

Minutes

Public Facilities Committee

December 7, 2020, 4:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting via Zoom and Live-Streamed for public viewing

Gerace Office Building, Mayville, N.Y.

Members Present: Hemmer, Davis, Nazzaro, Scudder, Gould

Others: Tampio, Ames, Dennison, Bentley, M. Westphal, Cummings, Chagnon, Abdella, Almeter

Chairman Hemmer called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

Approval of Minutes (11/9/20)

MOVED by Legislator Scudder, SECONDED by Legislator Nazzaro to approve the minutes.

Unanimously Carried

Privilege of the Floor

Clerk Tampio: We have not received any comments in the office.

Proposed Resolution - Confirm Appointment – Portland-Pomfret-Dunkirk Sewer District Board

Mr. Cummings: John, this is just a new board member. We had one member whose term was up and she didn't want to re-up so the Board has appointed a new member to fill her spot.

Chairman Hemmer: Sounds good Scott. Thank you very much. Everyone all set with this resolution? Any comments or questions for Scott? All in favor?

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution – Confirm Appointment – South & Center Chautauqua Lake Sewer District Board

Chairman Chagnon: I serve on this District Board so I will speak to the resolution prior to the changes that Steve recommended but we're wishing to appoint Andrea McClean to the District Board. She lives in the area of the west side sewer district extension that we're going to be building over the next couple of years. She's very enthusiastic about the District extension. She is also one of the only year round residents in her neighborhood and she's very interested in helping coordinate and communication with her neighbors who are non-resident, who live in other places and this is a vacation home for them. So, we're very excited to have Andrea join the Board as an additional representative in the area of the sewer extension project.

Chairman Hemmer: Thank you very much. We appreciate that input and are there any other questions from the committee about this? Mr. Abdella, you have some comments?

Mr. Abdella: Yea, so I had sent out an email last week to everyone recommending that there be an additional RESOLVED clause added to this resolution that would fix the number of South & Center Chautauqua Lake District Board members at 7 members. There is an old resolution that describes it as having a minimum of 10 but, to avoid confusion about when and where and how vacancies should be filled and how many members there are supposed to be, I think it's preferable to actually fix the number that is intended and then we know if there is a vacancy that we need to fill it. The language would be adding a RESOLVED clause to state, "and be it further, RESOLVED, That effective January 1, 2021, the size of the South & Center Chautauqua Lake Sewer District board is hereby fixed at seven members."

Chairman Hemmer: Can we treat that as an amendment to this resolution and pass the amendment and then pass the resolution?

Mr. Abdella: Yes, that would be the way to do it.

Legislator Scudder: I'll move that we amend the resolution to the wording that Steve just went through.

Legislator Davis: Second.

Chairman Hemmer: All in favor of amending the resolution?

Unanimously Carried – amendment

Chairman Hemmer: Any additional discussion on this resolution? All in favor other amended resolution?

Unanimously Carried as amended

Proposed Resolution – Amend 2020 Budget Appropriations – South & Center Chautauqua Lake Sewer District

Mrs. Dennison: To the South & Center Chautauqua Lake Sewer District, we as in Finance, contacted the District because one of the recent payrolls put them over their budget in

employee benefits and the District is proposing that it can cover that overage with a surplus in the contractual category. The main reason they are going over budget and this is in the administration department, it's due to the other post-employment benefits costs are completely out of the control of the department. They are very difficult to budget for so that is what has caused the overage in their benefits classifications for this year.

Chairman Hemmer: Thank you very much for that explanation? Any questions concerning that?

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution – Amend 2020 Budget Appropriations – North Chautauqua Lake Sewer District

Mr. Cummings: This is pretty much the same thing that South & Center has. Kathleen did a great job of explaining that, much better than I would, but, pretty much the exact same thing. We're covering this with the contractual part of our budget for the shortfall.

Chairman Hemmer: Sounds good, found a place within the budget to fix it. Any additional comments or questions?

