

**Minutes**

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY PARKS COMMISSION

Thursday, January 28, 2021, 4:00 p.m.

*Meeting held by Virtual Zoom technology*

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**Members Present:** Judy Hunt, John Hemmer, Tom Erlandson, Martha Anderson, Marla Connelly, Bob Franzen, Steve Sandberg

**Members Absent:**

**Others Present:** Brad Bentley, Sam Zafuto, Jacob Bodway, Kathy Tampio, Keith Carrow,

The meeting was called to order by Bob Franzen at 4:01 p.m.

**Acknowledgement of Guests and Topics Discussions**

Bob Franzen: We got some guests here today?

Kathy Tampio: You have Keith Carrow and Jacob Bodway and then Brad's here and Sam Zafuto.

Judy Hunt: Jacob has to leave so let's start with him.

Jacob Bodway: I've been speaking with some of the foundations in Chautauqua County to leverage the Ralph Wilson grant I hope to get. I've been in conversations with Lanai, Hallquist, Sheldon, Dara and Chautauqua Region Community Foundation to basically help with some of the amenities I'm hoping to put in the overland trails. Some of the ideas that we've floated are benches, new kiosks, trail signs, trail mile markers, bike repair stands in the parking lots and a few other things. I just kind of wanted to run that by you guys a little bit and see if there were any ideas that you would like to see before I submit all the applications.

Brad Bentley: And Jacob just to clarify here what you are proposing to do is all on state property, not county property.

Jacob Bodway: Except for the trail signs, right?

Brad Bentley: Right.

Bob Franzen: Is this going to be duplicating anything that's already like we've got now through Wegmans on their trail, anything at all?

Jacob Bodway: No, maybe I can show you a couple things. This will be the new signage on the overland trails in Chautauqua County. I'm going to order a thousand of these. They'll be three and a half by four inches and this will take the place of the blue markers that are on the blue paint that's on the trees. This just looks more consistent with what the County's proposing. One of the things we're also planning on doing is adding a little bit of a trail alongside Whalen Forest road. This will connect the lower side section of the overland at the cul-de-sac and bring it up past the mountain bike single track right here and connect back up the overland and be off that road completely. This is about a \$15,000 project so I'm going to be applying for that. Another thing would be the kiosks. These would go in almost all the parking areas and perhaps one or two other areas like Warner road or Wilson road where the trail head crosses the fire road. We're looking at potentially using what Keith said is this kind of map that's kind of DEC, seems to be compatible with everything that's going on with the DEC. So having a basic trail map, a "you are here" and also a little bit of information about the state forest and the user groups that are allowed. So this will be a little bit different and we're thinking about adding benches probably right next to these kiosks and adding like handmade benches that are just machined from logs that are in the trails themselves. So we don't have to bring any concrete into the trails at all. That's kind of where I'm at.

Brad Bentley: I know we were talking a little about those signs that, the trail markers, about potentially making them reflective. I think you are looking into if that's cost prohibitive or not, but I think that would be an excellent add for night time hikers or skiers, cross country skiers. Anybody out there using the trails at night.

Martha Anderson: I think that's a good idea. I do use them at night.

Brad Bentley: If anybody has any comments for Jacob, my comment back to him is I'd like to, whatever kiosks they use in the state forest, I'd like to kind of keep it consistent. Eventually if we ever get some money to make some improvements on the non-state forest land, to make those consistent with what Keith has. I think the design looks good. I think it meshes well with the environment. I want to get the Parks Commission take and if there's a different idea that you want to throw out to him, now's the time. He's applying for the grant, he's got to put that information into the grant. The opportunity to comment is afoot.

Martha Anderson: I have a question regarding the kiosks. Is that where the new sign in sheets will go or will they remain in the little boxes like they are?

