

PUBLIC WORKS Transcript 6/2/2021

SPEAKERS

Jean Raymond, Chad Cooke, Darren O'Connor, John Lant, Phil Barrett, Several Supervisors

Phil Barrett

Welcome to the Public Works Committee agenda for June 2. I'll entertain a motion to approve minutes of May 5.

Jean Raymond

So moved.

Darren O'Connor

Second.

Phil Barrett

Moved by Supervisor Raymond, second by Mr. O'Connor. Discussion. All in favor?

Several Supervisors

Aye.

Phil Barrett

Opposed? Motion carries. First up, Chad is here, the Public Works Commish and he wants to request a resolution authorizing 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 appropriating funds for the replacement of a culvert on County Route 31 in the Town of Moreau. Take it away, Mr. Cooke.

Chad Cooke

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So these are relatively routine resolutions. The first, as you mentioned is to appropriate additional funds, accept additional funds for construction of the project you mentioned in the Town of Moreau. It's a culvert rehabilitation project. And with that will require a budget amendment. You'll note that the difference between the \$950,000 construction project and the budget amendment which is 252,000, that is related to 698,000, which was the original construction estimate for this project, which is in the 2021 budget. So we need the remainder amended in our budget, which is 252,000 and change. Of that amount, \$12,603 is the County's 5% share. The rest is state and federal aid. So that project will be going out to bid next week for construction this year.

Phil Barrett

Very good. I'll entertain a motion to approve that resolution.

Jean Raymond

So moved.

Phil Barrett

Supervisor Raymond thank you. Is there a second?

Darren O'Connor

Second.

Phil Barrett

Second by Mr. O'Connor. Mrs. Raymond yes?

Jean Raymond

Just a little question.

Phil Barrett

Sure.

Jean Raymond

Where did the difference come from?

Jean Raymond

Well, typically, the initial grant award is based on a very preliminary estimate. So once we refine that estimate, and that's what this number is based on, is based on the final engineer's estimate. So when we refine it at that point, so it's possible, I don't know Supervisor Raymond, specifically, what changed? I can find out? It could have been something with right of way. It could have been something related to an environmental issue they discovered. I'm not sure exactly. But I can let you know. I can find out.

Jean Raymond

Yeah, I would just be more curious to make sure that it's not that materials have increased that much in costs from the time the estimates were originally done to now that it's, it means a lot of other things may start coming in a lot higher than we thought they would be.

Chad Cooke

Yeah. I mean, when it actually goes out to bid next week, we could be back here doing this again. That's entirely possible. Thank you.

Phil Barrett

Yeah, they keep telling us on the news that there's no inflation, yet the cost of everything has gone through the roof. So the government, today's government must have a new definition of inflation from past years.

Jean Raymond

I just bought gas about a half an hour ago.

Phil Barrett

Well there you go.

Jean Raymond

I rest my case.

Phil Barrett

Very good. Further discussion. Okay, all in favor?

Several Supervisors

Aye.

Phil Barrett

Opposed? Motion carries. Okay, next up, Chad.

Chad Cooke

So the next item is related to the first, and actually, I can address a part of Supervisor Raymond's comments before I get into this one, that amount, that 250,000 also includes services for the consultant for construction related services. So it's not all construction, material related and labor. It's related to some professional services as well. Which brings me to this next item which is amending the contract with Clark Patterson for construction support and inspection services related to this culvert project in the Town of Moreau. The amendment amount is 98,746. The original contract was it was 142,000, almost 143,000 for design. So this will get us through the construction effort. And there's no amendment necessary as I noted that it's included in the amendment for the previous item.

Phil Barrett

Very good. I'll entertain a motion to approve this resolution to accompany the first one.

Darren O'Connor

So moved.

John Lant

I'll second.

Phil Barrett

Mr. O'Connor, second by Mr. Lant. Any discussion questions for Chad? Okay. All in favor?

Several Supervisors

Aye.

Phil Barrett

Opposed? Motion carries. Any other business to come before the committee today? Chad, just a couple of quick questions, Ashdown bridge replacement project. How is that coming along? Are we on track?

Chad Cooke

Yes, although I'll qualify that with it's been particularly difficult dealing with the railroad. Up until now, they have been unable to accommodate the contractor working a full day. We are required to have railroad personnel on site at all times while the contractor is working anywhere near the railroad. And they apparently bring these folks in from sometimes two hours away. And they're paid portal the portal, right? So if they're traveling for hours to get here, and they're only allowed to work an eight hour day, the contractor gets four hours essentially on the project.

Phil Barrett

Are these train employees?

Chad Cooke

They are.

Phil Barrett

What is it CSX or who is it?

