

**REGULAR MEETING
FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, AUGUST 14, 2007
3:30 P.M. - SCOTT HEYMAN CONFERENCE ROOM**

Present: K. Luz Herrera, Chair; D. Kiefer
Excused: D. Randall; P. Mackesey, G. Stevenson
Staff: E. Marx, Commissioner of Planning and Public Works; W. Sczesny, Highway Manager;
R. Nicholas, Airport; S. Martel-Moore, Human Rights Commissioner; K. Fuller, Deputy Clerk

Call to Order

Ms. Herrera, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m, noting a quorum is not present.

Agenda Additions or Deletions

Ms. Nelson reported there will be a revised resolution entitled: Authorizing Acceptance of a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Grant to Complete the Terminal Entrance Road, Security System Upgrade, Obstruction Removal and Design of the Runway Safety Area Improvements as a result of amended financial information.

Mr. Potter requested to have a brief discussion regarding the presentation provided by ECC Technologies.

Due to the lack of quorum, it was decided to review the resolutions and material present and hold a special meeting prior to the Legislature meeting on August 21st.

Persons Wishing to Address the Committee

No one was present to speak.

ECC Technologies Presentation - Discussion

Mr. Potter, Director of Information Technology Services, requested that members of the Committee provide feedback regarding the informational presentation provided by ECC Technologies on August 7th. Ms. Herrera noted that both Mr. Whicher and Mr. Sigler were both very interested about the possibility of a study and implementation on some level and that Mr. Whicher thought there would possibly be grant funding for the study. Ms. Herrera stated the fact that Mr. Potter had indicated that if a project such as this were to proceed he would not have the time or manpower to devote to it. Mr. Potter said that the study could be beneficial in the event the County desired pursuing the project. He indicated that the installation of the microwave system could perhaps be utilized beyond the public safety purpose, however at this time it has not been determined what might be possible beyond the County's needs. If a preliminary review were done, at a cost of \$50,000 and Mr. Potter's time, he said we should consider what value this expenditure would it provide if it were shown that broadband is not a viable option.

Mr. Potter said the study would be to determine what infrastructure exists and then plan to move forward based on the recommendations made. Ms. Kiefer thought there would be more than one option provided in the event of a study. Mr. Potter noted the data collected would be of time-limited use due to technological advances and infrastructure changes. He noted that it could be useful if there were a particular site known for economic development indicated within the report that would benefit from broadband connection. Mr. Potter said he would not desire going through the study if there would not be the possibility of continuing on with the project. Ms. Kiefer recalled past discussions have previously

discussions regarding road rights of way for franchises as a source of revenue. Mr. Potter also noted that if a determination was made to progress it would be important to identify what possible opportunities exist to provide a definitive value outcome.

Ms. Herrera said she recalled that if the project were to progress it would be an extensive project that would cost millions of dollars. Mr. Potter said there are incremental options such as the microwave bandwidth, which could perhaps be utilized by local internet service providers (ISP) to offer the service to rural areas. He said a wireless approach may work but the lease cost from a provider may not be economical. He said the County could subsidize the cost of providing a point-to-point connection for the ISP to residents by broadband service to the rural locations if desired. Ms. Kiefer said this would be something to do as an intermunicipal project.

Mr. Marx said he found the presentation interesting, noting that it has been said that Federal policy regarding rural areas actually encourages sprawl; although discussions stated that modern agriculture requires advanced technology it makes for an interesting planning question. He stated that it is challenging to think of how to provide the needed technology for agriculture while limiting the sprawl that could occur due to the infrastructure. He believes targeting nodal development and Empire Zones could be good, and that villages not having service would be interested as well.

Mr. Potter spoke about WiFi use and how some communities utilize the service to attract people. Ms. Herrera said she believes a question that would be raised often is determining what is cost effective and how to determine priorities. Mr. Potter said that would not be possible until research is completed and that no recommendations can occur until that time. Ms. Herrera questioned if the private sector could do a better job of coverage than the County and was informed that he did not believe a private company would be able to offer service throughout the County, there would be areas of weak or no signal strength.

