DPW - COMMITTEE

Monday, April 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, Chris Clark, Ken Hughes, Mary Lamphear, Tracie McGill, Clayton Menser, James O'Bryan, Timothy Pierce, Richard Preston, , Matt Stanley, Ike Tyler, Joe Pete Wilson and Margaret Wood. Matthew Brassard, Timothy Follos, Steve McNally, Cathleen Reusser and Davina Thurston were excused.

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

Deputies present: Bill Tansey

Also present: Alice Halloran

BARBER: Will the DPW meeting come to order. Please stand for the pledge of allegiance. Jim, want to join us? Good morning. Would you like to start with resolutions?

DOUGAN: I would like to start with resolutions if we could. My first request is to authorize a purchase order in the amount of $7,245.00 that is to SLIC Fiber. This is to install fiber optic cable into the solid waste administration building right up here. We have had issues for years with the buried phone lines and it seems like the IT department is going up there every other week to try to help resolve some of it. We had some specific budgeted money this year for improvements mainly for that building so I'd like to spend some of it on this fiber to come from budgeted funds.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASING AGENT TO ISSUE A PURCHASE ORDER TO SLIC FIBER IN THE AMOUNT OF $7,245.00, FOR INSTALLATION OF FIBER OPTIC CABLE TO THE SOLID WASTE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE LOCATED IN THE TOWN OF LEWIS, WITH FUNDS TO COME FROM BUDGETED FUNDS AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY CHAIRMAN OR COUNTY MANAGER TO EXECUTE SAID PURCHASE ORDER. Stanley, Pierce

BARBER: Questions, concerns? All in favor, opposed – carried.

DOUGAN: The second request is a purchase order in the amount of $7,532.50, that would be to BPI Mechanical Service that's for a burner assembly for one of those three big boilers we have at the Public Safety Building. This is not a heat exchanger which you've heard me talk about that would replace seven of them over the course of the life of that building this is simply one of the burners. Our people would be installing it themselves. BPI is our authorized firm that's able to provide parts for that particular boiler again, from budgeted funds.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASING AGENT TO ISSUE A PURCHASE ORDER TO BPI MECHANICAL SERVICE IN THE AMOUNT OF $7,532.50, FOR ONE (1) NEW AND UNUSED BOILER BURNER ASSEMBLY FOR THE AERCO BOILER #2 LOCATED AT THE PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING WITH FUNDS TO COME FROM BUDGETED FUNDS AND FURTHER AUTHORIZNG THE COUNTY CHAIRMAN OR COUNTY MANAGER TO EXECUTE SAID PURCHASE ORDER. Clark, Pierce

BARBER: Questions, concerns? All in favor, opposed – carried.

DOUGAN: Number three is regarding the public health building. Those of you that were in budget hearings last year recall Linda Beers found $147,000 for us with grant funds to do some improvements over there. One of those things is to replace the front stairs that were concrete that were deteriorating really bad they are currently closed so we are going to replace those with aluminum stairs. This is buying the aluminum stair materials from FSI Industries. It will be a purchase order in the amount of $6,274.00 and our people will be installing them.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASING AGENT TO ISSUE A PURCHASE ORDER TO FSI INDUSTRIES IN THE AMOUNT OF $6,274.00, FOR A SET OF ALUMINUM EXTERIOR STAIR AND RAIL COMPONENTS FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH BUILDING ENTRANCE WITH FUNDS TO COME FROM BUDGETED FUNDS AND FURTHER AUTHORIZNG THE COUNTY CHAIRMAN OR COUNTY MANAGER TO EXECUTE SAID PURCHASE ORDER. Menser, Clark

BARBER: Questions, concerns? All in favor, opposed – carried.

DOUGAN: Number four is a purchase order in the amount of $19,794.88 that's to Hale Trailer. We sent one of our solid waste walking floor trailers up to Hale to replace all the hydraulic components as part of that walking floor. That would be coming from budgeted funds. Constantly fighting to keep those things working.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASING AGENT TO ISSUE A PURCHASE ORDER TO HALE TRAILER IN THE AMOUNT OF $19,794.88, FOR REPLACEMENT OF ALL HYDRAULIC COMPONENTS ON A SOLID WASTE WALKING FLOOR TRAILER WITH FUNDS TO COME FROM BUDGETED FUNDS AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY CHAIRMAN OR COUNTY MANAGER TO EXECUTE SAID PURCHASE ORDER. Pierce, Clark

BARBER: Questions, concerns? All in favor, opposed – carried.

