

DPW - COMMITTEE

Tuesday, January 20, 2026 - 9:30 AM

Clayton Barber, Chairperson
Chris Clark, Vice-Chairperson

Chairman Barber called this DPW Meeting to order at 9:30 am with the following Supervisors in attendance: Clayton Barber, Matthew Brassard, Chris Clark, Timothy Follos (9:58), Ken Hughes (9:48), Mary Lamphear, Tracie McGill, Steve McNally, James O'Bryan, Timothy Pierce, Richard Preston, Cathleen Reusser, Matt Stanley, Davina Thurston, Ike Tyler, and Margaret Wood. Clayton Menser, and Joe Pete Wilson were excused.

Department Heads present: Doreen Abrahamsen, Michael Mascarenas and Jim Dougan. Judy Garrison was excused.

Deputies present: Dina Garvey, and Bill Tansey

Also present: Alice Halloran

BARBER: Department of Public Works, January 20, 2026, come to order. Please stand for the Pledge. Jim Dougan, good morning.

DOUGAN: Good morning.

BARBER: We'll start with resolutions.

DOUGAN: Sure, welcome new Supervisors. You'll find that I'm the guys who's always asking for money. Is that correct?

STANLEY: You're not wrong.

DOUGAN: My first resolution is actually a deduct change order. This is with Alpine Construction. This is for the Hurricane Road, over Spruce Hill Brook, we turned a culvert into a bridge, over in the Town of Keene. It is a \$25,139.55 deduct change order. That was one of those unit price contracts and so some of the units that we originally estimated, they didn't have to install. That project was funded, we had \$846,000 of it that was funded through a Culvert New York Grant and this will reduce the County's portion by that full \$25,000.00 change order.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A DEDUCT CHANGE ORDER WITH ALPINE CONSTRUCTION, LLC., IN THE AMOUNT OF (\$25,139.55) FOR THE HURRICANE ROAD OVER SPRUCE HILL BROOK CULVERT REPLACEMENT PROJECT, LOCATED IN THE TOWN OF KEENE, WITH FUNDS TO COME FROM BUDGETED/CULVERT NY FUNDS AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY CHAIRMAN OR COUNTY MANAGER TO EXECUTE SAID CHANGE ORDER
Thurston, Clark

BARBER: Questions, concerns? All in favor? Opposed? Carried

DOUGAN: My second request is to allow the Purchasing Agent to go out to bid for the Bradford Hill and Dock Street Project. This is a Bridge New York funded project. We

combined the two together, based on the dollar amount that Bridge New York was potentially going to be providing up to \$3.5 million. So, we put the two together. Our plans are pretty close to done. We're working on right-of-way, right now and it should be advertised for bid in the month of March, if you approve going out to bid.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASING AGENT TO BID THE BRADFORD HILL ROAD OVER PUTNAM CREEK AND THE DOCK STREET OVER MILL BROOK BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT, LOCATED IN THE TOWNS OF CROWN POINT AND MORIAH WITH FUNDS TO COME FROM BRIDGE NY/BUDGETED FUNDS
Clark, Pierce

BARBER: Questions, concerns? All in favor? Opposed? Carried

DOUGAN: Number three is requesting authority to apply for and accept a grant from New York State DOT. This is the Roadway Departure Safety Action Plan Grant. We're applying from Lincoln Pond Road, the section just above the pond, kind of at the in-between Elizabethtown and Moriah, where we have the S curves, we've had a number of accidents, people going off the road there. So, this is a grant in the amount of, the grant portion would be \$1,021,250.00 and then the County would have a match of \$53,750.00.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT A NYSDOT ROADWAY DEPARTURE SAFETY ACTION PLAN GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,021,250.00 FOR COUNTY ROUTE 7 (LINCOLN POND ROAD SECTION), LOCATED IN THE TOWN OF ELIZABETHTOWN, AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY CHAIRMAN OR COUNTY MANAGER TO EXECUTE ALL GRANT APPLICATION AND ACCEPTANCE CONTACTS
Pierce, Wood

BARBER: Questions, concerns?

