

SPECIAL SESSION-THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 2023

The Yates County Legislature convened in special session Thursday, March 2, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. with Chairwoman Church presiding and Mr. Holgate & Mr. Button absent.

RESOLUTION NO. 128-23

Mr. Bronson offered the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Mr. Killen.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Willson if they get this funding, it probably means that it will become a prevailing wage project. It's Federal money that's involved, so they just added 40% on the cost.

Ms. Chilson stated that part of the reason why she agreed that they should give them 2 million dollars was that they were hiring local staff. Local people, supporting local businesses, and that they would be giving the job opportunities to people here. Whether it was supplies or whether it was work, they were going to keep it all local. This is going to push that out of the local hand and she knows it's a lot of money, but when the Federal Government is involved, the community project is no longer community. She really thinks they should be there today to speak about it.

Mr. Killen that what can happen is like when they had projects down to Jerusalem, local contractors can bid to jobs they just have to pay prevailing wage. There were some contractors that would decide not to take their \$20 an hour roofer, for example, and pay him \$39 an hour, which was state wage at that time for a roofing job. It doesn't exclude them, but it punishes all municipalities, trying to do projects because the prevailing wage is not necessarily for the rural areas or the entirety of the State.

Ms. Chilson stated that it also opens it up to bids. If they have a contractor from outside of the community that has the bid, because they can do it lower than a local contractor, they are not asking their local contractors.

Mr. Banach stated that it's very difficult to turn their head on 2 million dollars and it's something they all put money into realizing this is a project that's needed. With this extra money, he believes they are going to have a pool and that's what the County needs and the Village needs. He think this if they don't support it, even though a lot of the work is donated work as far as manual labor goes, but the fixtures and everything will still be bought locally, because it's done through Penn Yann Plumbing and they're going to give it at cost. He thinks they are going to lose a little bit, but they are going to gain a lot more, and they need to balance it, and he doesn't see how they cannot support this.

Mr. Willson stated that historically, the reason this community center has flopped continuously, for 10-15 years is because they ignored the community to begin with. At a time there were people who would donate trucks, backhoes, do all of the work basically, on the weekends and stuff, and the powers to be at the time went outside. They got outside contractors and there was no community support, it was a disaster. There's no volunteer labor in this once the Federal or the State money is involved, it is a Union job or a quasi-union job. He can't support this right now until he hears exact details. He thinks right now, they are throwing 2 million dollars away the way it's headed. They are going to end up with another 15-20 million dollar job. Every piece of that job will be Union scale right down to putting the tile on the swimming pool. The average cost is about 40%. He has had to do Union stuff with his surveyors, and it's about a 40% increase in the cost of a project. He recommends that they have somebody come there and explain what the rationale is.

Chairwoman Church stated that she spoke to Steve Griffin, and they are on a time constraint. They need it by the end of the week.

Mr. Jayne stated that he is on their board. They were supposed to meet and he was going to bring this all up, but they had to cancel it because of the snow. They rescheduled the meeting to next Monday, so he hasn't been able to talk to them, and he doesn't know what kind of decisions have been made. He hasn't really heard anything about this, so if they need this by the end of the week he can't really help.

Mr. Bronson stated that he guesses he is confused because it's the first he has heard of the pool. In the past, he's heard the pool is going to be like 10 million dollars. He doesn't know how they are going to get a pool for 2 million.

Mr. Harper stated if they've got a 10 million dollar project and they get 2 million dollars in funds, does that 2 million, then trigger that whole project to be regulated or is it just how they spend that 2 million in grant funding.

Mr. Paddock stated that the resolution is requesting a letter from Yates County, verifying that it approved 2 million dollars. He doesn't recall seeing anything saying that they were applying for 2 million dollars from the Congressional Grant.

Chairwoman Church stated that it just came up. Actually, the discussion started at their kickoff for the Bicentennial with the representatives that were there of additional funding.

Mr. Paddock asked if that is limited to 2 million dollars or could it be more than that?

Chairwoman Church stated that she can call Steve Griffin right now if people have questions for him. All they are asking for is the letter of support.

Mr. Paddock asked if they apply for a grant and get a grant, are they not going to give them the 2 million dollars.

Mr. Willson stated that he wants to know more detail before he can support any more of this. This is an unknown that does impact the tax payers.

Mr. Killen asked if it is possible they won't get the grant and this will be a moot point, but if they don't approve them for this letter, they can't even start the process. To try and get additional money. He agrees with Rick, he thinks it's terrible that the municipalities have to pay 40% or 50% more for projects. It's wrong, but they can't fix it, that doesn't mean they should penalize attempts to find other money and resources for a project that they think is good for a community

Mr. Willson stated that all he is asking for is information. This thing could balloon into something that's a disaster, or it could be a real simple thing, just a verification. One thing that becomes very obvious is that they weren't able to go out and borrow from a bank 3 million dollars with a 40% down. That's very obvious in this whole thing.

Mr. Bronson stated that Doug is right, they are just verifying that they committed to donating 2 million dollars. That's all this resolution is asking them to do.

Ms. Chilson stated that in the process of giving that letter of support, they're also, because this is included in the resolution, they are supporting that Federal funding as well. She thinks they need to answer the concerns before a decisions made.

Mr. Willson stated that the County now, with 2 million dollars, is a major player in this and it would only be respectful that they were in the chain of information.

