

PUBLIC WORKS Transcript 5-5-2021

SPEAKERS

Jean Raymond, Chad Cooke, Darren O'Connor, Phil Barrett, Dan Pemrick, Benny Zlotnick, Several Supervisors, Dick Lucia

Phil Barrett

Welcome to the Public Works Committee meeting May 5th. First I'll entertain a motion to approve minutes of March 3.

Darren O'Connor

So moved.

Dick Lucia

So moved.

Phil Barrett

Moved by Mr. O'Connor, second by Mr. Lucia. All in favor?

Several Supervisors

Aye.

Phil Barrett

Opposed? Motion carries. Alright, Jason, if you could pick it up at number three. Or Chad. Hi, Jen. How are you?

Chad Cooke

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So the first item that we have today would be authorizing funding for construction and construction inspection services associated with the Hans Creek road bridge over Hans Creek in the Town of Providence. This is a Federally funded project. 95% Federally funded, 5% percent County funds, the total for construction and construction Inspection Services is \$554,500. The County's 5% share is already included in the 2021 budget.

Phil Barrett

Okay, very good. Any questions for Chad on that item? Okay, and again, that's in the Town of Providence. I'll entertain, we need a resolution there right Chad?

Chad Cooke

We do.

Phil Barrett

Okay, I'll entertain a motion to approve that item. Do I have a first and a second?

Darren O'Connor

So moved.

Phil Barrett

Mr. O'Connor.

Dick Lucia

Second.

Phil Barrett

Second by Mr. Lucia. Any questions for Chad? Okay, all in favor?

Several Supervisors

Aye.

Phil Barrett

Opposed? Motion carries. All right Chad number four.

Chad Cooke

The next item is related to the first item, which is amending the consultant agreement we have with Creighton Manning engineering and the amount of \$116,500 for their construction support and inspection services related to the construction of the Hans Creek road bridge over Hans Creek in the Town of Providence, no budget amendment is required. Again, that was already included in the 2021 budget.

Phil Barrett

All right, I'll entertain a motion to move this forward as well.

Jean Raymond

So moved.

Dan Pemrick

Second.

Phil Barrett

Okay, moved by Supervisor Raymond second by Mr. Pemrick. Is Supervisor Winnie on the phone? I mean, this is a big day for Providence here with the Public Works Committee. Okay, any questions for Chad? All right. All in favor?

Several Supervisors

Aye.

Phil Barrett

Opposed? Motion carries. Great. Number five.

Chad Cooke

Okay, so the next one is a bit more complicated. I did submit a separate memo sort of explaining this one. But essentially, what we're asking for today is a resolution to set a public hearing and introduce a local law that would authorize the conveyance, Roberts Lane bridge, and a Town of Halfmoon to Synergy Park LLC. So by way of a bit of background, the bridge, it's a 30 foot span, aluminum arch bridge, in a Town of Halfmoon right on the town line between Town of Halfmoon and Town of Clifton Park. It has only ever served one property. Last year, the Town of Halfmoon abandoned its interest in Roberts Lane, which was a Town roadway. They abandon that right of way to Synergy Park, which is the owner of the adjacent property. And we are now essentially left with a bridge that, in my opinion serves no public interest. It is more or less a bridge to nowhere to one private property. There are a couple of options when we're confronted with a situation like this in terms of a bridge that really serves no further purpose. One is abandonment of the bridge, and one is selling the bridge. Abandonment of the bridge, in addition to requiring a recommendation from me as the Commissioner also requires that barricades be erected at either end of the bridge to prevent its use. In this case, the bridge is not unsafe, it's just unneeded for County purposes. The bridge is utilized by the property owner Synergy Park for access in and out of that parcel. So erecting barricades would be problematic. So the other option is to sell the bridge. And that requires the establishment of a value. So for many of the reasons I've mentioned here today, we have access rights issues. It serves no public interest, in my opinion. I don't believe it has any value other than to say a nominal value. There is some scrap value in the aluminum superstructure of the bridge that I estimate based on current scrap value for aluminum, maybe \$4,000 worth of aluminum. But I would venture a guess that the costs associated with removing the bridge to scrap it would far exceed that value. So based on the limited access issues, potential liability issues. I don't believe it is anything and serves no further interest for Saratoga County.

Phil Barrett

Well, it's certainly, thankfully a unique situation because the County owns a bridge on a private road. So to get to the bridge, you're on a private road, and when you leave the bridge, you're on a private road. And as Chad had mentioned, it is just a small bridge that only ever served one property. And apparently that property has been sold to the current owner. There was just one house back there. Right?

Chad Cooke

Correct. Which I believe is scheduled to be demolished.

Phil Barrett

I think it's gone. I mean, you can see it from the road.

Chad Cooke

Yeah, right.

Phil Barrett

I think it's gone. So basically, you had a town road, Halfmoon Town road, and a County bridge that was serving one property. Which was a home, I guess it still serves one property. It's just the home is gone, and now it's in a commercial hands. But the fact that it's a private road, to get to the bridge and a private road when you leave the bridge, it's certainly an interesting situation. Certainly, there's liability for the County owning the bridge, because if something happened, we would be obliged to fix it even though it's on a private road. Correct?

Chad Cooke

Correct.

Phil Barrett

So I understand this is a very unique situation. But one that does require a resolution. And as Chad has laid out quite well, I think we have two choices. One, we retain ownership and liability of a bridge on a private road that's serving private property or we transfer ownership in essence to the entity that owns the road where the bridge is located. Somebody might have some questions here, because this is kind of a strange situation. Is there anybody on the committee that has any questions?

Darren O'Connor

Just one quick one, Chad. Synergy would accept the conveyance I take it, right?

Chad Cooke

Yes, they are open to that correct.

Benny Zlotnick

Chad, do you have any idea what nominal value would be?

Chad Cooke

I really feel it has no value. I mean \$500, something along those lines, something that we would accept in exchange for it would be my definition of nominal, but it would be something small like that.

Phil Barrett

And I should point out this resolution sets a public hearing, right, Chad?

Chad Cooke

Correct. This resolution essentially sets a date and time for public hearing and introduces the local law to convey this property.

Phil Barrett

Yeah. Okay. Are there any other questions for Chad on this item? Okay, we're hearing none. I'll entertain a motion to move forward with setting the public hearing. If somebody would like to move that.

Dick Lucia

So moved.

Darren O'Connor
Second, O'Connor.

Phil Barrett
That was Mr. Lucia?

Dick Lucia
Yes.

Phil Barrett
Okay Mr. Lucia moved it, second by Mr. O'Connor. Any further discussion? Okay, all in favor?

Several Supervisors
Aye.

Phil Barrett
Opposed? Motion carries. Okay. And obviously, if anybody has any questions in the meantime prior to the hearing, contact Chad or myself. Any other business to come before the committee today? Okay, hearing none, I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

Benny Zlotnick
So moved.

Jean Raymond
So moved.

Phil Barrett
Mr. Zlotnick, second by Mrs. Raymond. In favor?

Several Supervisors
Aye.

Phil Barrett
Motion carries. Thank you all.