



PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE

Time: 1:30 PM

Location: Municipal Building

2nd Floor, Room 200

20 Ontario Street

Canandaigua, NY 14424

April 29, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chair Singer, Supervisors Bateman, Guard, Hicks, Wickham, and Venuti. Supervisor Lightfoote was necessarily absent

OTHERS PRESENT

County Administrator Mary Krause, Chairman Jack Marren, County Attorney Holly Adams, Finance Director Mary Gates, Grant Coordinator Peter Brown, Sustainability & Solid Waste Management Director Carla Jordan, Assistant County Attorney Art James, Sr. Planner Regina Sousa, Casella General Counsel Shelley Sayward, Casella Engineer Amy Dill, John Colella from Tow Path Investigative Services, Supervisor Vedora, Director of Economic Development Mike Manikowski, Sr. Fiscal Manager Michael Wojcik, Cornell Cooperative Extension Executive Director Tim Davis, Agriculture Economic Development Educator Pilar McKay, City of Geneva Comptroller & Assistant City Manager Adam Blowers, Organixx Manager Jacob Fox, Reporter Julie Sherwood, Eileen Buckley, and Deputy Clerk to the Board Diane Foster.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Planning & Environmental Quality Committee was called to order at 1:00 pm. by Committee Chair Singer.

MINUTES

Supervisor Venuti made a motion to approve the minutes of the Planning and Environmental Quality Committee meeting held on April 8, 2019. Supervisor Bateman seconded the motion. The motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 1:01 pm, Supervisor Venuti motioned to move into Executive Session to discuss the employment history of an individual, seconded by Supervisor Wickham. Motion carried.

At 1:07 pm, Supervisor Wickham motioned to come out of Executive Session, seconded by Supervisor Bateman. Motion carried.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- ♦ *Approval: Budget Adjustment*

Mike Manikowski presented a budget transfer for the Community Development Block Grant in regards to Real Eats. He noted they get weekly reports as they grow and the funds are lent and get paid back to relend for Economic Development purposes.

Michael Wojcik noted it is a five year payback starting in October.

Supervisor Wickham motioned to approve the budget transfer seconded by Supervisor Hicks. Motion carried.

CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

- ♦ *2017 Ag Census First Look*

Tim Davis introduced Pilar McKay, their Agriculture Economic Development Educator.

Ms. McKay gave a brief update on the 2017 Ag Census noting the following on Ontario County providing a handout:

- The net income of operations is \$52,541,000, a 20% increase
- The average age of principal producer in Ontario County is 56.4 and the National average is 58.6
- The acres operated on farms is 200,089, a 4% increase
- Dairy Update and Bovine market
- Fruit and Veg Update
- Biggest mover is the inventory of chicken layers up 1,033%
 - 3,594 in 2012
 - 40,723 in 2017
- Flower farms another mover at 100%
- New producers, 56% in all farms have a woman in a producer role.
- Numbers are down with small farmers, increase in large farms.

Supervisor Hicks asked if the information is from homesteading farms. Ms. McKay replied if you are filling out a schedule F for taxes, that would be included.

SUSTAINABILITY & SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

Chair Singer reported that the Board of Ethics Committee met and determined that there was no conflict of interest with the Sustainability and Solid Waste Management Director and Barton & Logoudice; in relationship to the Ontario County's Code of Ethics and the State's Municipal Law.

- ♦ *Resolution: Authorization to Contract with Impact Earth for School District Waste Assessments*

Carla Jordan presented the resolution for Impact Earth for waste assessments with the school districts.

Supervisor Venuti motioned to approve the resolution, seconded by Supervisor Hicks. Motion carried.

Supervisor Wickham asked that Ms. Jordan circulate those districts who have signed on so that the Towns may assist to encourage the districts to sign on.

- ♦ *Resolution: Application for a Research Development and Demonstration Permit to Operate an Organics Depackaging Operation at the County Landfill – SEQRL*
Lead Agency Intent and Public Hearing

Tim Jensen presented the resolution for the application for the Research Development and Demonstration (RD&D) Permit to operate an organics depackaging operation at the landfill and to set a Public Hearing.

Supervisor Wickham motioned to approve the resolution, seconded by Supervisor Bateman. Motion carried.

Discussion: Supervisor Venuti asked if the test goes well, what the plan is. Mr. Jensen explained that is why they are doing a test, to see if it works. Supervisor Venuti voiced his concern that this does not become another place for a different kind of waste. Mr. Jensen said that the data will allow for discussion. Supervisor Ingalsbe said he is in favor of the trial, because it will take out what may be avoided to go into the landfill.