REUSSER: Just a statement, and a history of deaths on those corners in the past as well, just to compel the importance of the project.

BARBER: Okay

BRASSARD: In this resolution, is it supposed to say, located in the Town of Lewis or is it Elizabethtown?

DOUGAN: No, it is Elizabethtown and Moriah, it is on the edge. I got it wrong, clerical error, but thank you.

BARBER: Are there any other questions? All in favor? Opposed? Carried.

DOUGAN: Number four is a request for a contract amendment with H&T Engineering. For the new Supervisors, H&T is one of the firms, engineering consultants that we have under contract. It's a term contract, but we pay them at pre-established hourly rates, for

projects that we ask them to do. So, wherever a new scope of work, a new project comes up, we'll request pricing for that specific project and then I bring those to the Board for their consideration. So, this particular project is the parking area, behind the former Probation Building, over here, where the Old Jail once stood. I gave you a little bit of a sketch of what our concept is, that we're asking this consultant to turn into a set of construction drawings. The big thing that we need here is grading and utility connections. We've got to deal with stormwater management there. The other thing that we're doing in that area, in this corner, closer to Treasurer's, we're hoping to build a little bit of a courtyard area, with some paver bricks and other things. Where county staff, or visitors to the County Buildings can maybe go sit and have lunch, part of recruitment and retention and other things that we're trying to do. So, it is a contract amendment in an amount not to exceed \$6,800 to provide those construction drawings. We will likely use one of our civil term contractors to do the work, rather than making the drawing overly complicated.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CONTACT AMENDMENT WITH H&T ENGINEERING, PLLC, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$6,800.00 TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES INCLUDING FINAL DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS FOR THE PARKING LOT AND SITE DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT AT THE REAR OF THE FORMER PROBATION BUILDING, WITH FUNDS TO COME FROM BUDGETED FUNDS AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY CHAIRMAN OR COUNTY MANAGER TO EXECUTE SAID CONTRACT AMENDMENT
Thurston, Clark

BARBER: Questions? Concerns? All in favor? Opposed? Carried.

DOUGAN: Number five is setting the dates for the Household Hazardous Day collection events for 2026. We've historically done four of those events a year. We have to establish those dates, real early with our vendor. They have to be a certified, licensed vendor through NYS DEC, because of what they're handling and how they're going to dispose of it or recycle it. So, we're picking the same locations that we've historically done. Those are our dates, July 18th, July 25th, August 1st, and August 29th. For everyone's information we, I have to do an annual report at the end of the year, but we will then turn that in and request 50% reimbursement back from DEC for that, it will still take a while to get paid.

MCNALLY: I'm not on the committee, have we ever been paid?

DOUGAN: Yeah, we have been, it's usually 2-years behind, but we have been getting paid lately.

RESOLUTION SETTING THE DATES AND LOCATIONS OF THE HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DAY EVENTS FOR 2026
Thurston, Pierce

BARBER: Is there any other questions? Concerns? All in favor? Opposed? Carried.

DOUGAN: Number six will be authorizing a purchase order for a replacement piece of

equipment for our Buildings and Grounds Department, it's a Husqvarna zero turn mower with a 60" deck. It's \$7,839.20 to Akey Tractor, LLC, it will be coming from budgeted funds and further authorizing the County Chairman and the County Manager to sign that purchase order.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A PURCHASE ORDER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$7,839.20 TO AKEY TRACTOR, LLC., FOR A 23 HORSEPOWER HUSQVARNA Z460 ZERO TURN MOWER WITH 60" MOWING DECK WITH FUNDS TO COME FROM BUDGETED FUNDS AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY CHAIRMAN OR COUNTY MANAGER TO EXECUTE SAID PURCHASING ORDER