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution - Amend Resolution 120-20 - Authorizing Hangar "A" Lease Agreement with Luscombe Aircraft Corporation at the Chautauqua County Jamestown Airport to Enable Accelerated Recovery of Capital Improvement Expenses

Mr. Bentley: I'll speak to this one and Ron can fill in as needed. Basically Luscombe, as you know, just recently signed a lease to take over our airport hangar "A". As part of that, we offered them a rent credit of \$500 a month for capital improvements that would also benefit the airport users. It would only be those capital improvements that were approved by the Airport Manager, which is basically Ron. Luscombe has asked us to accelerate those credits in the form of \$1,000 per month instead of \$500.00 a month but the total dollar amount would still remain \$48,000, so there is no increase in the actual credit given. This is in recognition that COVID has just taken a hit out of a lot of businesses. They employ people here and we want to keep this business around. I think it's important for the economic future of the company there. The IDA is supporting this, supporting Luscombe so, I think we should do our part by allowing the accelerated (*inaudible*) to keep them in business. We think their business is viable it's just that we help them get through this tough period that everybody is experiencing. There was a lengthy discussion at the Airport Commission that John, you were a part of there, and the Airport Commission voted in favor of recommending this resolution to change the credit to \$1,000 from \$500 per month but not to exceed the \$48,000 that was on the previous resolution. Any questions?

Chairman Hemmer: Thank you for that explanation. That's pretty much what was discussed at the Airport Commission and it was accepted by the Commission. (*Inaudible*) that are talked about will be a benefit in the long run to the airport and to that hangar in particular. One of the projects is actually I think tied into the renovations of hangar "C", isn't it? I think that was mentioned at the meeting. It seems like it's a worthwhile project for us.

Mr. Bentley: Ron can comment on the hangar "C" coordination. (*No volume for Mr. Almeter*). There is some coordination with hangar "C" and the benefits are there to (*inaudible*) bring water and gas near over there. It can kind of split where hangar "A" is versus where hangar "C" is so part of that infrastructure would be there. Want to try again Ron?

Mr. Almeter: Just to confirm what you mention John with regards to the site infrastructure. When we entered the contract, the lease agreement with Luscombe, we had a general idea of what utilities were available to hangar "A" and what they needed to do to bring water, sewer, heat, in the form of natural gas, and electricity to the hangar. We didn't have a well-developed understanding of the site, utility infrastructure. Subject to that, we determined that the existing infrastructure particularly with regards to sewer and natural gas for heat, fall short of hangar "A". It actually stops in the street about 500 feet from the building. So the cost of extending these utilities, site infrastructure on it and the part that's on the airport property, is considerable more than what was forecasted at the time we entered into the lease with Luscombe. So that in part is rationale for allowing them to accelerate the expenditure of Luscombe's funds for the capital improvement to hangar "A". It's not just the hangar itself that they are improving, it's the site utility infrastructure. Sewer line, water line, and the gas line. The gas line alone is going to cost about \$12-\$14,000 just to get to the exterior of that building. So these are all costs that add value to the County's asset hangar, but will cost Luscombe up front to bring those utilities to the building. That in part is the justification for seeking an accelerated recovery of those capital costs.

Legislator Scudder: So from that point where we're, whatever you want to call it, tapping into the gas or whatever, this is all on Luscombe to pay for it? We're not participating, the County in those expenses?

Mr. Almeter: Not directly. We're currently pursuing a grant opportunity through National Fuel – it's a grant program through National Fuel. It may be able to cover up to 100% of that gas line. This is something that Legislator Ken Lawton brought to our attention and we're exploring that. It looks like, I had a conference call with Ken and with Luscombe last week and it looks like that may be a good candidate for one of those National Fuel grants. If that is the case, then the cost to the County and to Luscombe of bringing that gas line to that building, will be zero. We benefit from it but only Luscombe is eligible for that grant because one of the conditions of the grant is that it has to be for a start-up business who creates jobs. So, that's in the future, that's something we're pursuing separately but it may save both the County and Luscombe the total cost of bringing the gas infrastructure to the building. Of course, we're also pursuing the other utilities, the water line and the sewer and so forth but, working this from several different angles, I guess is the short answer.

Legislator Scudder: Would we be participating with equipment or manpower from the County?

