ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/PLANNING/
RECREATION, FORESTRY AND PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING
July 17, 2018

PRESENT: Legislators Ron Burns, Jerry King and Randy LaChausse, County Manager Ryan Piche, Economic Development Director Eric Virkler, Planning Director Frank Pace, Recreation, Forestry & Parks Director Jackie Mahoney and reporter Nick Altmire.

Legislator Burns called the meeting at 8:30 a.m.

Bids were opened for the Singing Waters well project. The only bid received was from Rock Bottom Well Drilling for a total amount of $5,750 - $8,850. Legislator King made a motion to recommend the full Board approve the Rock Bottom bid, seconded by Legislator Burns and carried. An authorizing resolution will be prepared.

The following dockets were approved:
1-Agreement w/LCGH Occupational Medicine to perform physical exams required pursuant to Local Law governing Self-Insurance Plan - $110/each
2-Fix public hearing to add Diana property to ATV Trail System-Durkish Family Trust
3-Approve CDBG housing rehab grant application up to $850,000
4-Set public hearing for update on 2016 CDBG program

Recreation, Forestry & Parks Director Jackie Mahoney reviewed her monthly report (attached).

The 30% snowmobile trail reimbursements for 2017-2018 season have not yet been received. Phase II application for 2018-2019 season is due by 9/1/18, but Jackie awaits a decision on the Phase I application for new trail and rerouting requests.

Jackie has met with a NYS Dept. of Health representative about the DASNY Singing Waters grant application. Ryan stated he would pass along the Rock Bottom Well Drilling bid to the DASNY representative. He remains somewhat confident about obtaining the DASNY grant funds.

The Forestry revenue receipts are at $72,000 year-to-date, being $35,000 above appropriations that are deposited into the County general fund to cover taxes on County properties.

ATV permit numbers are above this time last year.

Bridge construction on the Grower property was started today and will encompass 2 - 45’ bridges when complete.

Jackie has talked with Tom Stoddard of Whetstone Gulf State Park. The Park’s by-laws exclude ATV’s, but Mr. Stoddard has expressed interest to allow them in the park as a way to increase
patrons and revenue. However, the initiative is dependent upon approval by Albany State officials.

Lewis County is being set up as a vendor for the Massachusetts ATV conference, at which Jackie will present development of the Lewis County trail system.

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**Economic Development Director Eric Virkler** reviewed his attached report.

In relation to the business park, if the Town of Lowville indicates interest to be the lead agency, the NYSDEC will make the final decision.

The CFA application for the $200,000 CDBG application for a small business/loan grant funding program is due by 7/27/18. A contract will be required for the IDA to administer the CDBG grant/loan program on behalf of the County.

Eric reported meeting with town of Denmark and New Bremen officials about prospective solar projects, specifically suggesting a generic flat amount policy to be followed for all solar projects. Legislator Burns relayed comments from the Town of Denmark board last evening where they noted that solar projects do not generate a lot of tax revenue for municipalities.

Frank Pace informed that NYSERDA has an established table for solar PILOT’s that allows up to $6,000/yr. that could be utilized. Real Property Tax Director Candy Akin has been working to develop a uniform schedule for assessing solar projects. However, each Town appears to be making their own decisions and negotiating parameters for respective projects.

Eric Virkler listed the advantages of solar projects being that agriculture property owners garner leases and payments, the developer company makes a profit and increases job opportunities during construction; and municipalities receive five-to-six times as much revenue than that received for agricultural land.

Frank Pace also informed that residents and businesses located within the vicinity of a solar project are eligible for 10% reduction off their monthly electric supply charges. Moreover, it provides an opportunity for farmers to diversify, while enhancing their profit margin.

In response to Eric’s suggestion for County officials to urge Towns to utilize a uniform assessing policy, Legislators King and LaChausse each expressed strong support that each Town government should make the decision for their locale.
Memo

TO: Ryan Piche, County Manager
    Recreation, Forestry & Parks Legislative Committee
    ▪ Ron Burns, Chairman
    ▪ Jerry King
    ▪ Randy LaChausse

CC: Cassandra Moser, Deputy Clerk of the Board
    Terry Clark, Clerk of the Board

FROM: Jackie Mahoney, Director of Recreation, Forestry & Parks

DATE: July 17th, 2018

SUBJECT: July 2018 Committee Report (Meeting 07/17/18 @ 8:30 AM)

8:30 am Well Drilling Bid opening – Singing Waters

Docket Items

- Resolution to fix the date of the public hearing to add property to the ATV Trail System
  (Durbish Family Irrevocable Trust in the Town of Diana)

Snowmobile
The Clubs are still waiting for their 30% payment for the 2017-2018 year. The voucher has not come through from OPRHP ($80,759.90). I have started the process for the Phase II Application for the 018-2019 Snowmobile Trail Grant to OPRHP (Office of Parks, Recreation and Historical Preservation). The Phase I application has not been reviewed to date so we are waiting to hear if the new trail request for the Brantingham Snomads and the reroute request for the Osceola Snowmobile Association have been approved.