Clark, Pierce

BARBER: Questions? Concerns? All in favor? Opposed? Carried

DOUGAN: Number seven is regarding Frontier Town, going out to RFP. About two months ago, we have a Restore New York Grant there, the grant amount is about \$1.9 million with about a 10% match of \$190,000.00. That grant was to, the Restore New York Program, there was to demolish Main Street, at Frontier Town, which was basically dilapidated, really structurally unsafe, and then to restore four structures down there. That's really how the grant had to be structured based on the way they were funding it. The goal of the grant is to get the property ready for future commercial use of that property. So, in the first phase we got, we did remove Main Street, and now we on to RFP for, this will be awarding a contract for architectural engineering services. The four structures that were part of the grant are the chapel, the gristmill, the prairie junction train station and the carousel park building. So, this will be a contact not to exceed \$105,000.00. The first step, they have to do a structural assessment on all four buildings. We're not sure that the carousel will even be able to be structural saved, so it maybe removed, thus the reason this is a not to exceed price. We will be removing that, if they can't. They also will be doing a certain amount of site design to make sure that we have the entire area that was Main Street and the former horse arena area that will be open landscaping area for potential future development or future use and bringing in a 400-amp electrical service. Again, making the property ready for a certain amount of commercial use and then at the end of it, we're also going to ask them to create an RFP that will use to put this out to potential owners, real estate developers. The goal is to get this ready for commercial use, so we can turn it back and get it back on the tax rolls.

BARBER: When do you perceive then this is going to be done, the whole project?

DOUGAN: Well, they're supposed to have the construction drawings everything, the firm that we're selecting, here which is Aubertine and Currier, the schedule that they provided us, would have us, the drawings done by this fall and ready to do construction, either late this fall or carried into the spring of next year.

BARBER: It just seems like we've been there for a long time.

DOUGAN: We have, without a doubt, yup.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASING AGENT TO AWARD A CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING SERVICES IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$105,000.00 TO AUBERTINE AND CURRIER ARCHITECTS, ENGINEERS & LAND SURVEYORS, PLLC FOR THE FORMER FRONTIER TOWN PARTIAL BUILDING RESTORATION PROJECT, LOCATED IN THE TOWN OF NORTH HUDSON, WITH FUNDS TO COME FROM RESTORE NY/BUDGETED FUNDS AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY CHAIRMAN OR COUNTY MANAGER TO EXECUTE SAID CONTACT

Stanley, Thurston

BARBER: Questions?

THURSTON: Have the bathroom situation been resolved down there?

DOUGAN: Oh, you're talking over at the campground site?

THURSTON: Yes

DOUGAN: Nope, there is still discussion about the conservation easements and things that are supposed to be between the County and DEC.

MASCARENAS: Yeah, we have completed the appraisal on that portion of land that will be considered for easement, once it can be combined with the Town property, but there's some ownership issues, not necessarily with our property, but between the Town of North Hudson, there's some issue there and if Mr. Clark wants to get more involved in it, I will gladly turn the floor over to him, but if not, our part, where we can be done, in terms of that at this point. We can't move that any further.

STANLEY: Are we preserving, I know we're looking at the structural integrity of these four buildings, is the plan to turn this into some sort of museum, or are we just trying to sell that to whatever goes? Because there is some historical significance to like the theme parks in the Adirondacks and they're definitely far and few between and what is left of them.

MASCARENAS: Yeah, I think in terms of this property, we've been talking about it an awful lot lately, from a County standpoint, I don't think the County is really interested in owning large tracts of property. I think you'll notice here at these meetings, we often defer to the Towns that these properties reside in, to see kind of what the locals would like to see happen in and around that area. For us, in way we constantly say, we've got 18 towns that are very diverse, all very different and so for us to make a decision at this Board on North Hudson's future, I think is a little bit inappropriate, with that being said, I think that's where the RFP comes in at the end. I think we clear the property; we get rid of all the hazardous waste; we do what we say we're going to do and then we see what's out there and what the interest is. When the Gateway to the Adirondacks project was brought forward, I am going to be wrong, because time eludes me, but it was over a decade ago

or better now, it's kind of what they did and that's where the ideas and things happened with Paradox Brewery and then the campground that has moved forward and the equestrian use of that area. So, if there's somebody that wants to invest privately in further developing that area, I think we want to be all ears, if a theme park and history type result is what we get, then we'll make that decision at that time, but I think having it ready for reuse, having it ready for development will make it much more attractive to the private investor than its current state is now, where a much of cleanup would have to be borne by the people that were purchasing it. So, I wish I could give you a better answer, but I think the market often determines what people will want to use that for long-term.