Mr. Almeter: No. With respect to the natural gas line, no, that would be 100% National Fuel managed project and then they would credit to Luscombe the capital expenditure if they get the grant. There is also grants available through National Fuel for some of the internal work. Again, it's up to Luscombe to put those grant proposals together and pursue those but obviously we're working with them and encouraging them to do that and certainly Ken has been very helpful making us understand or helping Luscombe understand how to nail the grant request.

Chairman. Hemmer: Thank you for all that additional information. Any further questions?

Legislator Nazzaro: A very minor point and I'm all in for this but I would be remiss if I didn't bring up – Kathleen, it will have a minor effect on the budget because we would have \$6,000 less rent because we accelerated the credit, correct?

Mrs. Dennison: It could, yes.

Mr. Bentley: This actually came up at the Airport Commission. Because we don't know when Luscombe may ask for the credit, we don't know for sure that the revenue will actually go down this year. So if those upgrades do not get done in time for next year, let's say it takes a year or two, it may not be a revenue decrease, may not actually happen. We felt at this time we wouldn't adjust the revenue side.

Legislator Nazzaro: So the credit is not earned until they do the projects.

Mr. Bentley: And it is approved by the Airport Manager as being beneficial to the airport. So they do some work that is capital that only benefits their business, Ron and I are probably going to deny that application of credit. It needs to be used and useful for the airport.

Legislator Nazzaro: So Kathleen, Ron, or Brad, or whoever, when we did the 2021 budget, just curious, how did we budget the credit? Do we budget it at all or do we just did not take that into account when we did the budget?

Mr. Bentley: I think at the time when we did the budget, there was a feeling that there were going to be enough improvements made to capture the \$500 a month, so there was a reasonable expectation that that would be netted out. This extra \$500, we're sure at this time that it's going to be there. It might be, it might not so (*inaudible*) absence of that kind of reasonable expectation method, we didn't feel at this time we should recognize that revenue reduction. But at the time we did the budget, I think it was felt by all parties that it was a reasonable netting.

Legislator Nazzaro: I agree. I'm not proposing any adjustment. I just wanted to make sure we all understood, it could have an effect on the budget but not significant.

Mr. Bentley: As you know Chuck, revenue projections are just that. You try and take your best (*inaudible*) and see if you can get it.

Chairman Hemmer: Thank you Mr. Nazzaro and Mr. Bentley for the explanations. It sure sounds like a good project to me. Any other comments or questions?

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution – Approving SEQRA Determination for Purchase of Land and Building for CARTS Hub in the City of Jamestown

Mr. Bentley: I'm going to and I'm going to look to Steve to see if this is appropriate as well. I want to kind of talk about the next two resolutions in general and then go through the specifics of the SEQRA after I go through the general discussion. So this conversational point to the next resolution as well. A quote/unquote as a "labor of love", I'm going to call the CARTS for me since I've taken the job, is to provide the public transportation system. I have Michelle Westphal here to help me go through additional things that I either get wrong or provide additional detail. So, we really have been trying to find a permanent home for CARTS in the Jamestown area. That's probably been going on since the dawn of time, not just even within the last 2 ½ years. It has moved around from spot to spot within Jamestown and for those that live there, you probably give me more history than I know of what that is. Well, we've been operating in our current location across from City Hall on 3rd Street since October, 2018, under a license agreement that was developed to kind of get us into a more central location. It's been working out extremely well. I think our customers appreciate the home, it's got off street parking for our buses. We've stayed there, we have not had a single day of interruption at our location since we've been there and the most important feature of having a public transportation is know where to go get it every day. The fact that we haven't had a single day of interruption there, speaks to that. That's a very important feature. Since that time, we've been looking for the permanent home because we know that eventually the licensed agreement was going to run out, expire, and we needed to do something. We've been looking at a lot of different options but we kept coming back to our current location as being a really ideal location. It's across from City Hall, public services, it's next to some of the public housing, it's next to the South County office building, it's close to the tourism aspect of it, so there is a lot of great things about our current location that we kept trying to find elsewhere and we kept coming back to this is still a really good location for us. Well, over the last couple of months, or six months, the existing property owner decided to put the land and building up for sale. We weren't sure if there was a way for us to purchase it, but going through various options with Michelle, we were eventually able to find some grant funding that's 100% grant funded, no local share, and we checked with the New York State DOT (*inaudible*) to ask them if we could use that grant funding to purchase the site that was up for sale. They said yes. They asked us about thousand questions so there certainly a lot of questions along with this that New York State DOT wanted us to answer. But we were able to answer all their questions to their satisfaction to the point where they sent us the contract to sign for the money. So, we do have the money from New York State DOT and the contract and we just need to get the final signatures on it. I said that right Michelle? She's shaking her head yes.

