

Herkimer County Legislature
Highways
Committee Meeting
Friday, June 19, 2020
Via Teleconference
Follows Natural Resources

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 Peter F. Manno
Legislator Kurt J. Ackerman
Legislator Ray Donley
Legislator Frederick J. Shaw, Jr.
Legislator William Weakley

Absent:

N/A

Mr. Smith called the meeting to order at 9:48 a.m.

Items Discussed:

HIGHWAYS:

1. Discussion on Deputy Superintendent position – Removal of PE requirement
2. Approve renewal of lease agreement with National Grid for a portion of the Highway garage
3. Other

Committee Vote Record:

HIGHWAYS:

Mr. Smith stated “Good morning everyone. First thing on the agenda is a discussion of the Deputy Superintendent position. Is Mark Nagele on the line?”

Mark Nagele stated “I am. As we talked about at the last committee meeting, Jim Lindholm was my Deputy and his last day was May 1st. We posted positions for that opening on April 20th. We received one resume from that initial posting. The person did not qualify for the job so we reposted it on May 14th with a deadline of June 5th and we have received no responses from the second posting. It was listed with

Working Solutions, the New York Job Bank and it was also posted on the Herkimer County website. At this time I guess we need a decision on what direction we want to go with the posting. Either, as was mentioned at the last committee, remove the professional engineering requirement or I think if we do want to keep a Professional Engineer we are going to have to raise the salary which is near \$60,000 at this time.”

Mark Gaworecki stated “I would like to propose they remove the requirement for the PE.”

Mr. Stephens stated “I will second that.”

Mr. Smith asked “Is there any discussion with the committee?”

Mr. Stephens asked “Steve, what does that involve as far as civil service?”

Steve Billings responded “I adjust the qualifications. That’s all. It’s very easy to do.”

Mr. Stephens asked “Next question, what do we do salary wise if we remove the PE requirement? Do we leave it the same or do we drop it?”

Mr. Wallace responded “I would ask Mark.”

Mark Nagele stated “The salary right now, the Deputy position is actually lower than my Highway Maintenance Supervisor position so if this person is going to be second in command I would think you would not want to drop it.”

Mr. Stephens stated “I’m good with that answer. Leave it as is, that’s fine.”

Mr. Schrader asked “Whoever applied before, would he qualify now?”

Mark Nagele responded “No. He would still not qualify. It was a residence issue.”

Mr. Schrader asked “Mark, did you offer to him to move to Herkimer County to take the position?”

Mark Nagele responded “Yes I did and he does not want to move.”

Mr. Stephens asked “Do we have anyone in house that might qualify now?”

Mark Nagele responded “You would have two people but then you would open up other positions in the Highway Department as well.”

Mr. Stephens stated “Yes. That’s a given. Thank you.”

Mr. Smith asked “Is there any further discussion? All those in favor of doing away with the PE requirement say aye.”

After a unanimous vote the motion was carried.

Mr. Schrader asked “Mark, can you tell me within the last two years, how many things have you stamped since we lost Jay Ewanyk?”

Mark Nagele responded “All the bridge plans carry my name on them and we have four or five bridges going up this year alone. The road plans generally, being a PE, I don’t need to stamp them but they are under my direction so it’s kind of intuitive that I’m the responsible party for them.”

Mr. Schrader asked “When we hire consultants, are they taking the responsibility when they stamp them?”

Mark Nagele responded “If we hire a consultant then we do require them to sign the drawings because they are the ones designing the project and Ethics Law requires that you have to be involved in the design in order to stamp the drawings. They do take that responsibility.”

Mr. Schrader state “So that would override you or you would supersede them?”

Mark Nagele stated “It’s like a dual stamp almost.”

Item #1 – On motion of Mr. Gaworecki, seconded by Mr. Stephens, Item #1 was voted on and approved. Unanimous.

Mr. Smith stated “The second item is approve renewal of lease agreement with National Grid for a portion of the Highway garage. May I have a motion?”

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

Mr. Smith stated “The motion carried. I want to thank Lorraine for her work on this. We increased it and it’s a five year agreement so thank you very much Lorraine.”

Item #3 – N/A

Mr. Smith asked for a motion to adjourn.

At 9:57 a.m., on motion of Mr. Bono, seconded by Mr. Campione, the Highway Committee was adjourned.