

Herkimer County Legislature
County Planning & Development and Ways & Means Committee Meeting
Thursday, April 9, 2020
Via Teleconference
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Persons Attending:

Kurt J. Ackerman (Chairman of Co. Planning; W&M committee member)
William Weakley (Co. Planning committee member)
Peter J. Campione (Co. Planning committee member)
Gregory Malta, Sr. (Co. Planning committee member)
Bob Hollum (Co. Planning committee member)
Patrick E. Russell (Chairman, Ways & Means)
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 W. Wallace, Jr., County Administrator
Brandy Serow, Sec. to Co. Admin.
Lorraine Lewandrowski, County Attorney
Sheri Ferdula, Budget Officer
Steve Billings, Personnel Officer
Gina Giacobelli, Executive Director, Youth Bureau

(Non-Committee Members Signed In)

Legislator Mark Gaworecki
Legislator Robert J. Schrader
Legislator William E. Keeler, Sr.
Legislator John L. Brezinski
Legislator Peter F. Manno
Legislator Ray Donley

Absent:

N/A

Mr. Bono asked to call County Planning and Development and Ways and Means to order.

Mr. Ackerman and Mr. Russell called the meeting to order at 9:38 a.m.

Items discussed:

COUNTY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT:

1. Approve annual report of Youth Bureau
2. Other

COUNTY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT/WAYS & MEANS:

3. Summer Youth Program & Bus bid Discussion - **Tabled**
4. Other

Committee Vote Record

COUNTY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT:

Mr. Ackerman stated "First thing on the agenda is to approve the annual report of the Youth Bureau so I need a motion for that."

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

Item #2 – N/A

COUNTY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT/WAYS & MEANS:

Mr. Ackerman stated “Summer youth program and bus bid discussion. Can I have a motion for County Planning and Development? Is there any discussion?”

Mr. Weakley asked if this was going to happen. Mr. Bono turned it to Jim Wallace for further information.

Jim Wallace stated “Both Chairmen, the concern is will the Enchanted Forest be open this summer? I know there are some concerns on that. I also know that Sheri did a bid that can be held for 45 days that would run out this meeting. There is no out in this spec so if we award the bid we are stuck with the bid.”

Mr. Bono asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Ackerman asked if we should hold out until we have a little more information.

Mr. Bono asked “how much time would we need Jim at the very latest?”

Jim stated “Pat, do you have any idea of what they are thinking?”

Mr. Russell stated “What they are thinking is that they can’t get any international students. They have two concerns. Whether they can open? If they can open, would parents want their kids working there and are people going to come up there because it is a crowded area. They are looking at time before they can make a decision and then to see what the Governor or anyone else might do. If the Governor states they can’t open then obviously they can’t open.”

Sheri Ferdula stated “I can ask Birnie Bus if they can extend their price until our May meeting at least to give us a little bit more time and then maybe we will know by then.”

Mr. Ackerman stated “That would be great Sheri, thanks”

Mr. Russell asked “if they can extend their price did you say?”

Sheri responded “Yes. The bid is good for only 45 days and would run out before our May meeting but I can ask them to send her something so they will hold the price until May”

Mr. Russell asked “Would it be smarter to rebid it with gas prices going down?”

Sheri stated “We could, but I don’t know how much of a difference there would be. We got a pretty good price.”

Mr. Shaw had a question for Lorraine. He stated he talked yesterday with a Salisbury Board member who said they are thinking about canceling their park program for the year. They are afraid of litigation if one of the kids gets sick and would like to know from Lorraine where would that put us seeing we are paying these kids should one of them contract the virus?

Lorraine responded "There is always a degree of liability. I've seen some litigation out there that alleged there were not proper safety measures taken and their family member got sick. We would also have to check with our carrier on that through NYMIR. They can run a risk analysis. That is a good question."

Mr. Bono believes the Town of Frankfort canceled theirs.

Mr. Shaw stated "Part of the problem is where do we place the kids if we do not?"

Mr. Bono stated "Or do we cancel our program?"

Mr. Shaw stated "I don't think this will be over until July/August. I really don't due to the long cold wet spring."

Mr. Ackerman requested motion to table item #3.

Item #3 - On motion of Mr. Campione, seconded by Mr. Weakley, Item #3 was tabled. Unanimous.

Item #4 - N/A

On motion of Mr. Bono, seconded by Mr. Campione the County Planning & Development committee adjourned at 9:44 a.m.

The Ways & Means committee continued.