

**COMMITTEE DAY
LAKE PLEASANT, NY
TUESDAY
SEPTEMBER 24, 2013**

**FINANCE COMMITTEE
10:00 AM**

Present: Rick Wilt and Brian Towers

Also present: Bill Farber, Bob Edwards, Clark Seaman, Brian Wells, Frank Mezzano and Pete Klein

Bill introduced Frank Mezzano, Deputy Budget Officer.

Frank reported that all of the budgets are in except for Publicity, Tourism and Economic Development. Bill Osborne suggested using this year's numbers at this point until the Board decides what to do with the department.

Frank stated that the departments are being very conservative.

Frank reported that the Board will set the Annual Session meeting dates at the next meeting. Once that has been done, he will firm up the budget and send out pdf's to all the Board members for review.

Bill suggested starting budget reviews the afternoon of the first Thursday in November after the Board meeting. This would give them plenty of time to meet and review with a possible public hearing on the 2014 Budget on November 21st or 22nd.

Bill offered the following dates of when he thought they could possibly meet for session.

November 7th
November 13th
November 18th
November 21st or 22nd
December 5th
December 20th

Bill feels Frank did a great job in getting the budgets back from the departments. Frank is now working on some of the big budget items such as benefits costs etc.

Frank left after his review was done.

Bill discussed a resolution that they received regarding the classification. He will get copies to Brian Towers, Brian Wells and Clark Seaman. They then had a short discussion on the classification in regards to maps and layers for the maps.

As there was no further business the meeting ended.

**PUBLIC WORKS/BUILDINGS/SOLID WASTE
COMMITTEE
10:30 AM**

Present: Brian Towers, Rick Wilt, Brian Wells, Clark Seaman and Bob Edwards

Also present: Bill Farber, Tracy Eldridge, and Pete Klein

Bid Opening Spec. 13-2013 Ice Control Sand

Delaney – Benson	\$9.85 per ton delivered
Hope	\$9.95 per ton delivered

A motion was made to accept the bid and refer it to committee by Mr. Towers, seconded by Mr. Wilt. Carried.

Brian Towers asked Tracy for an update on his departments.

Tracy stated that they are starting their paving in Arietta tomorrow. All of his projects are now complete, such as drainage work, excavation work etc. After Arietta is complete they will do some paving in Lake Pleasant, then move up north and then finish in Maple Grove.

They will be closing down Browns Brook Bridge today, the temporary bridge is in place and ready for traffic.

Tracy reported that they have been having issues with the grader and he is thinking about looking into possibly trading it in on another newer used grader. Brian T. suggested that Tracy also look into the possibility of renting verses owning.

Solid Waste – Tracy reported that the tire recycler closed down due to DEC regulations. He spoke with Fulton County's Highway Superintendent; they also use the same company and are looking into alternatives.

Tracy has been reaching out to other counties to see what they are doing with tires. He received approximately ten replies and they are not sure what they are going to do either. Tracy did receive a tip that maybe we needed to look into a burn plant that burns tires. He is looking for a contact for that company. Essex County and St. Lawrence County are just stock piling tires right now because their outfit in Canada fell through. Some of the counties in the mid part of the State are using a company that is a long ways from us. Tracy did find a company that will process the tires and received a price of \$1.25 per passenger tire and \$9.00 per truck tire. This company is located in the Catskills.

He also found where Jefferson County takes theirs, which is closer for us; the company's name is Rid-O-Vit. This is a middle man company where we give them the tires and then they take them to someone else. The proposal Tracy received was they would bring a trailer up and leave it at the Lake Pleasant Transfer Station; we stack it full and they come and pick it up for \$1,100 per trailer load and if we don't fill it in three months' time then they place a surcharge of \$150 per month for having the trailer sitting there. Tracy asked them if we could buy our own trailer and haul the tires to them and they said no, they don't have any storage locations. So for short term we need to have a plan.

Brian Towers asked what size trailer is Rid-O-Vit talking about and Tracy said he wasn't sure on the size. Tracy reported if we go that route this is going to be labor intensive.

Bill asked how labor intensive would it be if we had our own enclosed trailers at different sites and they were loading them similarly to what they are doing now but the only difference would be they are loading them into larger enclosed trailers verses the roll-offs. Tracy stated if we had trailers there would be no difference.