BARBER: Any other questions? Concerns? All in favor? Opposed? Carried

DOUGAN: So, my last one is regarding the 2024 storms. I am asking for another budget amendment. We've been working with FEMA now, for over 18-months and we're finally getting down to our final numbers. We had two storms in 2024, July 10th, we have Hurricane Beryl, come through and on August 9th, we had Hurricane Debbie come through. Really, we had only set up the original budget after the July 10th storm and so the Purchasing Agent came to me last month and said, hey, you never really designated the two different storms and she's right. Plus, we've got a lot of mitigation on things, things that have upsized from culverts to bridges and so overall it looks like Hurricane Beryl, the July 10th event is going to be about \$9.5 million with about \$7.7 million being eligible through FEMA, both Federal and State funding and then another \$1.5 million, a little more than that, that is on what is called, Federal-Aid Eligible Roads, which like Youngs Road, you heard me talk about that all along, which I carried through CHIPS. Now, the Hurricane Debbie, we're finally getting down to those dollar amounts, the last two big projects to complete, one is in Keene and one is in St. Armand, both of those are expected to go out to bid constructed this year. St. Armand's is about to go out to bid for sheet piling, right now and those designs for the final plans are going to be done, next month. So, that is my long story short, I am needing to do a budget amendment for both revenue and expenditure, totaling \$2.3 million for that Hurricane Debbie event. That will be \$1.725 million in Federal Aid, \$287,500.00 in State and then \$287,500.00 coming from, we'll be pulling that from the DPW, either interfund transfer or DPW fund balance, I put it has an interfund transfer, right now, the Purchasing Agent will tell and the Budget Officer will tell me when they want it to come out.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A BUDGET AMENDMENT TO INCREASE REVENUES AND APPROPRIATIONS IN DPW CAPITAL PROJECTS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,300,000.00 FOR THE JULY 2024 STORMS, FEMA DISASTER NUMBER 4825 (HURRICANE DEBBIE).

Clark, Wood

BARBER: Questions?

TYLER: I am not on this committee, but my concern level, I have three projects in Westport that we're working on and are well over a million dollars and I can tell you, I don't plan on putting a shovel in the ground until I get a little bit warmer feeling coming

from FEMA and New York State that I am going to get reimbursed. I can't ask the taxpayers of Westport to spend over \$3 million on three roads, two main roads and one seasonal road. It's just not, I can't, I don't know how the County can do that either. I don't know, maybe you've got inside information that I don't have, but I can tell you, I am not optimistic about these projects in Westport.

MASCARENAS: Yeah, I don't blame you. I think the advantage that we have is cash flow in terms of how that works, where town's budgets are much smaller and one project can really bankrupt you in having the ability to pick up that kind of funding or additional without borrowing is problematic. What happens with the County is, and it's really that first storm instance, in which you're really at financial risk. Once you starting getting a level of cash flow in from FEMA, it's not that big of a deal. So, we do have funds coming in from those 2024 storms, we haven't gotten it all, but it is coming, which makes me feel a little bit better about that and you get to the point with some of these places and I don't know project specific, Jim, could tell you that, where you can't afford not to fix it. So, I think Young's Road, that wasn't a FEMA at the end, was an area where we had to fix it, the road was gone. There was almost nothing you could do.

TYLER: Well, that's in Westport, so you're supposed to do that.

MASCARENAS: Yeah, so I do think it's a cash flow issue and us just having a larger budget where we have a little more capital to be able to get that accomplished while we wait for that reimbursement while towns lose that flexibility and FEMA, last I checked, didn't reimburse you for interest, I don't know if that changed, but in the past they didn't. So, to lose those funds is somewhat problematic.