DOUGAN: Number five would be a purchase order in the amount of $75,505.60 that's to Taylor Rental for a Bandit 18XP woodchipper. That's to replace one of our chippers at Highway. We had specific budgeted funds, I budgeted $74,000 so I'm a little bit over budget on that most of the other things that we put out this year have been under budget so I haven't needed to bring it back to the board since they were specifically called out in the budget process but because this one is a little bit over we're still well within our funds for that overall category of equipment replacement for the year but, again this was about $1500 over of what I had budgeted so I need to bring it back to the board for consideration.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASING AGENT TO ISSUE A PURCHASE ORDER TO TAYLOR RENTAL IN THE AMOUNT OF $19,794.88, FOR A BANDIT 18XP WOODCHIPPER IN THE DPW-HIGHWAY WITH FUNDS TO COME FROM BUDGETED FUNDS AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE COUTNY CHAIRMAN OR COUNTY MANAGER TO EXECUTE SAID PURCHASE ORDER. Menser, McGill

BARBER: Questions?

HUGHES: Good morning. I'm not on the committee. What are you going to do with the chipper you are replacing? Surplusing it?

DOUGAN: Going to run it into the ground.

HUGHES: Okay.

DOUGAN: We are going to run it as long as we can but it is starting to nickel and dime us but as soon as it gets to the point where it needs a real major overhaul it will be surplused unless anybody wants a boat anchor?

BARBER: Do you always go to Taylor Rental for prices?

DOUGAN: No, we put this out to bid. We got five different prices and they were the lowest. This is gas powered. We are trying a gas powered one. The diesel ones that we have been using the depth has been quite a problem. We prefer the diesel because of the power but we are going to go with gas and see if we can have a little more success in running for us on a regular basis.

BARBER: Is there any other questions? All in favor, opposed – carried.

DOUGAN: That's all I have for resolutions today other than I forgot to bring one for Mr. Stanley. We've got a Vivid Run.

STANLEY: Yes this is a run for the Essex County Suicide Prevention Team they are having a run in Jay on June 6, it's called Vivid Life 5K Run. I'm asking for a resolution to cross Glen Road and also use the Jay Covered Bridge for that run.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF A PERMIT TO THE ESSEX COUNTY SUICIDE PREVENTION TEAM FOR THE USE OF THE COUNTY ROADWAYS FOR THE VIVID LIFE 5K RUN ON JUNE 6, 2026. Stanley, Wood

BARBER: Questions, concerns? All in favor, opposed – carried.

DOUGAN: Thank you. I'm sorry, I forgot that one.
We have bids due for the installation of the Pile Cap at the Moss Road over the Boquet Bridge replacement project in the Town of Lewis. Those are due next Friday, assuming those bids are good I'd like to bring them in front of ways and means so I just like to give you guys a heads up that that's coming whenever I'm going to bring it outside of committee just so you know.

PIERCE: I have a question Jim. When is the projected time frame to have that completed?

DOUGAN: Well, as you know we are tied in with the Boquet River Association and with US Fish & Wildlife who is performing some of the work there. The removal of the two culverts that make up the current bridge and the restoration in the river is to be done by BRASS and US Fish and Wildlife so I don't know their schedule exactly even with the Pile Cap. As you know, we drove the H piles, we drove them then we covered them back up so as to keep the road open. It's a good chance we will be doing the same thing with this Pile Cap in order to keep the road open as I don't know their schedule. My understanding is they are supposed to do it this year. We've already ordered the bridge components for it but we're – it's a good way to fund things with this cooperative agreement but it has us doing a lot of little bits and pieces for coordination.

MASCARENAS: Vic Putman had sent out an email. I don't know if you've saw yours yet but I did this morning on an update kind of where BRASS is on their end and my plan is to kind of get

together with Jim and Todd and kind of see. He lacked specifics regarding timelines but he did say they were moving forward and sounded to me like it was going to be a this year project.

