

PHYSICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING
40 Gleneida Avenue Room #318
Carmel, NY 10512

Committee Members: Chairman Ellner, Legislators Castellano & Crowley

Thursday

May 16, 2023

(Immediately Followed the Rules Mtg.)

The meeting was called to order at 8:08p.m. by Chairman Ellner who led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call, Legislators Castellano, Crowley, and Chairman Ellner were present.

Item #3 - Acceptance/ Physical Services Meeting Minutes/ April 16, 2024

Chairman Ellner stated the minutes were accepted as submitted.

Item #4 - Approval/ Appointments Veterans Memorial Park Advisory Board/ County Executive Kevin Byrne

Director of Parks and Recreation Chris Ruthven pointed out that Jim Hoffman is a veteran. He stated he has agreed to fill the “Parks and Open Space Experience” position on the board, which does not require that the member be a veteran.

Chairman Ellner made a motion to Approve Appointments Veterans Memorial Park Advisory Board; Seconded by Legislator Castellano. All in favor.

Item #5 - Approval/ Putnam County’s Proposed Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan in Conformance with and as Required by the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Final Rule (49 C.F.R. Part 673)/ Commissioner Planning, Development and Public Transportation Barbara Barosa

Commissioner Planning, Development & Public Transportation Barbara Barosa stated this annual update is mandated by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), it is the County’s Safety Plan. She stated it is a specific policy that the FTA dictates.

Legislator Crowley complimented and thanked Commissioner Barosa for the work that she has been doing in the Planning Department, and for always bringing forward thorough and comprehensive information.

Chairman Ellner made a motion to Approve/ The Putnam County’s Proposed Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan in Conformance with and as Required by the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Final Rule (49 C.F.R. Part 673); Seconded by Legislator Crowley. All in favor.

Item #6 - Approval/ Budgetary Amendment 24A035 - Revised/ Community Resiliency, Economic Sustainability and Technology (CREST) Grant Funds for the Design and Installation of a Small Solar Carport to be located at the Donald B. Smith Campus/ Commissioner Planning, Development & Public Transportation Barbara Barosa

Commissioner Planning, Development & Public Transportation Barbara Barosa stated last year she requested approval to submit the application for this CREST Grant. She stated last year permission was given and the County was successful and awarded funds. She stated this request is to prepare the budget lines. She stated the funding will be used for the installation of a small solar Carport at the Donald B. Smith Campus. She stated there will be 3- 4 dual EV charging stations. She stated there is a 15% County match.

Chairman Ellner stated the Grant is conditional on the EV charging stations being installed at the Donald B. Smith campus.

Legislator Castellano questioned why is that a requirement.

Commissioner Planning, Development & Public Transportation Barbara Barosa stated because that was the location on the application that was submitted and approved. She stated the reason that location was selected is because there is a lot of the fleet located at the Donald B. Smith Campus.

Chairman Ellner made a motion to Approve Budgetary Amendment 24A035 - Revised/ Community Resiliency, Economic Sustainability and Technology (CREST) Grant Funds for the Design and Installation of a Small Solar Carport to be located at the Donald B. Smith Campus; Seconded by Legislator Castellano. All in favor.

Item #7 – Approval/ Budgetary Amendment – 24A038/ Amend the 2024 CHIPS County Capital Project Budget to Equal the Adopted NYS Budget/ Commissioner of DPW Thomas Feighery

Deputy Commissioner of DPW Joseph Bellucci stated he accompanied County Executive Byrne to Albany a few months ago to advocate for a reimbursement of funding that was initially cut by the Governor. He stated that was a successful meeting. He stated it is projected that Putnam County will have \$1.935 million to be used for crucial paving projects, vehicle, machinery purchases and associated rentals.

Chairman Ellner stated he appreciated the attention and effort put forth on behalf of Putnam County's infrastructure. He stated the increase the County will receive in the CHIPS funding will be \$735,692.

Legislator Nacerino questioned if there is a list of roads that will be paved.

Deputy Commissioner of DPW Joseph Bellucci stated there is and he will send it to the Legislature.

Chairman Ellner made a motion to Approve Budgetary Amendment – 24A038/ Amend the 2024 CHIPS County Capital Project Budget to Equal the Adopted NYS Budget; Seconded by Legislator Crowley. All in favor.

Item #8 - Approval/ Budgetary Amendment – 24A040/ Guardrail Damage Compensation/ Insurance Recoveries/ Three (3) Separate Accidents which Resulted in Guardrail Damage on County Roads/ Risk Manager Mat Bruno

Deputy Commissioner of DPW Joseph Bellucci stated this is a revenue recovery program that Risk Manager Mat Bruno works on. He recognized Risk Manager Mat Bruno for his coordination of information from the Sheriff's Department and the Department of Public Works. Risk Manager Bruno contacts the insurance company of the driver of the vehicle which caused damage on a county road and works to secure funding that will support the cost of the work that has to be done to address the damage.

