

Buildings & Grounds Transcript

3/1/2022

SPEAKERS

Chad Cooke, Steve Bulger, Turner Bradford, Scott Ostrander, Michael Naughton, Eileen Bennett, Mike Smith, Tara Gaston, Michael Hartnett, Dustin Lewis, Matt Veitch, Joe Grasso, Bill Peck, Several Supervisors, Bridget Rider

Matt Veitch

All right, we're ready to go it looks like. So good afternoon, everyone again. Thank you for attending the buildings and grounds meeting March 1st. Attendance has been taken. First on the agenda is the approval of the minutes of the February 1, 2020 meeting so I'll ask for a motion on that.

Joe Grasso

So moved.

Mike Smith

Moved.

Matt Veitch

Moved by supervisor Grasso seconded by supervisor Smith. Any discussion? All in favor say aye.

Several Supervisors

Aye.

Matt Veitch

Any opposed? All right, Carried. Next, on the agenda is the mental health facility cleaning contract. And we have Chad Cooke here from public works to fill us in.

Chad Cooke

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This item is something you may remember; we went to contract in December with a company American Commercial Cleaning Company to clean the mental health facility in Saratoga Springs. Due to some unsatisfactory performance with them, we have decided to terminate their contract and go with the second lowest bidder, which was a company Complete Building Solutions, who we also contract with for other services. And they've had good success. So this, this resolution would essentially authorize a contract with Complete Building Solutions in the amount of \$24,600 per year, as a first year and first renewal and the second third year renewals would be \$25,800 per year. We have the funds in our budget.

Matt Veitch

Alright, great. So with that, does anybody want to make a motion for this item?

Mike Smith

Is there any issues with getting out of the contract with the other one?

Chad Cooke

No, no issues we've, we've reached out to them. We've spoken to them on the phone and also sent them a letter. They agree that they've had some issues with finding staff. So there's no issue.

Mike Smith

Okay. Thank you.

Scott Ostrander

I'll move that Matt.

Matt Veitch

All right. Supervisor Ostrander moves it. Is there a second?

Mike Smith

Second.

Matt Veitch

Second supervisor Smith? Any further discussion? All right, hearing none, all in favor say aye.

Several Supervisors

Aye.

Matt Veitch

Any opposed? All right, Carried. Next is an item for building four cooling tower repair contracts. Commissioner Cooke.

Chad Cooke

Thank you. Yes, this is to go to contract with Tri County Refrigeration for repairs to the cooling tower at building four which is the district attorney's building. \$30,247. We did obtain three quotes and Tri County was the lowest cost quote. This is something that in the future, I believe I'll be handling with facilities maintenance agreements, but until the contracts and spending policy has been revised, I'll continue to bring them before the committee.

Matt Veitch

All right, great. Anybody have any questions? Alright I'll ask for a motion for the cooling tower repair at building four.

Joe Grasso

So moved.

Matt Veitch

Moved by supervisor Grasso. Is there a second?

Scott Ostrander

Second.

Matt Veitch

Second supervisor Ostrander. Any discussion? Hearing none, all in favor say aye.

Several Supervisors

Aye.

Matt Veitch

Any opposed? All right carries. Next is a conservation easement for the Karner Blue Butterfly habitat areas. Mr. Cooke.

Chad Cooke

Thank you. So as you are aware, we are in the process of developing three Karner Blue butterfly habitat areas in the Towns of Wilton and Northumberland on county owned property, on County forestland. This is in response to a 2015 study that was conducted at the airport, there's some Karner Blue butterfly habitat at the airport. And as part of that study in 2015, there were some safety issues that were identified due to the proximity of the habitat to runways and taxiways, it is a safety issue for taxiing aircraft. So in order to be able to essentially mow that area to provide, you know, safer area for pilots and aircraft, we needed to establish some karner blue butterfly habitat off site. So we identified these areas in with consultation with federal and state agencies. So we have created these habitat areas, we're in the process of creating these habitat areas. And one of the conditions that the US Fish and Wildlife has placed on us is that we must seek the services of a third party entity to essentially oversee these properties through a conservation easement. So we have we've reached out to many entities and the North American Land Trust is actually the only entity that has indicated that they're willing to do so. So what the ask is today and there are actually two things, one is actually granting a conservation easement to the North American Land Trust. And then the second resolution is going to contract with them for their services, which I believe is \$87,325, which is a little bit different than what I sent you before, I think it was 85,325 in the handouts that you have, but the contract was actually at \$87,325. That's a one time fee to them and they will essentially manage this in perpetuity. So there is a handout, in your handout there are some details related to how we created the habitat and why we created the habitat, and also some bullet points on conservation easements. So happy to answer any questions. I know we have attorney Naughton in the back who was instrumental in getting this in order and we also have Turner Bradford from McFarland Johnson in the back as well and can answer any questions regarding this.

