

Minutes

Public Facilities Committee

July 13, 2020, 4:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting via Zoom and Live-Streamed for public viewing

Gerace Office Building, Mayville, N.Y.

Members Present: Hemmer, Gould, Davis, Nazzaro, Scudder

Others: Ames, Dennison, Tampio, Bentley, Chagnon

Chairman Hemmer called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

Approval of Minutes (6/15/20)

MOVED by Legislator Scudder, SECONDED by Legislator Davis to approve the minutes.

Unanimously Carried

Privilege of the Floor

Deputy Clerk Ames: I have not received any comments from the public.

Proposed Resolution – Amend 2020 Budget Appropriations and Revenues – Landfill

(Recorder malfunction).....

Mr. Bentley: so this invoice would have been covered by revenue in 19', it was for leachate repair, pipe repair, so we're going to charge it to 2020 and we obviously have revenue in 2020 to cover it as well. Really, this is just to amend the budget to get this invoice paid at this point.

Mrs. Dennison: Mr. Chairman, if I could just add to Brad's comment. Just to mention, it's actually more than one invoice. There were, I don't remember the exact number but it was more than one and this is the total of all of the invoices. I think they are all from the same vendor.

Legislator Nazzaro: Did we just get them late from the vendor, were they misplaced?

Mrs. Dennison: Yes.

Legislator Nazzaro: We got them late (*cross talk*)...

Mr. Bentley: Yes. There were a number of contributing factors that should not happen again so I'm confident that we understand the issue and it will not happen again.

Chairman Hemmer: Any other questions?

Mrs. Dennison: One other comment to add. The closed landfill department has a relatively small budget so something up this magnitude will kind of take up the entire budget for that department because it's small to begin with. So, it was not able to absorb this expense in 2020. It would have allowed it in 2019, if the invoices had been received and processed in a timely manner and/or accrued into 19', but as Brad said, there was some factors that made that not happen and we're confident that everyone is educated in the process of what to do at the end of 2020 so it won't happen again.

Legislator Nazzaro: So Kathleen, there is significant revenue available because you are increasing revenue for department income, municipalities OCC, there is significant revenue to do this?

Mrs. Dennison: Yes. Those revenues are tracking ahead of budget so far this year. You will notice that the revenue is not in closed landfills, it's just in the regular overall landfill department, sub-department 1000. But it is obviously within the overall organization of the landfill and yes, there does appear to be revenue strength in that account to accommodate this increase in the budget. Actual revenues would indicate that we will be able to attain the higher budget.

Legislator Nazzaro: O.k. thank you. It's good to hear that controls have been put into place to prevent this from happening in the future.

Mr. Bentley: We have some new people in new places and so it required a little bit of education on how things need to be done so I'm confident that we have addressed the particular issue that this was partially caused by. The other one was, just a late invoice. We'll have other things in place too, to get those invoices earlier as well.

Legislator Nazzaro: O.k., thank you for your honesty.

Mr. Bentley: It happens. It probably won't be the last time but in this particular instance, we knew what happened and we'll get it addressed.

Chairman Hemmer: Good. It sounds like it's under control and that's real good. We're not adding or making any extra charges to municipalities, it's just that this is the regular revenue.

Mrs. Dennison: That's correct and one thing that Brad and I neglected to mention is that since this was not captured in the 2019 results, the 2019 results were \$71,000 better than they should have been and so that would have contributed to a gain in landfill which would have been

transferred to the landfill's fund balance so it was contributed to a favorable result last year and will be compensated for in 2020.

Chairman Hemmer: Any other questions or comments about this one?

Legislator Nazzaro: So Kathleen, you feel obviously it's better to increase the revenue as opposed to decreasing the fund balance? Because fund balance is an accumulation of prior year's profits so the matching concept might be better the other way.

Mrs. Dennison: Yeah, I mean we did consider that but Director Pantelis, he's very confident in the revenues and up for this year so far and is confident that the revenues can cover it. So we did consult with him, not necessarily on a matching principal but whether we should draw it out of fund balance, since it was a contribution there but he thinks that we'll be able to cover it in this year so there could be, even with this adjustment, additional contributions to the fund balance based on this year's operations.

Legislator Nazzaro: O.k., thank you. I would have taken it out of fund balance, but thank you.

Mrs. Dennison: We did have Deputy Director Todd Button weigh in on this also. The auditors had already been – Todd was very firm that we cannot put it in 19', it was too late. We did consider with him where we should – should we take it out of fund balance? He really didn't have an opinion on that so this is the direction that we decided to go in. If you would like, I can check back with him and see, given your concerns, if we want to modify it and take it out of fund balance.

