

PUBLIC WORKS Transcript 3/3/2021

SPEAKERS

Chad Cooke, Darren O'Connor, Phil Barrett, John Lant, Tara Gaston, Several Supervisors, Theodore Kusnierz

Phil Barrett

Welcome. Public Works Committee agenda March 3. Entertain approval of the minutes of February 3.

John Lant

John Lant, I'll make that motion

Phil Barrett

Supervisor Lant.

Theodore Kusnierz

Seconded by Supervisor Kusnierz.

Phil Barrett

Second by Supervisor Kusnierz. All in favor?

Several Supervisors

Aye

Phil Barrett

Opposed? Motion carries. All right, Chad request resolution reappropriating funds from 20 to 21 for following projects.

Phil Barrett

Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have a number of projects that are either in the midst of engineering or in the middle of construction. I don't know if you want me to go through all of these individually, but it amounts to a total of a little over \$1.3 million, and about 400 of that is covered by State or Federal aid. So the remaining \$971,000 would be a transfer from the general fund. So many of the projects on this list are projects that are being conducted with County forces, 100% County forces and County funds. So that is the reason why the bulk of this transfer requires an appropriation from fund balance.

Phil Barrett

Very good. So basically, we have a long list of projects that are carrying into 2021, funds are still hanging out there from 20. And we need to reappropriate them into 21 to make sure all these projects get done, and get done this year. Are they all going to get done this year?

Chad Cooke

Some of these are. Well, portions will be done. Some of these are for engineering contracts, so we may finish engineering this year. We may begin construction, but the reality is, if we're not finished by the end of the year, we'll do this again next year.

Phil Barrett

Very good. I'll entertain a motion to approve?

John Lant

I'll move.

Theodore Kusnierz

I'll second.

Phil Barrett

Move by Mr. Lant, second by Mr. Kusnierz. Is there any discussion or questions for Chad? Okay, seeing none, all in favor?

Several Supervisors

Aye.

Phil Barrett

Opposed? Motion carries. So that's it for the resolutions, Mr. Chairman. So the only other thing I was going to ask Chad to talk about real quick was a meeting that we had today based on our discussions of moving forward with improved lighting at DPW. Not only improved lighting, but updating the lighting to LED. Anybody that's been in the facility can see very, no pun intended, can see very clearly that the lighting isn't terrific. So he needs to be upgraded, and at the same time, we can use a lot less power. So we also have talked at past meetings about looking at solar. When you look at that building is a whole heck of a lot of surface area on that roof. So what did you come up with so far Chad?

Chad Cooke

Yeah, so we engaged with Centrica, which was previously known as Smartwatt, they've been in the business for a long, long time. We initially reached out to them to discuss, as you mentioned, Mr. Chairman, changing over the lighting from fluorescents, compact fluorescents, to LED lighting. Smartwatt actually did the work here for the County when we made the switch to fluorescents back a decade ago or so. So they actually have all that information still available in their files. So moving to LEDs is a relatively simple process. So, we had originally discussed only doing DPW facilities, we have the ability to do this County wide if the if the County chose to go in that direction. Right now we are we are in the process of reviewing some options that were sent over recently, as of this morning. So I can't speak necessarily in great detail about those yet. But the options are in terms of lighting, do it at DPW or do it County wide. And again, it's in terms of an order of magnitude. We'll have to, I can present that to you later in terms of costs, what that looks like. And then the second piece was solar. And we were looking at either doing a very large solar array on a rooftop without roof penetrations, which is, I was hesitant about rooftop solar, due to rooftop penetrations, but they have some technology that allows us

to do it on our metal roofs without roof penetrations. So from a maintenance standpoint, it's a much better alternative. So we can either do a very large array up to a one megawatt array, or we can do something that only addresses our production at DPW. So, if we do a larger array, we can do this net metering, where we basically can get credits for other County facilities, if we wanted to go in that direction. And obviously the larger the array, the more expensive it is, so that's sort of where I am now. I'm sort of reviewing options and I'll certainly report back once I have my arms around that.

