

Minutes

Planning & Economic Development Committee

**April 18, 2018, 6:00 pm, Room 331**

Gerace Office Building, Mayville, NY

Members Present: Odell, Chagnon, Starks, Himelein, O'Connell

Others: Tampio, Ames, McCord, Dennison, Wilfong, Spann, J. Cirbus, M. Latone, P. Johnson, Erlandson

Chairman Odell called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes (3/21/18)

Chairman Odell: I have one thing that I caught. Page 2, "Legislator Gould" should be Legislator Himelein. I don't think Mr. Gould was here. With that correction I will take a motion to accept the minutes.

MOVED by Legislator Starks, SECONDED by Legislator Chagnon

*Unanimously Carried*

Privilege of the Floor

Dr. Cirbus: Hello my name is Jim Cirbus and I would just like to give you an update on what we have been doing lately and ask for some assistance with what we would like to (*inaudible.*) As you know, we undertook the-

Chairman Odell: Dr. Cirbus, why don't we have you come up so we can catch it up on the microphones.

Dr. Cirbus: The CLP actually overtook sponsoring supplemental environmental impact study with the Town of Ellery as our lead agency. We successfully completed that and was accepted by the town a week or so ago and the final findings were issued by the town yesterday and that should be on their website. What remains for the SEQR process- I think we had three other towns and three other villages which will submit their findings on Monday, I believe. Then the SEQR process will be complete. In parallel, we've gone out and had I think 18 permits with the DEC that are completed and they are waiting- we are anticipating their acceptance probably at the end of the month or at the latest, mid-May. Then our plan would be to go ahead and try to (*inaudible*) the third or fourth week of May- early season. This came at a price to CLP at

approximately \$280,000, maybe going up close to \$300,000 which was raised by individuals, businesses and several foundations. The problem now is we are seeking funding for completing the actual treatments with herbicides and that will include close to 1,000 acres- 989 acres, I believe. Mostly in the southern basin, including the towns of Ellery, Ellicott, Busti, North Harmony and up in a little bit of Stowe. In the north basin it would just include Warner Bay and Sunset Bay in the Town of Ellery. We respected Chautauqua Institutions comments about not getting- I think we are over two and a half miles as (*inaudible*) from their water intake, so there shouldn't be any question or any interference with their drinking water quality. Again, this is going to cost close to \$600,000 if we get permits- acceptable permits to treat all 989 acres. Right now we are coming to the County for advice and seeking funding from the County, maybe the IDA, maybe helping to get some money from through the alliance, but we plan on coming to the full Legislature meeting next week but we wanted to have little pre-amble here and let you know what we are doing and try to get some advice from you. We supplied these charts and we will email the other Legislators, we would like to have everybody get a look at this before the meeting. It really takes a long time to go through it and it's a very nice presentation prepared by (*inaudible*.) I think that George has been privy to this presentation before. If there are any questions we would be glad to answer them. Does anybody else have anything else to say?

Mr. Latone: As we talked and have been out selling our soul on the lake-

Chairman Odell: Can you get a little closer to the mic please.

Mr. Latone: We started over a year ago saying that the problem was in-lake and not outer-lake. The (*inaudible*) said the same thing. A lot of the problems are the nutrient that is in the water is what's causing all of this. We are hoping that we don't add to it. By treating the lake early, if we can get our permits and do it early enough it won't be growing and we won't be adding to that. The long term- we realize that this isn't the ultimate answer, but the ultimate answer is way up here. Cost-wise, this is decision that is going to have to be made locally for a short term solution to the problem. As we talk to more and more people, they believe that we have to get help from our government and our County, especially the foundations. We are going to go to them and ask them to help us pay the \$600,000 but we have got to show that we have got skin in the game. We have got businesses giving money, we have got homeowners giving money, but we need to get the people involved. We need to figure a way out to get the money raised, like Jim said the amount is almost \$600,000. It's a three year treatment. Two to three years they say it will last. So if we treat one year, we only have to spot treat the second or third year. The expense is really getting down per year if it does work that way, which is what they are telling us. If we treat early, we will have that savings. It could be that the cost per acre will go down and we won't be adding the sediment to the bottom of the lake.

Legislator Starks: I have a question.

Chairman Odell: This is not a Q and A session with privilege of the floor, its just to listen. This is not listed under discussion.

Mr. Johnson: Good Evening. As you probably heard at the HAB summit, which I was one of the three that attended the HAB summit, the harmful algae blooms are almost an

inevitable certainty coming up in the lake this year and there doesn't seem at this point, to be any logical solutions for that particular problem. My feeling is, and its shared by many, that the weeds in conjunction with the harmful algae blooms would be tipping the lake too far into a negative situation and the herbicides that we have permits coming for is the only solution where there will actually be perceivable lake improvement in this season. I think both for the new hotel, the comedy center- I spoke with something just this morning, third generation on the lake. He said, "I'm pulling the plug. My wife and I have just listed our house; we are moving out of the area, we are tired of paying lake property taxes on a lake that we can't use." The CLP effort with the herbicide gives everyone a little bit of breathing room it should be able to produce perceivable results in the lake this season, which I think is critical. As goes the lake, I think goes the County, even for people that aren't on the lake and don't think it has much of an affect. The lake is critical to the health of this County. Thank you.

