

**Herkimer County Legislature
Highways
Committee Meeting
Friday, January 15, 2021
Via Zoom
Follows County Planning & Development**

Persons Attending:

Raymond Smith (Chairman, Highways)
Peter Campione (Highways committee member)
Mark Gaworecki (Highways committee member)
John P. Stephens (Highways committee member)
Robert J. Schrader (Highways committee member)
Patrick Russell (Highways committee member)
Vincent J. Bono, Chairman of the Legislature
James W. Wallace, Jr., County Administrator
Brandy Serow, Secretary to Co. Administrator
Lorraine Lewandrowski, Assistant County Attorney
Sheri Ferdula, Budget Officer
Steve Billings, Personnel Officer
Mark Nagele, Highway Superintendent
(Non Committee Members signed in)
Legislator Gregory Malta, Sr.
Legislator Bob D. Hollum
Legislator Raymond Johnson
Legislator William Keeler, Sr.
Legislator John L. Brezinski
Legislator Kurt J. Ackerman
Legislator Ray Donley
Legislator Frederick J. Shaw, Jr.
Legislator William Weakley

Absent:

N/A

The meeting was called to order at 9:44 a.m.

Items Discussed:

HIGHWAYS:

1. Accept land donation and approve parcel acquisition in Town of Newport in Highway Department
2. Approve easement to Town of Herkimer for pump station in Highway Department
3. Other

Committee Vote Record:

HIGHWAYS:

Mr. Smith: "We have two things on our agenda. The first one is accept land donation and approve parcel acquisition in Town of Newport in the Highway Department. Is the Highway Superintendent on the line?"

Mark Nagele: "Yes, thanks Dutch. This is a small acquisition for the Cook Hill project which is a bank slide that occurred during the Halloween storm back in 2019, I believe. We have this project out to bid and there is a little piece of land that has been donated by the owner, Patrick Maxwell. It should be in your hand-out. We just need to accept that so we can build an avian wall on that piece of property."

Mr. Smith: “Okay. May I have a motion?”

Item #1 – On motion of Mr. Stephens, seconded by Mr. Schrader, Item #1 was voted on, approved and moved for Resolution. Unanimous.

Mr. Smith: “The second Item on the agenda is to approve easement to Town of Herkimer for pump station in Highway Department. Want to talk about that or should I have Lorraine do that?”

Mark Nagele: “Well, I will touch base on it a little bit. Several years ago we were approached by the Town of Herkimer through their engineering consultant. They want to build a booster pump station at the intersection of Steuben Hill Road near McKennan and the property is currently in the right-of-way of the Highway department so I believe, according to Lorraine, they need permission from the property owner as well as our committee to allow them to build this structure on County right-of-way. I don’t know if Lorraine would like to expand on that.”

Lorraine Lewandrowski: “Yes. We had done some legal research concerning the ownership of that property and we weren’t exactly clear where the County right-of-way is. You know the County right-of-way is for Highway purposes so we did ask them to talk to the private property owners and we have been informed that the property owners will allow this pump station to be put on their land. So we are asking for a Resolution subject to making sure the private property owners also concur and we will also be asking them for an agreement that they will hold us harmless and indemnifies for anything related to utilization or people accessing this pump station. It’s taken a while to do the legal research and I think in getting the surveys done and all that but we are ready to go forward with that now.”

Mr. Smith: “Thank you. I want to thank both of you for your efforts on behalf of the County on this project. It’s been quite a long struggle and I’m pleased at the way it came out so may I have a motion?”

Item #2 – On motion of Mr. Schrader, seconded by Mr. Campione, Item #2 was voted on, approved, and moved for Resolution. Unanimous.

Mr. Schrader: “Dutch, can I take a minute? Lorraine, I want to take a minute and thank you for your diligences on getting this taken care of. This could potentially offer more taxes to the County and the township up there by building new houses with the water supply. There is a lot of vacant land up there. This could be a win win for the County here and I appreciate this getting taken care of. I know it took a long time as Dutch said. The township has worked very well with you and I just want to thank everybody that was involved in this. It could be a win win for Herkimer County.”

Mr. Smith: “Thank you and good job. Is there any discussion on this? Does anyone have anything under other?”

Item #3 – NA.

At 9:49 a.m., on motion of Mr. Stephens, seconded by Mr. Schrader, the Highway Committee was adjourned.