Mrs. Westphal: Yes, that is correct.

Mr. Bentley: So the money is there, the money is approved from the DOT to purchase this land. We sent out a press release on Monday –

Mrs. Westphal: I think the press release went out Wednesday or Thursday.

Mr. Bentley: Wednesday or Thursday of last week so that had a lot of the details about what this was all about. This is a very good thing. At the end of it, it's very complicated. It has a lot of moving parts that I'll described a little bit more. But this is a really good thing for our customers. It keeps us in our current location, it allows us to build upon other grant funding that we have. Our Modernization grant that we announced probably about a year ago which is actually in a resolution that is coming up under "other" that we'll be able to use that money to really make CARTS home here. We've also developed a partnership with JURA, the City of Jamestown, to do a couple things. First off, JURA is going to be covering the environmental remediation of the site because it is a gas station. There has been a Phase I environmental review as well as a (*inaudible*) review on this. The City is comfortable with those costs and will be covering environmental remediation. Secondly the City and the Department of Development/JURA is going to be working with us on incubator site for the rest of the building. We're going to rehab it and we're going to put in a visitors' center and startup businesses for people that want to do like a coffee shop, deli situation. So it would really be something that can add to the value for our customers. So that's also ongoing in the cities that agree to partner with us to help with the rehab of that building. Using some of their CDBG money, (*inaudible*) and other improvements as well as we can use some of our money that goes towards the modernization signage. Just making this a transportation hub that exceeds what we could have done elsewhere. So, a lot of great stuff. This is just step one in the process which is to purchase the land and building. Again, it's 100% funded by New York State grant funding, no local share so great benefit for the County. So, I guess, Steve, going back to the SEQRA, does that need to get approved first before the second one? Do we have that in the right order?

Mr. Abdella: Yes, that is the correct order.

Mr. Bentley: So we have done the SEQRA review on it. We did not see any adverse environments to the SEQRA so we're not seeing any significant adverse environmental impact based on our review.

Chairman Hemmer: Committee, do we have any questions on this SEQRA resolution?

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution - Approve Purchase of Land and Building for CARTS Hub in the City of Jamestown

Chairman Hemmer: Covered by the SEQRA that we just passed, any questions?

Legislator Nazzaro: Not a question Mr. Chairman, just want to thank everyone involved in this project. As a life-long resident of Jamestown, I think this is a very positive step. It's very good for the community, it's good for CARTS, it's good for everybody and when you have something like this come forward that's so positive, I just want to thank the City of Jamestown, JURA, Brad, and Michelle, anyone who's involved in this. I know to Brad's point, from time to time I get those calls regarding CARTS, that they are looking for a home, so I'm just glad that a positive solution was made and I think it's going to be a great thing and congratulations to everyone involved. Thank you.

Chairman Hemmer: Thank you Mr. Nazzaro: Anyone else have questions?

Legislator Scudder: Brad, on this – is it pretty seamless? We go from renting it to owning it. There's really nothing that has to be done other than we just take over the property?

Mr. Bentley: Yea, I think it's probably more complex on the paperwork side than that but from an operation standpoint, our customers aren't going to see any difference.

Legislator Scudder: We're not closed for two weeks or anything like that?

