



**MINUTES**  
**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**  
**Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 5:30PM**  
**Live Stream Link: <https://youtu.be/WmF18BQPvk8>**

**CALL TO ORDER:** By Hon. Tucker Whitman at 5:36 PM

**MEMBERS:** Legislators Andy Dennison, Tricia Kerr, Hans Pecher, Paul Pinckney, Mark Strong, and Ben Vitale

**OTHERS:**

**MINUTES TO APPROVE: March 9, 2021. Motion by Vitale, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Strong. All in favor.**

**APPOINTMENTS:** None

**Presentation by Ben Vitale on the Regional Public Water.** He is looking to present a resolution at Ways & Means in support of this project to complete the map plan. Then it will be brought back to the legislature for approval. **Motion by Vitale, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Whitman. All in favor.**

**QUESTIONS:** Lattimore, amount of \$ in federal budgets if we start this, does it somehow encumber us and restrict the funding that may be available? Vitale, project can not get started until after a public vote. This resolution enables Water & Sewer and other agencies to begin looking for money and be able to give the public more and better information to enable them to make an informed decision. Daly, are we already passed the 2nd round of approvals for funding? Vitale, yes. We are not looking for any additional monies at this time, just trying to move the project forward. Foley, what information will we be able to get for the next phase? Vitale, if we pass this motion at W&M we will have the updated plan attached to it. Then it will go back to Water&Sewer who complete the map plan then it will come back to Legislature. Kerr taking this next step will position us for seeking additional funding for a project of this size. Makes sense to do this phased approach to the project. Daly, will this next step help answer questions regarding cost? Vitale, yes. Every step forward will better answer questions. Aileen, state and federal agencies have contacted her about this project and she has been working with w&s to position us to present this to that level. She has opposition with her district but she would personally support this phase and hopes that if it passes they will go back to the towns and villages for education and promotion. Strong, this will run Route 34 and west, correct? Vitale, that's not all of it. Later phases would include going toward Genoa and King Ferry, but it also depends on where and how the funding comes in.

**DEPARTMENT UPDATES FOR COMMITTEE:**

**Jeanine Wilson (CCWSA) – No updates**

**Larry Roser (Weights and Measures) –**

1. This month I got the results of the 12 gas samples from 5 stations purchased in February.  
Crawford's West End in Fair Haven = 2 gas,  
Bayside Grocery in Fair Haven = 2 gas,  
Pit Stop in N. Victory = 2 gas & 1 diesel,  
NYS Thruway in Port Byron = 2 gas & 1 diesel,  
Byrne Dairy in Auburn = 2 gas,  
All 12 samples passed.
2. We also tested the calibration of 2 milk tanks.  
Keven Basset's, in Genoa, = 1,000 gal passed.  
White Clover Farm's, in Genoa, = 1,800 gal passed.

**Gary Duckett (Buildings and Grounds/Parks and Trails) –**

**BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS AND PARKS ADMINISTRATION:** Crew Gary Duckett and Donna Blumrick:

1. Gary's goal this year is to create a meaningful Capital Plan for Buildings and Grounds, including Parks and Trails. This will include getting a decision from the Legislature on the future of the County Office Building. We are currently reviewing the roofs on various county buildings.
2. The Sheriff's Work Crew has always assisted Buildings and Grounds with snow removal, lawn work and other miscellaneous work. The Sheriff has advised us that he will, most likely, not be in a position to provide that assistance

this year. Gary drafted a resolution to allow the hiring of additional help to accomplish this additional work. This will affect all area of Buildings and Grounds. Doug Dello Stritto noted this will have significant impacts on grounds keeping and event setup (if events take place) for Parks. This has represented from 1300- 2500 hours of labor in previous years. To replace these labor hours at the current minimum wage of \$12.50 per hour we would need to increase the Parks seasonal laborers budget from \$16,250 - \$31,250. This should be considered for the 2022 budget.

3. Gary will be providing input for the Venesky Report.
4. Gary has been providing input for the proposed WIC move.
5. We are getting quotes to install the required backflow device in the County Office Building. The installation was designed by Beardsley and they estimate the cost of the installation will be between \$20,000 and \$25,000. There are funds in the budget to cover this as long as Beardsley's estimate is correct.
6. Purchasing has an ITB for a masonry project at the HPO will be sent out 4/1/2021. The work is needed because moisture is getting into the blocks resulting in the facia of the blocks falling off. This project will need to be approved by resolution.

**DOWNTOWN:** Crew Ed Eberhardt, Al Raymond, Paul France, and Jeff King:

1. In addition to routine maintenance, preventive maintenance and the day to day efforts for snow and ice removal and lawn prep, Ed and his team responded to over 92 maintenance requests last month.
2. VIP Structures was low bidder on the Family Court public service window (tenant work) project. Their quote was \$20,380. Ed's team has been opening and closing the building to allow the vendor to have access. The project is scheduled to be completed on 3/31/21.
3. VIP Structures was low bidder on the Health Departments Clinic updates to the Hardenberg Building. Their quote was \$16,176. Work has started on this project.
4. The courthouse lawn needs repair where the sewer replacement was done.

