

Public Works Committee Minutes
January 11, 2021 – 3:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Phil Barrett; Committee Members John Lant, Dick Lucia, Darren O'Connor, Dan Pemrick, Jean Raymond, Benny Zlotnick; Chairman of the Board Todd Kusnierz; Steve Bulger, Matt Rose, County Administrator; Hugh Burke, County Attorney; Jason Kemper, Planning; Chad Cooke, Tom Speziale, Public Works.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Pemrick, seconded by Mrs. Raymond, the minutes of the December 8, 2020 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mr. Barrett announced the appointment of Mr. O'Connor as committee vice chair.

A motion was made by Mr. Lant, seconded by Mr. Lucia, to authorize the implementation and funding in the first instance 100% of approved federal funding reimbursements through the "Marchiselli" program and New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) for the second supplemental agreement totaling \$2,185,000 for the Ashdown Rd. Bridge project in the Town of Clifton Park and amending the 2021 budget in relation thereto. Unanimous.

Mr. Cooke said that this is regarding additional Marchiselli funding in the amount of \$505K for the Ashdown Road bridge project. The funding has been allocated for construction, and construction inspection services, as well as approximately \$335K related to the next item on the agenda. This item will require a budget amendment and included in this amendment will be the 5% County share which is \$25,250 and will be appropriated from the Fund B fund balance. Mr. Barrett said that this was a project that was scheduled for mid-Summer/Fall of 2020. The project was pushed back into 2021. Mr. Cooke said that the project is currently out to bid and bids are due back on January 21st. Mr. Cooke said that the delay in the project was due to right of way incidentals.

A motion was made by Mr. Lant, seconded by Mr. Lucia, to authorize the chair to enter into a Grade Separation Agreement with CP Rail for the Ashdown Road over CP Rail Bridge Superstructure Replacement in the Town of Clifton Park. Unanimous.

Mr. Cooke said that this item will authorize payment for the services associated with flagging and shutting down the Railroad as necessary during construction. The funding for this is included, with the exception of the 5% County portion, as part of the budget amendment in the previous agenda item.

A motion was made by Mr. Lant, seconded by Mr. O'Connor, to authorize the implementation, and funding in the first instance 100% of the federal-aid and State "Marchiselli" Program-aid eligible costs, of a transportation federal-aid project, and reallocating \$18,111 from the ROW Incidental Phase to the Preliminary Design Phase

related to the Replacement of the County Road 31 (Fortsville Road) over North Branch Creek Culvert in the Town of Moreau, LIN 250, PIN 1761.40. Unanimous.

Mr. Cooke said that this is a re-allocation of Marchiselli funds associated with a culvert project in the Town of Moreau. The \$18,111 was initially allocated for right of way incidentals however no right of way work is necessary for this project. This resolution will essentially recognize the reallocation of the funds from right of way incidentals to design, in order to address some geotechnical investigations that are necessary as part of the project.

A motion was made by Mrs. Raymond, seconded by Mr. Zlotnick, to authorize the chair to enter into inter-municipal agreements with the Towns of Clifton Park, Corinth, Moreau and the City of Saratoga Springs for the purpose of managing the collection of recyclables at the County Recycling Centers located in their respective municipalities for the amount of \$35,000 per municipality per year, for a term of 2 years with the option to extend for 2 two year renewals. Unanimous.

