

Buildings & Grounds Committee Minutes
June 1, 2021 – 4:30 p.m.

Present: Chairman Matthew Veitch; Committee Members John Lant, Dick Lucia, Darren O'Connor, and Sandra Winney. Supervisors Tara Gaston, Ed Kinowski, Benny Zlotnick; Steve Bulger, Ridge Harris, Matt Rose, Audra Hedden, County Administrator; Michael Hartnett, County Attorney; Chad Cooke, Public Works; Turner Bradford, McFarland Johnson.

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

On a motion made by Mr. O'Connor, seconded by Mr. Lucia, the minutes of the May 6, 2021 meeting were approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Lant, seconded by Ms. Winney, to authorize a change order to the agreement with Morton Buildings Inc. for the addition of a vinyl system in the future Animal Run-In Building in the amount up to \$20,000. Unanimous.

Ms. Heritage said that The amount of the change order would be \$16,652. Morton's current contract is \$123,152, and this exceeds 10% of the total. No budget amendment is needed. The funds for the project are already in the budget.

Mr. Cooke said that the FAA encourages airport owners to purchase properties when they become available and a few properties near the Airport in the Runway Protection Zone have recently come to market. One is at the end of runway 5, which is the northeast corner. Another is on the northwest corner on either side of Stone Church Road. The County taking ownership of these properties would be in order to prohibit any development within that runway protection zone. Mr. Bradford referred to a property map of the airport that detailed the location of the properties. Mr. Veitch said that this does not entail any changes to the airport, no extension of runways, it would just be to acquire property in the RPZ.

Mr. Bradford said that the first parcel is currently a residential lot and is approximately 0.3 acres. Mr. Bradford said that if the FAA assisted in the purchase of the property, he believes they would want the removal of the domicile and the land to be left vacant. The process is to acquire verified appraisals to form the basis of the offer to the property owner. The Committee consensus was to move forward. Mr. Zlotnick said that he expects a lot of input from his constituents regarding this parcel. He would like to have something that ensures this parcel acquisition will not expand the airport. Mr. Zlotnick said that he plans to vote against the purchase of the properties. Mr. Veitch said that the current airport master plan does not include expanding the runways.

Mr. Veitch said that the second parcel is an undeveloped parcel on the northwest side of the airport, adjacent to Stone Church Road. The parcel is much larger than the runway protection zone area. Mr. Veitch said that the property could possibly be left as open space and used for public use such as trails, which is allowed in the runway protection zone. Mr. Bradford said that the parcel could be approximately 20 acres. Mr. Bradford said that the purchase of both parcels would be reimbursed by 95%. 90% by the FAA and 5% by DOT. The County would need to purchase the properties and then submit the grant. He sees no reason why either of the parcels would not be

reimbursed. The Committee consensus was to move forward with obtaining appraisals and report back to the Committee.

Mr. Cooke said that within the last few weeks, the Governor announced a round of funding for Upstate airports. This is a large pool of funding targeted to improve terminal buildings on airport property. This is an opportunity for the County to put together an application package for improvements to the terminal building. Mr. Veitch said that he recently toured the building and the current terminal is a metal sided building with a small office area in the front. The area in the back is used for repairs of planes and helicopters, etc. Mr. Veitch said that this project is worth pursuing and reiterated that this does not include any expansion of runways or larger jets. It would just be an improved facility for those at the airport and arriving at the airport. Mr. Bradford said that there is a total of \$230M in funds available with a minimum project of \$5M. Mr. Bradford said that part of it would be reaching out to the FAA for funding also. The Committee consensus was to move forward with pursuing the grant funding. Mr. Bradford said that some of the terminal upgrades in the last round of funding included Rochester, Syracuse, Albany, Ithaca, Elmira and Plattsburgh.

Mr. Veitch gave a brief update on Buildings & Grounds projects. Discussions are ongoing with the Commissioner of Public Works regarding updated signage for County Buildings. Mr. Cooke is working with a sign vendor to come up with a plan for signage that can be accurate and have the ability to be modified as departments move. Additional upgrades involve a new plaque and relocation of a time capsule from the County's 200th anniversary, and restoration of the old Courthouse bell, both are currently located adjacent to the Board of Supervisors parking lot. A comprehensive funding package can be put together for next year.

Mr. Bulger introduced and welcomed Mr. Ridge Harris as the new Deputy County Administrator.

On a motion made by Mr. O'Connor, seconded by Mr. Lant, the meeting was adjourned unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Therese Connolly
Clerk of the Board