

**Herkimer County Legislature
Natural Resources and Ways & Means
Committee Meeting
Friday, December 4, 2020
Via Zoom
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Persons Attending:

Peter Campione (Chairman, Natural Resources)
Peter Manno (Natural Resources committee member)
William E. Keeler, Sr. (Natural Resources committee member)
Bob D. Hollum (Natural Resources committee member)
Ray Donley (Natural Resources committee member)
John L. Brezinski (Natural Resources committee member)
Patrick E. Russell (Chairman, Ways & Means)
Kurt J. Ackerman (Ways & Means committee member)
Raymond Smith (Ways & Means committee member)
Raymond Johnson (Ways & Means committee member)
Frederick J. Shaw Jr. (Ways & Means committee member)
John P Stephens (Ways & Means committee member)
Vincent J. Bono (Chairman of the Legislature)
James Wallace, Jr., County Administrator
Brandy Serow, Secretary to the County Administrator
Lorraine Lewandrowski, Assistant County Attorney
Sheri Ferdula, Budget Officer
Steve Billings, Personnel Officer
Alvin Montana, Sewer District
(Non Committee Members Signed In)
Legislator Mark Gaworecki
Legislator Robert J. Schrader
Legislator William Weakley

Absent:

N/A

Mr. Campione and Mr. Russell called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m.

Items discussed:

NATURAL RESOURCES:

1. Approve reappointment to Soil & Water
2. Approve reappointments to Soil & Water
3. Approve reappointment to Humane Society
4. Approve reappointment to Fish & Wildlife Management Board
5. Other

NATURAL RESOURCES AND WAYS & MEANS:

6. Approve purchase and financing for purchase of dump truck in Sewer District

7. Approve Sewer District Resolution for rate increase
8. Other

Committee Vote Record

NATURAL RESOURCES:

Mr. Campione: “First on the agenda is approve the reappointment to Soil and Water which is Linda Coffin for a three year term as a member at large on Soil and Water. Do I have a motion?”

Item #1 – On motion of Mr. Keeler, seconded by Mr. Manno for the Natural Resources Committee, Item #1 was voted on, approved and moved for Resolution. Unanimous.

Mr. Campione: “Next on the agenda is approve reappointments to Soil and Water which is Fred Shaw and myself for a one year term as directors. Do I have a motion?”

Item #2 – On motion of Mr. Donley, seconded by Mr. Bono for the Natural Resources Committee, Item #2 was voted on, approved and moved for Resolution. Unanimous.

Mr. Campione: “Third on the agenda is approve the reappointment to the Humane Society which is Robert Schrader for a one year Legislator Director for Herkimer County Humane Society. Do I have a motion?”

Item #3 – On motion of Mr. Keeler, seconded by Mr. Bono for the Natural Resources Committee, Item #3 was voted on, approved and moved for Resolution. Unanimous.

Mr. Campione: “Fourth on the agenda is approve reappointment to the Fish & Wildlife Management Board which is Bill Keeler for a two year term as the Board of Directors for land owners. Can I have a motion?”

Item #4 – On motion of Mr. Donley, seconded by Mr. Brezinski for the Natural Resources Committee, Item #4 was voted on, approved and moved for Resolution. Unanimous.

Item #5 – N/A.

NATURAL RESOURCES AND WAYS & MEANS:

Mr. Campione: “Sixth on the agenda is approve the purchase and the financing of a dump truck in Sewer District. Mr. Rathbun, are you on?”

Alvin Montana: “This is Alvin Montana. I’m filling in for Mr. Rathbun. The Sewer District is looking to purchase a new dump truck. Our old dump truck is a 2006 Sterling. We are going to end up selling that, possibly to the County Highway Department. At this time we have gone over everything. Talking with Sheri we have determined the best course of financing would actually be Daimler at an interest rate of 3.64%. The reason behind that going over the 2.2% of Adirondack would be because of a bonding issue which causes fees that would be incurred that would raise the price.”

Mr. Russell: “Who is the funding with?”

Alvin Montana: "Funding would go through Daimler Chrysler."

Mr. Campione: "And why did you step over the 2.2% from Adirondack?"

Alvin Montana: "There is an increase because of the price that would have to be bonded through Adirondack where Chrysler does not need to be bonded. Talking to Sheri and to the lawyers yesterday, we determined that the price that would actually be the end price, Daimler would be \$100,822.80 for the total term of the loans. The Adirondack, with the added \$700 for the bonding process, would be \$100,888.09. There is a difference of \$65.29 and it's also an easier process for the Sewer District according to what we have been told to go through Daimler as opposed to the bonding. The bonding is something that has never been done for a purchase of a vehicle through the County."

Mr. Campione: "Ok. Thank you. Do I have a motion?"

Item #6 – On motion of Mr. Brezinski, seconded by Mr. Bono for the Natural Resources Committee, and on motion of Mr. Ackerman, seconded by Mr. Shaw for the Ways & Means Committee, Item #6 was voted on, approved and moved for Resolution. Unanimous.

Mr. Campione: "Next on the agenda is approve the Sewer District Resolution for rate increase. Mr. Montana, would you want to speak on this again?"

Alvin Montana: "The Sewer District rate is going to be a new of \$1.50 up \$0.05 from \$1.45 per customer per quarter. This is going to be a \$2.80 increase for the Sewer District. It will be a revenue increase of roughly \$18,570 per year. We are looking just to increase our revenue. We know to try and keep our budget balanced and keep everything running like we need to here at the plant."

Mr. Campione: "Thank you. Do I have a motion?"

Item #7 – On motion of Mr. Campione, seconded by Mr. Keeler for the Natural Resources Committee, and on motion of Mr. Stephens, seconded by Mr. Bono for the Ways & Means Committee, Item #7 was voted on, approved and moved for Resolution. Unanimous.

Mr. Russell: "I have a question and I don't know if you can answer it. What does the forecast look like in future for continuing to raise the rates?"

Alvin Montana: "Right now we are trying to increase slowly. Our board is looking, from the meetings I have been at, we are looking to just increase a nickel at a time. Slowly, so we don't have to increase tremendously in the future. I'm not sure, I believe next year at this point they are not discussing a rate increase. I'm not a hundred percent sure whether they will go that route next year or not but we are trying to keep the budget flat and trying to keep everything moving in the right direction. That's kind of why we also, when we purchased the dump truck, we spread it over five years to keep the budget at more of a flat curve so we don't have to increase rates to try and keep everything moving and running in the right direction."

Mr. Russell: "Mr. Wallace has a question."

Jim Wallace: "Alvin, you let us know at our meeting the other day, what kind of effect does Remington shutting down for a while have on you guys? If you could just let everybody know."

Alvin Montana: "Remington is having a financial effect on us. I don't know the number off the top of my head. They are one of our biggest users every quarter. I would have to look to give you an exact number but on average they are using well over 100,000 gallons a quarter. They are still using some water currently but nowhere to the capacity that they were. They get back up and running, then things will hopefully smooth out for us. We are generating revenue by bringing in outside hauled activity. Industries that are outside of the community will haul in waste. That's how we are trying to generate more income and encourage more hauling activity here at the plant."

Jim Wallace: "Thank you."

Mr. Campione: "Is there anything under other?"

Item #8 – N/A.

On motion of Mr. Donley, seconded by Mr. Manno, the Natural Resources Committee adjourned at 9:36 a.m.

The Ways & Means Committee continued.