Mr. Cooke said that each of these municipalities will receive \$35K per year to help offset the costs associated with the collection of recyclables. Mr. Cooke said that this is more or less an annual housekeeping item, and asked the committee if they wanted to extend these out to 2 year agreements with automatic renewals. Mr. Barrett said that these agreements began when the County switched to single stream recycling, which he believes is fantastic from a customer service standpoint, and also from the standpoint of making recycling easier, which has increased the rate of recycling. Mr. Barrett said that the reasoning behind the initiative in the beginning was a large cost savings for the County. These municipalities took on some additional responsibilities on behalf of the County, because the recycling centers at the transfer stations are the responsibility of the County. Mr. Barrett asked Mr. Cooke and Mr. Speziale if this is still a good agreement for the County as far as the cost savings. Mr. Barrett believes it would be since the transportation has been taken out of the picture from the County standpoint. County Waste, which has won the bid, they do all the transportation and that has been a huge cost savings and there is no longer a full time County employee at each location. Mr. Cooke said that the cost of recycling in itself has increased considerably, but in terms of looking at staff cost and equipment cost, yes, there are savings. Mr. Barrett said that recycling is not a money making business, at least not on this level, and with the decrease in the value of the recycled products, that has further put pressure on the County's cost of the recycling program. Mr. Barrett suggested going from an annual agreement to a 2-year agreement and asked the committee for their thoughts on that. Mrs. Raymond said that it makes perfect sense to have a 2-year agreement because right now we are renewing something that could not realistically be budgeted for 3 months ago. Mrs. Raymond also suggested two 2-year renewals beyond that, and have a provision unless the program is discontinued entirely. This will allow for long range planning for annual revenues when preparing budgets. Mr. Lucia said that his highway superintendent is very appreciative of this, it gives him some leeway with his budget. Mr. O'Connor said that it seems like a good idea to him, at the Town level they are trying to move things to a more than one year agreement, just to save time and increase expectations and certainties. He is in favor. Mr. Barrett said that he believes there is no doubt the mandate to continue recycling for all counties is not going to go away and is something that will continue to be mandated, to provide the residents of the County. Doing that in cooperation with the

municipalities makes the most sense. Mr. Zlotnick asked if the \$35K amount will change going forward. Mr. Cooke said that it has not changed thus far, it has been \$35K since the beginning.

Mr. Barrett said that on behalf of the Committee he would like to thank Mr. Speziale for filling in admirably during the transition.

Mr. Barrett said that regarding recycling, how at this level it is not a money making venture, however leave it to the private sector and good entrepreneurs to take something where a market has completely tanked and make something positive out of it. Mr. Barrett said that he believes this has occurred in the Southern part of the County with Twin Bridges Waste and Recycling. Twin Bridges is a growing company that does household, commercial garbage, and recycling. They have a brand new facility in the Town of Halfmoon and it is a state of the art recycling facility. They have a brand new system called “positive pick”. Mr. Barrett said that a tour was conducted years ago of the County Waste facility down by the port. Mrs. Raymond said that she attended and it was great. Mr. Barrett agreed and said it was very informative. Mr. Barrett said that at that tour there were machines and humans, taking out the products that could not be recycled. With this new technology, Twin Bridges has machinery that is picking out the items that they want to be recycled, and this is how the industry is moving toward. Recycling loads, much of which are sent overseas, with very little contamination. Mr. Barrett said that with single stream recycling a lot of people were doing what we call hopeful recycling, throwing items in that they thought may be recyclable when actually it is garbage. What was happening is that the recycling shipments became more and more contaminated as time went on, and large importers refused to take any shipments other than those with a very small percentage of product that is unusable. The industry has now moved to “positive pick” whereby they are picking out what they want, and the remainder is garbage. This provides a clean shipment with no contamination, which in turn makes it valuable. Mr. Barrett said that on January 22nd in the morning, a tour is available for any Public Works Committee members that would like to attend. The tour will begin at 9am on 1/22 and could last from 1-2 hours. Mr. Barrett said that due to Covid restrictions, they can only bring a small group and therefore it cannot be opened up to the entire Board right now, although more groups can be scheduled in the future. Anyone who is interested can email the Clerk of the Board’s office. Mrs. Raymond said that she is unavailable but would like to attend the next tour.

On a motion made by Mr. Zlotnick, seconded by Mr. Lant, the meeting was adjourned unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Therese Connolly
Deputy Clerk of the Board