

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

October 13, 2021

8:45 A.M.

Attendees:	George Haynes	Joe Cetta
	John Kosier	Bill Layton
	Dennis Valente	Jerry Vernold
	Susan McIntyre	Jared Boice

GENERAL

• Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

- The minutes of the September 22nd meeting were approved as presented.

• Budget update

- SM, we submitted our budget, on Friday I received a call from Linda Pinner that they had made significant changes to our personnel sheets. They have cut our overtime in half. I warned her that this could be a problem but they assured us that if we needed the money they would find it, this is just to keep the initial budget down. So we will have to rework the budget, we won't have that done until next week when Lisa gets back. They also changed the amount of sales tax in the solid waste capital so we have to drop that down.

- GH, Finance is going low with the estimate on sales tax, they are using \$21 million, Lisa had used last year's figures at my request so her number was high.

- SM, The other thing they have done is changed how they budget the health insurance; in the past all vacant positions were budgeted at the highest rate, they have changed that to budget them at the lowest rate. This leads into the next item.

• Health Insurance option

- SM, This year the County and the union have to come to agreement to provide an alternate health insurance plan. That plan is a PPO Simply Blue2; this plan has higher copays but a cheaper overall premium, which is what the County, and employees will see. This has been sent to the Union. It comes predicated with the stipulation that in order to get this the HMO plan, Blue Point 2 (Cadillac plan), has to be eliminated. Those employees currently on the plan will be allowed to keep it, it would no longer be offered as an option and if you dropped off it you would not be allowed to go back to it, it will be phased out completely over time. As it was explained to me, the insurance company has been trying to eliminate this plan for some time as well as it is expensive. I believe that the vote on this has to be done by November 2nd. Interestingly enough, the only people allowed to vote are those actually in the union even though it effects everyone. The penalty for not making any changes is that the employees would not see the \$1,200 per person pay raise per the collective bargaining unit.

- DV, Are the higher deductibles in the prescriptions?

- SM, I don't know. We are waiting on Personnel for the fact sheet.

- DV, I would love to see this work because Health Insurance is one of our biggest problems.

• NYSOGS salt contract pricing 2021-2022

- SM, Prices have been announced, there is no change, it is still \$72.28/ton.

• HEOII Arbitration decision

- SM, This has been resolved, we won the arbitration.

• Authorization to fill vacancies – HEOII

- SM, Now that we have the arbitration behind us, we would like to upgrade the rest of our HEO IIs.

- Committee approved.

- Staff Training Activities

- SM, I'd just like to bring you up to date on what we have been doing to ensure that our new employees and our new supervisors are receiving the necessary training.
- MSHA training is required yearly for anyone who will be working in a gravel bank. This was held in late September. We also held our two-day Safety Days training event. We did have a couple Town Highway Superintendents participate this year. The training was well received. Based on that training we did schedule some more specific follow-up training. We had a NYSDOT inspection guy meet with our mechanics last week, that was time very well spent. We had someone come and do bucket truck training to see who was comfortable being up in the bucket, turns out not too many are. But that's why we do this.
- Yesterday, today and tomorrow we have a snowplow obstacle course set up. We are sending as many drivers as we can through that but especially the new ones. This is set up at the SWMC. They have a loaded truck outfitted with a plow, wing and spreader; obstacles include parked cars, mailboxes, narrow roads etc.
- Next week we have forklift training scheduled. We also have a meeting set for our foremen in early November to go over salt usage.

- Drone Committee

- SM, To keep you in the loop, Planning has a drone that is shared between several departments. You have to be a certified pilot to fly the drone. Planning and the Planning committee are working to develop a designated pilot on-call status, there will be some sort of financial compensation for this on-call status.
- A lengthy discussion was held on the drone and where and how it can be used and where it should be stored.

- ARP fund proposals

- SM, Christa has reached out to the Department heads for proposals on how to spend the ARP funds. The only proposal I submitted was to take our documents from the vault and have them digitized and turned into microfiche. I took a wild stab estimating the cost at about \$34,000.
- JH, the Committee talked about it yesterday but because it was such a low number they feel it should be added to our budget, not used for APR funds. We did not make a decision, it was tabled.
- SM, On that ARP request I also added something about Zombie properties. I don't propose that DPW take the lead on this, I just feel that it would be a good use of their money. With all the issues involving asbestos, they could demolish these properties and then sell them to adjoining owners or something and get them back on the tax roll.