Legislator Sayegh recognized Risk Manager Bruno for his work on this, he is doing a great job.

Deputy Commissioner of DPW Joseph Bellucci stated he would also like to recognize DPW Supervisor of Construction and Maintenance Brian Witten for the work he does with Risk Manager Bruno. He stated these two are doing work that is resulting in a cost savings for the County and taxpayers.

Chairman Ellner made a motion to Approve/ Budgetary Amendment – 24A040/ Guardrail Damage Compensation/ Insurance Recoveries; Seconded by Legislator Castellano. All in favor.

Item #9 - Approval/ Budgetary Transfer – 24T092/ Dept. of Public Works - Close Out Various Capital Projects and Transfer to the Capital Projects Reserve for Future Projects/ Commissioner of Finance Michael Lewis

Deputy Commissioner of DPW Joseph Bellucci stated this request addresses the money that was left over from Capital Projects that were completed under budget. He stated this money came from the \$2million allocated and approved by County Executive Byrne and the Legislature.

Chairman Ellner stated he would like to recognize the work that is being done all around the County. He stated there are County workers in all areas of the County, doing spring clean-up of the County properties. He stated he has also noticed morale is up for the employees in the DPW. He stated that he applauds Commissioner Feighery and Deputy Commissioner Bellucci for the fine work they are doing in the DPW.

Commissioner of Finance Michael Lewis commended DPW Commissioner Feighery and Deputy Commissioner Bellucci for their diligence and commitment. He stated he has a meeting with them every two (2). He stated they review the Capital Projects Budget. He stated any amount of money that is left in a project line is identified and added to the main Capital Budget line. He stated then that money will go towards future projects.

Chairman Ellner made a motion to Approve/ Budgetary Amendment – 24T092/ Dept. of Public Works - Close Out Various Capital Projects and Transfer to the Capital Projects Reserve for Future Projects; Seconded by Legislator Crowley. All in favor.

Item #10 - Approval/ 24CP03 – Park Director’s House Repairs & Improvements- State of Good Repair/ Commissioner of DPW Thomas Feighery

Deputy Commissioner Bellucci stated this is part of the County facilities condition assessment. He stated this building has been identified as needing: siding, soffit, fascia, gutters, windows replacement, and the entry stairs need replacement, creating a safe entry and exist to the structure.

Chairman Ellner stated the supporting memo states the amount is not to exceed \$15,000 and the work will be done in house. He commended the awareness to keep County facilities in good condition and most important, safe.

Chairman Ellner made a motion to Approve/ 24CP03 – Park Director’s House Repairs & Improvements- State of Good Repair; Seconded by Legislator Castellano. All in favor.

Item #11 - Approval/ 24CP04 – Stockpile Building & Grounds Improvements - State of Good Repair/ Commissioner of DPW Thomas Feighery

Deputy Commissioner Bellucci stated the stockpiles throughout the County (Putnam Lake, Sodom Road, 6N, Cold Spring, Putnam Valley, Fair Street) are used for snow operations and construction. He stated certain areas of the stockpiles were identified as needing work. He provided the example of gate security, carpentry issues with the Salt Storage Buildings. He stated it is hard to imagine, but the County will be working to secure road salt soon for the upcoming season. He stated the County’s approach is to be proactive as opposed to reactive.

Chairman Ellner stated he supports this approach. He stated the backup provides a breakdown of the cost for work at each facility, the total not to exceed \$200,000.

Chairman Ellner made a motion to Approve/ 24CP04 – Stockpile Building & Grounds Improvements - State of Good Repair; Seconded by Legislator Crowley. All in favor.

Item #12 - Approval/ 24CP05 – New Courthouse Boiler Replacements/ Commissioner of DPW Thomas Feighery

Chairman Ellner stated he was briefed on this request. He stated the current boiler is beyond repair. He explained it was also responsible, insufficiently in accordance with complaints, to heat the water in the entire courthouse. He stated small 5-gallon electric water heaters will be installed on each floor, in addition to a new and more efficient boiler.

Deputy Commissioner Bellucci stated in accordance with the Court’s time requirements, this work must be done by October 1, 2024.

Legislator Crowley questioned what the Courts are responsible for in terms of maintaining the Courthouse. She stated the request for this Capital Project is \$300,000, that is a lot of money.

Deputy Commissioner Bellucci stated there have been discussions and the Courts have agreed to contribute to aesthetic items, such as carpeting, painting, etc.

Legislative Counsel Rob Firriolo stated the obligation comes from State Law, which requires each County to provide courthouse space for the Judges. He stated therefore the responsibility falls on the County, and the court system may offer to contribute, but they are not obligated to do so.

Chairman Ellner made a motion to Approve/24CP05 – New Courthouse Boiler Replacements; Seconded by Legislator Crowley. All in favor.

Item #13 – Other Business – None

Item #8 - Adjournment

There being no further business at 8:33 P.M. Chairman Ellner made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Crowley. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Deputy Clerk Diane Trabulsy.