TYLER: Yeah, we used to have a BAN and you're paying back \$17,000.00 for, on a BAN. But, one of my major concerns, is the State, because we've been waiting since '24 for almost \$800,000.00 that FEMA gave to the State that we haven't gotten and we can't find an answer why we aren't getting it, other than the fact that I'm a republican, I don't know.

BARBER: So, we had two projects in the Town of Chesterfield that we just got paid back from FEMA and they were small.

TYLER: No, not FEMA, FEMA gave it to the State. The State has my money and they won't give it to me.

DOUGAN: You're right to feel that way, Ike. From a County standpoint, I can next month or I can probably email it out to you in the next day or two, an update on what's been obligated to us and I know obligated doesn't mean much until the check shows up. Those of you that know Todd Hodgson, that is, he has been my guy, doing all that documentation, for a year and half, it is, I kid with Harry Gough, who many of you know, from the State, that this is like a cut rate car insurance company that tries to bog you down with red tape and you know, I do think we're going to get the majority of what we're asking for. We're also applying for the Z category, administrative funding, which is up to 5%. We're also turning in any of our equipment hours, which we're typically budgeted first and

so it's been reducing most of our amount to less than that 12.5% local share, but if you put interest on it, okay, I don't know whether it would cover it, so I don't have a good answer for you.

TYLER: I know you don't have the answer, I am just saying that it should be a concern, I don't care who you are, for the other new supervisors, dealing with FEMA has changed a lot in the last five years and I don't have an issue with FEMA, per se, like those people that you mentioned there, dealing with them, it's a very good relationship, but my concern, is not just, because I am hearing anything over \$100,000.00 they're not paying. That's what I've heard in conversations with FEMA, they haven't, I mean they haven't said they're not paying, but they haven't in a while, maybe \$100,000.00 - \$150,000.00. Then my other concern is the State is \$4 billion deficit and what they're going to do with the money once they get it.

MCNALLY: The Halloween Storm, we never got ours from the State, we never got that.

BARBER: How much was that?

MCNALLY: I don't, I'm not sure what the dollar amount was, it was 12.5% we for from FEMA, but we did not from the State.

STANLEY: I would just like to say, thank you to Jim and your staff for chasing after this money and Mike, because there's at least an opportunity to recoup stuff, money that we are spending or need to spend to keep our roads and infrastructure up. I mean, we're lucky that we actually qualify for FEMA money. The Town of Jay, seems to have events when nobody else does, so we don't qualify for anything, so we just have to sit there and fix the problem. So, I thank you for going through the legwork for trying to get all this money, because eventually someday, it will be paid. I mean, it may take 10-years, like the bridge on Haselton Road, which I don't know we've gotten paid for yet, but it takes time and your due diligence to get that work done and your staff, and Mike, your staff, I'm glad we're going through the exercises to at least get money that is owed to us.

MASCARENAS: Yeah, not to belabor the discussion, but this is what worries me every year, across funding streams, FEMA's no different. So, for me, it's just another one that you hope meets their obligation. When you have \$139 million budget and \$110 is revenue driven, that's a lot of money coming from other places that could change the rules in the middle of the game on us. So, FEMA is just another one.

TYLER: Right, I guess my point is that it's changed a lot.

PIERCE: I am looking at this resolution and it has a typo at the bottom, under C., it has a 112.5%.

MASCARENAS: Right

DOUGAN: It should be 12.5%, sorry. The dollar amounts are right, the percentage is not

on that.

BARBER: Any other questions or concerns? All in favor? Opposed? Carried.
Does anybody have anything else? Jim, do you have anything?

DOUGAN: That's all I had for today.

CLARK: Is it, okay, Jim, do you think after our Buildings and Facilities meeting, we could do a walk through of the new building up there? That would be the first Monday in February.

DOUGAN: After the Board meeting?

CLARK: Yes

DOUGAN: Absolutely, that would be great.

CLARKA: I would like to schedule that.

BARBER: And we are doing a walk through at the DPW.

CLARK: That would be today, right?

BARBER: Right, today. For all of you that don't know, a mile down the road on the left, Route 9, to the new Supervisors.

DOUGAN: Great, thank you.