Dr. Cirbus: Can I just make two other points that dovetail with that last comment?

Chairman Odell: Sure.

Dr. Cirbus: I had talked to Tom Benson a couple weeks ago because he managed to- he's a great fund raiser. He raised \$18 million to do that National Comedy Center and I just wanted to get some advice on how I could get \$18 million to fix the lake. He did make a great point. He said that he could build ten National Comedy Centers in downtown Jamestown and if this lake fails, all of those centers are going to fail and all the investment on that is going to fail too. People aren't going to fly in from the West Coast, Chicago, or Buffalo and drive down to the Comedy Center to hear Jerry Seinfeld tell jokes for an hour and a half. They want a destination. They want to stay here. They want to enjoy the weekend on the lake and maybe use that hotel, maybe rent a boat. They want to- they are not going to come just to see one show at the Comedy Center. He thinks it's critically important too. The rest of the people downtown also think it's very important that we get a good hand on fixing this lake. The other thing is that the tax base is falling on the lake, I believe. Some of the home's values are going down. We looked at that a few years ago and I think the selling price was about 18% below the assessed value. It was 18% on Lakeside Drive alone. Mike just told me of a house that sold for over \$1 million (*inaudible.*) So that tax base is crumbling fast and people are leaving the lake and that's going to affect everything in the County, not just the shoreline owners. Thank you.

Chairman Odell: Thank you. During privilege of the floor Q and A is offline.

Legislator Starks: Yeah, that's fine.

Chairman Odell: Anyone else for privilege of the floor?

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Proposed Resolution- Amend 2017 Budget for Year End Reconciliations – Capital Projects

Mrs. Dennison: Good evening. This resolution was the outcome of work by First Deputy Director of Finance, Todd Button. He has gone through and reconciled all of the capital projects for 2017 results and found that in some cases some of the budget changes had not kept up with the final actual results. This resolution is to make budget changes to bring the budget in line with the actual results for several different projects. The first project that would be under your Committees jurisdiction would be the Edgewood Warehouse project-H.6420.673. That project, the appropriations or expenditures were \$1,758 more than budget. However, there were some changes on the revenue side as well. There were additional revenues from the City of Dunkirk and then the revenues from New York State and the capital reserve were a little bit less than expected. The other change is in the Chadwick Bay industrial park project. That's H.6420.531. There was a change in funding for that project, so under the increase revenue account section there is an increase in the state aid and then in the decrease revenue account section, a decrease in the interfund transfers which is the money that comes from the local capital reserve. So there was more state funding than anticipated and again, this budget change is happening now because that project was about to be closed but the actual change in money, if you will, and returning money to the reserved happened over a couple of years ago. So again, this is just the final stages of the project before it is closed to bring the budget in line with the actual results.

Chairman Odell: OK, thank you very much. Any questions for Kathleen on this one? Vice Chairman, I know you already went over this one this afternoon.

Vice Chair Chagnon: Kathleen was kind enough to go over these two resolutions with me this afternoon so she could answer all of my questions and I'm perfectly comfortable with what has been presented.

Chairman Odell: Very good. Any other questions? All in favor? Opposed?

*Unanimously Carried*

Proposed Resolution- Amend 2018 Budget to Accommodate New Position of  
Deputy County Executive for Economic Development

Mr. McCord: This resolution that is before you is to modify our budget, shift some of the funds for the new position Deputy County Executive into the County Executive's budget and remove that from ours. I'm going to allow Kathleen with those budget changes as she has provided us with all the estimates and told us how much we have to move where.

Mrs. Dennison: As Don indicated, now that the local law has been approved we are proposing to amend the budget. These are changes that would take place assuming that the personnel changes on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Right now, Mr. Geise is in the- he has been hired but he is under the promotion of industry department. Once the local law is adopted he would move into the County Executive's department so we would be moving the budget for his compensation to that department. So, the resolution proposed is to increase appropriations for personal services and employee benefits in the County Executive's department and is also a small increase in the department 8020, which is the planning department. That increases because Mr. McCord's salary as part of his new duties is increasing so it- his salary is budgeted between 50% to planning and

50% to promotional industry. There is a small increase in the planning department because of his change in role. Then on the other side is a decrease in appropriations in the promotion of industry department because in the budget- the 18 budget included the budget for Kevin Sanvidge and he was on the percent budgeted in promotional of industry.

Chairman Odell: This is part of the last realignment on the personnel side as we are creating the new positions and moving them around. OK. Committee, are there any questions?

Legislator Himelein: Mr. Chairman, it is a complete wash money wise?