DOUGAN: We think it is going to be a this year's project but I don't have complete control over that.

PIERCE: Okay, thanks.

CLARK: Two things, I know Matt is not here but I want to thank your team for helping out with his dire emergency the other night with the water situation. He said without you guys, the whole town would still be out of water.

DOUGAN: The thanks go to Todd but thank you.

CLARK: He said Todd was in it right up to his waist.

DOUGAN: My only issue with Mr. Brassard is that Todd really enjoyed doing that so my job is not to have employees enjoy their work.

CLARK: I was in constant contact with Matt during that and he was lucky to have a water system. My second thing do you know when we are going to go out to bid on the Tracy Road projects?

DOUGAN: Yeah, we should be bidding it here soon. I think bids are probably going to be due the first part of June but in May is when we are planning to go out to bid. As you know, we already awarded the precast to Fort Miller. They told us they can have the precast ready as early as the end of June.

CLARK: Very good, thank you.

DOUGAN: Hopefully the weather is with us to keep the Ensign Pond Road open.

MENSER: I've got two questions for you. The Bradford Hill Bridge that is going to be replaced, has that actually gone to bid yet?

DOUGAN: We received our permits from Army Corp and from DEC. We got our right a way certificate for Dock Street because those are tied together. The right a way certificate for Bradford Hill is supposed to be coming in the next week. We had that little conversation on the four way right a way last week you and I did and as soon as that, now that we got our permits as soon as we have that right a way certificate we'll be able to advertise it.

MENSER: Thank you. And there is I understand a meeting on the 22nd on the Fish Hatchery, will that be at the Fish Hatchery?

DOUGAN: I believe it's a conference call with the DEC attorney, 10 a.m. I think?

MASCARENAS: I didn't get a final time. I was reviewing my email this morning. I put that I was available at 10 a.m. but nobody responded that that was a time that worked for everyone.

MENSER: I had a meeting scheduled for 10 o'clock with wastewater and I'm going to move myself out of that to be in this one.

DOUGAN: That's the legal piece with DEC and then I know you have other concerns we need to talk about.

MENSER: Yes.

BARBER: First of all I want to thank this board and DPW and Community Resources for getting the feasibility study for the Upper Mill Hill Bridge in the Town of Chesterfield. We've been working on that for six years and it's been approved and I know it's out to bid.

DOUGAN: Anna is handling that for us but I had heard that you received it I haven't seen the official notice. That's great.

BARBER: Yes, I did receive it and I just want to thank Anna for all the hard work and all of Community Resources especially for getting the study. I'm really looking forward to it and I know the community in the Town of Chesterfield and the Town of Ausable as well.
The second question I had is street signs – I know like the, correct me if I'm wrong, the stop signs they have a chip in them correct? A chip inside the sign.

DOUGAN: Nothing we are creating right now.

BARBER: Oh no? I was on the understanding I thought they had chips in them for people that take them.

DOUGAN: We haven't done any of that.

BARBER: No?

DOUGAN: No.

BARBER: So I know in the Town of Chesterfield I'm having a hard time with street signs, names, Pray Road, Mace Chasm Road I am losing signs steady. I don't know if any other towns are? I did hear from the Town of Jay.

STANLEY: So, we started putting up signs that are habitually taken with security bolts that require a special tool to take on and off. We had a very particular turtle sign that likes to come up missing quite a bit and so we put those bolts in and it has not been able to be removed since.

BARBER: Matt do you know are they like double sided though? So, my understand is if you have the sign and it's on top of the pole it is easy to bend them back and forth until they break so, lately we've been doing like double sided and putting a bolt between them both unfortunately you're buying two signs.

STANLEY: No they are one-sided but they have a bracket on the top and bottom so there's bolts so you can't get any leverage to move it but I can talk about offline.

BARBER: Okay. I was on the understanding that had chips in them.

DOUGAN: Nothing that we do.

BARBER: So they can track them.

DOUGAN: No I should put some on Hulls Brook Falls Road in the Town of Keene because of the particular county route number that seems to get stolen a lot. Right JoePete? There's a lot of college dorms that I think have that hanging in their rooms.

MENSER: Different towns are paying to have their signs chipped but I think it is on the towns to pay to do that.

