes 0, Absent 375 (Davis).

Ms. Molé waived Board Rule 10 to permit the introduction without objection of the following not-prefiled resolution.

Mr. Merrill offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 57

TITLE: PAYMENT OF AUDIT

WHEREAS, bills and claims submitted and duly audited by the Clerk of the Board's office in the amount of \$1,000,120.18 are hereby presented to the Board of Supervisors for approval of payment;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the County Treasurer be directed to pay said expenditures as listed below:

General Fund	\$562,223.96
OET	\$20,661.99
Public Safety Comm System	\$0.00
Insurance Risk	\$0.00
CAP 97 Main	\$1,808.05
CAP MH	\$48,378.14
CAP DSS	\$0.00

Highway Audits, as Follows:

Weights & Measures	\$0.00
Solid Waste/Landfill	\$77,452.80
Road	\$201,188.13
Machinery	\$53,256.31
Capital Solid Waste	\$35,150.80
Capital Road & Bridge	\$0.00
CAP DPW Complex	\$0.00

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Taggart and adopted by the following vote: Ayes 4424, Noes 0, Absent 375 (Davis).

Upon a motion, the meeting was adjourned at 2:14 p.m.