Chad Cooke

CP Rail. So they've indicated to us that they're finishing up another project someplace else, and they'll be able to pay these folks over time, well, we'll be paying them over time so that they can, drive portal to portal and put a full day in here. And then we've already reached out to DOT to make sure that those costs would be recoverable through this.

Phil Barrett

Are these a train police or whatever they call them.

Chad Cooke

No, these are folks that just drive and sit. And there's not a whole lot that they do. And we're paying them portal to portal, so who knows, you know, if they're stopping to get breakfast along the way, I mean, we're paying for that too. So it's been somewhat frustrating. So the contractor is on schedule now. And if we can start to ramp up some activities and get these folks here for more than eight hours, more than four hours, we will be okay for September finish. But if this continues, that could push that construction completion date out. But again, it all, we're at the mercy of CP Rail, unfortunately.

Phil Barrett

It never ceases to amaze me dumb things that happen in this world. And that's one of them. That the most ridiculous thing I've ever heard in my life. I know they have offices in Clifton Park. They don't have anybody, they used to have people working out of there. Their train police or whatever their title is, something along those lines.

Chad Cooke

Yeah, that's a great question. Because all the all the correspondence we have, are with people in Montreal.

Phil Barrett

Well yeah, I think that's the headquarters.

Chad Cooke

You know, you'd think there'd be some local management that out of Clifton Park, but I don't, I haven't dealt with those folks in a long time.

Phil Barrett

There used to be I assume there still is. But. So is there. Is there anything else we can do?

Chad Cooke

I don't think so. We've been frustrated. This isn't the first time and we've even, we've actually reached out to DOT at times to say, do you have any suggestions how we can facilitate a better relationship here? What do you guys do and everyone's at the mercy of CP Rail. Unfortunately.

Phil Barrett

Yes, Mrs. Raymond.

Jean Raymond

We may want to make our federal representatives Congresswoman and the Senator, two Senators aware since I think 85% of that money is federal money that's paying these bills. They might want to be aware of some of these issues that they're not aware of, now that they're talking about a big transportation or infrastructure bill.

Phil Barrett

Oh, that's true. They're gonna be printing so much more money, it doesn't matter.

Jean Raymond

Well, I was thinking in terms of maybe they could (inaudible - two Supervisors speaking at once)

Phil Barrett

But that's not gonna hurt the inflation problem. Just so you know.

Jean Raymond

And I'll pay more for gas, instead of for my train ticket. But I think we might let them be aware since 85% of the money is coming federal government.

Phil Barrett

Could you draft a letter Chad?

Chad Cooke

Sure.

Phil Barrett

That we can send to our representatives.

Chad Cooke

Will do.

Phil Barrett

All right. Stupid. How about the Groom's Vischer Ferry four way light deal? We did get a low bidder on that? Stilsing?

Chad Cooke

We did, Stilsing Electric. As is common practice, we will issue them a letter of award subject to the Board moving forward with a contract with them, so we'll get them on board and it's slated to be done this year.

Phil Barrett

Okay. Very good. Any other questions for Chad on any other projects or issues of interest? Okay, the only other thing, Chad and his team have been working toward what I mentioned earlier in the year, some priorities including upgrading lighting, within the Public Works garage, we've actually kind of expanded that idea into the jail and maybe some other areas. So it's getting bigger as we go. But I do want to get to a point where we can get something done instead of just continuing to expand, but talked to a few different contractors and weighing options at this time. So hopefully, we'll have something soon that we can bring to the Committee, get that done. So the other thing is, we wanted to get somebody trained with pesticides, you have to go through a class, it's not a big deal. We do it in Clifton Park, I'm sure other Towns are doing it too, where you get people trained to be able to apply pesticides and herbicides, I guess is also in there. So I thought that would be a nice thing. Open it up. There might be an employee that wants to have an additional certification. The County would obviously pay them to do all this. But we didn't get any takers. Right?

Chad Cooke

This sign up sheets are still up. I haven't checked in the last week or so. But no, there have been no takers so far.

John Lant

Would you train them for ticks and send them to Wilton?

Phil Barrett

Well, you can hire my guy at time and a half. So that way, I can make some money on the Town of Wilton, how's that? But it's just good to have somebody that can do that kind of work, especially when we are looking towards eliminating certain chemicals being applied to keep weeds down. So I just thought it would, hey you know, a nice little extra certification, looks good on a resume, makes you a little more marketable as an employee, but no takers yet. So hopefully that'll change. I was also thinking about talking to Matt Veitch and see if maybe Buildings and Grounds committee could look at that too.

Chad Cooke

I have the signup sheet with the Buildings and Grounds folks as well.

Phil Barrett

Oh, okay. All right. Still no takers. Anybody on this committee interested? All right. Well, if there's no further business, I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

Darren O'Connor

So moved.

Jean Raymond

Second

Phil Barrett

Mr. O'Connor, Mrs. Raymond.