Jacob Bodway: My understanding, you might not even need sign in sheets anymore cause the Chautauqua County Department of Economic Development has applied for grants for trail counters which would kind of eliminate the need, it would be more accurate. What we might do instead is have a suggestions box which would offer people the ability to email someone, offering an email address perhaps. Also we need to focus on this section of trail (inaudible) like that. Sign in boxes, a couple of them, I know at least down by Chautauqua gorge and one over by Route 474, maybe 394, one of those – the sign in boxes you open, the whole bottom falls off.

Martha Anderson: Yes, that's in rough shape.

Jacob Bodway: I think having a suggestions box might be something we could put in the kiosk. Again, I'm open to suggestions.

Martha Anderson: This is my point of view. You all may differ, but I just spent a lot of time going through all the registers. I know Tom has done all the parks. I got numbers, I got states, I got towns, I got comments – good, bad and ugly from all the registers, but to me it's very neat and very rewarding to see we have had people on the trails from 47 of the 51 states. The villages and towns are amazing that we have had, I just counted the separate ones in New York and Pennsylvania. But it's just the numbers on the trails and it's very rewarding to see and I think it really stands out for us when we have to try and get more money. The trail counters would be great but it doesn't give you the information of where they're from. I mean we have countries, 17 different countries and along with all the states, no 20 countries, 5 provinces in Canada. It's just to me that is interesting, but maybe I'm the only one that ever reads it. When I'm up on the trails I read those logs to see. I mean we've also had Jacob from State Farm, Santa Claus, Obama, all the stupid comments people make but, I really like that they're there and you can see where people are from and what their comments are and how many comment – *these trails are beautiful, what a great job you guys, keep it up, we love it out here*, especially since COVID there's been a lot of super positive things on the remarks on there so, I don't know, I just really like that. That's my own personal but I've been doing it, that sign in for years myself and it's just my thinking.

Jacob Bodway: Do you have numbers for yearly trail use?

Martha Anderson: I don't have yearly because on the sheets there is no years listed. I have a letter box full of trail sheets that I got from Parks Department. Sorted them all out per trail and then tallied all the numbers on it for each different sign in sheet. The ones that I have totaled, there's a total of 24,540 sign ins just the overland trails. On the waterways there's about 3,450. But you have to remember that's one in ten people that are on the trails also. Most everybody I see on the trail when I'm there I say "have you signed in our registers?" and they say "no, I haven't". And I say "you have to do that, we like to know where you are, we list your comments and that helps to (inaudible) our funding". That's just minimal compared to what's actually using the trails.

Jacob Bodway: Could you possibly send me some of that data?

Martha Anderson: Yes, I can send that all to you because I have it all listed out and I have all the town names of New York and Pennsylvania that they are from also. Which is pretty cool to look through. It's not all alphabetical believe me but ...

Jacob Bodway: That's fine. They are looking for verifiable data evidence on ...

Martha Anderson: Oh, yeah. I don't know how this started. My guess is probably back as far as 2015 maybe? I don't know when they started collecting these papers or how long they've been there from. There's no dates of years on them mostly.

Jacob Bodway: This will help tremendously.

*(Crosstalk)*

Martha Anderson: But I don't have those. The ones I have are just the ones that Bart had recently and were stuffed in one of those paper boxes. So I have those. I don't know about the old ones. I would go through those if they were in some dark corner. Or maybe there was a lot of yucky things in there – spider dust etc. That's okay, I'll look through them.

Brad Bentley: Sam, are there any other sign in sheets?

Sam Zafuto: I was just going to say Bart called me this afternoon. He said he'd be dropping off some more to me either tomorrow or Monday.

Brad Bentley: So you can coordinate with Sam about getting those.

Sam Zafuto: I'll shoot you an email.

Martha Anderson: Okay. And basically – when did I pick those last ones up? The second week in January maybe so these numbers are through mid-January of this year. So we can say this is like through November 2020 and I can start a new one maybe and keep track of the new ones. However you want to do it, I don't care. I don't mind doing that and it's actually quite entertaining.