Mr. Killen stated that they do have a timeliness issue, though, so to go mindful of that. Renee Bloom, has come last minute to ask for letters of support. He has seen it time and again that somebody does this to them. He chastises them and says, please don't do this again, or maybe they won't help them next time. Sadly, because of the timing of grants and awareness and getting people to fill them out, they periodically run into these time crunch things on getting a deadline to get an application, and they've had to hurry applications before.

Mr. Willson stated that his feeling is that they have a potential responsibility to the taxpayers to know the information.

Ms. Flynn stated that she believes this grant announcement was just made in the last 2 weeks. It came from Gillibrand and Schumer's office, and she thinks the applications are due March, 8th, so it was a short turnaround.

Steve Griffin stated that this funding will not involve prevailing wages. All they are doing is really trying to reduce how much the Community Center might have to actually take on as debt to get it to go. All the same building, the strategies of concepts, all that is still the same, all they are trying to do is find additional monies. As he had mentioned during the presentations, the commitment from the County is crucial in numerous ways. Clearly the money is primarily important, but the commitment from the County really heightens their ability and their scores on other grants. Even just having discussions with the Senators people, when he stated that the County had already voted to allocate 2 million dollars, it completely changed the tone of the conversation.

Mr. Paddock asked if they do not get this, grant, will they be able to get financing through a bank or banks for the remainder of the project.

Steve Griffin stated yes, he means that they have had positive discussions with lenders, but he clearly can't speak for them. The conversations have been positive, they just don't want to have to borrow if they don't need to. They are still focused on getting the field house itself built. If they can get to that point, then they can start to look at the pool. As it stands right now, all of the focus is to getting the initial structure built and then they can focus on the on the pool.

AUTHORIZE CHAIRWOMAN TO SIGN LETTERS OF SUPPORT FOR THE YATES COMMUNITY CENTER'S CONGRESSIONAL DIRECT SPENDING (CDS) REQUEST

WHEREAS, the Yates County Legislature has formally approved the allocation of \$2,000,000 from the 2023 budget toward the \$5,000,000 Yates Community Center field house expansion project after solid evidence was presented by the Board of the Yates Community Center of the importance of such a facility and a lot of community support; and

WHEREAS, a letter from Yates County verifying the approval of \$2,000,000 would be a big support piece for the application and help show the federal funding would “push them across the finish line”;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chairwoman of the Legislature is authorized to sign the letters of support requested by the Yates Community Center; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be furnished to the Yates Community Center.
VOTE: Unanimous

RESOLUTION NO. 129-23

Mr. Bronson offered the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Mr. Killen.

DISCUSSION:

Ms. Chilson determined that this is for that building in Dresden.

AUTHORIZE CHAIRWOMAN TO SIGN LETTERS OF SUPPORT FOR THE FINGER LAKES TOURISM ALLIANCE (FLTA)’S CONGRESSIONAL DIRECT SPENDING (CDS) REQUEST

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance’s (FLTA) has raised \$750,000 and has requested appropriations of \$2,250,000 to fund a new building for the FLTA, for a total project of \$3,000,000.; and

WHEREAS, the new building, proposed to be located within Yates County, will provide office space for FLTA to continue its critical work for tourism, an interpretive center, community meeting/educational space, an opportunity for other organizations to have a larger presence in the region with exhibits and staff space for a potential National Heritage Area; and

WHEREAS, Yates County is dependent on tourism as an economic driver;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chairwoman of the Legislature is authorized to sign the letters of support requested by the FLTA; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be furnished to the FLTA.
VOTE: Unanimous

RESOLUTION NO. 130-23

Mr. Bronson offered the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Mr. Killen.

DISCUSSION:

Ms. Chilson stated that this is really a great idea, but she is just questioning if there is going to be a need for a financial commitment from Yates County now, or in the future that they understand at all or if there's none.

Ms. Flynn stated that they did not request any financial support.

Mrs. Miller stated that they did send a fact sheet that was emailed out. She doesn't know if they have had a chance to look at that, but that might answer some of their questions.

AUTHORIZE CHAIRWOMAN TO COMPLETE & SIGN STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR LAKESIDE TROLLEY, LLC'S REQUEST FOR EMERGENCY AUTHORITY FOR A TEMPORARY (6-MONTH PASSENGER AUTHORITY WITH PERMANENT PASSENGER AUTHORITY)

WHEREAS, Lakeside Trolley, LLC is a new trolley business ready to launch out of Watkins Glen, that would potentially include stops at a few locations in Yates County; and

WHEREAS, the State of New York requires an extensive process for the approval to transport passengers that can take as long as eight months for permanent authority and there is an option for a temporary permit while waiting for permanent approval; and

WHEREAS, to obtain the temporary permit the state asks for a lot of local support and to make a strong case for an "immediate but not necessary need" and the more support statements the stronger the likelihood that the application will be reviewed and ruled affirmatively; and

WHEREAS, this approval will allow the trolleys to operate in Yates County this year;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chairwoman of the Legislature is authorized to complete and sign the statement of support requested by Lakeside Trolley, LLC; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be furnished to the Lakeside Trolley, LLC.
VOTE: Unanimous

Mr. Paddock moved to enter into executive session to discuss:

1. The employment history of a particular individual with Legislators Present and the County Administrator.

Seconded by Mrs. Percy.

VOTE: Unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.