Mr. Bentley: There is going to be a lot of paperwork transactions that Steve and I and Michelle from the contract to purchase from Patti Third LLC to getting the reimbursement from the State because the way the financial transaction has to go is, we'll expend the funds from the operating budget from Michelle to purchase the property. Once that's been done, we can submit the grant reimbursement from the State and put that money back in. But in the meantime, we also have to do the actual property transaction to close that out. As you see the appropriation account is for \$160,000. That price includes all the expected closing cost. The purchase price is a little bit less than that but we're expected to cover the appraisals and other filing fees that normally happen with the property transfer.

Legislator Scudder: But on the public side, there will be no down time? It will just be one day to the next.

Mr. Bentley: They shouldn't see any disruption. The only thing I can say is, down the road, if we have any improvements that affects the site, it might affect the ability to get a bus in and out of the location. I've already had preliminary discussions with the City to find some temporary street parking for a short duration so that if we are removed, it's only right out in front of the location. So yea, our customers should see little to no (*inaudible*) back on a day to day basis - when we're under the licensed agreement, we were really limited with the amount of signage or ability to really advertise this is being our public transportation hub. When we go to the ownership side, now we can really, go to town, if you will, on being able to make this a recognizable stop, something that we all can be proud of not only as a County but as residents. I believe I heard someone say, it's really moving us to the next rehabilitation project in Jamestown so you can put this forth as (*inaudible*) in the area. New York State DOT has been very supportive of this from the first time we mentioned it to them. They thought it was a great idea. They've been really supportive. They asked a lot of questions, it is their money and I would expect that from their end but they have been very supportive with this.

Legislator Davis: I was going to say as I was going through the paperwork, I was very pleased to see the grant funding had been secured for this project and kudos' to whomever is involved in that aspect of it because to me if you take a project like this and you can make it your own and it's grant funded, that's a positive all the way around so nice job on that.

Mr. Bentley: There have been a lot of people working on this. I might be the one talking a lot today but there are so many people behind me supporting this. I know Michelle feels the same way. Her and I have put a lot of time and effort but we also had a lot of help.

Chairman Hemmer: Sounds great. Sounds like a culmination of a long project.

Mr. Bentley: I'm going to call it the end of one and the start of another because Michelle and I have our work cut out to engage the community and really put forth the next round of grant funding about how we can make improvements, what those look like to help support our current ridership and enhance tourism. There are just so many things out here that can really move this stuff to the next level. We want to engage the community, get in input, so that we make sure where we spend the next dollars go to the best place. Michelle and I have our work cut out for us but I think we're excited about this part.

Mrs. Westphal: Yes we are.

Chairman Hemmer: Thank you guys. Do we have any other comments or questions?

Unanimously Carried

Chairman Hemmer: We have some additional resolutions coming up here under "other".

Other

Proposed Resolution - Amend 2021 Budget Appropriations for Capital Project for Landfill Vehicle and Equipment Purchases

Mr. Bentley: This is one that kind of slipped through the cracks a little bit between Kathleen and I. The landfill has a capital project budget each year of about \$1 million dollars which is funded by user fees. I believe in 2019, it was agreed that it would be taken out of the Planning Board since it was just funded by user fees. This really goes to fund heavy equipment up at the landfill. For 2021, I believe that Pantelis says, earmarked for this \$1 million dollars, and was a new trash compactor and a new roller. When you think of a trash compactor, those are actually very expensive pieces of equipment. They are about \$850,000 each but it basically goes in to compacting the trash and that's what goes to save space at the landfill. Because once you compact it all together, then when you put it in, it actually has been re-compacted, if you will. Normally we would have this in maybe a little bit earlier, I guess, but, we're in it now and will be part of the package next year. Kathleen, I don't know if you want to say anything more.

Mrs. Dennison: I just wanted to add as Brad mentioned, the landfill has a standing request for a \$1 million dollars for heavy equipment every year. That project has been vetted and

approved by the Planning Board in the past but the landfill did ask last year if that standing request could serve as an ongoing request and we agreed that that was reasonable about a year and a half ago so when I was doing the capital project (*inaudible*) this year, I forgot about that agreement and did not put this item in the capital project (*inaudible*). But as Brad mentioned, it's entirely funded by user fees so it has no affect on the capital reserve or on the local share of (*inaudible*) so entirely within the enterprise fund for the landfill. So it's just correcting my oversight that they need the authorization to make that expenditure for their heavy equipment.