Ms. Kiefer inquired whether the communications capital project would have to be completed prior to a study being undertaken. Mr. Potter did not believe so and thought it would present an opportunity to do both together and could be beneficial. Ms. Kiefer expressed her enthusiasm on seeing the study move forward.

Mr. Potter said if the County is interested in utilizing the additional bandwidth it would be good to move forward with the study.

Ms. Herrera asked Mr. Potter to provide a memorandum summarizing the discussion to provide information for members not present. Mr. Potter said he would do so, noting he would provide a recommendation regarding the topic.

Ms. Nelson inquired whether any potential project could affect the possibility of leases associated with the towers. Mr. Potter said it is an area of concern that would require special consideration. He said it would require an evaluation of the value of a project such as this versus future tower lease contracts. Ms. Nelson noted that a Florida-based consultant is looking at the requests the County is receiving relating to tower usage. It was noted a project such as this could be a public/private partnership and would most likely include municipal involvement.

Special Meeting

It was noted that Mr. Stevenson is not able to make the meeting due to a work conflict. As a result, a special meeting will take place prior to the August 21st Legislature meeting to act on the resolutions contained within the agenda.

Future Meeting Dates

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Due to budget meetings the next Facilities and Infrastructure meetings will take place on September 22 and October 9.

Chair's Report

Ms. Herrera expressed a desire to be able to have a tour of the 55 Brown Road facility as soon as possible; she suggested it be opened up to any Legislator who desires to do so.

Report from the Commissioner of Planning and Public Works

Mr. Marx said that if the final decision regarding 55 Brown Road were made, a determination would need to be made regarding the present Biggs property. He believes that this decision may fall to the Facilities and Infrastructure Committee as it was not included within the charge of the Health Department Building Committee. He indicated that a decision would most likely effect "K" house as well. One item of interest was that he said an option that could be considered is to retain the property and lease the building, much the same as what is being offered at 55 Brown Road.

Approval of Minutes – June 12 and 26, 2007

Due to lack of quorum, the minutes were tabled until the September 11, 2007 meeting.

Human Rights Commission

Resolution – Authorization to Enter Into a Five-Year Lease Agreement for the Tompkins County Human Rights Commission

Ms. Martel-Moore provided information to the members present indicating the lease is an extension of the present lease, with no rent increase and an early-termination clause. It was noted that the rent is paid through the Facilities budget and the resolution will also come before the Health and Human Services Committee on August 15th. In response to Ms. Kiefer's inquiry, it was noted that the Administrative Law Judge presiding over hearings for the Human Rights Commission is from out of town.

Ithaca Tompkins Regional Airport

Resolution – Authorizing Acceptance of a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Grant to Complete the Terminal Entrance Road, Security System Upgrade, Obstruction Removal and Design of Runway Safety Area Improvement – Ithaca Tompkins Regional Airport

Ms. Kiefer inquired about language contained within the resolution, noting the implication that the Committee and Legislature upon adoption of the resolution had approved all the projects when, in fact, the Obstruction Clearance portion has not yet been approved. Mr. Nicholas said he had included it within the body of the resolution due to the FAA requirements for grants this time of year and indicated that he would be bringing that particular item forward in September following the required public hearing. As a result of the discussion, Ms. Kiefer requested the language within the body of the resolution reflect that the Obstruction Removal portion had not yet been approved. Mr. Nicholas will modify the resolution prior to presentation to the Committee and Legislature on August 21st.

