

Technology & Resiliency Committee Minutes  
July 29, 2021 – 4:00 p.m.

Present: Chairwoman Gaston; Committee Members Phil Barrett, Eric Connolly, Joe Grasso, Matt Veitch; Steve Bulger, Ridge Harris, Matt Rose, Riley Flint, County Administrator; Michelle Granger, Mike Naughton, County Attorney; Eileen Bennett, Information Technology; Craig Hayner, County Clerk.

Chairwoman Gaston called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

**On a motion made by Mr. Grasso, seconded by Mr. Connolly, the minutes of the June 24, 2021 meeting were approved unanimously.**

*Climate Smart Community Discussion*

A list of actions and draft resolution was distributed with the agenda. Ms. Gaston said that many communities in the County are taking steps toward resiliency and climate smart. Three communities registered with NY State at this time are the Village of Schuylerville, City of Saratoga Springs and Town of Clifton Park. Ms. Gaston said that registration as a climate smart community with NYS opens up the County to potential grants and programs. The list of actions translates to certain levels as a climate smart community bronze, silver or gold. Ms. Gaston said that registration as a climate smart community requires no action besides passing the proposed resolution. The proposed resolution is based on a model template, which can be changed, however the list of 10 items have to be verbatim in the resolution. Mr. Grasso said that his concern is to make sure that the County is not going down a path where there is an expectation certain items have to be done that may not be in the best interests of the County long term. He has concerns over the requirements of registration and what is expected of the County. Mr. Grasso said that he believes in climate change, and questioned if the County is going down this road because of opportunities for grant funding that would only be available if committing to these items, or if all of these items are right for the community? Ms. Gaston said that each item, under the list of 10 items, have a points rating which equates to the certification. For example, Saratoga Springs currently has a bronze certification. The pledge must include all 10 items on the list, and then specific actions under each category are optional. Mr. Connolly said that he is in support of doing what can be done, but shares the same concerns as Supervisor Grasso. Mr. Veitch said that he would be supportive in moving forward with this and appreciates the concerns of his colleagues. Mr. Veitch questioned if projects that have already been completed by the County could be counted as part of the points calculation. It may be better to know where the County stands before moving forward to see if this would be a huge commitment. Mr. Connolly said that he is unsure about this particular program, but in some of these programs, points are not awarded until after and are not retroactive. Mr. Connolly questioned who would be doing the research, collecting the information and submitting, as it is a large undertaking. Mr. Barrett said that the Town of Clifton Park began their involvement years ago and the program may have changed since then. He does not recall approving items such as climate smart land use, is not sure what this entails, and could be concerning to many. Mr. Barrett said that he believes a lot of the items needs to be flushed out, for example the requirement for a Climate Smart Community Task Force and appointment of a

Climate Smart Community Coordinator, if this person would need to be a new hire, or an internal employee. Ms. Gaston said it could be the Chair of the Task Force or an employee. Mr. Connolly asked if the County currently has a comprehensive plan. Mr. Veitch said no. Mr. Grasso said that the County has a green infrastructure plan. There is also an County open space plan. Mr. Grasso said that if responsibilities are going to be assigned to departments, their feedback will be needed. Ms. Gaston said that several Departments are already putting a lot of the items into planning and it would be her preference for them to get recognition for that. Mr. Barrett said that he established a green committee approximately 13 years ago and gave a brief overview of green projects in the Town of Clifton Park. They were able to get partial funding for the LED lighting conversion at the ice rink and the basketball court. Mr. Barrett suggested talking with the departments such as Planning, Sewer, DPW about what they are currently working on to get an idea of the plan before committing to it. Mr. Connolly suggested going through what's already been done, see if points can be achieved retroactively, look at other items that may be easily obtained, and come back and report on where the County is currently. Mr. Grasso and Mr. Veitch agreed, and suggested bringing the item back next month. Mr. Grasso also suggested softer language in the resolution.

**A motion was made by Mr. Barrett, seconded by Mr. Veitch, to authorize additional purchases for the Board Room Upgrade. Unanimous.**

Mrs. Bennett said that a meeting with PCC was held today. All of the equipment has been ordered with a tentative installation date of October 21. It is anticipated that the equipment will be up and running and tested for the November 16 Board meeting. Ms. Bennet said that during today's discussion, live streaming was discussed. The potential for live streaming in the Committee room differs from the Board room. In order to have a consistent method of streaming, PCC advised that an additional streaming device was needed for the Committee room. The cost is approximately \$11K which is over the change order limit authorized by the original agreement. Mrs. Bennett said that in order to keep on track for the scheduled installation date, she would like to submit an agenda item request directly to Law & Finance for approval at the August 17 Board meeting. Mrs. Bennett said that the 10% change order in the resolution was not adequate.

#### County Government Resiliency

Ms. Gaston said that there has not been a lot of interest or movement from members on this issue. There are other efforts taking place and other committees. Mr. Barrett said that it was discussed recently, an effort being led through a grant with CDRPC with SEDC as the admin, involving utilities, NYSEG, National Grid, Verizon, water & Sewer leaders in the County. This group effort will come up with a study that will inventory all of the assets, opportunities to work together, areas of improvement and improving communication, cooperation and partnerships when needs arise. Mr. Barrett said that a lot of work will need to be done to support a large undertaking such as an additional Fab at Globalfoundries. Mr. Barrett said that he will continue to provide updates as things move forward. At the end of the day, the document will be useful to all municipalities.

#### Community Resiliency Committee

Ms. Gaston said that this will be an appointed committee and will be announced at the next Board meeting. Ms. Gaston asked that if there are any individuals in communities that may be good, to connect them with her.

Mr. Veitch announced that today is National Intern Day. Mr. Riley Flint introduced himself. He is currently an intern under the County Administrators office. Mr. Flint is a resident of the Town of Milton and a student of the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA majoring in Political Science.

Mr. Grasso questioned the role of the committee going into budget season. Mr. Veitch gave a brief overview of the recent changes in the budget process approved at the July Board meeting. Chairs of Committees will now play a larger role in the budget process. Mr. Veitch said that next month, changes to the Capital Program portion of the budget policy will be revised.

**On a motion made by Mr. Veitch, seconded by Mr. Connolly, the meeting was adjourned unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Therese Connolly  
Clerk of the Board