Chairman Hemmer: Thank you very much Brad and Kathleen. Any further questions? It looks like there is no – there's not a need for any additional budget adjustments, this is all part of their normal expenditures, it looks like, so it seems like its fine. Any further questions?

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution - Accept Donation from Schrader Family for Luensman Park Bench

Mr. Bentley: We have the Schrader family that wishes to donate a bench in honor of Nancy Schrader. I believe that's their Mom and basically we looked at the cost of a bench, we're looking at something that is basically maintenance free so they've agreed to reimburse us for the cost of the bench as we can buy the bench cheaper on State contract, get it retail. The bench is in the neighborhood of \$600 plus a little bit so we're incorporating for some installation stuff but what the Parks Commission agreed to do was, at Luensman Park, there is a gazebo that overlooks the lake and the Parks Commission has agreed to allow the bench to be installed underneath the gazebo pointing out towards the lake. Right now we generally put picnic tables up seasonally in the space to have seating underneath the gazebo but this will be a permanent fixture of a bench. The Schrader family will also be creating a plaque that will be installed on the bench as well but they will be handling that. So this resolution is to allow the acceptance of up to \$700 to reimburse the County for its cost to purchase and install the bench. The Parks Commission did make a motion to approve the acceptance of this.

Chairman Hemmer: Yes, it was thoroughly discussed at the Parks Commission meeting and the Commission is in favor of it. It looks like it will not interfere with putting the picnic tables in the pavilion. It's going to be on the edge of the pavilion if you will rather than at the center. Any questions?

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution – Acceptance of CARTS 5311-2019-2020 Consolidated Grant

Mr. Bentley: So first I want to apologize for the lateness of the last one but the Parks Commission meeting was on last Thursday so it did prevent me from getting it in on time and we wanted to get the bench as soon as we could. So we just brought it in under "other". I normally like to get them in a little bit quicker but that happened. A little bit the same story with this. We actually got the contract for these grant funding's I've listed here after the deadline. So we want to make sure we got them so that's why it's under "other" as well. I think I miss spoke. I think I called this the Modernization grant. It's not. I'm surprised that Michelle didn't catch it and correct me there but I'll self-correct. This is actually two grants put together. This is what we

normally say is our Section 5311 grant and it covers our mobility manager which is one employee plus other features of her job. It also covers the time and replacement buses, about \$827,000. It also covers our route match scheduling software, what we have today and also our tablet and hardware replacements because those get dated. There is also – Michelle, I’m missing the – oh, the grant funding was on the other resolution, the \$160,000.

Mrs. Westphal: Yes.

Mr. Bentley: That’s right so this is just for the 5311. I had my versions mixed up. Again, this is for our normal operating costs and replacement buses and fund the capital projects that were approved by the Planning Board and also (*inaudible*).

Legislator Nazzaro: So do the amounts, this is only to accept the grant because these were already in the budget for 2020 and 2021. So do these numbers match up Kathleen?

Mrs. Dennison: Yes. With these grants and Michelle, feel free to chime in, the department has to estimate how much will be earned and therefore reimbursed in each year but they have done the best job that they can to do the appropriate timing between the different years. So, yes, we expect these revenues and the associated expenses are included in the appropriate years.

Mr. Bentley: As far as the breakout of local share, for the mobility manager, there is a 10% local share, 80% Federal –

Mrs. Westphal: The mobility manager is in-kind. It doesn’t actually cost anything. (*Inaudible*) and my time.

Mr. Bentley: Right, it’s a local share but it’s covered by in-kind and services. Thank you for the clarification. That’s what you’re here for, keeping me straight. For the buses, there is a 10% local share on that, so again, 80% Federal, 10% State. For the route match (*inaudible*) software, again, the same thing. That would be for 2021. The buses are actually in 2020 capital. Didn’t we go through this once Michelle? This is actually a 2019-2020 consolidated grant?

Mrs. Westphal: Yes.

Mr. Bentley: And some parts are already approved capital projects in 2020.

Mrs. Westphal: Yea.

