Herkimer County Legislature
Committee on County Properties and Ways & Means
Committee Meeting
Wednesday, September 16, 2020
Via Teleconference
6:15 p.m.

Persons Attending:
Raymond Johnson (Chairman, County Properties, Ways & Means committee member)
Mark Gaworecki (County Properties committee member)
William Keeler, Sr. (County Properties committee member)
William Weakley (County Properties committee member)
Robert J. Schrader (County Properties committee member)
Ray Donley (County Properties, committee member)
Patrick E. Russell (Chairman of Ways & Means)
Kurt J. Ackerman (Ways & Means committee member)
Raymond Smith (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 W. Wallace, Jr., County Administrator
Lorraine Lewandrowski, County Attorney
Sheri Ferdula, Budget Officer
Cathleen McColgin, President HCCC
Nicholas Laino, Sr. Vice President of Finance and Administration, HCCC
(Non Committee Members signed in)
Legislator Gregory Malta, Sr.
Legislator Bob Hollum
Legislator Peter F. Manno
Legislator Peter Campione

Absent:
N/A

Mr. Johnson and Mr. Russell called their committees to order at 6:15 p.m.

Items Discussed:
COUNTY PROPERTIES AND WAYS & MEANS:
1. Solar Agreement
2. Other

Committee Vote Record
COUNTY PROPERTIES AND WAYS & MEANS:
Mr. Johnson: "There is one thing on the agenda which is Solar Agreement. Lorraine, did you want to jump in?"

Lorraine Lewandrowski: "Yes. We had a number of issues with the Solar contract. One issue that came to light after the college reviewed it for the first time with the help of the Engineer who highly recommended the project, when we went to inform the SUNY Energy buying group that the college would be leaving the Energy Buying group they said well, it's not so easy because our by-laws as a state agency do not permit us to process meter credits through the Governor's energy program so we have one

state agency can't work with another state agency to process the meter credits. We asked them what would happen if the college left the SUNY Energy Buying group. The senior account there calculated a year's worth of energy billings and determined that the college had been saving $18,000 a year by being in the SUNY Buying group as opposed to being with National Grid. While the initial savings were calculated at over $54,000, if you deduct the $18,000, and I have a chart here I can show you guys, it now drops it down to around $38,000 of savings a year. That would be over a period of twenty years. We did get them to increase the discount rate from 15% to 16% which adds on a few more thousand to help the college out. The engineer recommended to Board of Trustees that he still thought it was a sound project and the Board of Trustees went with it."

Mr. Wallace: "Lorraine, we are looking at $27,000 or so for the County?"

Lorraine Lewandrowski: "For the County around $27,000 a year over twenty years the County would save by going with the project. I initially had qualms about the college contract because there were penalties if you get out early. We did have a question which Mr. Russell had asked. What would happen if the college were to quit or go under, combine with somebody or whatever. So we researched that a bit. We had concerns that the County would be liable for any penalties. We did get the developer to add a clause that the County would not be liable for any penalties. If you have any questions."

Mr. Johnson: "We aren't getting a check, this is just a credit right."

Mr. Wallace: "Correct. They are saying around $27,000."

Mr. Johnson: "Anybody else?"

Mr. Hollum: "I remember there was talk about utilizing it as a program. How is that going?"

Nicholas Laino: "I can speak to that. Good evening folks. One of the items that we added to the contract after Dr. McColgin and I looked at it was we added a Schedule A. In that Schedule A the college will provide and submit details regarding the educational curriculum information monitoring and site access to Herkimer Solar to the extent possible in compliance with the systems financiers access and insurance requirements will coordinate education information and access at the site once the project is complete. The Solar owners will provide PDFs and Excel spreadsheets, available video of the project during construction, project manual site plans and other relevant documents or project documentation which could be useful in a class discussion on how a project is reviewed for appropriate site selection, land acquisition site development, construction, O & M and finance documents to allow students to examine and understand from acception to completion of a solar project. Two guided site visits per year subject to security and safety compliance requirements. The college will be providing real time monitoring via intranet of values such as insulation, production, orientation of collectors and other relevant information. The Solar developer will participate in instruction and instructional materials with local experts and facilities manager for the college. Dedicated smart rigged classroom lab for both students in the AAS Electrical Engineering and other curriculum programs and select participants. The Trustees pressed really hard on and it was not on the contract originally."

Mr. Hollum: "Now will that just be a class that they would have while it's being built or is that something they can use on going."

Nicholas Laino: 'This would be on going."

Mr. Johnson and Mr. Russell asked for a motion

Item #1 - On motion of Mr. Gaworecki, seconded by Mr. Keeler for the County Properties Committee and on motion of Mr. Ackerman, seconded by Mr. Smith for the Ways & Means Committee, Item #1 was voted on, approved and moved for Resolution. Unanimous.

Item #2 – N/A.

On motion of Mr. Keeler, seconded by Mr. Gaworecki for the County Properties committee and on motion of Mr. Stephens, seconded by Mr. Bono for the Ways & Means committee the committees adjourned at 6:21 p.m.