Lewis County Apps
I have had no time to update the App layers but I have had requests to update the ATV layer.

DASNY GRANT _ SINGING WATERS
I have met with Brandon Cooney from NYS Department of Health and he has sent me an application for campgrounds and their requirements. He would like the application submitted and approved prior to any of the work being done. I hope to have the application finalized by the end of the month.

ATV
The May ATV Round Table Meeting was held on July 9th at the Lewis County Search and Rescue. There were 16 people present. (meeting minutes are attached). The August ATV Round table meeting is scheduled for August 13th at 5pm at the Lewis County Search and Rescue,

The June ATV Permit Report is attached. There were 449 permits for $16,970 and 207 three day passes for $4,140 sold with donations of $140 and $1310 of reimbursements to the Clubs. Compared to last year we are up 347 permits and 148 passes and $14,735.13. I do feel that some of this may be due to Paige processing the ATV Permits in such a timely fashion this year but I hope we continue to grow our ATV Permit holders and expand our ATV Trail System. Having the additional Clubs involved has helped and I am very happy with their involvement.
ATV Trail Agreements
The Black River Valley Riders ATV Club (Carthage), the Black River Valley Four Wheelers ATV Club (Brantingham), the Highmarket Wheelers, the Northern Oneida County ATV Club, Tug Hill Wheelers and Tug Hill Adirondack ATV Association have returned the 2018 ATV Club agreements.

Forestry
We had a couple of Stumpage checks come in since our last meeting. The harvest total from the North South-Moose River Road is $71,821.38. 3B has a two-year contract and has level the trails and clean up the landing. We are currently over budget $37,233.88.

Events/Important Dates (ATV Club Events see ATV Round Table Minutes)
NOHVCC Annual Conference, Grand Rapids, MI - August 14-18, 2018
OHV Advisory Meeting, Holyoke Massachusetts – September 14, 2018

Tyler Munis Financial System Budget Reports
#6410-Tourism, #7141-Snowmobile Trails, #7989-Trail Program, #7990-Trail Maintenance, #8711 Reforestation Year-To-Date Budget Reports are attached.
ATV Round Table Meeting 7/9/18 — 16 people attended the meeting

Jackie Mahoney reported that the poles should be delivered to Growers on Wednesday and she is hoping to have the decking completed for the bridges in a few weeks. The Great Lot will also be doing their bridge this summer.

The MWF Adirondacks trail near Bryants bridge passed at the Legislative meeting contingent on APA review and the NYSDEC moving ahead with the Oswegatchie easement. APA has reviewed the Oswegatchie Easement for ATV Access but it has not been posted on the EIN bulletin that will have to be done before NYSDEC can put it up for Public comment. They will require a month for public comment prior to allowing Lewis County to apply for a TRP Temporary Revocable permit for ATV Access on the Oswegatchie easement. This will give us access from the Harrisville Rod and Gun Club to Belfort.

Lewis County is still on hold for the SEQRA for a property on French Settlement Road in the Town of Diana and we just received a signed access agreement for a property adjoining the Grower lot in the Town of Leyden. Jackie is also working with various land owners along the Osceola Road to try to connect to Osceola.

Kristen Aucter asked if everyone was alright with the process and reporting for the Permits. There are still some issues with the businesses selling the permits which was discussed. The attendants agreed that there are other possibilities for improvement, including tablets, bar code readers, an app and Club access to the database. John mentioned that the disclaimer should be reviewed by an attorney and Death added.

Bob Ski brought up RFID (Radio Frequency ID) to keep track of Permit holders access and where they are riding. It could be done with solar. Jackie mentioned that it would be nice to have trail usage data but thinks the RFID system might be out of the budget for now but Bob said he would send Jackie the information on that type of system to see if it would be feasible.

Henry Bardo mentioned that the NOCATVC will have Robert Mackenzie to their August 8th meeting at 7 pm at the Boonville VFW to do a drug paraphernalia training. Everyone is welcome to attend.

John DeGuardia — Timberview said that his ride went well. There will be four rides and Eagle Beverage sponsored the 3-day pass ½ price deal. He had riders that paid full price because they wanted the money to go to the trails. He welcomes all the clubs to come and set up and promote themselves at his events. Highmarket had set up at the July 7th event. He had 162 riders at that event and the businesses had bought in for advertising for the events and he had $7,000 for advertising and Around $10,000 worth of prizes. He is hoping for 500 for the next ride. He said there was some negative out there about his series and it was removed but we need to stay positive. He feels more signage is needed especially near Brantingham.