**COUNTY HOUSE ROAD and TOWERS:** Crew Mitch Brown, Ben McIntyre, Bruce Simmons and Greg Purcell:

1. In addition to routine maintenance and the day to day efforts including snow and ice removal and lawn prep Mitch and his team responded to over 196 maintenance requests last month. Many of these requests are related to cleaning for COVID. This has increased the workload on Mitch and his crew.
2. Mitch has been working with the vendor preparing for the generator replacement. The old generator will be listed on Auctions International.
3. Mitch is working on the administrative area of the PSB.
4. They have been getting lawn equipment ready for the season.
5. Mitch has been working with potential vendors on the NYSERDA LED Light grant
6. They have been working with Technicians on the HVAC systems serving the towers.
7. They have been replacing batteries at the towers.

**PARKS AND TRAILS Crew Doug Dello Stritto, Mike Dagnesi and Jon Borsa**

**Emerson Park:**

- A. Parks & Planning Departments has received 90% draft layout and architecture for the Deauville Island Destination Playground and Amphitheater projects approved by resolution 138-20.
- B. The Emerson Park Pavilion continues to function as an asymptomatic COVID-19 testing site operated by Cayuga County EMO supported by Parks & Trails staff. This testing will be moved to the Health Department space at the mall soon.
- C. The Parks Department in coordination with the City of Auburn is working with the contractor to perform the clean-out of the culvert pipes at Emerson Park.
- D. Due to a manpower shortage downtown parks staff has assisted with snow removal at the HPO, COB, 911 towers and various building maintenance work orders (emergency and non-emergency) at these facilities.
- E. We are accepting reservations for shelters for the summer season.
- F. The Parks Department recommends the following:
  - a. Charging for parking at Emerson Park beginning May 1. (Per current policy).
  - b. A decision on the July 3<sup>rd</sup> Fireworks event needs to be made soon as this event requires a lot of planning. Please note July 3<sup>rd</sup> is particularly problematic as a venue with no access control and no feasible way of policing social distancing. The only possible way of operating this event would be if there were no COVID restrictions in place at the time of the event. This scenario seems unlikely.
  - c. Annual events that have already been cancelled by event organizers include Rib Rhythm & Blues BBQ and the Father's Day Car Show.

**Ward W. O'Hara Ag Museum/Dr. Joseph F. Karpinski Sr. Educational Center Update (Tim Quill Director PT):**

1. 4 additional museum aides are being hired per approved resolution 64-21.
2. Eleven (11) TV DVD Audio Visual Exhibits being set up throughout the museum. An additional 5 or more will be added in the future.
3. Planning is underway for 2021 programs at the museum. Annual events are considered tentative and dependent on the gathering guidance from local, state and federal health agencies.
  - a. Saturday June 5, 2021 Old Ways Day (At this point on hold probably will not happen)
  - b. July 29,30,31 Cayuga County 4-H Fair Not sure what will happen and to what extent.

- c. October 3-31, 2021 Halloween Witch Hunt at Museum (Regular Hours)
- d. October 23, 2021 Halloween at Museum (On hold to see what summer brings)
- e. Festival of Trees at Museum, November 14, 2021 thru January 31, 2022
- f. Sunday December 12, 2021 Open House at Museum (On hold to see what season brings)
- g. Closed Christmas Day and New Year's Day

**Sterling Nature Center (Jim D'Angelo Director PT):**

1. New Sterling Nature Center Visitors Center: Bid opening took place Tuesday March 2, 2021 at 2:00pm. We received 6 general contracting, 4 plumbing, 3 HVAC, and 8 electrical bids. Base bids were under budget. Apparent low bidders have been notified and the REDI commission has been notified of a request to reallocate funds between the 2 grants to adjust to bids received. Construction/contract schedule is estimated at 12 - 15 months from start of construction.
2. Jim is am doing a monthly Facebook Live (FBL) program to supplement the in-person programs and for those who are unable to visit the Nature Center due to COVID-19. Programs include:
  - a. Vernal Pool, in person April 9 & 10 1pm
  - b. Vernal Pool, FBL TBD
  - c. Wandering Naturalist, April 16 & 17 10am
  - d. Beach Cleanup, 10am-noon
  - e. Warbler Walk, April 30 7am

**Trail Update:**

- a. The Cato-Brutus Trail:
  1. Bridge A: (Chase Rd) CFA funding has been approved. Resolution language received from NYS has been approved per March Resolution 99-21.
  2. Bridge C: (Ditmar Rd) Bridge fabrication has begun and CCSWCD has begun planning for site work, poured abutments and coordinated services for surveying, testing and crane work. Installation target is May 2021.
- b. Cato - Fair Haven trail: several downed trees have been cleared from this trail by the Highway Department.
- c. Park staff have cut any trees that needed to be removed for the trail bridges.

