

Herkimer County Legislature
Ways & Means Committee Meeting
Tuesday, July 21, 2020
Via Teleconference
8:00 a.m.

Persons Attending:

Patrick E. Russell (Committee Chairman)
Kurt J. Ackerman (committee member)
Raymond Smith (committee member)
Raymond Johnson (committee member)
Frederick J. Shaw, Jr. (committee member)
John P. Stephens (committee member)
Vincent J. Bono, Chairman of the Legislature
James W. Wallace, Jr., County Administrator
Brandy Serow, Sec. to County Administrator
Lorraine Lewandrowski, County Attorney
John Piseck, Executive Director, IDA

(Non-Committee Members Signed In)

Legislator Gregory Malta, Sr.
Legislator Robert J. Schrader
Legislator Bob D. Hollum
Legislator William E. Keeler, Sr.
Legislator John L. Brezinski
Legislator Ray Donley
Legislator Peter Campione
Legislator William Weakley

Absent:

N/A

Mr. Russell called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m.

Items discussed:

WAYS AND MEANS:

1. Approve PILOT increment financing agreement in connection with the Schuyler Business Park
2. Approve appropriation of funds in the IDA
3. Other

Committee Vote Record:

WAYS & MEANS:

Mr. Russell stated "What is the first thing on the agenda?"

Mr. Wallace stated "The agreement Pat, for the town, the school and the County on the PILOT."

Mr. Russell stated "Ok. Do you want to explain this?"

Mr. Piseck stated "So what we are looking to do as in previous project in Frankfort is look for support from the County for infrastructure. Infrastructure including road and road design. The Town of Schuyler agreed to build a road for us so it's supplies bring the water, the gas and electric line in. One thing we will do different here than we did in Frankfort, we are only going to go in about a thousand feet. We are not going to completely do the park. We are working with National Grid to help us offset some of those costs for the gas and electric. We reached out to the water authority to see if there was any support there for the water. Waiting to hear back from them. Frankfort we did the same thing. It's a loan, we pay it back to the

County through the PILOT program. For an example, the school district is entitled to \$100, \$50 would come to the County. We are looking to do the same thing here in Schuyler. Rough estimates on that of what we received so far we are looking for about \$900,000. Once again, it's a loan and will be paid back through the PILOT. The money that we did for Frankfort will be paid back in the beginning of 2023 and we have already achieved about 900 jobs in that park."

Mr. Wallace asked "Anybody care about prorated?"

Mr. Bono stated "Well, give us the proration."

Mr. Wallace stated. "School is 71.7%, Schuyler is 10% and the County is 18.1%. By doing this, we are getting the school to contribute which I think is a good thing."

John Piseck stated "Which I have talked to both the school and the Town and they are on board. The Town has been on board since we bought the park. What the IDA has invested in the park so far is roughly about \$156,000 and that includes PERC testing, geo technical testing, we are working on SHPO now, environmental, the market study, you all got emailed that or mailed to your homes. The thing we did on Schuyler property which has been very successful. We have put a lot into it. We have already received a grant from National Grid for that marketing piece of about \$15,000."

Mr. Russell asked if anybody had any questions. With no response he requested a motion.

Item #1 - On motion of Mr. Bono, seconded by Mr. Stephens, Item #1 was voted on, approved and moved for Resolution. Unanimous.

Mr. Russell asked what was next.

Mr. Wallace stated "Just appropriating the \$900,000 from fund balance."

Mr. Russell stated "I want to know why it's \$900,000 and some of the other questions I've asked that other people are looking for."

John Piseck stated "I'm not familiar with those other questions but will tell you that \$900,000 is a rough estimate that we received from the engineering firm that we are working on the road design. Some of the numbers we received from National Grid. Also it's a draw down. It's not like tomorrow Mr. Wallace and the Treasurer is going to cut us a check for \$900,000. We will be drawing it down probably well into a year process. I will be honest with you, I hope it's much faster because of some opportunities the lay at the park but we will do it the way that we have to do it. Were there other questions Mr. Russell?"

Mr. Shaw asked "Has the issue with the wetland been solved in there John?"

John Piseck responded "Yes. Actually the issue with the wetland was in the front and when I came on board it was recommended to us from one firm that we reach out to Ducks Unlimited. Well, Ducks Unlimited wanted \$50,000 up front and then so much in perpetuity. I went and worked with the core of engineers and we got the Town of Schuyler to take a section of property and put it into a conservation easement forever so that way we pass that property over so we have no wetland issues in the front of the park. In the back of the park, we have been working with a wetland surveyor and group called Northern Ecological. They are out near Sacandaga Lake. He works closely with the Core. There is one wetland we are a little nervous about. There is nothing else in there as you saw from the property. It's pretty flat and pretty dry but it's a small piece and we'll work around that."

Mr. Johnson asked "Mr. Chairman, do we have any commitment letters for anybody on purchasing property or are we just hoping and moving forward?"

John Piseck responded “As of right now, no we do not have any commitment letters.”

Mr. Johnson asked “Can we get a break down afterwards of the cost bringing it up to the \$900,000 so we can see something?”

John Piseck responded “You will get it all along as we go just like we did in Frankfort. Everything is all upfront. We let you know exactly what everything costs. There is nothing that we wouldn’t.”

Mr. Johnson asked “Do we have internet this time rather than down the road?”

John Piseck responded “Yes, dual high speed fiber is there gas and electric is there, water is there. The only thing that is not there is sewer.”

Mr. Johnson thanked John Piseck.

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

Mr. Russell asked if there was anything else on the agenda. With no response he requested a motion to adjourn.

On motion of Mr. Bono, seconded by Mr. Ackerman, the Ways & Means committee adjourned at 8:10 a.m.