Bob Ski — Represents the Dealers and is willing to promote Lewis County. He feels a video and booth would be a great set up at the other events. He is willing to help promote the Club events and is willing to do fliers so they look professional. The Club can contact him by email bski@nyspda.org

Neil Pepper stated that he feels the manufacturers should lower the speed and noise since that is the biggest problem in communities. They receive lots of complaints about the speed and noise. John DeGuardia stated that his event states it is not a race and not to bring anything with loud pipes. Bob Ski mentioned that it is about education. Getting it out there that people live here. There will still be a few problems but we need to educate the riders. We should use the waivers to remind them to Follow NYS Law and they must sign off. Bob would like to see a Zip code report for Permit holders.

Lisa Dashnau has a Facebook page to promote ATV riding and was part of the Timberview poker Run. She feels that we need more access and more signage because it is a safety issue and people do not know where to go. She takes pictures at events and rides the Oswego County Trails. Her email is lisa.dashnau@gmail.com if you would like to email her your events so she can help promote them. Bob Ski mentioned that riders don’t know what they are buying with the permits,
that we need a video showing the trails and businesses and show it at the events. Need a sign pointing out the common. Barb Kovach agreed that most people do not know where the Commons are located and that we should work with the Town of Greig to get better signs.

Neil Pepper said he is working to see what we can do in the Town of Lyonsdale. He joined the Oswego County Trails and he likes what he sees. Great signage with ATV Speed limits and he would like more access in Winona State Forest. He would like to see agreements in other state forests as well. People are bored and would like to see new areas. He would also like to see Camping allowed at the County parking areas. Jackie said once they have Singing Waters up to date then she will push the parking areas. Neil would like to see more signs in Jefferson County. Joe Onyon stated that there have been many signs stolen from some of the towns and that they need to use the locking bolts so they cannot be stolen.

Larry Smith asked if they need a permit to hold a get together at Singing Waters. Jackie stated that the new ATV Trails should be started this year and ATVs are allowed across the bridge to the bathroom area but not in the picnic areas. Larry also mentioned that ATVs are allowed to the Eatonville bridge which has been very busy with swimmers.

John McGraw said that he is working on Ryans Crossing and that Lynn has a crew putting up lines on his property but hopefully by next year. There will be an ATV ride in memory of Tim Reynolds on May 18th, 2019.

Mike Gille stated that Highmarket Wheelers has requested the Village of Constableville open the roads for their events. So watch Facebook for an event reminder and he asked the other clubs to think about doing the same. They are telling people to avoid the Village unless it is for one of the events. They are actively trying to find alternatives to get into the Village and one of the landowners would like to get paid. They are not sure how that will work or if the liability will go back to the landowner but they will continue to try to keep access to those businesses. The old bridge by the Alpine has been taken down, he would really like to see the concrete bridge become a covered Bridge in the future that Snowmobile and ATV could use to promote the area.

Bob Ski stated that he has helped set up multiple areas that Clubs are leasing to have ATV access, on 400 acres you can establish 40 miles of trails, play areas and destinations. He feels that we need to get NYS laws changed to connect areas and address the UTV trend. It was discussed that with an increase in the aged population and the need for handicapped access, having more ATV access would be beneficial. NYS Assembly has had nothing go to the floor to vote since 1986 regarding ATVs. We need communication and he has over 30,000 people on his mailing lists. We need cooperation, get the facts out there and stay positive. In the Spring he plans on putting out an Atlas like Rand McNally on places to ride ATVs.

Volunteer Application and submit Club Time Cards at the next ATV Round table meeting

***Please note the next meeting will be Monday, August 13 at 5:00 pm at the Lewis County Search and Rescue. ***

Events/Important Dates

July 21st - HMW Club Meeting 10am at Highmarket Inn
July 21st - Christmas in July/ATV Dice Run- Myers Towpath
July 22nd - BRVR - Club Ride
July 25th - NOCATV Club Meeting - 6:30 pm at the Boonville VFW
July 26th - BRVR - Club Meeting at 7 pm at the American Legion in Carthage
July 28th - ATV Safety Course #1197124 - Flat Rock Inn
August 4th - HMW Free Weekend Poker Run location to be announced
August 5th - BRVR - Club Ride
August 11th - HMW Club Meeting 10am at Tug Hill Hideaway
August 11th - Tug Hill Poker Run Series at Timberview Resort
August 18th - ATV Safety Course #1197125 - Flat Rock Inn
August 18th - ATV Scavenger Hunt - Myers Towpath
August 19th - BRVR - Club Ride