Legislator Nazzaro: Well, it's really not a concern. It's more of a matching principal because again, the fund balance, and I'm being an accountant now guys, sorry, and ladies, because the matching concept it the fund balance is an accumulation of all prior activity and this was, as a result of late invoices, misplaced invoices, whatever, really relates to activity that occurred in 2019 and prior and that is what fund balance is. I'm o.k., either way Kathleen, the accountant in me had to point that out.

Mrs. Dennison: I understand your concern and say yeah, we did consider that and went in a different direction, I guess.

Legislator Nazzaro: Unless you think about it and say, you know Chuck, maybe we should, I'm fine, we can move forward.

Chairman Hemmer: Anything else?

Legislator Scudder: I need to agree with Chuck but I think it's a more accurate accounting action or whatever, to take it out like Chuck is saying.

Mrs. Dennison: Well, do you want to propose an amendment to do that?

Legislator Scudder: I'm good, I just thought I'd agree with my friend Chuck. I don't think that we have to do anything but I think that was well said Chuck.

Legislator Nazzaro: No amendment at this time, so I'm ready to call the question.

Chairman Hemmer: All in favor of the proposed resolution?

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution - Adjust D5112 – Capital Improvement Accounts

Mr. Bentley: We do this each year to adjust the funding that we anticipated in the budget. There is always small little changes. This year is actually is a bigger change just because of the way we budgeted. But, when we talk about CHIPS and PAVE New York, we in the past, have budgeted last year's amount because it has typically come in and as you can see below, we've seen a slight decrease. It's not that our amount really decreased, it's based on road mileage so the State gave out the same amount of money, it's just that when another county adds new roads, they increase their mileage which takes away a small percentage from those that don't. Obviously we haven't added a new road in Chautauqua County in some time so we're seeing a slight decrease in CHIPS and PAVE New York from the budgeted amounts. So just to tell you the award we got, for CHIPS was \$3,724,255.64, so a decrease of \$1,917 is a very small decrease there. Again, it's due to CHIPS not being adjusted for inflation and really other counties adding road mileage which decreases our share of the pot. PAVE New York, awarded amount was \$850,098.41, there is a decrease of \$437.00, and again, that is based on road mileage. The other one that is the big win is that, the State has awarded Extreme Weather. We did not budget that in 2020 from last year because we were very uncertain whether that money would actually be awarded and that's in the amount of \$547,296. So that is a big win but as we've, I think we've discussed previously, if not, the State has indicated that those three award amounts are subject to a 20% decrease. So, out of a total of, if you add up all those numbers, (*inaudible*) get \$5.121 million dollars and 20% of that would be a little over a million dollars. Then if you take into account we did not budget EWR versus budget, we're actually up another \$500,000. So our net versus budget is really only down 10% because of EWR. If you followed that you are really a good mathematician. All in all, this is an adjustment just to catch up to the awarded amounts. The part about the 80% obviously is not in the resolution but as an agreement that was reached with the Finance Committee on COVID, we're spending up to 75% off awarded amount just in case there's a 20% or slightly larger cut. There is an opportunity to roll over or try and do some additional work with that money at the end. We started work on our bridges a couple of weeks ago and we'll be starting paving jobs first week in August. So, we'll be out and about and there will be a lot of work and hopefully the weather continues to cooperate. There's been some very favorable weather recently and hopefully we can get the weather to cooperate the rest of the year. Any other questions I can answer?

Legislator Nazzaro: No, I think you explained it well and like you said, we've talked about this, the COVID Finance meetings but good summary.

Chairman Hemmer: The road work, the date that you are going to start the road work, is that the date that your DPF employees are coming back off of furlough?

Mr. Bentley: Yes. Which actually happen to line up with the milling contractor availability. As we postponed from our earlier work in June, his next availability was at the beginning of August so it actually lined up with the return of the furlough. I'm going to call that a favorable event to say, we'll line the stars and work with what we got.

Chairman Hemmer: Sounds good. Any other questions on this one?

Unanimously Carried

Discussion – Mandated & Non-Mandated Services Prioritized – Brad Bentley

MOVED by Legislator Gould, SECONDED by Legislator Nazzaro to adjourn.

Unanimously Carried (4:37 p.m.)

Respectfully submitted and transcribed,
Olivia Ames, Deputy Clerk/Lori J. Foster, Sr. Stenographer