◆ *City of Geneva Funding Request*

Adam Blowers explained they are working on a compost facility project in the City of Geneva where they would be building trenches and diverting organic waste that would be going to the landfill to the trenches. They would use worms to digest waste with an end product that would be able to be sold and used for soil. Jacob Fox explained it is a low tech organics waste recovery process. Mr. Blowers is requesting \$45,549.60 to match a grant with the NYSDEC Municipal Food Scraps Reduction, Food Donation and Food Scraps Recycling Program Grant. Mr. Fox went on to explain in more detail the process and the areas planned to use for the trenches on specs displayed. The project is meant for the City of Geneva's biodegradable waste. Mr. Fox answered questions from the Supervisors concerning odor, how the waste is collected, haulers, and liquids in the trenches.

Supervisor Wickham said he is in favor of having money go towards a project that is long term that ultimately could divert waste from the landfill.

Chairman Marren inquired on the financial structure. Adam Blowers explained the RFP and the breakdown. Chairman Marren asked if they saw this as a pilot. Mr. Fox said, yes, if this is successful, this could go on to other locations and working with farms as well.

Mary Krause noted the value of the land that was submitted to the grant was not accepted, this is the amount that would allow for the match.

Supervisor Guard motioned to approve the funding if the City of Geneva receives the grant, seconded by Supervisor Venuti. Motion carried.

CASELLA Update

Amy Dill said they have asked John Colella from Tow Path to give an update on odor activity in February and April in terms of complaints and intensity.

Mr. Colella explained that the bulk of the intense odors are around the facility and did see intensity in the west. They referenced a map with colors indicating the areas of odor. This was based on the early morning readings and after operations cease for the day. He noted in April the odors were more contained and they have not tracked sludge odors. Carla Jordan clarified that these are the investigators findings. He said the bulk of the odor complaints were on a scale of 2-3.5. Now they are 0.5 or below. Ms. Jordan noted this is based on the n-butanol scale.

Supervisor Venuti asked if there was any analysis done on the type of gas. Shelly Sayward replied that was a part of what was discussed at last meeting by the DEC and SCS noting sulfur is typically a compound. She will follow up and noted they haven't had a gas sample taken, but they do have one scheduled. Supervisor Venuti asked her to let them know what they get for results.

Amy Dill commented on the following:

- ◆ Cell construction started
- ◆ Leachate storage facility got submitted to the DEC 2 weeks ago
- ◆ The last set of wells will be installed in May.
- ◆ The poles are up on the fencing; however the netting no longer fits and they are waiting for new netting.

- ♦ *Strategic Planning Process Discussion*

Supervisor Venuti inquired on the DEC report with the leakage of leachate. Amy Dill acknowledged the leachate leakage; it was contained, and did not leave the site.

Chair Singer brought up the “Call to Action” resolution that was pulled off the Board Agenda. She explained it was the consensus to put together a plan without a hard end date to allow for a comprehensive, attainable, achievable and viable plan.

Carla Jordan recommended James Zecca as a facilitator, explaining she felt that having someone outside the county with years of experience would help facilitate the ideas she and the county staff may have for the County as well as stake holders. She presented a thorough resume of reasons why he was considered to be a favorable option.

Mary Krause noted with the technical expertise, they would like to give him time to become familiar with Ontario County. In conversation in developing a plan to have pre-planning focus groups to have good representation across the County and what they would like to see. Supervisor Venuti noted he did his own inquiries and was impressed and likes what he hears on the directions.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

- ♦ *Update*

County Administrator Krause informed the committee of following items:

- ♦ Went to Geneva Rotary Dinner in support of John Hick receiving the Ralph Springstead Award also in remembrance of Mary Luckern who was a member of the Rotary.
- ♦ Will be speaking at the Clifton Springs Rotary
- ♦ Wednesday, the Canandaigua Chamber – Annual State of the City Town and County
- ♦ Thursday, the Victor Business Awards Luncheon
- ♦ Citizens Academy has been wonderful with 26-27 participants
- ♦ The Board Retreat is May 16th.

PRIVILEGE of the FLOOR

Supervisor Guard granted privilege of the floor to Eileen Buckley. Ms. Buckley noted her discontent on the hiring of a facilitator. Why a facilitator should be hired. She said she was troubled on why someone was being hired outside of the County and giving job opportunities to someone that is retired and is collecting Social Security. She also said she feels they need to get out of the landfill business. She noted she signed up for the composting and it has been a delight.

Chair Singer addressed the comments of Ms. Buckley and noted the following:

- ♦ We are not hiring a facilitator, he is being brought in on a short term contract with experience that has already been through some of the issues our county is going through; they are not creating a new position within the department.
- ♦ We are not bringing a digester; the RD&D is to separate the organics from the plastic

- ♦ The hiring of the engineer is not the tax payers' money. It is money coming from Casella from the operations of the landfill.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Supervisor Guard seconded by Supervisor Wickham the meeting was adjourned at 2:32 pm.

Respectfully Submitted
Diane Foster
Deputy Clerk to the Board

APPROVED