

Trails & Open Space Transcript 5-5-2021

SPEAKERS

Steve Bulger, Mo Wright, Phil Barrett, Bill Peck, Jason Kemper, Benny Zlotnick, Kevin Tollisen, Several Supervisors, Therese Connolly

Kevin Tollisen

Alright, motion to approve the minutes of March 3 by Supervisor Wright, second by Supervisor Zlotnick, any discussion? All in favor?

Several Supervisors

Aye.

Kevin Tollisen

Any opposed? That motion is carried. We will turn this over to our Director Mr. Kemper

Jason Kemper

The first item on the agenda is the Open Space project in the Town of Milton that was done in the Resolution 258 of 2019. Basically, what happens with our open space preservation projects is, there's usually a long duration between the project application, appraisal process, and then obviously closing. So in the resolutions in the past the committee, working with the County Attorney's office, we've given the committee up to 10% waiver on grant applications. I will say this is the first one that I've ever had that had a significant project decrease. So it wasn't covered. We will work with the County Attorney's office to cover any decreases in the future, so we don't have to come back to the Board. But the total original project estimated cost was \$179,854, we were in for 50% of that total project cost. So that would have been \$89,927. We were notified from Saratoga Plan that the total project cost after all expenses has been reduced to \$152,994. So therefore 50% of the total project cost brings us down to \$76,497. So we're looking to amend Resolution to 58 of 2019 to basically reflect those reduced costs for the project. The difference will of those funds will remain in the Open Space Reserve fund.

Kevin Tollisen

So we're saving \$13,430.

Jason Kemper

Exactly. And I have spoken to the Supervisor at the Town of Milton is aware of the project and we've been working closely with Saratoga Plan.

Kevin Tollisen

Is there a motion to accept this or make the amendment to resolution?

Benny Zlotnick

I'll make the motion.

Bill Peck

Is the meeting muted?

Kevin Tollisen

Can you hear us Supervisor Peck?

Kevin Tollisen

Supervisor Peck can you hear us?

Bill Peck

Now I can, I was about to call back in.

Kevin Tollisen

Oh, sorry about that. Apparently we had a glitch. So we made a motion to approve the minutes. That was Supervisor Wright and Supervisors Zlotnick seconded. The motion for the minutes was passed. Jason, will you just recap number three, the amendment of the Open Space Grant?

Jason Kemper

Sure. Supervisor Peck. This is an amendment of a Resolution 258 of 2019 the total project costs with the original application were \$179,854, Saratoga County funded 50% of that \$89,927 so...

Bill Peck

Jason, slow down, you're good, I read the background material. You're good on that one.

Jason Kemper

Perfect. I love that.

Bill Peck

I wanted to hear about the Palmer Ridge work. That's what I'm looking for.

Jason Kemper

Okay.

Bill Peck

If you have not gotten there yet.

Jason Kemper

Nope, not yet.

Bill Peck

Thank you.

Kevin Tollisen

Alright, so could I have a motion to amend Resolution 258 of 2019 to basically save the County \$13,430 or there about.

Benny Zlotnick

I'll make that motion.

Kevin Tollisen

Supervisor Zlotnick. Is there a second?

Mo Wright

Second.

Benny Zlotnick

Supervisor Wright. Any further discussion? All in favor?

Several Supervisors

Aye.

Kevin Tollisen

Any opposed? Motion is carried. Number4, Saratoga County Community Forest Grant.

Jason Kemper

So, Chairman, this is just for update purposes at this point in time.

Therese Connolly

This is disconnected. I'm gonna have to stop you for a moment, I'm sorry, Jason. I think everything just went too fast from one meeting to the next. I'm sorry about this guys.

Kevin Tollisen

No problem.

Steve Bulger

Can't hear anything.

Kevin Tollisen

We're working on it.

Steve Bulger

Okay, thanks.

Bill Peck

I was with you Steve, I thought we were lost.

Therese Connolly

Okay, we're back on.

Kevin Tollisen

Okay, we fixed our technical difficulties. Thank you, Therese. Alright, Jason you're up.

Jason Kemper

So this is the Saratoga County Community Forest Application. So late last year, Saratoga County, several Supervisors were approached by Saratoga Plan for the possibility of this project, to apply to the US Forest Service for their Community Forest Program Project, it's a 202 acre parcel up on Route 9 in the Town of Wilton, also touches the tip of Greenfield in the upper corner along the Palmertown Ridge. So, long story short, the Planning Department worked closely with Saratoga Plan as well as the Open Space Institute to draft an application for a possible community forest project. The awards came out about a month, a little over a month ago. And shockingly enough, this project ranked number 5 Nationally for the community forest project initiative. So as of right now, this is just a sort of an update to the Committee, you'll see there's a one page summary that was sent out by Saratoga Plan to all the Supervisors that's attached this document, the total project cost; the grant was \$391,000, and the total project cost was \$781,000. The intent in the application was to use un-allocated Open Space Reserve Fund monies to fund the County contribution to this. Right now we are still working on a proposed budget, and it will obviously have to go back to the Board of Supervisors once the details of that budget is finalized and will need full Board approval. So there was an email sent out by Saratoga Plan into all the Supervisors. So in speaking with the Chairman, it was best to put it on the agenda just to update everybody at this point in time. But I will be back and future on this, once we nail down all the details of the project.

Kevin Tollisen

Any questions? Zim Smith award.

Jason Kemper

The last one is we were notified this Spring that the Zim Smith received 2020 Project of the Year Award and the Transportation category, from the American Public Works Association, Capital Region Branch. So just a great award for the Zim Smith, up against some pretty significant competition there. And I wanted to advise the Board that we did receive that award, and just so everyone was aware of it, so just no resolution necessary. It's just for update purposes.

Kevin Tollisen

Well, kudos to you, for the fantastic job you've done with that, that is an amazing project. So thank you for all of your hard work, you and your team.

Jason Kemper

Thank you to the Board of Supervisors. That project wouldn't have been possible. I was hired in 2006, that was a priority of this Board and they've continued to make it a priority every year ever since.

Kevin Tollisen

Zim Smith Trail is used every day by thousands of people. So phenomenal. Thank you so much.

Jason Kemper

Thank you.

Kevin Tollisen

Is there any other business come before this Board, this Committee?

Jason Kemper

Chairman, just one update. We have one trail application that has come in and we're working on a couple different open space applications. And we were recently notified that the Smassanow project is ready for closing as soon as we address that. So that's the update on all pending Trails and Open Space Projects. Thank you.

Phil Barrett

What's the deadline on that?

Jason Kemper

July 15 if I'm not mistaken.

Phil Barrett

For both?

Jason Kemper

Yes, but I'll get back to you on that.

Kevin Tollisen

I know Halfmoon will be submitting at some point.

Jason Kemper

I'm sure there'll be a bunch.

Kevin Tollisen

We will be at that deadline period.

Jason Kemper

We will hear from everybody around the 12th or 13th.

Kevin Tollisen

Exactly. Anything else? All right. Motion to adjourn?

Benny Zlotnick

So moved.

Kevin Tollisen

Second?

Phil Barrett

Second.

Kevin Tollisen

All in favor. Thank you everyone.