Phil Barrett

Yeah, based on the initial numbers, which are very preliminary, but it looks like the payback for solar would be a fairly long period of time. I think in these types of circumstances, if you're fronting money, you want to get your money back at least within 10 years, and preferably, no more than seven. So, the solar doesn't look as good. Now, the lighting should have and does have, from what I can see, a much shorter timeframe to get your pay back, which makes sense, and we can improve the lighting there. So I think I'm more leaning towards a lighting at this point.

Chad Cooke

Yeah, and in terms of lighting, specifically, looking at just DPW on its own, the payback is significantly longer than it is if you look at the County as a whole. So that would be something else you want to consider.

Phil Barrett

And a lot more money up front.

Phil Barrett

It is.

Phil Barrett

A lot more money up front. And that's probably the biggest building we have that isn't state of the art lighting in the County. Right?

Chad Cooke

Well, in terms of like continuous use, places like the jail where the lights are on 24/7, so we do have one of the larger facilities, but in terms of usage, we are definitely not the highest.

Phil Barrett

But I think the jail has a more advanced lighting than at the DPW though or no?

Chad Cooke

I don't know that specifically.

Phil Barrett

Yeah, because if it's not any more advanced, we should definitely tie them in. Because you're right, they would have a much larger usage.

Chad Cooke

Right. And I think that's where we start to see that payback start to come down significantly, is when we tie in places like that, that are just heavy users.

Phil Barrett

All right, good. Well, that's a good start on that, and Chad will continue to work on that. One thing I had asked Jason Kemper to just touch base with CDRPC on the climate smart program that is out there. It's something that Clifton Park, and I'm sure other municipalities have taken advantage of, in the last several years, there's some benchmarking and some initiatives you have to do. But once you're qualified, there's grant monies available., and we've been able to obtain grant money for projects such as lighting, LED lighting, and things like that, offset the cost. So I was hoping our Resiliency Committee could continue that push on the climate smart Communities Program for the County. And that would allow us, once we qualify, that would allow us to get some more grants and funding for these types of projects. What do you think?

Tara Gaston

This is Supervisor Gaston. Yes, as was mentioned, we mentioned it briefly in the first meeting in kind of setting our mission and goals. And I think that should be one of our first steps, because there's a significant return on it. For the actions that we take, I think it would benefit the County in a lot of ways. So absolutely.

Phil Barrett

Yeah, the grants aren't huge. But you know, we've received \$50,000 to offset LED lighting in some of our facilities, Ice Arena and some other things. But so 50 grand is 50 grand. Alright, well, thank you for doing that Supervisor Gaston, appreciate if you could keep us abreast of your progress, so we can apply for grants as the opportunities arise. Any questions for Chad at this point? All right, great. Well, at this point, that is our short but meaningful agenda. Is there any other business to come before the board today? So none,

Darren O'Connor

I just got in, something was wrong with the connection or something. So I got in late, I think Jean Raymond was trying to get in also. So I hope she's on the line now. But for whatever reason, we couldn't make it quite on time.

Phil Barrett

Oh, okay. Sorry about that.

Darren O'Connor

No, we were both on like a different conference call. It was weird. But we hung up and called back in so I don't know if Jean's on but I don't know.

Phil Barrett

Was the other call better than this one? Because maybe we can all join the other one?

Darren O'Connor

(Laughter) No, we were just talking about that it would probably be a short meeting.

Phil Barrett

Well, it is. It worked well. Well, thank you for joining us. Sorry about the mix up.

John Lant

I'll make a motion to adjourn.

Phil Barrett

Second by Mr. O'Connor.

Darren O'Connor

Yes.

Phil Barrett

All in favor?

Several Supervisors

Aye.

Phil Barrett

Opposed? Motion carries. Thank you all.