- Coop Ext COVID Vaccination questionnaire

- SM, Cooperative extension has been charged with doing a survey nationwide as to why people are hesitant to get a covid vaccine. We have agreed to send the survey out. We will not require that anyone participate, we are just putting it out there.

- CRC Crusher – Oct 23

- SM, This has been previously approved. Just an FYI this is the last race of the season.

- CRISP request

- SM, This has to deal with invasive species monitoring and control within the Catskill Park, I think it stands for Catskill Region Invasive Species Project. They have been working with Dan Sanford at his farm and they have expressed an interest in including DPW in their study if we happen to find things in our patrols. So unless anyone has a problem with us working with them we will go ahead with this. There will be an understanding that we aren't going to change how we do things.
- Committee approved.

SOLID WASTE

• Clean Sweep

- SM, Was held last weekend. It was a new company. We used them due to their availability.
- Committee questioned if it was advertised as much as in prior years.
- GH, I did not get a flier this year.
- SM, I believe so, we did sell out all of our spots. We had 370 households, 28 businesses and 17 farms. We moved a trailer and a half of material. The only complaint we had is that they were slow and the lines got long. So if you hear any rumbling, that is the issue.
- GH, Why were they slow? Were they understaffed?
- SM, They were understaffed and on top of that they were just slow. We will be doing a post event review with them to go over the issue.

• Cell 4s EC

- SM, The work under the electric contract has started. I do have a work change directive that I would like your approval on. Right now it is a negative change order to the tune of \$19,875. To change from copper to aluminum to make us more compatible with NYSEG's interconnect and availability of material. We will not see that full negative change because there are some other unidentified cost yet in relocating the poles to get a smoother alignment. This will allow us to go further with the next phase.
- Committee approved.

• Cell 4s GC rebid

- SM, The rebid of the General Construction will go live today. The bids will be opened on November 10th. We are anticipating prefilling for award at the Organizational meeting in January. One of the issues we identified the first time we did this was the low permeability soil and its availability. The bid we received included hauling this material in from Syracuse. We have identified a couple possible sources for this material. The Broome County landfill has some available this spring and they have expressed a willingness to sell us this material. I have also reached out to Chenango County who also has some on site. So I would propose an IMA where we would secure the 10,000 yards of low permeability soil for the contractor, taking that risk control for them, it would be up to the contractor to do the screening and hauling. Both of these sites are much closer than Syracuse. I continue to work on this.

• Scale Software

- SM, I am probably going to get beat up over this but here goes. We had \$20,000 in the budget for new software at the landfill, to his credit Tyson did not act on this because of the expense. We have since found out that we can upgrade our current software for an annual subscription of \$850. We are going to advance on this with your approval, I did not do a new authorization because this is much cheaper than the original.
- Committee approved.

• Compost shutdown status

- SM, Annual shutdown has started. They are replacing the 602 conveyor, the old one is down, new one is starting to go in. This is all work being done in house. It is going very well. Erik and his crew are doing an excellent job. They will be down through the end of the month.

• Compost building

- SM, In conjunction with the shut down, the scaffolding to protect the wall that needs to be replaced next year has been put in place. It is load bearing scaffolding that will protect that wall during the winter as well.

• Leachate disposal

- SM, The mayor has informed us that they want to raise the price for the cost of leachate, his proposal is for the price to go up effective January 2022 to \$.05/gallon, January 2023 to \$.055/gallon and January

2024 to \$.06/gallon. I have talked to the Mayor and he admitted they were just trying to make something move with the host community benefit package.

- JH, We have taken the stance that the leachate is totally separate from the Host Community Benefit package. It did come up at our meet the candidate event last night and I explained that we had started this but got shutdown because of covid and that I intended to bring it back up in January if I was still in office. Are you ok with us keeping it separate?

- SM, It really doesn't matter to us.

- Discussion was held on what we can do with leachate. Can we send it other places? How do we negotiate this?

- SM, We need to spend some real time on this in the near future as this has a serious budgetary impact. And it helps to know that it isn't tied into the larger package.

- Margaretville biosolids disposal

- SM, We are making some slow progress with the City giving us the information we have asked for.