Matt Veitch

Anybody have any questions?

Mike Smith

So, I guess without reading it all, what are they really doing for \$87,000? I guess I mean, really? Breeding butterflies? I don't want to sound (inaudible) on this, but I mean, it's a lot of money for just an oversight or something. I mean,

Chad Cooke

Yeah, they're going to be responsible for essentially yearly monitoring of the habitat to make sure that it's being maintained. They could come and do a check and decide that there was some maintenance needed and my staff would go and take care of any of that, you know, related maintenance, but I'm sure Mike or Turner could expound on that in more detail.

Mike Smith

What's the what's the term? How many years does this cover?

Chad Cooke

That's a good question. I mean, we're required to maintain this in perpetuity. So I guess I guess there's some question in terms of what that means exactly. I think I think in their contract. and Mike correct if I'm wrong, it's, I think there's a there's some mention of 25 years, but maybe I'm confusing that for something else, but.

Michael Naughton

It's in perpetuity.

Chad Cooke

Okay.

Michael Naughton

So the 20.

Bridget Rider

Can you turn your microphone on?

Matt Veitch

Mike, can you turn the mic on?

Michael Naughton

Sorry. Thank you. So the \$27,000 is going to be paid to NALT, North American Land Trust, to establish their baseline documentation, so that we'll be creating maps, they'll be doing a survey of the area and more importantly, they'll be creating the conservation easement, which we will negotiate the terms of that. The \$60,325 is based on a calculator that the Open Space Institute and other third party beneficiaries use to calculate how much it costs that type of entity to oversee and manage the facility to

make sure that the county is doing what they're supposed to do so that the habitat, the blue lupine, can go ahead and survive for the benefit of the Karner Blue butterfly. So that's the cost. It is a lot.

Mike Smith

We're in the wrong business.

Turner Bradford

Maybe just to directly answer your question, so they will come at a minimum, once annually, they'll do an inspection of the property, they'll essentially walk the property, they'll make sure that the blue lupine is growing, that there's no invasive species and that the habitat maintains its habitat status and doesn't degrade back to a forest, essentially, it's what is the service they're providing, in perpetuity, through the \$60,000. They create a trust, and they draw from that trust to pay themselves to do the work.

Mike Smith

Okay.

Tara Gaston

Chair?

Matt Veitch

Yes, supervisor Gaston.

Tara Gaston

To the attorneys that are in the room, what are the potential liabilities if we don't do this? I imagine they're going to be significantly more than \$85,000 if we don't do sufficient upkeep.

Michael Hartnett

Thank you, supervisors, this is Mike Hartnett. One of the primary issues with the liability is that the safety liability that's imposed by not mowing or creating a safe area around the runways and taxiways are still significant issues with that. So this is the offset. And

Tara Gaston

Apologies, I meant with regards to if that if the new habitat is not maintained, I assume there are fines or other obligations that the county would be responsible for that over the course of the time would be more than \$85,000.

Michael Hartnett

I suppose, I don't know the exact amount of fines or but the US Fish and Wildlife Service, because the status of the Karner Blue butterfly would be able to initiate an enforcement action against the county which would come at significant legal costs and it is a requirement that they're imposing on us to have a third party administrator manage this site.

Tara Gaston

I just I kind of wanted to put some perspective on the potential costs. This gets Commissioner Cooke out of having to monitor for butterflies and also, you know, get gets the job done that we have to get done and hopefully save some of those costs from happening. Thank you.

Michael Hartnett

Right and the Fish and Wildlife Service requires it to be a third party, so we wouldn't be able to manage our own conservation easement. So it's basically like it's an independent auditor, if you will, over the eastern area.

Matt Veitch

Just as a side comment, and possibly a question. So these forest lands, really are state grants to the county from many, many years ago that really have a restricted use to begin with, you know, they can't be developed, and they can't, they can be used for logging and those types of things, which is what we did to clear the land essentially, to plant the blue lupine. I guess the question would be is like how stringent of a requirement does the county actually have here in a conservation easement for, and maybe you haven't gotten to particulars yet, but you know, what, what's it really going to say that we just keep it available for blue Lupine growth and potential butterfly habitat. I mean, that's seems pretty simple.

