

**COMMITTEE DAY
LAKE PLEASANT, NY
TUESDAY
JULY 23, 2013**

**PUBLIC WORKS
COMMITTEE
9:00 AM**

Present: Brian Towers, Bob Edwards

Also present: Bill Farber, Neil McGovern and Tracy Eldridge

Highway – Tracy discussed the Maple Grove Project. He has decided to not do an overlay and has gone in a different direction to changing culverts and doing a full grind. He feels with these changes he will still come in on budget. He will do a resolution to amend the original resolution for the project to full depth reclamation, but not change any budget numbers at this time.

Tracy still plans to do Griffin Road but they may not get to cutting brush along the road.

They have completed brush work on Benson Road, Maple Grove Road and now they are working on South Shore Road in Lake Pleasant. Once that is completed they will return to Benson to cut shoulders and work north.

Last week they had some confusion in communications and they had a limb come down and hit a car. It scratched the car and Tracy told the driver to get estimates and return them to him. Tracy met with his guys and told them the importance of communication. Since then he received a quote from the lady for \$1,750; should he claim this on the insurance or should he just pay this out of this budget. The committee was in agreement to have Tracy just pay it.

Pete Klein entered during the dropped limb discussion.

Fuel Consolidation – Tracy reported that the state still has not awarded for this grant and he is a little concerned that they are not going to. LaBerge Group is concerned that they may move it from the Local Government Efficiency over to the CFA and of course it's not the same grant application. They feel there is still a chance we might get the grant through the LGE but we should be prepared to do the CFA and there will be a fee.

Bill stated that we will need two resolutions, one for the application and the other is for authorizing the expenditure. His recommendation is to put them in for August 1st, a participation resolution will be needed, not the support resolution.

Tracy reported he is getting his 2014 budget numbers together.

Tracy stated that they had their new electronic speed/message signs out for the Adirondack Challenge and the one that was placed by Byron Park registered 7,000+ vehicles that went by, the highest speed was 77 mph, 85% were going 42 mph. The one that was placed by Stewarts read 16,000+ vehicles.

Solid Waste – The recycling shed in Indian Lake is complete and currently in use.

The full recycling grant has been submitted to DEC. We were authorized \$111,000 and Tracy submitted 109,000.

We have had five loads of mixed paper go to Greenfiber. We are averaging approximately 7 tons a load. Bill asked Tracy if he has any sense of comparison to prior years, whether our weight will drop or not. Tracy stated he honestly thinks it's too soon to tell.

Tracy reported that we sent two tractor trailer loads of electronics to Rochester last week and the bins at the transfer stations are already half full again.

Brian Towers wanted to talk more about the paper. Brian suggested to Tracy to buy another paper container so they can swap when they come in to pick up the full one; they can drop an empty one in its place that way they don't need to come back.

Tracy agreed with Brian that we need another container. They can bring up an empty container and drop it, pick up the full one and transport. Raquette Lake is limited to room and they have been bringing it to Inlet and that has also been a problem for them. He met with the transfer guys in Raquette Lake and Clark; Tracy has a spare covered container that they had in Indian Lake that they put at Raquette Lake to get them through the summer. Tracy would like to come up with a small trailer that can be towed by a pickup truck; he could go and get the trailer and take it to be dumped. That would eliminate going to Inlet with it and Inlet won't have to deal with it also; we should be able to work it out with limited cost.

They have started sorting plastic in Indian Lake as it is being brought in by residents. Brian asked if we would go single source, Tracy feels we will be able to go single source in the future. Until we can get a market that will take our limited quantity of single source it won't happen. Everyone will be investing in these machines that separate and then Tracy feels it will happen for us.

Tracy reported that his repair line in his budget is really low. He will have to do transfers in September if not sooner. He has over \$60,000 in repairs to solid waste equipment, mostly trailer some roll-offs, trucks etc. Solid Waste DM budget gets \$60,000; we have already spent better than \$60,000 and this doesn't count diesel fuel. We have had some very large expensive repairs this year. A lot of our trailers are the same age, from the late 90's and some need extensive repairs; but we are extending the life of them. Tracy will need to make the highway budget whole for this.

Tracy asked his committee if they would consider getting an Easy Pass for a county car and for a couple of tractors for hauling. Brian asked what are we doing now, Tracy stated he is giving the drivers his own cash. Bill stated he can think of four or five examples that it makes sense to pursue this for.