Brad Bentley: So, Jacob in order to get maybe some of these repeat users who signed in once but came back, why sign in again? I think we ought to look at some technology, maybe we can put it in the grant. The QR code type things where you just hold up your cell phone, it tags it to it. You can kind of just say returning user, repopulates it and you say I'm signing in again, I'm using the trail again. Then all that stuff gets automatically tallied. Find a way to get a software program and contain the data. Could probably save Martha some time. But, I don't want to lose the papers because not everybody has cell phones, may not have cell service. So maybe we can try the best of both worlds for now and then as technology moves on, maybe it goes to less paper, cell phones, smart phones. But it may be a way of capturing that other 9 out of 10 users that aren't checking in. They might be more apt to just say *hey, I'm on the trail, I just scanned my phone* and that way they know I'm out there. They don't really have much more to do, just kind of check in.

Martha Anderson: That would be awesome because there are a bunch of repeat users on those sheets. They'll sign in, I did read through all those names which is interesting also, but and some of them were not real names either. They were just a lot of kids being smart (*inaudible*) out there, but they would have been just signing their last name, you could tell because it's the same hand writing and they come maybe one, two times a week. Maybe more. It's neat to see how many people actually do that.

John Hemmer: And if you give them that email address, that's another way for them to put their comments in too. If there's an email address that they can shoot off a comment also.

Judy Hunt: Jacob, I'm sure this data will be very valuable in your grant quests.

Jacob Bodway: Yes, because right now I am just spit balling numbers. I mean I was kind of close with numbers, 2,500 since 2015 I was around 5,000 users a year that were signing in so I was actually pretty close.

Martha Anderson: I'll look back on those sheets again and see if I can find any dates, but I'm guilty of it when I sign in I don't put the year, I put the date.

Jacob Bodway: The twenty countries, that's huge. The forty seven of 50 states, that's the kind of stuff I want.

Martha Anderson: I have all that listed. It's all in the papers I'll send you.

Bob Franzen: Also the parks has a trail system (inaudible) are listed on that either.

Martha Anderson: I did not do the trails from the parks on this. I gave that to Tom. I figured they were part of the parks so I left that for Tom to do.

Keith Carrow: I'll look through some of my old emails. I had gotten some numbers years ago from Bill Tucker as far as trail counts.

Martha Anderson: Keith, part of those are in here because we did present this to legislature one time and I have those numbers also. (*crosstalk*) And I have those numbers like on the bottom of the sheet that was from the previous from now, okay.

Brad Bentley: Anything else for Jacob? If you've got something or you want to discuss something I'm sure he'll make himself available. Any kind of discussion that goes into the grant so ....

Judy Hunt: Seems to me that it's very comprehensive what he's including.

Martha Anderson: Another question on that. The trail maps, is there just going to be one at the kiosk? We used to have them, they were shellacked or something on a board. They've all been shot at or out of the way or whatever out there. People sometimes are interested in looking at when you're right at each one of the write in stations. I don't know if that would be something we could include as new trail maps that would be laminated or lacquered or something out there that people could look at too. I don't know how, what technology what we would do but that might be an option to have a visual that people could, cause a lot of times there's no maps in the place and if you don't have a cell phone or you don't get service you're kind of going blind out there.

Keith Carrow: When we actually have more kiosks out there, they'll show where you are and hopefully both directions of north and south on the trail. We've kind of gone to along with the kiosk we'll have like a little bird house at the top that flips up with maps and they can sign up (*inaudible*).

Brad Bentley: And I think these trail markers that Jacob proposed to buy, these 1000 trail markers that actually have the words overland trail. It's more than just the blue marker. It will give you a better sense that, hey, I guess I am still on the right trail.

Martha Anderson: Yes, exactly.

Brad Bentley: So, I think the combination of these things will certainly make it a better user experience.

Martha Anderson: Much more user friendly too.

Brad Bentley: Steve, question?