Mrs. Dennison: By the time we did all of the moving around, it is actually estimated \$906 more expensive. The County Executive's budget is \$906 less than it should be, but I just want to stress that it's an estimate because we don't know exactly what day the changes will take place. It is also based on my estimate of retirement cost and some of those costs can change as we go through the year. It's budget neutral within \$1,000.

Legislator Himelein: OK. I'm fine with that.

Chairman Odell: So it's a wash within a day or so.

Vice Chair Chagnon: Don, this is certainly no reflection on you but through the discussions that we had earlier with the County Executive about this change, there was some discussion about budget impact and we were told that it was going to be a wash. There was never any discussion of compensation so that took me by surprise.

Mr. McCord: Actually, on either position there was really never any discussion on compensation. We did discuss the range of compensation. So, I actually thought that would come up at that point. I can understand you being surprised.

Vice Chair Chagnon: When I asked the question if it would be a budget wash, I assumed when it's a wash that nobody is getting anymore compensation. The only thing that I can infer from this is that there is additional compensation for the Assistant County Executive that will now come out of the IDA to make that a wash because if not, I don't know how it's a wash with an increase. So I didn't specifically ask the question if anyone was getting a compensation increase (*crosstalk*,) but a wash is a wash.

Mr. McCord: I understand that. Actually, there was some discussion with the IDA if they would be willing- if we got into a position where it couldn't be a complete wash, would they be willing to make up that difference during the bringing on of that new position. Both George and I were informed that they would (*inaudible*) so that we could guarantee to the Legislature that it would come out a wash.

Vice Chair Chagnon: So they assisted in making it a wash?

Mr. McCord: Not yet, because we have a \$960 shortfall.

Mrs. Dennison: \$906.

Mr. McCord: \$906, I'm sorry. At the moment, part of that occurs because of the timing of vacancies and the time of the year that we had positions that were empty.

Vice Chair Chagnon: Don, as I stated when I started this discussion, this is no reflection on you. If I had been told when we started this process that you were going to get an increase that amounted to a little bit of money, I would have thought that it was great and that you were worth that and more. It was just that I got caught by surprise that it was done a little sideways.

Mr. McCord: Understood.

Chairman Odell: OK, any other questions from the committee?

Legislator Starks: Thank you, Pierre.

Chairman Odell: All in favor? Opposed?

*Unanimously Carried*

Other-

Proposed Resolution- Establishing Energy Benchmarking Requirements for  
Certain County Buildings

Chairman Odell: As you can see, this is requested by County Executive Borrello and myself. This is part of our ongoing quest for our clean (*inaudible*) designation for the County, which we are getting there. We have some handouts here. Don, go ahead.

Mr. McCord: This particular resolution is to establish a County policy to do energy benchmarking on all County buildings over 1,000 square feet. It does have a provision in it where the head of DPF, if they find that a building really isn't practical to measure it can exempt that building (*crosstalk.*) The NYSERDA has an online tool already so we have an online tool established. DPF is already collected this data for this year. Drew Rodgers and the DPF- it would require that we post it on the County's website once a year. The real purpose here is for the County to be better educated as a county and as decision makers to understand how much energy we use in buildings, whether that's excessive and what that measure is. Hopefully, I think- I hope that down the road that if we see buildings that are using a lot of energy we might put some upgrades into those to help with energy usage. This is all part of the clean energy communities competition. This is one of the four requirements that we are attempting to fulfill in order to meet that standard. I will also fill you in that as of the 15<sup>th</sup> of April, we are required to have ten solar installations. We have nine under contract, we are just one short but we do have multiple people that still have contracts (*inaudible*) we just haven't gotten that far in the process. We are hopeful that by the end of April we will have the tenth one, which is our last item that we need to conclude those four that we spoke to you a year ago.

Chairman Odell: Awesome. That's great. Just to elaborate on this, this is one of the ten high impact action items this is one that we could do. Again, collaboration between Legislature, Planning and Development, Planning Department, DPF all working in concert together was great because quite frankly, buildings account for 60% of the energy usage for both heating and cooling throughout the state and that's a big chunk of the energy demands especially downstate. This will get some good visibility out there and you can't- one of my professors always said that you can't quantify what is not measured. So, once it's measured and out there, we will quantify it to look for continuous improvement. That's the purpose of this. Any questions?

Vice Chair Chagnon: I would just like to say that this is a great program. I fully support this initiative. We will all learn from it, and we will all be able to make better decisions as a result.

Chairman Odell: Indeed. Sorry for bringing this up last minute but timing is of the essence on these and we are finding that more and more of our competitors are nearing the finish line as well. Don, as Pierre said earlier, you are worth that and more. You have worked really hard on this and helped the team as well. Thank you for your efforts and leading this charge and getting us much closer to the finish line. All in favor? Opposed?

*Unanimously Carried*

Discussion- 2017 Annual Report of Chautauqua County Soil and Water Conservation District presented by Dave Spann.

MOVED by Legislator Himelein, SECONDED by Legislator Starks to adjourn.

*Unanimously Carried (6:40 p.m.)*

Respectfully submitted and transcribed,  
Olivia L. Ames, Committee Secretary