HIGHWAYS/BRIDGES

- Pre-winter prep

- SM, We are preparing for winter, doing our last minute ditching, driveway pipe replacements and culvert cleaning. Have a meeting tomorrow with Steve Hood and NYSDOT, I will be bringing Kevin and Ben with me, just a winter preparedness meeting. What do you do if you have a bad winter and you don't have enough people. I intend to tell them the same thing I did last year. If you have a bad storm and we can't keep up close the roads until we can get it under control.

- Line stripping

SM, We have burned through the white paint. All County and NYC scheduled roads complete, getting ahead for next year. We are currently working on getting ahead for next year. We'll do what we can until the weather breaks or we run out of paint. So that truck will be coming off the road soon.

- DV, We are we keeping that truck?

- SM, That has historically gone to NYSEG, it is on target to send it back there. Once Bloomville is done it will go there.

- DV, I just wanted to make sure NYSEG was still on the table with the staff turnover there.

- SM, To the best of my knowledge.

(Note, this truck stays in Delhi during the winter. The Vac truck goes to NYSEG.)

- CR 6 culvert replacement

- SM, Culvert replacement is scheduled for the 19th and 20th.

- CR 53 maintenance agreement b/w NYCDEP, Delaware, Greene

- SM, The City has found their copy of this agreement and has shared it with us. We have a meeting set up next week to review this.

- NYC Roads

- SM, Kevin meet with Darin Dekoske who is the head field guy with the outstanding field work coordination Cannonsville and rockslide. Meeting went well. The biggest problem we have had is that they keep asking for more when they have no money for it. To his credit, Darin has acknowledged that and said ok, let's bring it back to here.

- CR 6 New Kingston for sewer line work

- SM, The Town of Middletown was supposed to have passed a resolution adopting our bond allocation under the New Kingston license agreement. We negotiated a \$30,000 bond allocation. I have yet to get confirmation from Pat that this has happened so I can sign off on that.

- DV, But we have no horse in this race so we don't need to worry about this right?

- SM, Yes but I don't want to do to them what other utilities do to us so I want to stay on top of it. But the ball is clearly in their court.
- T/Bovina 30mph speed extension
 - SM, For the record, this extension was approved and the signs are up. Bovina has asked us to put up the solar powered signs. We have marked the locations, as soon as we get confirmation and they get the signs in we will get that done.
- CR 8 T/Roxbury Water District
 - Town has a driveway fee permit fee waiver for the driveway to the Denver project off CR 8.
 - Committee approved.
- CR 41 T/Roxbury No Parking signs request
 - SM, the Town has requested these signs, we gave them the locations, they have passed a Resolution. There are three of them that will go up. We have agreed to this as it is a good idea.
 - DV, But is there a specific business that uses this?
 - SM, Yes. There is a restaurant, they put their tables and chairs over the sidewalk and right out to the edge of the pavement. I have reached out to Allen and the Town clerk as well as Amy and we are sending them a nasty gram that they liable for any damage done when their tables are in the right of way.
 - DV, How are these tied together?
 - SM, The road is very narrow right there and there is a great deal of commercial traffic in the area and when people are parked on both sides of the street it is impossible to get through.
 - DV, But does the no parking have to be on the same side as the restaurant? I'm just trying to eliminate any arguments they could come up with that this is targeted at them.
 - SM, I did make them give us a resolution because in these circumstances I like to defer to the Town.
- T/Masonville – Beals Pond Rd
 - SM, Have a request for a speed zone on Beals Pond Road. Will be submitting this to DOT.
 - Committee approved.
- T/Hancock – Harvard Bridge
 - SM, We have an issue with GPS sending tractor trailers up this road and then when they get to the closed bridge they have no room to turn around. Received a call from Emily Houck, she would like a dead end sign put up.
 - JV, Neil said he put one up yesterday. And she was going to call the State and talk to them as well to see if they can do anything to help.
- BR 5 T/Colchester
 - SM, We have an inspection report and we have a meeting this afternoon to review it. This is the suspension bridge in Corbett that was closed due to the State flagging it. Work has started on the repairs.
 - JB, We have cut the deck off and got the bad floor beam out. We have sleeper beams and a bunch of steel ordered. We are tearing everything apart and needle scaling and sand blasting, then we will repaint. Will go through the report and see what other repairs are needed. The sleeper beams we ordered are the last ones out of production in the US. There were 3 forty footers available. That will get done what we have torn apart right now.
 - SM, The recommendation is to do what we have torn apart now and get it painted and put it back together and reopen the bridge. Sometime in the next five years we will have to do a major overhaul. That's part of what we will be discussing this afternoon.
- BR 10-2 T/Meredith
 - SM, I have a proposal from Modjeski & Masters for design, not to exceed \$90,950. This gets us through design.
 - Committee approved.