Resolution – Award of Bid – Terminal Road and Parking Lots – Ithaca Tompkins Regional Airport

Mr. Nicholas shared the bid information with members present and indicated the bid was awarded to Ruston Paving of Syracuse, New York. Ms. Kiefer inquired whether the County has even used Ruston before. This question was asked of Mr. Sczesny later in the meeting – he had not worked with the firm

before. Mr. Nicholas noted that the project is broken into two separate bid items as a result of different grants received by the Federal and State sectors. The terminal road only requires 2.5 percent local share, the parking lots requires 20 percent. C&S Engineers will be handling the paperwork associated with the grants. Ms. Kiefer indicated that in general that she thinks this type of work she would prefer to see done by County employees, and that it would provide additional revenue to the County. Mr. Nicholas indicated he has asked the Highway Division previously about work such as this, however, their scheduled construction does not allow them to have time to do so. Ms. Kiefer inquired about the notation “removal of trees”. Mr. Nicholas corrected the note, indicating that Cayuga Landscape will be pruning trees, not removing them. It is anticipated that by doing so they will not require additional pruning for approximately five years.

Ms. Nelson stated she believed that Ruston Paving has worked for the County previously.

Resolution – Award of Bid – Security System Upgrade – Ithaca Tompkins Regional Airport

Mr. Nicholas reported that two bids were received, both higher than the original estimate of approximately \$550,000. He said both C&S Engineers and the FAA have reviewed the bid and are satisfied with the bid amount. Mr. Nicholas said that this will replace not only the old security system, but will also provide a new emergency generator that will power all systems in the terminal for up to four days. Ms. Kiefer inquired whether the higher bid will affect the airport budget or local share and was informed that due to the State share for the project it evens out to the original estimate.

Highway Division

Resolution – Determination of a Negative Declaration of Environmental Significance in Relation to Reconstruction of Hanshaw Road, CR 109, in the Towns of Ithaca, Dryden, and Village of Cayuga Heights, PIN 3753.25, and

Resolution – Authorization to Issue Design and Right of Way Plan Approvals for the Reconstruction of Hanshaw Road, CR 109, in the Towns of Ithaca and Dryden, and Village of Cayuga Heights

Mr. Sczesny noted the consultant on the project is Fisher Associates. Ms. Kiefer indicated her strong desire to have colored shoulders rather than a traffic light at the Warren Road intersection as noted in the design. Mr. Sczesny said that future warrants indicated that within one to two years a light would be required due to traffic levels. Ms. Kiefer reiterated her desire for the colored shoulders. Mr. Marx said that by installing the light at this time there is only a five percent local share, versus the possibility of having to pay one hundred percent at a later date. Ms. Kiefer suggested that perhaps the design could include the infrastructure for the light (underground wires and base) but not the light itself, which could reduce the cost and allow the other work to be completed.

Mr. Marx said that another reason it was included in the design is due to the sidewalk installation it was more favorable to have a light versus a 4-way stop to allow for pedestrian safety. He said given the warrant for a light within two years, combined with the Cornell University study indicating the present traffic signage would fail within ten years without a light was sufficient to include it. Mr. Marx said it is hoped to have colored shoulders but it is not known if the budget will allow it. Ms. Kiefer said she understood their position, however it appears that the heavy traffic is only during commuter times, and she thought pedestrians might choose to use the trail over Cornell land. Mr. Marx noted the Cornell University trail is all part of the same system. He stated it is unknown what the final design will be.

Ms. Herrera said she was not certain how much the colored shoulders would increase the cost of the project, or how far down the road it would be included. She said it is hard to assure completion of a part of the project when it is not known. Ms. Kiefer feels the desire to have the colored shoulders should be included in the description of the project. She would like to know what the cost of separate

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components for a light would be. Mr. Sczesny said it was between \$60,000 to \$80,000 per light, however he does not have the break-out costs. He will provide this information at the September 11th meeting.

Ms. Kiefer noted the design speed is much higher than the posted speed for the road. She would like to assume that a narrower-appearing road would reduce the speed. It was noted that some communities request immediate patrol upon completion of work to reinforce the posted speed limits, and Mr. Marx said we can ask the Sheriff to do this.

Solid Waste Division

The Committee had been provided an updated budget for the Solid Waste Division to review. Mr. Marx said it reflects the updated costs of disposal.

Adjournment

On motion, the meeting adjourned at 4:42 p.m.