Bill stated Tracy's point is well taken and we just need to sort this out for the best option.

Brian Towers stated that we need to figure out how many tires we usually handle and how many tires will fit in a trailer so this is done mathematically. Tracy stated we usually do about five thousand tires which is approximately 50 ton a year.

Tracy stated that they have had a large amount of illegal dumping at the Indian Lake Transfer Station; people are dumping when they are closed. He has been thinking about putting in cameras.

Tracy left at this time.

As there was no further business the meeting ended.

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT
11:00 AM

Present: Rick Wilt and Bob Edwards

Also present: Bill Farber, Brian Towers, Brian Wells, Clark Seaman, Marsha Purdue, Captain Robert LaFountain of Troop B, and Pete Klein

Marsha handed out information to all the Board members.

Marsha started with giving a background on D.A.'s being full time. She also introduced Captain LaFountain of the NYS Police Troop B. Marsha asked Captain LaFountain to attend the Board meeting to address the Board on his opinions on why Hamilton County's District Attorney should be a fulltime position.

Marsha stated it started about ten years ago that the Governor was pushing everyone in the State to have fulltime District Attorneys and all of them did except Hamilton County. This has left us in the unique position to be the only one in the State that does not receive any grant money toward that position.

Marsha stated that if the Board members are going to support a fulltime District Attorney for Hamilton County she will need a letter indicating that. Marsha will then take the letter to the State to apply for the grant funding.

Marsha reviewed why the District Attorney position is so busy. This position requires you to be on call 24/7. She also wanted everyone to be aware that when you have a felony, what happens is the D.A. has to make a recommendation for the amount of bail. When that happens and the person ends up in jail the next thing that takes place is either you have a preliminary hearing or you have to have a felony hearing which means in six days you have to prepare your witnesses

and get ready. So when that happens you have to set everything else aside. Marsha then gave the members some examples of some recent cases that had occurred that made her drop everything so that arrests could be made.

Marsha reported that crime has changed in Hamilton County, there are drugs in the County and as a result of this along with the economy, what is happening is we are having more burglaries. What they are doing is coming into Hamilton County and breaking into camps that don't have full time residents and stealing things to sell for drug money.

Marsha then reviewed her handouts from which the information came from the DCJS Website.

Marsha stated crime is increasing in Hamilton County and we have to stop it before it gets out of proportion.

Brian Towers stated that is an interesting statement that you just made. Is it that there is more crime or are we doing a better job of catching them. Marsha stated it is probably both. We need to say that if they have done the crime then they have to pay for that. She doesn't plea bargain, she won't sweep it under the rug.

Marsha then turned the floor over to Captain Robert LaFountain from Troop B.

The Captain gave a short background of himself. He has served with the NYS Troopers for 28 years for a total of 36 years of experience in law enforcement.

The Captain explained how rural we are. Brian Towers had asked the question about crime; Captain LaFountain stated he feels that the flow of information is so prevalent in today's society that once pristine isolated safe communities are no longer safe. He believes a lot is related to the internet and access to this information which plants a seed in someone's mind, which law enforcement must deal with.

The Captain reported that there are narcotic issues in Hamilton County. In Troop B alone, they have had 23 drug overdose deaths since 2012, within the region they cover. Clinton County has a number of methamphetamine labs now and houses are burning down with people in them due to these labs. Meth has really shown itself in rural communities because they can have a lab and people are not going to detect it.

Captain LaFountain then discussed what services the troopers provide such as road patrol, people that respond to disasters such as severe snow storms. We have a special operations response team which is a SWAT team, we have aviation, BCI investigations, unit investigators, crisis negotiators, counter terrorism investigation unit, a crime scene processing unit, gun investigation unit, a narcotics investigation unit, a major crimes unit. They provide 24/7 coverage for Hamilton County. We are only one component of the criminal justice system; in addition to the State Police you have Probation, Sheriff's Office, and the District Attorney.

The Captain told a short story regarding a homicide; he stated that a part time District Attorney would never be able to prosecute a homicide case. The District Attorney has to go through all of the information and make sure that it is provided to the Defense Attorney and it takes weeks, months to prepare.

Bill thanked Captain LaFountain for providing them with some background information.

Marsha and Captain LaFountain left at this time.

As there was no further business the meeting ended.