- BR 16-1 T/Delhi
 - JB, There is some rebar sticking out of the deck. We will cut it back, jackhammer it out and replace the bad concrete and get it sealed back up. Will do next week. Traffic maintained by lights.
- BR 32 T/Delhi
 - Working on resolving map adjustments with SUNY.
- BR 80 V/Fleischmanns
 - SM, Sheets are being driven. One side done, have moved to the other side. We did get an extension from DEC to stay in the stream until November 19th. So we can get to bulk of the work done.
- BR 83 T/Colchester
 - SM, That work is going very well. We have met with the concerned property owner, think we have that resolved.
- BR 130 V/Sidney
 - SM, We do have a signed MOU w/Otsego County. Was supposed to start on the 18th but contractor was concerned with the water levels so it may be pushed back a little while.
 - SM, I did meet with Schumer on Monday to discuss funding for projects like this bridge. The Daily Star reported that I said we would replace that bridge one lane at a time. I did not say that, you could not redo that bridge that way. We are however pushing for funding to come with as few strings attached as possible.
- BR 136 T/Deposit
 - SM, We expect to hear back on the Bridge NY application results in November. This structure is not getting any better and frankly without that funding it's probably not going to get done.
- BR 137 T/Deposit
 - SM, this is a 50/50 bridge with Broome County. Have sent an MOU out, waiting for a response from Broome County.
- BR 214 T/Middletown
 - SM, This is complete.
 - JB, Guiderail is going up today.
- Bridge Preservation 2021-975436
 - SM, Three bridges this year. BR 1-3 and BR 16 are done and good. BR 1-3 needs posts and blockouts but we will do them
 - SM, BR 20-9 needs significant structural repairs. This is a chance we take with any structure when we put it in this program. When we sandblasted this, you can see through the outside girders. We aren't sure at this time what can be done. We may have to just put some barrier up and plan a complete superstructure replacement in 5 or so years. This is going to be an issue. There is a long detour, any temporary is going to have to relocate NYSEG infrastructure so it's going to take time. We have a meeting this afternoon to discuss the options.
- Bridge Preservation 2022
 - SM, We have three candidate structures BR 163 T/Hancock, BR 28-11 T/Hancock, Br 67-21 T/Hancock – bid alternate for pan deck replacement.
 - JV, Where are they? I have the one in Lordville.
 - JB, 28-11 is by the church on the backside of 28. 67-21 is the third bridge out of the Village.
 - SM, The one has the same issue we are having with 20-9 so there will be an alternate for a pan deck replacement.

DPW BLDG PROJECT –

• Bloomville

- SM, we are having groundwater issues on site. Mancini is concerned about what it's going to take to dewater the site to do the foundation work. We have a conference call this afternoon to discuss. We feel this is related to the wet year and the high ground water. We are looking at some options. Two of them would allow for construction above the groundwater by removing a layer of stone and building on the native soil. The other option is to raise the entire elevation above the ground water.
- SM, So my question to you is how tight are we are finances? Do we need to do this right or do it cheap?
- Committee feels this should be done properly regardless of the cost. We need to do this right. It will be a change order but we need to deal with this now.
- SM, There is also a work change directive for a missed floor drain at this site.

• Delhi

- SM, The concrete foundation repair has been approved and agreed upon.
- GH, Why did this happen?
- JB, It was just how they did the forming. They had things very tight with no way to trowel it.

• Walton

- SM, We have a work change directive for Nelcorp because NYSEG required change in pole drop. We have no control over this. We don't have a price yet but we have no choice.

Committee approved both work change directive.

DEPARTMENT HEAD EVALUATION

- SM, At the latest Department Head Meeting we were reminded that our Committee is required to evaluate us. So I present this form and ask that you do this prior to the end of the year. Next year is the last year of my four-year term, so now is not a bad time.

RESOLUTIONS

Masonville Hwy Garage Rental

Snow Plow Hours

Change Order #1 Proposal 27-21 Knox Ave Bridge