

Public Works Committee Minutes
December 1, 2021 – 4:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Phil Barrett; Committee Members John Lant, Darren O'Connor, Jean Raymond; Steve Bulger, Ridge Harris, County Administrator; Michael Hartnett, County Attorney; Chad Cooke, Public Works.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Lant, seconded by Mr. O'Connor, the minutes of the August 4, 2021 meeting were approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Mrs. Raymond, seconded by Mr. Lant, to authorize 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 Design, ROW incidentals and Acquisition work for the replacement of the Lasher Road Bridge over the Mourning Kill, Town of Ballston in the amount of \$139,419. Unanimous.

Mr. Cooke said that \$114,000 in in this year's budget for the project. This is accepting additional aid in the amount of \$25,419 and amending the budget.

A motion was made by Mr. O'Connor, seconded by Mr. Lant, to authorize a Consultant Agreement with Greenman Pedersen, Inc. for the Design and ROW incidental services related to the replacement of the Lasher Road Bridge over the Mourning Kill, Town of Ballston, in the amount of \$137,120. Unanimous.

Mr. Cooke said that this is related to the first item. No budget amendment is required as it was already handled in the first item.

School Safety Partnership Projects

Mr. Cooke said that two projects have come forward in the Towns of Ballston and Clifton Park.

As a background in terms of pedestrian accommodations, the County typically does not fund or install pedestrian accommodations within the right of way. It's not uncommon for a municipality to say that they would like to install a crosswalk or a sidewalk in the County right away. The County certainly does not stand in the way of that, but it's typically fully funded, constructed and maintained by the municipality.

The Ballston project is located at the intersection of Kingsley Road and Lake Hill Road, which is up the street from the Burnt Hills Ballston Lake High School. Lake Hill Road was a State highway at one point in the past, that included sidewalks. At some point, the State turned over Lake Hill Road to the County for ownership and maintenance jurisdiction. Mr. Cooke said he believes it's the only sidewalk in the County that is owned and maintained by Saratoga County, within the

County right away. Mr. Cooke was contacted by some people in the Burnt Hills Ballston Lake High School a few times indicating that students cross this intersection pretty regularly, and they are requesting the County's help to construct a crosswalk. He has received petitions with several hundred signatures in support of the County installing a crosswalk at this location. Mr. Cooke reached out to a consultant to get an idea of cost and \$85K was an approximate budget number. Mr. Cooke also reached out to Supervisor Connolly and there has been discussion at the Town level also. Mr. Barrett said that he would like to accommodate this if at all possible. There are a lot of grant programs out there, ADA Compliant, Safe Routes to School. Mr. Barrett said that he doubts any Supervisor would be against this, it would just be a matter of working something out with the municipality and the school and coming up with the funding source.

Mr. Cooke said that second project began in the Town of Glenville. It's a short section on Riverview Road in the Town of Clifton Park. The Town of Glenville applied for a grant to connect Glenclyff Elementary School to the sidewalk. A short portion would be located in the County's right of way and the Town of Clifton Park is involved with possibly being earmarked to provide some funding. There are some other hurdles such as needing easements from some adjacent homeowners, and the details are still being worked out. Mr. Barrett said that a portion of Clifton Park is in the Niskayuna School District. The funding needed is still being worked out.

Mrs. Raymond suggested possibly using ARPA funding to create a sub-category in Trails for sidewalks. Mr. Bulger said that there is legislation being considered in Washington that could loosen up the restrictions for both County and municipalities on how ARPA funding could be used. Something that could potentially encompass things like crosswalks, highway projects etc. It has been passed at the Senate and it is expected to pass in the House. Mr. Barrett suggested that the Committee approve the idea of working toward making a commitment to creating a program that would involve these types of situations, creating safer access for kids in school areas. Mr. Lant agreed and said that it's a safety issue. Mrs. Raymond agreed and added that safer passages, particularly on county property for all ages is important. Mrs. Raymond said she believes the County should have a grant writing department. Mr. Bulger said that funding has been included in the 2022 budget for an aggressive grant acquisition writing program. Hiring a firm to identify and help write grants, and a grants administrator to ensure grant funds are being used appropriately.

Project Updates

Mr. Cooke said that 17.6 miles of roadway rehabilitation was done this year. All of the projects on the list distributed with the agenda are complete except for the four way stop at Vischer Ferry and Grooms Road. He is awaiting notification on when the poles will be delivered for installation.

On a motion made by Mrs. Raymond, seconded by Mr. Lant, the meeting was adjourned unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Therese Connolly
Clerk of the Board