The next item on the agenda was the Soil and Water Conservation District with Alice Halloran, reporting as follows:

HALLORAN: Good morning, so our tree sale is open. We are taking orders through March 6th and the pick-up day is April 24th at the Fairgrounds.

In my report, I do have that we were awarded a Buffer Program Grant from the Lake Champlain Basin Program, so we'll keep doing some buffer over the next couple of years and then since the report came out, the WQIPs were awarded and we were awarded a road salt reduction grant for \$388,000.00 and that's for the municipalities to get supplies for road salt reduction.

MASCARENAS: That's a win.

HALLORAN: So, when I get more information, like on the dates for that, start moving toward a contract, I'll send something out to the Towns and let the County know and we'll work with them to hopefully spend all that money.

The last thing is that one of our technicians became a drone pilot, so there are three of us in the office, now and we have a couple of drones. So, if anyone needs aerial photos taken for projects, or document something, let us know, we can send someone out to take photos.

Other than that, those of you that are new, reach out anytime, I will try to connect with you sometime soon, so we can learn more about what we do.

Any questions?

STANLEY: Alice, can you send us that flyer for the tree sale and the link, because you can buy them online?

HALLORAN: It's online, I will send this around, it has a QR code and then we can, hopefully, I thought they were going to email it to the towns, but I will make sure that you all get it.

STANLEY: Thank you.

BARBER: Anything else for Alice? Thank you.

HALLORAN: Thank you.

The next item on the agenda was the Transportation Department with Doreen Abrahamsen, reporting as follows:

ABRAHAMSEN: Good morning, everyone. Welcome, new Supervisors, I look forward to working with you.

I do have one resolution, that is a resolution to increase expenses and appropriations to accept an insurance payment to complete repairs on our Bus #33, \$1,501.65.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A BUDGET AMENDMENT INCREASING REVENUES AND APPROPRIATIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,501.65 - INSURANCE RECOVERY BUS #33

Clark, Thurston

BARBER: Questions, concerns? All in favor, opposed? Carried.

ABRAHAMSEN: You have my report, there are a couple of things that have come in. There is a State site visit on the 28th and that has to do with them coming up and assessing our processes to help further funding sources and allowing them to hopefully give us some more money when we need it and as you see in here, we had to stop the Lake Placid Express PM, due to driver shortage and we had already combined the Cascade and the MPS, so we're really hurting right now for bus drivers and we always have a posting out, if anyone has anybody that is interested in even a part-time, you know, could days a week, even. I've got some part-time positions open.

THURSTON: Can you send us a flyer in a JPEG and then we can put it on our social media, please.

ABRAHAMSEN: Absolutely.

And we have just started with Transpo Group and that's regarding that mobility management project, I've spoke about and we're working with them to initiate an advisory committee to start the process of updating the transportation coordination for Essex County. I will be sending an email out to some of you that are further out in the County, because one of our goals is to expand where we are right now and we're looking for non-profits and I have a lot from the County, Aging, Mental Health, Social Services, etc., so, anytime, reach out, if you know of anyone in your community that might want to sit on an advisory committee. And that's all I have.

BARBER: Any other questions?

MASCARENAS: I have just one, Dori, on the ridership, could you provide us, next month, with kind of a comparison to a couple of prior years?

ABRAHAMSEN: Sure

MASCARENAS: I'm just curious to know, North Elba, in particular, is ridership up, trolleys, with the kind of winter that we're having, compared to last year, which was not a lot of snow, those types of things. Just a good indicator, of what we can kind of anticipate, in terms of sales tax, occupancy tax, those kinds of things, ridership is a good indicator of that.

ABRAHAMSEN: Since 2019 with Covid, we're still sometimes at the numbers we were at, before, sometimes we're not hitting it. So, it definitely depends on the weather, but I will provide that.

MASCARENAS: Thank you.

BARBER: Does anybody have anything else for this committee? We are adjourned.

AS THERE WAS NO FURTHER DISCUSSION TO COME BEFORE THIS DPW COMMITTEE IT WAS ADJOURNED AT 10:03 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Dina Garvey, Deputy
Clerk of the Board