Mr. Bentley: This is catching up to reimburse for some of those expenditures. So what’s written, I believe is correct. So the mobility manager covers two years, 2020 and 2021. The buses are 2020. The route map software is 2021 and the tablets are also for 2021 with a 10% local share.

Mrs. Dennison: The short answer to your question is yes.

Legislator Nazzaro: Thank you Kathleen. We'll leave it at that.

Mrs. Dennison: Brad, Michelle and I did have a detailed conversation to establish that the appropriate revenues and expenditures are included in the appropriate budget.

Legislator Nazzaro: So real quick, those 10 buses related to 2020? They are here or are we talking about buses we're getting in 2021?

Mrs. Westphal: It will be 2021 if not later because it takes such a long time to order them, make them and get them. So it might be at the end of 2021 beginning of 2022 before we actually see the buses.

Mr. Bentley: We just got the buses from 2017-2018, two months ago.

Legislator Nazzaro: That's why I was asking Brad and Michelle because I know you just got new buses so I was trying to match up the years but, it sounds like there is a two or three year lag.

Mrs. Westphal: Yes.

Mr. Bentley: There are things working against us. It's the lead time for the buses but also how the State accounts for the grant years. Good things take time, right, I guess.

Legislator Scudder: So Chuck, we're actually getting newer buses than we're buying.

Mr. Bentley: I guess that is one way to look at it.

(Cross talk)

Mrs. Dennison: One other comment if I could on the buses. We're making a local share contribution to the bus replacement capital project every year and then that money will roll forward if the purchase is not executed and completed in 2020 or 2021.

Chairman Hemmer: Sounds like it's all covered. Thank you so much for the excellent bookkeeping. Is everyone satisfied with this resolution now? All in favor?

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution – Confirm Re-Appointment – Portland-Pomfret-Dunkirk Sewer District Board

Mr. Cummings: This is a reappointment for Marty Webster. I had actually started this resolution back in November and as it went through the chain for signatures it got lost somewhere, I'm not sure how that happened so I got it in here late. I apologize for that. So Marty would like to be reappointed for another term.

Chairman Hemmer: Any questions? All those in favor?

Unanimously Carried

Chairman Hemmer: O.k., does that finish the resolutions or do we have more?

Clerk Tampio: That's finishes off the resolutions. I didn't know if you wanted to briefly touch on the idea of the Administrative Code amendment regarding the Parks Commission.

Chairman Hemmer: Yes. In the Parks Commission we have talked about amending the resolution which started the Parks Commission for several reasons. They wanted to add the total number of members from 7 to 9 and we also wanted to change some of the wording in there. Kathy, you sent this to all the Legislators?

Clerk Tampio: I'm not sure I did John.

Legislator Gould: I don't remember seeing it.

Clerk Tampio: I thought that we were going to talk about it now and then we can send it out. This all started from the Parks Commission and then I sent an inquiry to Steve Abdella about how to do it because at first we were looking at amending the 1973 resolution and Steve's suggestion was to put it in the Administrative Code officially which really hasn't appeared there previously but Steve wants to talk about it just a little bit.

Mr. Abdella: This would be part of the Code as some of the other boards have been placed in there. As John mentioned, it would specify 9 members, each serving a term of 2 years and then it would bring up to date the status of the Commission is really being primarily under an advisory board nature (*inaudible*) that works with the Department of Public Facilities in which the Parks function is housed. We would just clarify and update that structure. That is what we have drafted and that will probably be appearing in the next month or so as a proposal for your consideration.

Chairman Hemmer: Thank you Mr. Abdella. Mr. Bentley, do you have anything to add?

Mr. Bentley: Yes, I'm in favor of expanding the board here and the reason being, we're seeing some interest in volunteerism in the Parks. We're seeing more donations, we have a couple of people that seemed to express an eye level of interest in participating on the board. There is one person that he said he just spent 25 hours on a grant application to help with the trails on the State lands and he's very interested in becoming an active member of the board. These are the types of people that we really need to be on the board. Those that we know have the interest but also the go get it spirit to go after dollars that I just don't have time for. This is their passion, this is what they know and these are the types of people that, believe it or not, they are out there (*inaudible*) active so, I really support all the help that we can get out in the Parks.