Michael Naughton

There's a series of responsibilities that the county will have to undertake, primarily, making sure that the blue lupine can propagate, it will require the county to go ahead and mow, do seasonal mowing to make sure that the blue lupine can come back and grow. But mainly to make sure that the area doesn't have trees and Bush and other flora and fauna, that we grow up and compromise the ability for it to be used as a as a habitat mitigation area. It's not only for the Karner Blue butterfly, but it's also protection of the frosted elfin butterfly, which is a state threatened species. So there's two species involved.

Matt Veitch

The other question I guess I would have is, what are the, is it going to have any kind of restrictions on use, public use? So basically, that's another thing they'd monitor if people you know, God forbid trespass on it, or there's other things that happen, I know, we've had some issues with that in the past on forest land. So you know, I don't know if that's gonna be a part of it or not too, but a once a year check on that's going to be difficult to enforce really, I mean because it's there all the time.

Mike Smith

There's some trails associated with this too?

Matt Veitch

I don't believe trails are on this.

Turner Bradford

There are, there are existing trails, but not within the easement area. We did install a couple of trails through the sites and the it's a little off topic but separate to this, there is a management plan that was created and approved by fish and wildlife and the DEC for these lands and it does state in there

explicitly that all the existing uses that are allowed will maintain so don't quote me here but along the lines of hiking, hunting, those are all still allowed. So whatever is allowed today on that Forest county, county forest land, will be allowed as part, and I don't believe, I don't know, I don't think there'll be a responsibility for North American Land Trust to be reviewing land use it's simply the status of the habitat that they will be monitoring.

Matt Veitch

Okay, thank you. Go ahead.

Michael Naughton

Thank you, supervisor. Just one last thing. The Fish and Wildlife US Fish and Wildlife and DEC made this a requirement for the incidental take permit that the county is responsible for seeking and receiving. We have been issued an incidental take permit. However, if we're, if we don't maintain the conditions of that permit, then we are subject to going back to square one and being subject to potential DEC enforcement actions for the mowing that we do at the airport. So it is a requirement of the as well as the not in addition to the to the DEC permit, but also US Fish Wildlife, and their environmental review of the site.

Mike Smith

My last question will be just back to Chad. As far as for the maintenance of this going forward, knowing that it's all been pretty much pine trees, those pine trees are going to come back no matter how they stripped it. And what I think they took the soil topsoil off site for the most part, if I remember correctly. You're still going to get trees coming up into that so you're going to have to work that into your budgets over the years to obviously we don't have to think for the next probably five years. But after that you're gonna have to, right?

Chad Cooke

Yeah, I mean, it's really depending on how extensive the maintenance is. I mean, we would adjust it at that time. And you know, we can probably handle that sort of stuff in in house. But it'll all be based on whatever North American Land Trust you know identified as an issue for us to address, otherwise, we wouldn't be in there doing any routine maintenance.

Matt Veitch

Alright, anybody have any other questions?

Bill Peck

Mr. Chair, from the phone can I ask one questions?

Matt Veitch

Yes, sir, Supervisor Peck. Thank you.

Bill Peck

Yeah, yeah, to Mike's point, the area is stripped pretty clean and then they took topsoil, so it will be some period of time. I mean, they did leave a tree here and there through the middle but other than

that, it's a big clearcut and topsoil removal. But my question North American, I appreciate the discussion, I was going to bring up the uses cause they're going to continue in the trails that are there, but North American Land Trust, I've never heard of them. Where they based out of?

Chad Cooke

I believe they're based out of Pennsylvania, Mr. or supervisor Peck, but they actually do control some conservation easements locally. The beaver pond village subdivision, which is on Geysers Road, there was a conservation easement done as part of that project and they also have responsibilities there. So they, you know, they are in this area.

Bill Peck

Yup very good. I just never heard of them, I was just curious. Just thank you.

Mike Smith

One more last question.

Matt Veitch

Yes, sir. Supervisor Smith.

Mike Smith

Is Saratoga Plan capable of doing something like this? Were they reached out to? I mean, that would be a wonderful thing if we could hand them \$85,000 to help support their activities and they're county wide and they're local. And I mean, I thought, before we approve something to somebody, we, you know, they're certainly active in the community and doing a lot and \$85,000 certainly could help their coffers if they have somebody on staff that's doing it. We haven't looked at that.

Chad Cooke

Yeah, we, they were part of the conversation, we reached out to anyone who would be possibly interested in this endeavor and North America was the only one that showed any interest.

Joe Grasso

Mr. Chairman.

Matt Veitch

Yes, supervisor Grasso.

Joe Grasso

Yeah, so um, you know, I'm comfortable with the \$85,000 as a one time cost that covers us in perpetuity. I guess I'm more uncomfortable with the in perpetuity part of the maintenance responsibilities that are now going to be imposed on us based on whatever North American Land Trust might come up with because that could be extensive I mean, the airport if the airport, you know, we had blue lupine there if the airport cease to exist, turns into a forest there's no long term responsibilities that the county has there. But this is now where we're basically, and it sounds like the permit conditions are already written, so we're now fully committed to maintaining this as a blue lupine and butterfly habitat

forever. And these habitats they want to change over time. And, you know, I think we have to just be cognizant of our commitment for perpetuity as to what we're up against in terms of trying to maintain a suitable wildlife habitat. So I'm fine with the 85 grand, I'm fine with giving it the North American Land Trust, I don't think Saratoga PLAN has the expertise needed. You know, this is something that I'm familiar with it's similar to wetland mitigation bank type project where you have to get into these types of agreements. But everything that I've always been affiliated with has a limit in terms of the monitoring, either 10 years, 20 years, whatever, the in perpetuity thing really scares me. So, you know, I'm fine with going forward with this, although long term, I think we want to look for an opportunity to reengage with the DEC and Fish and Wildlife, and maybe negotiate better terms, so that we're not, you know, exposed to costs and a scope of work that we just can't control in the future. I'm good with that Chairman.

Matt Veitch

Thank you. So I guess is there is there any opportunity to go to a term or are is that part of the requirement that they're asking us for is to not have a term?

Michael Naughton

Article 49 of the environmental conservation laws sets up conservation easements and they are by design, they're supposed to be in perpetuity. So.

Joe Grasso

Yeah, just to clarify my comments, Mr. Chairman, I'm fine with a conservation easement, they are in perpetuity. It's the maintenance responsibilities that we're now obligated to, anything that North American Land Trust, writes up in their annual report, Chad and his crew, or we're gonna have to subcontract with another firm to go in there and do this maintenance to try to protect these butterflies which come and go by the season. So.

Matt Veitch

Right. And, you know, one of the, although I didn't say this up front, I mean one of the challenges, I did kind of say it up front, one of the challenges is that the type of land that this is, is where I'm kind of struggling, right, is that it's county owned land that is restricted by state statute for us to like, sell very easily, or even transfer ownership very easily to. It's essentially county land in perpetuity, you know, there is really no, it's very difficult to, we transferred some land in Clifton Park recently, it took us three years to do it because it's a difficult process. It's designed to be difficult. So that's where I'm kind of struggling with why we need to even have a conservation easement on this land, because it's not really land that we can like transfer ownership to somebody very easily to and then they have to abide by the conservation easement in perpetuity. That's why they're designed to be that way. Right? So Pitney farm has a conservation easement over it. The reason for that is if they sell land there to some other private owner, they have to abide by the conservation easement. That that makes a lot of sense, but this to me, seems a little bit onerous on the county because we're not going to be transferring this land anybody. It's not, we have we're state restricted, we can't. So I mean, I'm happy to do it and I'm I'll support this as we go forward, but I have I think some of the similar concerns about what's the purpose here?

Mike Smith

I tend to agree with you, Matt.

Matt Veitch

Thank you, supervisor.

Turner Bradford

Just to that point, supervisor, we presented that information to fish and wildlife. And I think on a certain level it was agreed to but when the easement or sorry, when the permit actually got to DEC, I don't think that the county forestland was fully understood at that level and that's when the requirement for the easement came into play.

Matt Veitch

So the state agency of the entity that actually restricted land didn't understand it. I'm shocked.

Turner Bradford

It was Fish and Wildlife.

Matt Veitch

Oh, Fish and Wildlife. Okay, that's federal, that's different. Okay.

Mike Smith

This is about a hundred acres we're talking about right?

Michael Naughton

It's 183.

Bill Peck

Can I ask one more question?

Mike Smith

That's a big chunk.

Bill Peck

A clarification question.

Bill Peck

Just listening to the discussion, this isn't really a conservation easement to prohibit development, which is already done under the county, it sounds to me like it's an easement to basically maintain habitat, which is different. So it's an easement but it's different than what we would consider a building restriction easement, the county is already restricted, but whether this is a habitat easement, which is currently out of my realm.

Matt Veitch

Yes, sir Supervisor Peck, go for it.

Matt Veitch

Yeah, I agree. Using Pitney Farm, that's a use conservation easement it can only be used for farmland and farming type activities. Right. There's, there's really that that's not its restricted on that level. So I agree with you supervisor on that. So I guess I would ask the committee because we do need to, we do have an agenda item here for us, do we want to move forward with this? Do we want to wait on it. I just, this has been kind of a discussion so I don't know where you want to go with this, but I'm happy to entertain a motion or is there, Is there a timeline here?

Michael Naughton

Yes, there is supervisor Veitch. What we, we were supposed to have the conservation easement in place by December of 2021. We received, thankfully, an extension from the DEC for one year. So we have a deadline of December of 2022, in order to have the conservation easement in place.

Matt Veitch

Okay. What's the what's the thoughts here?

Mike Smith

I'll just, I'll just give you one more thing to think about here, cause I bid this stuff all the time and if somebody has to go in there and say, \$3,000 an acre to brush mow that, mow that, light log it, Joe can probably attribute to what I'm talking about, we're talking \$540,000. So we need to be thinking about that. That's a big chunk of change that we're not, you know, that's

Matt Veitch

Unbudgeted?

Mike Smith

Yeah.

Matt Veitch

What do you guys think?

Joe Grasso

So, the 85 grand is reimbursable through a federal grant, I assume so that, so that cost. Again, I'm comfortable moving forward with what we're, what the resolution actually is, you know, which is, you know, the hiring of this firm for 85,000, which I'm comfortable moving forward with. Again, I just like the opportunity for the county to take another look at those conditions and see if we can re engage and get those conditions about perpetuity, maintenance in perpetuity, to be changed more in our favor, something that we can control. That's all. But I'm comfortable moving this resolution forward with a motion.

Matt Veitch

Okay, so we'll call it a motion but, I'll do it on discussion. All right. Is there a second?

Scott Ostrander

I'll second.

Matt Veitch

Second supervisor Ostrander, thank you. Discussion, the administrator has some something to say.

Steve Bulger

So, just wondering, the agreement with the land trust, is that are those terms written? In other words, to supervisor Grasso's point they could, and Smith's point, they could come back and say, "Hey, you got to clear this. You got to do that" and are we fully bound by whatever they come back and say, or is there some ability for us, for Chad's team to negotiate at some point if we feel the requirements, the maintenance requirements, that North American is placing on the county are unreasonable?

Michael Naughton

All subject to negotiation. So nothing has been drafted per se, we have drafted a conservation easement yet but we haven't, we haven't negotiated any of the terms or conditions yet, with NALT, or more importantly, with the US Fish and Wildlife and DEC. And just for point of correction, the contract is \$87,325 not 85.

Matt Veitch

All right, great. So

Tara Gaston

Chair?

Matt Veitch

Yeah, supervisor Gaston.

Tara Gaston

Sorry. And I assume as part of the negotiation, there would be a termination clause. So regardless of the under terms, it comes back that they're suggesting a lot more work than the commissioner feels is necessary, we should be able to terminate it, correct?

Michael Naughton

Technically correct. I would just say,

Tara Gaston

I'm yeah, we have to, we'd have to replace it, but.

Michael Naughton

Correct.

Tara Gaston

In that position.

Michael Naughton

The alternative not having the conservation easement would mean that we would be in violation of the of the incidental take permit under the Endangered Species Act, which would mean that we would have to go back to square one and we would not be able to utilize the airport to the degree that the FAA is requiring the county to take certain steps in order for us to continue the use of the County Airport. So.

Matt Veitch

Is there any further discussion? One point of clarification, Attorney Hartnett, so we have two resolutions on our agenda. If we move them, are we moving them together? Here or do we have to do separate motions?

Michael Hartnett

I would differ to how you want to approach that as chair. They're kind of a package deal in my mind to move through committee.

Matt Veitch

All right.

Michael Hartnett

Although, given the extensive nature of the discussion, perhaps doing them separately would be a belt and suspenders approach.

Matt Veitch

Always, always the options. Let's do let's do them separately, then. So the first one is for the conservation easement. So I'll assume the motion in a second are for that. Supervisors are good with that? Good, good. Okay. Any further discussion? All in favor say aye.

Several Supervisors

Aye.

Matt Veitch

Any opposed?

Joe Grasso

No.

Mike Smith

I'll say no.

Matt Veitch

No. All right, so if there's two opposed then the motion fails. Right, (inaudible) we had two nos. So two to two, it fails either way. Yeah. So we're gonna have to talk about that. So I will not put forward the

next motion, we'll pull that for giving the contract to North American Land Trust. So we're gonna have to, we have to pull that from the next meeting.

Joe Grasso

And, Mr. Chairman, I'd be happy to offer up the chance to engage in some communication about steps forward on this.

Matt Veitch

Sure, yeah no. Well, I think we're gonna have to, so I mean, it, you know, the, as the attorney had just mentioned, it's like a maze of federal agencies with different priorities. And so we're trying to figure out how we fit in the middle of that, because the FAA is one and they got one set of rules, and the Fish and Wildlife are another and they got different set of rules, and in the middle of all that is DEC and the state and we've got to figure out how we fit in the middle of all that so, you know, in order to continue to operate the airport. So at the end of the day, we definitely have to bring this back up at a future meeting. So we'll leave it there for now. And we'll move on to the next agenda item. So thank you, great discussion. I think that gives a little clarity to the staff about where we want to go and the attorneys and talk through that, but supervisor Grasso happy to take you up on that and I'll be happy to be engaged in any further discussion on this as well as chair. So, thank you. Alright, so next on the agenda is a resolution authorizing acceptance of a grant from the New York State D O T for the self propelled runway broom at the County Airport. So we'll turn over to Commissioner Cooke.

Chad Cooke

Right. Thank you. Yes, this is the acceptance of a grant for the purpose of purchasing a runway broom, the broom would be utilized for obviously, removing debris from runways and taxiways, including removal of snow. So, we do have a large snowblower that we use at the airport now, this this is the purpose of this is actually to replace that. So, there is a local share to this grant, which is \$65,050, which would require appropriation from fund balance.

Matt Veitch

Okay, ask for a motion for that item.

Joe Grasso

So moved.

Matt Veitch

Supervisor Grasso, is there a second?

Mike Smith

Second.

Matt Veitch

Second supervisor Smith. Any discussion? Hearing none, all in favor say aye.

Several Supervisors

Aye.

Matt Veitch

Any opposed? Carried. Thank you. Next is a request for resolution for reappropriating funds from 2021 to 2022 for several airport projects. So Commissioner Cooke.

Chad Cooke

Correct. Thank you. Yes, this is a sort of a routine procedure to reappropriate funds for ongoing capital projects related to buildings and grounds. There was a list in your handout. There's eight or so projects that we are in the middle of completing. Air handlers and some work at the airport and the water tower rehab that we that we finished up last year. So it's 2.4 million and the bulk of that is state and federal aid related to the airport, there is a small piece that's it's a local, local share is \$228,637. It would require appropriation from fund balance.

Matt Veitch

Okay, thank you. Can I have a motion for that item, please?

Joe Grasso

So moved.

Matt Veitch

Moved by supervisor Grasso. Was there a Second?

Scott Ostrander

I'll second it.

Matt Veitch

Second by supervisor Ostrander. Discussion?

Joe Grasso

So there's some work on here, the off site mitigation site this is tied to that the butterfly habitat project?

Chad Cooke

It is.

Joe Grasso

okay. Correct.

Mike Smith

What, just out of curiosity, what's left there? Is there anything going on there?

Chad Cooke

Turner, can you speak to that? What's remaining for the habitat site.

Turner Bradford

So most of the construction is done, the there's of the three sites, two of the three sites have been essentially completed with construction, the third site still needs to be seeded with the wildflower mix which will be done this spring and then potentially we can seed again at all three sites if needed the following spring.

Mike Smith

Okay. Thank you.

Matt Veitch

All right, any further discussion? Hearing none all in favor say aye.

Matt Veitch

Any opposed? All right, carried. Next up is another one from Commissioner Cooke, which is the Saratoga County Soil and Water Conservation District space request.

Several Supervisors

Aye.

Chad Cooke

Thank you. So in your packet, you'll see some information that I received from Saratoga County Soil and Water. Dustin is here in the back and can certainly answer any direct questions, but essentially, what they're looking for is some space at the county farm complex to construct metal storage building. We identified a space, sort of northwest of the Fire Training Center as an area that could be used for that purpose. So I think this this was essentially this item was essentially to gauge the committee's willingness, I guess, to allow them to construct that. And I, I believe we would, at some point be required to develop some sort of a lease leasing instrument with soil and water at some point in the future. So I think this was just a sort of a discussion item.

Matt Veitch

Okay. Thank you, Commissioner. So yeah, I don't know if everybody's reviewed it in the packet, but it does show the location of the building. You know, I took a look at it, I didn't really see any issue with it. I think it would be appropriate for us to move forward with this. I guess I would ask if any committee members, or any supervisor on the phone has any questions, happy to answer those?

Scott Ostrander

Man, what's the price tag on that?

Matt Veitch

It's paid for at County Soil and Water's expense. So, go ahead.

Dustin Lewis

We're simply asking for space, and we have the funds to construct the building. So it's simply a space request. That's all

Scott Ostrander

So, once you're done, you're turning that over to the county since it's on their property?

Dustin Lewis

That would, the long term lease agreement would be part of the discussion. Our thought was that it would be constructed by us, we'd pay for the construction and then if the county wants to do the long term lease, where, if any, for any reason the Soil and Water district ceases to exist in the future, it would automatically turn over to the county, but we you know, as it as it would stand, we assume that we would assume responsibility for the maintenance of the building, after we construct it, but again that will be worked out in a lease, any lease agreement that the county wanted to work out.

Matt Veitch

All right. Sounds good. Any other questions?

Tara Gaston

Chair.

Matt Veitch

Supervisor Gaston.

Tara Gaston

In the description, it mentioned water and electricity. Is that are, is that going to be an issue or is that going to be an additional undertaking to make sure that that's set up for that? That maybe more for the commissioner, then the conservation district.

Tara Gaston

Thank you.

Chad Cooke

Sure, this is this Chad. There is there is electric available nearby, we're actually in the process of doing some water line work over by the Fire Training Center. So if the board is willing to move forward with this request, we can we can add a water tap to that water line for easy access for Soil and Water when they get to that point so shouldn't be an issue.

Mike Smith

What are talking, just like a pole barn?

Dustin Lewis

Yeah, it's just a metal building, basically and then something cuz we've outgrown, we have a we have a shed on the property now an eight by twelve shed that we clearly have grown years ago. And our equipment is grown at this point. So with our hydro cedar, no till drill and other equipment, we need something someplace, we can work on it as well, instead of parking it outside for the winter, and it'll increase or like, like the lifespan of our equipment.

Mike Smith

And I'm pretty familiar with what the work that Dustin does, and the trainings and stuff that he does.

Matt Veitch

Yeah.

Mike Smith

It's a very worthwhile thing for the for the county, and I would like to support it.

Matt Veitch

Alright, so I don't think this requires any kind of a motion or anything at this point. I believe when the lease comes forward, that's what we will we will do that. So it sounds like you have support of the committee to move forward so go ahead and start drawing that up and then we'll vote on it in a future meeting.

Dustin Lewis

Great. Thank you very much.

Matt Veitch

Thank you. All right, so next, we're also now we're on to the IT portion of our meeting. Next, we have a contract with UTC associates for cybersecurity assessment and we have Eileen Bennett here, our director of IT to present that one for us.

Eileen Bennett

Thank you, Chairman. IT has responsibility of keeping cybersecurity as the most important part of our job. And with that, we need some more expertise than we have in house, and we've had discussions with UTC associates in discussion with our cybersecurity assessment of our infrastructure, and to help us create a proactive risk management program for us, including policies and procedures, security roadmap of our infrastructure that we have presently, and any information that they can give us to increase our cybersecurity, for our infrastructure here at the county.

Matt Veitch

All right, thank you. It appears as though that the authorization here is for a range in in costs, just so that the supervisors know that, it appears as though it starts from a 95,000 amount with a not to exceed 100,000. I'm not sure exactly why that is. And I don't know if you need to explain that. But probably due to the sensitive nature of some of the things that they're going to be looking at, and we probably have a range there depending on what their details are, they have to go into, it'd be my guess. But at the end of the day, just so you know, that's what we're going to be voting on. So I would ask if anybody wants to move that and then we can have a discussion.

Mike Smith

So moved.

Matt Veitch

Moved by supervisor Smith. Second?

Joe Grasso

I'll second.

Matt Veitch

Second supervisor Grasso. Discussion.

Mike Smith

I guess in light of the world affairs right now it's important

Tara Gaston

Chair, it's me again.

Matt Veitch

Supervisor Gaston.

Tara Gaston

Um, what services are they going to be provided that are? Sorry, my dog is yawning. Um, he's also tired. What services are they going to be providing that we couldn't get through, for example, CISA, which is local and government and also does free assessments and analysis. Is there anything in particular that we would want to go with this instead of something like that.

Eileen Bennett

And the reason that we would go with this company is that they would help us create policies that would allow us, one for employees as well as vendors that may need to work on our systems. Currently, those policies and procedures are not there. A diagram of our network and all the infrastructure, they would help us assess that as well according to standards, and there's several standards that I'm not an expert in that we need to abide by in to verify that, indeed, we are compliant with all the different security requirements that we have of our infrastructure.

Tara Gaston

Did anyone reach out to CISA?

Eileen Bennett

I did not.

Tara Gaston

Okay. I may be misremembering but my understanding is that they, they could do most of that. Thank you.

Matt Veitch

Alright, thanks supervisor. Is there any further discussion on this item?

Joe Grasso

Mr. Chairman, was this a process Eileen was subjected to like an RFP or is it sole source because of their specialty?

Eileen Bennett

They're on a GSA Schedule.

Joe Grasso

Okay.

Eileen Bennett

There is an approved schedule, a contract I should say, but it goes beyond the minor contract of \$15,000 so it's a capital, um, it's a

Matt Veitch

Major contract.

Eileen Bennett

Major contract. Thank you. It's a major contract needs a resolution for that.

Joe Grasso

But the fees associated with it are based on a certain set schedule.

Eileen Bennett

Yes, it is.

Joe Grasso

That were bid on?

Eileen Bennett

Yes, indeed. It was vetted and the insurance and all of that is behind that GSA Schedule seventy for IT.

Joe Grasso

Okay, thank you.

Mike Smith

This is all budgeted money for 2022?

Eileen Bennett

it is we budgeted and approved for 100,000 and I have found that resolutions have been restrictive, and I have put the not to exceed and you'll see on my next resolution, because I put a fixed amount, I come in front of my boards or committees often for that. And so with the help of the county attorney, we put a not to exceed in so that you don't have to see me each time I have changed my contracts for

unforeseen costs. And again, they gave us a quote for that amount and depending on what they seen \$5,000 might cover something that I wouldn't have to come back to the board for a resolution.

Mike Smith

Understood. Thank you.

Matt Veitch

Any further discussion? All right, hearing none all in favor say aye.

Several Supervisors

Aye.

Matt Veitch

Any opposed? Alright carries. Next is another IT item which is a amendment to a resolution from 2020 to increase the KRONOS licenses. Director Bennett.

Eileen Bennett

Thank you, Chairman. So again, we had a resolution, an amendment to a contract. Again, we needed additional licenses. Payroll in the Khronos system is over, Kronos is overseen by it, but they do work under my department, so unless I reach out to them, just make sure that they are they have everything that they need to run their program properly I don't know that information. It brought was brought to my attention that additional licenses were needed. We purchased them in 2020, under a contract as well. But I have a resolution because I have maintenance that is on all of those licenses for Kronos and my resolution is a fixed amount for six year contract. We're in year five and because we added additional licenses for Kronos, my resolution is no longer valid, or my contract. So I'm here to ask for additional funds for year five and year six. And I believe all the licensing that is needed to allow all the workforce in Saratoga County to be entered into our KRONOS System is now satisfied. And the workforce manager licenses that are needed for all the departments are also available. So I don't believe that those costs will increase again, but

Matt Veitch

You never know with IT.

Eileen Bennett

I don't know that answer. So again, I believe I put a not to exceed, I did again I put a not to exceed amount. So those fixed amounts are based on the licenses that we have currently. There's several licenses, I think there's eight to 10 different licenses that are that we need to run Kronos and Kronos is our time management system where employees can either swipe or there are desktop apps as well for those that don't have the ability to swipe on that if they log in at their PC, so that the sweeps can be seen.

Matt Veitch

All right. I guess I'll ask for a motion to approve the additional licenses for the KRONOS service system.

Scott Ostrander

So moved.

Matt Veitch

So moved, Supervisor Ostrander. Is there a second?

Mike Smith

Second.

Matt Veitch

Second supervisor Smith. Is there any discussion? All right, hearing none, all in favor say aye.

Several Supervisors

Aye.

Matt Veitch

Any opposed? Alright, Carries. Thank you. Alright, we're moving right through the agenda today. So we have one more item here, it's other business. I would just ask one quick question of Director Bennett. We talked about it I think at our first meeting regarding the boardroom tech upgrades, I'm just wondering if that skill is still on schedule.

Eileen Bennett

That project is still on schedule, I believe they will start construction in this room on March 21. It should take approximately 10 days to be available for our April board meeting.

Matt Veitch

Great. And that's good timeline too because I think we're going to try to do some, hopefully some training with the board. Try to set some dates and do some things on that so everybody kind of gets a good feel for the system. So they don't walk in at a board meeting, have a screen in front of them with all kinds of different things that it does, and you know have our meetings, but I believe that I think your staff is going to be there for that meeting as well for support, so we appreciate that. So great. That sounds great. And it'll be really great to have a new set up here going forward. So thank you for that update. Anything with the buildings ground side? No? Okay. All right. So we do have one last item here and we do have to go through this today is an executive session. So we have an executive session, and it's for the proposed acquisition, sale or lease of real property and I would ask for a motion to go into executive session.

Mike Smith

So moved.

Matt Veitch

Moved by supervisor Smith. Is there a second?

Joe Grasso

I'll second.

Matt Veitch

Second supervisor Grasso. Any discussion? And for the session, I would ask that Turner Bradford stay, and I guess the attorney, administrator and Commissioner and then any supervisor, any supervisors on the line. So with that said, all in favor say aye.

Several Supervisors

Aye.

Matt Veitch

Any opposed? Carried. Thank you.

After executive session, recording not captured.