DOUGAN: I haven't heard of it. I will look into it. We do have some repeat offenders but yeah.

BARBER: Yeah, I mean mine, like I said, especially Mace Chasm Road, Pray Road definitely losing. Anybody else have anything else for Jim?

DOUGAN: I gave you a little bit of an update where gas and diesel are. It seems like it peaked a few weeks ago for diesel and maybe gas peaked yesterday but we'll see where it goes.

BARBER: Okay anything else? Thank you. Alice – soil and water.

HALLORAN: Hello. So we are in the process of moving but the official day will be the day that we move our printer which we don't know exactly yet so we'll send out an email when we are officially moved.
Tree sale is this Friday. There are some extra trees I don't know what they are but that will be all day Friday 9 to 6.
The regional Envirothon for northern counties is next Tuesday at Paul Smith's so some of the high school students will be up there with us next week participating in that.
We finalized our projects for our agricultural environmental management round 19 program which has now gone to three years so the $300,000 for small farm projects is – it will be about ten projects so we'll be sending that into the state for approval probably this week.
And other than that we are about to pull out our hydro seeder we've gotten a couple of calls so far so we should be out with that in May.
And quickly, we did hire a coordinator they will be starting in May as well so hopefully I will be able to bring them around to meet people. That's the Champlain Watershed Improvement Coalition it is going to have some funding coming in and we'll be doing projects through that.

BARBER: Is there any other questions for Alice?

MENSER: Yes, Crown Point has some landfill stuff that had to be taken care of due to wash outs in 2023 and part of the process that needs to be done is reseeding and actually putting in some deep root trees and stuff and mentioning the hydro seeders I was wondering if there was some way we can work with you a little bit on portions of that work and save some money?

HALLORAN: Yes, we can definitely help you. I will contact you and we'll figure it out.

MENSER: Okay, thank you.

WILSON: Alice, after the meeting can I just ask you a few detailed questions about the forestry evaluation you're going to do on county property?

HALLORAN: Sure.

WILSON: I don't want to take time now because it is so detailed, thank you.

MASCARENAS: Yes, I have a resolution coming before Finance requesting permission.

BARBER: Anybody else?

HALLORAN: Thanks.

BARBER: Doreen from Transportation.

ABRAHAMSEN: Good morning everyone. Nothing much today. I did just want to point out that emails went out to all the supervisors and department heads regarding our surveys being done to gather data for our transportation coordination document that we are getting involved in. I'll send out another email just to remind everyone. We've had some good responses and we're still gathering information.

BARBER: Is there anything else for Doreen? That's it.

ABRAHAMSEN: Short and sweet today.

BARBER: I have a question for the board. Has anybody received some paperwork from e-waste for electronics? I know I received some paperwork so they are willing to collect certain electronics. There is some that they don't accept but there's list.

CLARK: We collect that for you at least at our place, have a designated spot for it.

HUGHES: So do we.

TYLER: So do we.

BARBER: And it's all free? Do you charge?

HUGHES: No, New York State DEC passed a law I think a couple years ago stating that all electronic recycling needed to be received for free and the manufacturer is actually in charge for the recycling of that.

BARBER: And what do you do with the stuff that is not?

DOUGAN: We utilize e-waste plus and a lot of the stuff is free. Monitors, tv's they are 35 cents a pound. It's been that way for a few years but most of the other computer devices and things, computers themselves, keyboards, mice all those kind of things are all free but things that appear to be a monitor or a tv screen are 35 cents a pound currently.

TYLER: They changed that in Westport they said that is all free.

CLARK: Ours is all free.

BARBER: Where do you bring them?

DOUGAN: You don't they pick it up.

HUGHES: E-waste charges the manufacturer.

BARBER: Okay because we were bringing all of ours –

TYLER: We were charging for tv's but now we don't because it's all free.

O'BRYAN: We have a little lock up shed, a little building that is locked up and when it is full they come and pick it up. It's been very handy.

BARBER: Nobody charges?

HUGHES: No. I will send you some stuff that I have.

BARBER: Alright, thank you. Is there anything else to come before this board? We're adjourned.

As there was no further discussion to come before this DPW committee it was adjourned at 9:54 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Garrison, Clerk
Board of Supervisors