Chairman Hemmer: Mr. Nazzaro, did you have a question?

Legislator Nazzaro: I think that Brad answered it. I was going to ask what was the rationale for increasing the size of the board from 7 to 9? Currently I'm assuming the board is fully appointed. You have 7 members now?

Chairman Hemmer: Yes, I believe we do. We have one short?

Clerk Tampio: There are 7 members. One resigned, Ainsley Smith resigned so there is one unoccupied term. Five of the members, there is only 2 members that don't need to be reappointed but the rest need to be reappointed for 2021.

Chairman Hemmer: The idea was that we would reappoint and appoint the new members at the same time at possibly the January meeting.

Mr. Bentley: So far, I think that we have three people apply to be members of the board. So (*inaudible*) fill the two plus the third and that was a while back. I don't know if anyone else has applied as well.

Legislator Nazzaro: The only comment I have is, I hope that and I heard what Brad said that you are adding members to the board because there is a need, not because there are individuals who wish to serve. As we know, with the sewer boards and that, we reduced the number because we're finding it difficult to fill those. I just want to make sure there's a need, things have changed – are there term limits on the board or can they serve indefinitely?

Clerk Tampio: It's a term of two years.

Legislator Nazzaro: How many terms can they be reappointed for?

Clerk Tampio: As many as you want.

Legislator Nazzaro: I just want to make sure there is a need and that we're just not changing this accommodate individuals who wish to serve and I appreciate that. Volunteerism is very, very important. People can still volunteer without being on the board but I just wanted to make sure there is a true need to expand that board.

Clerk Tampio: There was a lot of discussion at the past two Parks Commission meetings about the desire to have individuals on the Commission that represent all areas of the County. They've been absent representation from the north end of the County so they were really seeking people to round out that representation plus to be able to appoint people who have expertise in different areas.

Legislator Nazzaro: O.k., Kathy, you did well on that.

Mr. Bentley: Normally Chuck, I would agree with you, a lot of spaces, less is more. I think this is the case where, for the time being, more is more and I don't want to speak ill of any of the members of the Parks, but there are a couple of them that are getting up there in age and this may not necessarily be a bad transfer of experience and education, allow these different

ideas to come forth and look at the Parks and figure out what the next phase of the Parks – because I know that there is (*inaudible*) that look, what’s our mission, where should we be going with the Parks? They been around for 40 years and it –

Legislator Nazzaro: You realize what the rankings of the Parks were when you did our ranking.

Mr. Bentley: And that is why we need more people who are willing to go out there and get more money just because of that fact alone. We need people to be able to go out and get that money that is not available via the regular County methods.

Legislator Nazzaro: Good enough, I accept that.

Chairman Hemmer: O.k., are there any other questions or discussion? There is not going to be a vote on that this evening, it was just more of a heads up. O.k, Kathy, have we finished our whole agenda?

Clerk Tampio: Yes, we’re done.

Legislator Nazzaro: I was going to ask Brad how much salt we’ve used this year compared to past years, but I won’t ask that question. No, I’ll ask, Brad, how much salt have we used this winter, this period?

Mr. Bentley: Let’s ask Mr. Scudder if he wants me to answer that question or not?

Legislator Nazzaro: More or less, that’s all that you have to say.

Legislator Scudder: Is less more or is more less?

Mr. Bentley: Less is more here. I don’t have the exact figures Chuck. I do know that we were out a little bit this weekend because things – it is not just snow fall. It is when it melts and refreezes we have to be out there to make sure we’re taking care of the spots with ice. That was really the tricky problem last year because it kept snowing, melting, freezing, melting, and refreezing. I think we’re doing better than we did last year but it way too early to call December at this point.

Chairman Hemmer: Thank you everyone. Any other questions or comments? Would you like to entertain a motion to adjourn?

MOVED by Legislator Gould, SECONDED by Legislator Nazzaro to adjourn.

Unanimously Carried (5:10 p.m.)

Respectfully submitted and transcribed,
Olivia Ames, Deputy Clerk/ Lori J. Foster, St. Stenographer