Bill also stated that he thinks that the Clerk of the Board could get a credit card to use for some of those purchases. Discussion continued on the ways that the credit card could be used and on payment.

John stated he will be looking to restore some funds that have been cut drastically in the highway budget but we still need to be careful.

Tracy stated his big hit the past few years has been fuel and he feels it has leveled off. Their equipment budget has been down; that's the biggest one and he can see that it's going to be a

little bit high this year. Whatever is put into the upcoming budget, Tracy wants to make sure it's for the infrastructure. This is his main goal, save what good roads we have with pavement maintenance and possibly some bridge work. He is just nervous that our federal aid is not coming in on our bridges. Tracy continued discussing funding streams.

Buildings – Tracy reported that everything is going pretty well and will start working on the budget sheets.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

9:45 AM

Present: John Frey, Brian Towers and Neil McGovern

Also present: Bill Farber, Bob Edwards, Barry Baker, Jane Zarecki and Pete Klein

Barry gave a live presentation of the SDG Program.

Barry explained that some of the committee members have possibly seen the program on-line a couple of years ago. They now have made some changes in the program. Last year at budget time, Barry discussed this program. As we are moving toward experienced staff reductions; with this program there are options and some tools that allow us to do more with less staff. This will help with the burden for the Real Property Tax Office, Treasurer's Office, and County Clerk's Office.

Barry reported there are 38 counties that are currently using this program. Some counties charge a subscription to be able to enter the site to get any information. We have the ability to set levels and tiers of access.

A short discussion took place on the deeds screen. Barry reported that there isn't a county that shows that for free. John stated something like that we would want to charge for and Barry agreed. Everything here is public information even the deeds but there are restriction on what you have to do to access them. This is a lot of our phone calls.

Brian asked if it would allow a homeowner to query the system for comparables, Barry stated it absolutely would let you do that.

John asked if it would go outside the county lines to do this, Barry stated yes. Barry stated that it actually takes the market area that your town is located in, such as Inlet is in the Webb market. Lake Pleasant, Indian Lake, Long Lake, and Arietta are in one market. Morehouse is going in to Herkimer County market. Wells, Hope and Benson are in the Northville, Great Sacandaga market area.

Barry stated that you can check to see if the taxes are paid on any parcel after a certain date. This is also something we can make inaccessible and then they would have to call the Treasurer's Office.

Barry pointed out all through the presentation where there are certain areas that could be suppressed. John asked if this was town by town or property by property and Barry stated it is town by town.

Brian Wells entered at this time.

Brian Towers asked if this program was something he has been moving forward on or something you would like to do, Barry stated yes he would like to move forward on this. The fee two years ago for setup was \$35,000 in five year increments. We are now looking at around \$20,000 for a five year plan with a \$500 annual maintenance fee.

Brian Towers stated that technology gets old real quick and are they going to continue to update this over that five year period. Barry reported that they have been updating already, from the previous presentation of two years ago. They now have it on a tablet form and they can include this on a GPS format so if you are driving down a road trying to find a property it will actually have the information on the GPS. It will indicate when you're at the property and then you touch the screen it will bring up every single component that I showed you today. Our assessors are not at that point or probably will ever need that functionality, but it's there and they're building this to integrate with the maps, pdf's, with tax maps etc.

John stated they are compiling a lot of information and posting it rather fast. The connection you have right now is not the best in the world as we all know. They are already ahead of the game and I agree with you that they have stayed ahead over the past two years. Their data base is still being pushed through whatever browser with cross platforms which is huge in today's world.

The committee asked Jane what she thought and she stated it was a great idea because they get these types of questions all the time.

Brian asked if they could just give out the website information and that would end the calls and Barry stated probably not. It would probably end 20 – 30% of their phone conversations. They are still going to come and get a copy of a tax map, a copy of a deed because they need official copies.

Brian asked if this software is targeting the real property people, Barry stated absolutely, the abstractors, attorneys. We can limit the information; charge an annual fee for someone to have full access etc., and that would help offset our annual cost.

Bill asked what other counties have locks on in their systems or are they all over the place. Barry stated they are all over the place. He is seeing around \$300 to \$350 for an annual subscription fee in some of the counties for the realtors.

Bill stated he would like to look at different counties to see what you can get for free verses what you need a subscription for. Bill stated he feels this is something that we need to plan on moving forward on.

As there was no further business, the meeting ended.