**Owasco Flats:**

1. OFNR has asked for permission to engage a volunteer service group to construct a trail bridge over an intermittent stream on the flats loop trail. Designs have been requested by the Parks department for review and approval

**Any Questions?** Regarding Buildings Item No. 2, Why is the Sheriff's Office no longer able to assist. Duckett, they currently have no inmates who meet the qualifications to participate in the program. Is there opportunity for assistance from the DSS work crew and or the Summer Youth Employment Program? Duckett, at this time the DSS work crew is shut down due to COVID and they have only one youth applicant at this time and they will not be working enough hours to cover all the work that needs to be done. Lattimore, when will the playground be open to the public? Dell-Stritto, As soon as there is money, they will put the playground in. Strong, volunteer group to inspect bridge. Where is bridge located? Dell-Stritto, South of pull off on 38. Strong, will this bridge give access to walk from end of lake to bridge in Moravia? Dell-Stritto, no, still contained in that property. Strong, concerned as Fire & EMS how to access location should there be a need. Dell-Stritto, should be the same access as the rest of the trail. Kerr inquired about the fees for Emerson Park and whether there is a way to offer free parking to County residents and charge out of County residents. Dell-Stritto, they don't track residency at this time. Whitman, this conversation has been had many times over the years. The fees aren't to make a profit, it goes toward maintenance, Kerr, there may be other ways to raise those fees and hopes to look at other options. Whitman suggested she put some information together and present it next month. Dennison, regarding fees would it make people from out of county not want to come and also, how do you prove residency? Kerr, that is a good question and she will look to see if there are models out there dealing with that.

**Brian Soper (Highway) –**

- Scott Gulf – Rock has been hauled for the should armoring. The 48" culvert has been installed. We are on hold for the trout season going forward.
- We have been stocking stone for this year's projects.
- The crews are making good progress on the prep for paving it is looking like a late April early May start for both chip sealing and paving is possible.
- Second paving plan is also present in the resolutions this month it is not the complete list of projects it is what we will be able to completed with the state roll over from 20/21 monies. There will be additional roads to be added after the state budget funding numbers are released as of this report the budget hasn't been released.

Additional Updates: Tentative date to start paving 4/19 if the weather cooperates.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

**BUILDINGS:**

4-21-PW-1 Authorizing the Buildings and Grounds Department to hire a part time Building Maintenance Mechanic to replace a part time Building Maintenance Mechanic who resigned. **Motion by Kerr, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dennison. All in favor.**

4-21-PW-2 Authorizing the hiring of up to four (4) PT Laborers to assist with mowing, trimming, snow removal and other labor-intensive functions around county buildings and communication towers (2/3 Required). **Motion by Kerr, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Pinckney. All in favor.**

**HIGHWAY:**

4-21-PW-3 Authorizing the Highway Department to set a fee schedule for new driveway installation. **Motion by Strong, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Pinckney. All in favor.**

DISCUSSION: Homeowners had to get permit and order pipe and the Highway would install it and in reviewing, it has not been the most efficient process.

QUESTION: Kerr, are these driveways disturbed from road projects? Soper, no these are new driveways. Kerr, how many do we do in a year. Soper, He hasn't been with the County long enough to give an annual estimate, but they have done between 6-8 just within the past month. Right of Way belongs to the County, so contractors aren't allowed to do installation. Whitman, fee schedule seems reasonable for the amount of work that's being done.

4-21-PW-4 Authorization to fill Motor Equipment Operator Heavy position in the Highway Department. **Motion by Pinckney, 2<sup>nd</sup> Strong. All in favor.**

Kerr, is this doing away with a Medium and replacing with a Heavy? Soper, yes. A Medium resigned and they are in need a Heavy Equipment Operators and in discussion with Budget Officer this is the best route. Kerr, will this be a replacement for the Medium? Soper, there are back fills allowed for in the resolution, but they are not adding any new positions. Foley inquired as to the salary difference. Soper, roughly \$1.25 per hour depending on what step they are in. About a \$2,000.00 difference a year.

4-21-PW-5 Authorization to accept SFY 2020-21 Rollover Funds & to approve 2021 Paving List #2. **Motion by Pinckney, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kerr. All in favor.**

QUESTION: Whitman, do we know how much it is? Soper, \$1,322,730.00. Then next month there should be another resolution to accept CHIPS funding.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY:**

4-21-PW-6 Authorizing the Chair of the Cayuga County Legislature to sign an extension agreement for the premises leased at 95 Genesee St. Auburn, New York. **Motion by Kerr, 2<sup>nd</sup> Pinckney. All in favor.**

**ADJOURNMENT: 7:04 pm. Motion by Strong, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kerr. All in favor.**