

Buildings and Grounds Committee Minutes

October 5, 2010 – 3:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Thompson; Supervisors Hargrave, Jenkins, Raymond, Rowland, Wood and Southworth; Spencer Hellwig, Mgmt. Analyst; Daniel Butler, Animal Shelter; Joe Ritchey, Rick Gardner, Tom Speziale, Public Works; Jim DiPasquale, Sewer District; Stephen Dorsey, Attorney; Joe West, Doug Hatch, Saratoga Soaring.

Chairman Thompson called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

On a motion made by Mr. Rowland, seconded by Mr. Jenkins the minutes of the September 13, 2010 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mr. Butler gave a brief update on the animal shelter as follows: Mr. Butler said he had many volunteers to help in moving from the old Animal Shelter to the new Animal Shelter. Public Works is now in the process of moving items from the old shelter into the new Shelter, including cages, desks and file cabinets. Mr. Butler said he is hopeful that the Animal Shelter will be completely out of the old building and into the new building by Sunday, October 9th. The removal of the asbestos from the old shelter is scheduled for October 11th, and it is anticipated that the process will take approximately three days. The old shelter will be taken down entirely after that.

Mr. Hargrave asked how the annex in Clifton Park was doing? Mr. Butler said they have currently adopted out approximately 700 cats.

Mr. Thompson asked how many cats are kept at the shelter? Mr. Butler said approximately 25 to 30 cats.

Mr. DiPasquale requested a resolution authorizing a sewer lateral easement on the Zim Smith Trail at 85 Ushers Road in the Town of Halfmoon. There is a homeowner in the town of Halfmoon who is currently having problems with their septic system, and they have asked if they could connect to the county sewer system.

Mr. DiPasquale said he presented the request to the sewer commission, where they have said they can connect through the manhole, but they do need to go across property owned by Saratoga County. Mr. DiPasquale said the county has done a number of requests like this in the past.

A motion was made by Mr. Hargrave, seconded by Mr. Rowland to approve a resolution authorizing a sewer lateral easement on the Zim Smith Trail at 85 Ushers Road in the Town of Halfmoon. Unanimous.

Mr. Ritchey requested a resolution authorizing the Chairman to sign an agreement with NYSDOT to accept the State Grant for their share of the Airport Obstruction Removal Project in the amount of \$17,357. Mr. Ritchey said this part of the airport obstruction removal project, which has the following components to the project; FAA federal 95%; State 2 ½%, and local 2 ½%.

A motion was made by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Ms. Raymond to authorize the Chairman to sign an agreement with NYSDOT to accept the State Grant for their share of the Airport Obstruction Removal Project in the amount of \$17,357. Unanimous.

Mr. Hatch, from the Saratoga Soaring Association, said the club has been around since 1984 consisting of between 30-35 members, doing between 500-600 flights per season, running April to November.

Mr. Hatch said approximately six years ago the soaring club leased land from the county and constructed a hanger. Recently the fleet has changed and there are a few members that would like to leave their gliders assembled and in an area out of the sun. Mr. Hatch requested permission to build a second hanger to the left of the current hanger.

Mr. Thompson asked who gave the soaring club approval to dig the ground up near the existing hanger? Mr. Hatch said they received a letter from the FAA which was misinterpreted to suggest that they had approval to go ahead. This was corrected within the month.

Mr. Jenkins asked what the building would look like? Mr. West said it would be a temporary structure that could be taken down at any time.

Mr. Hatch said the FAA reviewed the proposal and has agreed that there is no need for an environmental review.

Mr. Thompson asked how it would be secured to the ground? Mr. West said there are 4ft. augers that would screw into the ground to hold it down. The proposal would be for a 42' x 36' hanger, which is much smaller than the existing hanger, he said.

Mr. Thompson asked what year of the lease were they in? Mr. Hatch said they are in their second year.

Mr. Thompson asked what the flooring was? Mr. West said there is none, but they were hoping to get permission to put a couple inches of crushed stone if possible.

Mr. Thompson said for the last three weekends he has had calls from pilots or people on the ground about near misses. He said the airport has been trying to work with the glider groups. Mr. Thompson said he is concerned about safety. Mr. Thompson said he would not be opposed to the idea of another hanger, but he would like the two soaring clubs to get together and meet with airport officials to agree on safety measures.

Mr. Hatch said they have had three meetings with North American and both glider clubs and representatives from the airport. The two clubs have come to an agreement as to how they are going to work together and communicate with North American before flying. A number of positive steps have been taken this summer to improve the situation, he said.

Ms. Raymond asked how is the lease structured for the existing hanger? Mr. Speziale said currently they are paying \$2,885 a year for the land.

A motion was made by Mr. Rowland, seconded by Ms. Raymond to table the request for an additional hanger by the Saratoga Soaring Club in order to obtain more information. Unanimous.

Mr. Rowland said he would like to see the original agreement, the land area map and site plan.

Mr. Rowland said there has to be an agreement that says, if Saratoga Soaring Club moves off the property that they take the temporary hanger with them and restore the property back to its original state.

A motion was made by Ms. Raymond, seconded by Mr. Hargrave to move to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing matters leading to the employment of an airport consultant. Unanimous.

A motion was made by Mr. Hargrave, seconded by Mr. Jenkins to move into regular session. Unanimous.

A motion was made by Mr. Jenkins, seconded by Mr. Hargrave to select McFarland Johnson as the airport consultants. Unanimous.

On a motion made by Mr. Rowland, seconded by Mr. Hargrave the meeting was adjourned. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom