

Public Works Transcript 5-4-2022

SPEAKERS

Chad Cooke, Scott Ostrander, Phil Barrett, Sandra Winney, Diana Edwards, Kevin Veitch, Several Supervisors, Therese Connolly, Tom Richardson, Eric Butler

Phil Barrett

Welcome to the May 4 Public Works Committee. Attendance has been taken. I'll entertain a motion to approve the minutes of March 2.

Kevin Veitch

So moved.

Eric Butler

Second.

Sandra Winney

I'll second that motion.

Phil Barrett

Mr. Veitch, second by Mr. Butler? Oh who is on the line?

Therese Connolly

Supervisor Winney.

Phil Barrett

Oh, all in favor?

Several Supervisors

Aye.

Phil Barrett

Opposed? Motion carries. Okay, so I just have a couple of quick things today. But I think number three, requires some, some review and a little bit of background as to why that's been asked for and how we got there. So I spoke with Chad, in recent months, and said to him, you know, now with the increasing inflation gap that we're all dealing with, we had a certain amount of money that was set aside in the budget to do a certain amount of work. However, that was a long time ago in terms of inflation, even though it was only December. So I asked him, how much would we need to get back to where we were in December? In other words, what kind of gap has been created because of inflation and the rising costs of materials and, and fuel and everything else that is required for payment. So that is reflected in this number, as well as for projects that were scheduled for 2023. That, that I think it would be good to bring into 2022. And the reasoning behind that. Or is it five projects four or five? Four? Yeah. And the

reasoning behind that is we obviously have received a large amount of ARPA funds that you're all aware of, I can't think of a better use of those funds, then for infrastructure. And as we get into the paving season here, if we're able to complete more paving around different municipalities within the county, utilizing those funds. I think it's a, I personally think it's a great investment, and it's something we should consider moving toward. So and again, looking at that inflation gap. I'd hate to see us accomplish less in 2022 than planned because of inflation, again, because we have these ARPA funds available, and we can fill that gap relatively easily. Chad, can you just go through that, that inflation gap that that I referenced, and the projects that would be moved into 2022 from the 2023 plan?

Chad Cooke

Sure. Thank you Mr. Chairman. So for 2022 we had in our highway reconstruction capital plan, we had planned on rehabilitating 18.45 miles of county highways. And that total at the time when we put this budget together last August, was about 3.6 million to do that work. So we knew that that number represents material costs, as well as equipment rental, and some hiring of some outside vendors to help us with some processes that we can't do in house. So with the rising cost of fuel, as Chairman Barrett had indicated, in order to complete the projects we had identified for 2022, the rising cost of fuel, it's almost an additional million dollars, just for materials. So that's part of the 3.5 million that we had identified in your in your packet right at the top. That's the cost associated with completing what we have planned for 2022. And then we selected for additional projects from the 2023 rehabilitation plan. And we actually put these projects out to bid recently. So the numbers that you see here are reflective of us outsourcing that work. We try to fight off as much as we can chew, you know, each any given year in terms of highway rehabilitation, so adding, you know almost eight miles of reconstruction is going to require us to outsource that to contractor so the numbers that you see there are a big number (inaudible). So total is 3.5 million. That's what we're asking for, in terms of an amendment to the budget so we can accomplish all of those, all that additional work for a total of just over 26 miles.

Phil Barrett

I think we should also keep in mind that this is a reoccurring benefit because if the county continues its, continues making road construction and paving a priority. If you move for projects from 2023 to 2022, well, that should also precipitate more projects moving from 2024 to 2023. And right down the line. So this should have a cascading positive effect of more and more projects getting done sooner. I'm sure this will, this ARPA funding will be a one-time deal. But, but we can still create a situation where we have lasting effects for years in a positive way.

Tom Richardson

So three and a half million is coming right out of ARPA funding.

Phil Barrett

Yeah,

Tom Richardson

Perfect. I'll make a motion.

Scott Ostrander

I'll second.

Phil Barrett

Second by Mr. Ostrander. Any further questions or discussion?

Sandra Winney

Phil?

Phil Barrett

Yes.

Sandra Winney

Yeah. Can I ask you a question?

Phil Barrett

Sure.

Sandra Winney

You made a statement saying that you think this is a one-time ARPA deal? According to a letter, we're supposed to get another endowment this year? You don't think that's going to be coming?

Phil Barrett

Yeah. The original ARPA allocations for localities was scheduled to be made and to payments. So you were you were allocated a specific number, and they split those payments over two years?

Sandra Winney

Okay. I understand.

Phil Barrett

Yeah, so I'm assuming that everybody gets the second payment. What I'm not assuming is that there is another ARPA funding program around the corner. I don't think we're going to hear in 2023 that we're getting another X number of millions from ARPA fund or a similar type program. So I think we have to look at the ARPA funding as a one-time situation. But what you were originally allocated with the county was originally allocated, I'm sure will come through as expected. You should get the second payment in July.

Sandra Winney

Yeah. I think your idea is great. I think you're you'll probably be one year ahead. Going ahead here. Which is great. You know, if you work it that way. That's good.

Phil Barrett

Yeah, that's what we're hoping.

Kevin Veitch

Quick question. Are these all the projects for 2023 or is this just a portion of them?

Phil Barrett

No, just a portion? Yeah. For probably 10 or 11.

Chad Cooke

I think maybe 10 or 11 projects for 2023. So we'll just as (inaudible)

Phil Barrett

Yeah. All right. Great. Any other discussion? All right. Very good. All in favor?

Several Supervisors

Aye.

Phil Barrett

All opposed? Motion carries. Number four, Chad.

Chad Cooke

Thank you. So this is a contract for a vendor Town and County Bridge & Rail to do a bridge repair for us. In July of 2021 we were yellow flagged by DOT for the bridge that carries County Route 1 over Wolf Creek in the Town of Hadley. There's some section loss and some steel corrosion on the outside fascia beams. So this project essentially welds additional steel flange on the bottom of the steel and also the web between the top and bottom flange. And we had budgeted for this 60,000 for construction. Again, this was July of 2021. Similar to the last item, we're seeing an escalation and material costs and steel is no different. So we're looking for an amendment to the budget as well. The total contract is 93,600. So we are 33,600 short in our budget.

Phil Barrett

And that's in the Town of Hadley.

Chad Cooke

It is.

Kevin Veitch

Those funds will only be coming out of our general funds not the lump of money we will be using.

Phil Barrett

Correct.

Diana Edwards

I'm assuming it's a safety issue, that it's very important that we have a safe bridge to go over.

Kevin Veitch

I don't think we have a choice.

Diana Edwards

I make a motion to approve that one.

Phil Barrett

You might use that bridge?

Several Supervisors

(Several people speaking at once)

Kevin Veitch

Chad was it a yellow or a red flag?

Sandra Winney

I second that motion.

Chad Cooke

It's just a yellow. So it's not it's certainly not the danger of collapse. This is a preventative measure.

Phil Barrett

Okay. All right, second by Supervisor Winney. Any discussion further questions? All in favor?

Several Supervisors

Aye.

Phil Barrett

Opposed? Motion carries. Okay. Any other business come before the committee?

Tom Richardson

I just, I just want to, Chad and I talked about this a couple of months ago. And I don't know where this goes through or whatever. But have you noticed on the roads riding around the garbage that people have thrown out of the cars from on 67, from Mechanicville to Malta. I've been over 146 over through Town of Halfmoon and Clifton Park. And if you get through Clifton Park on the other side, as you're heading towards Glenville, 146 on both sides.

Phil Barrett

Must be on the Halfmoon side.

Tom Richardson

No, it's on your side. Well, Halfmoon first and then as you go through Clifton Park. But I'm just saying all the roads I was on Kinns road the other day, just all of the roads around. I mean, everybody's just throwing garbage out their windows.

Kevin Veitch

I had the experience the other day driving behind a Twin Bridges truck and stuff flying up and right out of the top and they do have a shutter to shut that up, but they don't close it.

Tom Richardson

But I think a lot of this stuff. Not only that, but I think a lot of stuff is just people throwing garbage out the windows of the car. I mean, I sent I think I said this to you Chad and I think to Ed Kinowski, if somebody just picked up the bottles not counting all the other garbage from Mechanicville to Malta they'll probably pick up \$500-\$600 worth of bottles. You know those nickel bottles? I can't believe it.

Phil Barrett

Are you volunteering?

Tom Richardson

No I'm not, I'm too old for that.

Scott Ostrander

He could have a jail crew, can't he?

Phil Barrett

We used to get Mt. McGregor.

Scott Ostrander

(Several people speaking at once)

Tom Richardson

But we can't do that anymore from what I understand in talking with the Sheriff.

Phil Barrett

Well, there's nobody there anymore.

Tom Richardson

Well, yeah, I talked to the Sheriff, and he said Tom, we can't go there with it. But I'm just saying it's just it's getting, it's getting to be such a such a mess. And it's just everyone.

Phil Barrett

Well, our folks patrol the roads.

Tom Richardson

What do you mean patrol the roads?

Phil Barrett

They police the roads. While we used to say in the military police. the roads. They go out and they pick up the garbage.

Tom Richardson

Yeah. Yeah. But and I'm not talking in the City kind of thing. I mean stuff in the City, to be honest with you. I go to a couple playgrounds personally, myself with garbage bags and pick up a lot of garbage around different things. The road going up to high school and everything. But I mean, is there any?

Phil Barrett

Well on the county roads, we police the roads.

Chad Cooke

So between plowing and, you know, the end of plowing season beginning of construction season? That's what our crews do, is we have Foreman that are responsible for a particular area in the County. Yeah, that's all they do is pick garbage for weeks.

Tom Richardson

Yeah. I know. I know. But it's just I think I think there's just too much of it. There's no way you're going to catch up.

Phil Barrett

Oh, yeah. Well, if you're talking sounds like you're talking about roads that are not county roads?

Tom Richardson

Well, yeah. Well, I don't know what 67 is, is that a County road or is that a state road?

Chad Cooke

Yeah, DOT. In fact, right before the meeting I had an email from a resident in Malta emailing me saying, Can you please go and pick up the garbage on the Northway?

Sandra Winney

Oh my goodness.

Chad Cooke

Well, the residency up in Saratoga Springs at Exit 15.

Several Supervisors

(Several Supervisors speaking at once)

Tom Richardson

I mean, it's everywhere. Like I talked to, who's the gentleman from DOT. That has an office up in your building. Isn't there somebody from DOT that's up in your building?

Tom Richardson

Right. Yeah. I talked to him about it, too. And he said to me, yeah, Tommy 67 is on the list. I said it has been on a list for two, three years.

Chad Cooke

Right.

Tom Richardson

He said that's on the list. What can I tell ya? While they do all the main roads first, and I get it, you know, it's the Northway and Route 9.

Chad Cooke

They're not doing the Northway.

Tom Richardson

Doesn't look like they are

Chad Cooke

I mean, that same red cooler has been by exit just past Exit 10 there for weeks.

Tom Richardson

But anyway, I just thought I'd bring it up.

Phil Barrett

Well, if you see an issue with the county road? Let me or Chad know. We send guys out like five in a group I think it is or four in a group and they go out and they hit it pretty good.

Kevin Veitch

We own a large parcel of land in Greenfield that covers many roads. And I send my guys out sometimes twice a month. They ride along and they're side by side and they're grabbers, and they go in and grab everything. And they say to me every time the same bottles and the same cans are at the same locations all the time, along with Stewart's cups. And I've driven by and go yeah, the same place. See it. It's just funny.

Tom Richardson

So I don't know if we if there's some sort of campaign we can start or something, like someone said to me, why don't you find like an organization that will you know, like they do a highway or something.

Several Supervisors

(Several Supervisors speaking at once)

Kevin Veitch

We do that in Greenfield.

Phil Barrett

Well we do. We do the Town clean up every year, we concentrate on trails and parks. But I'm not going to send people on 146.

Tom Richardson

No, no, exactly. But I'm just saying.

Phil Barrett

There are certain areas that are just hard to.

Tom Richardson

I'm just wondering if anybody's used like, I mean, we don't have, we used to have Boy Scout troops all over the place. We don't have one in Mechanicville anymore.

Kevin Veitch

We have Adopt a Highway. Stewart's takes a road, then we have private organization, the Elks club, or the Lions Club takes a road, and then there's individual families that will take over a portion of a road.

Tom Richardson

Right, well, Stewarts got two shops in our city. So

Tom Richardson

(inaudible) it's very good. Thanks. I just wanted to bring that up.

Phil Barrett

You could start a City cleanup day?

Tom Richardson

Well, it's not in the City, I don't have that problem, it's not in the City limits. It's all the other roads coming into the City. So I'm up and downs 67...

Phil Barrett

So it's everything outside of Mechanicville?

Tom Richardson

Well. Again I pick up a lot of garbage in Mechanicville, I go out in my car at seven o'clock in the morning, I pick up garbage. So I'm not saying there's not garbage in Mechanicville. But I'm just saying it's all. I just see it all over all on the roads where I'm going. And I just wondered what other people were doing. Or might be doing that. But I'll try.

Phil Barrett

I think the state used to do more of that. I don't think they're really doing it. At least in recent years

Chad Cooke

No. I've asked I mean, I know, Supervisor Richardson and I have spoken about this. And I've reached out to DOT. And I get the same response. It's on the list.

Tom Richardson

And Federalist said that I said we've been on the list for two, three years. All right, I just thought I'd ask that. So thanks for the idea. I appreciate that. Thanks.

Phil Barrett

The only other thing I had was, today was second or third meeting of the Planning Committee for CDTC. And the whatever was approved today goes to the Policy Committee, I'm on the Policy Committee. And you know, they're an MPO. And what they do is, you know, assess projects that are submitted by counties and municipalities. And so our team of Saratoga County representatives, one from Wilton, one from Clifton Park, and Mike Valentine. I spoke to them, and we had a good strategy going into these planning meetings. And the goal was to secure as much funding as possible for the County and for as many municipalities as possible. Not every municipality had submitted projects, but we had a fair, fair representation, I would say, various municipalities, right Chad? that were on the list. A lot of a lot of county projects, we put in like eight, eight or nine?

Chad Cooke

Nine projects.

Phil Barrett

All over the county. But you know, they're scored differently. They look at it, some are scored nice and high, some are scored really low. So obviously, the ones that have scored higher have a better chance. But we looked at, we also looked at some options of utilizing funding to help secure some of those projects as best we can. So we'll have we'll have an update at the next Public Works meeting as to where things stand. But as of today, we did we did pretty well, from what our representatives told me so. So I think we'll have some good news. And once it's finalized, we'll update everybody. All right.

Tom Richardson

I think we got 4 or 5?

Chad Cooke

We got more than that?

Tom Richardson

We did more than that?

Chad Cooke

At least six projects.

Tom Richardson

Was there six. I was thinking there was five. I wasn't at the meeting today. I couldn't be there.

Phil Barrett

Are you on the planning committee?

Tom Richardson

I'm on the planning yes.

Phil Barrett

Oh, you are?

Tom Richardson

I'm also on the Policy Committee too.

Phil Barrett

Oh, okay.

Tom Richardson

I'm also on the Administration and Finance.

Phil Barrett

Okay, I didn't see you at the policy committee meeting.

Tom Richardson

Yeah, I stopped going to those I only go to the planning committee because the policy committee they just kind of okay, everything that the Planning Committee says so. And with COVID I didn't go to anything for (inaudible) I know we have seven, eight, nine projects. County Projects.

Phil Barrett

Yeah, those are just County and then the Towns on top of that. So obviously we're not going to get everything, but we get a nice chunk. Alright, I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

Tom Richardson

You got it.

Kevin Veitch

Second.

Phil Barrett

Second by Mr. Veitch. All in favor?

Several Supervisors

Aye.

Phil Barrett

Opposed? Motion carries. Thanks everybody.