Steve Sandberg: I'd just like to thank Jacob for his addition to add – all the incredibly hard work he's done to benefit all of us.

Jacob Bodway: Hopefully I can be part of the committee.

Judy Hunt: I think that should order a place on the commission. We'll take care of that later today.

Jacob Bodway: Like I said, a guy, Andy Dixon who's a cross country skier over at Boutwell Hill, he keyed me into all these other grant opportunities and he kind of reached out to the other foundations and introduced me to quite a few people so I've had two Zoom meetings already – one with Sheldon, one with the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation. The grants, I think they want to see how the phase one goes. The grants are pretty much going to be 10, 20 thousand dollars for each foundation. The DARA will probably be around \$5,000 because they are a little smaller. I'm thinking for each phase I'm looking at trying to get \$100,000 total. Fifteen to 75 will go to the trails and then the extras would go to these amenities. Also for outpost stations for birders to go out and have a little observation deck or something. Trying to tie in the Audubon Society. Trying to get everybody involved in it is I think the key to success. What I learned from these grants applications and speaking with these foundations is they like to talk to each other. They like to see how many grants are piggy backing on what and what they are covering so if you get the Audubon Foundation, the Roger Peterson Institute involved, I don't think they can say no to this.

Martha Anderson: Yeah, and they do like that. The more people and user friendly to bring users in they like that much better. Your opportunity is greater.

Judy Hunt: Collaboration is always ...

*(Crosstalk)*

Martha Anderson: Good job Jacob.

Brad Bentley: I echo your comments. I want to thank Jacob. He's going out and getting stuff is - the time to go after. It's on state land so coordination kind of has to come from the

outside a little bit. I appreciate all the efforts you are doing Jacob. I hope you are a successful as your (*inaudible*)... do great things with it. I hope to follow in your lead.

Martha Anderson: And if you ever need any help Jacob, let us know, that's what we're here for.

Jacob Bodway: Well, I have you guys listed as a partner in the grant applications.

Brad Bentley: Yeah, I think with the (*inaudible*) with help Jacob is going to be drafting some letters of recommendations from, John I thinking you especially to support Jacob as a Parks Commission representative. So Jacob is going to give you some nice words and you can add on to it as you see fit to voice your support for the applications. I think that will go a long way. I'm thinking of getting the County Executive and maybe Pierre to also join into that support. It's always nice to see the local leadership say this is a good thing.

John Hemmer: Yes, it's great to have involvement from community members and these grants from community organizations too. It's all great for us and since the county doesn't seem to have a lot of extra money for parks, it's wonderful that Jacob is doing all of this work for us. This is work that wouldn't get done if we were depending on our county tax dollars.

(*crosstalk*)

Brad Bentley: If anyone else wants to write a letter of support for Jacob I'm sure he will take every piece of paper he can get.

John Hemmer: Yes, I certainly would like to put my letter in.

Brad Bentley: Once Jacob gets me the words that he's looking for with the help of the (*inaudible*) I'll send it around to everybody and everybody can see fit to change, address, sign and get that back to him.

Judy Hunt: Will do.

Jacob Bodway: Any other comments or questions? I mean I'd actually like to stick around for a minute and listen to you guys discuss the trail education, like the users leaving tracks because we are having the exact same problem right now and I want to hear how ...

Judy Hunt: Trail etiquette you mean?

Jacob Bodway: Yes, trail etiquette.

Brad Bentley: It's an open meeting so stick around. All right Bob I guess it's back to you.

### **Minutes Review and Acceptance**

Bob Franzen: Okay, we want to go over our minutes from the last meeting this time, see if we can get that done with?

Martha Anderson: I did not get them so I can't.

Bob Franzen: Just got them. Haven't had a chance to look them over yet anyway but normally I would think that it would be A O K to pass.

Judy Hunt: I think so.

Martha Anderson: Isn't it verbatim? It's kind of like how can it be wrong? A few words may be funky in it but it should be okay.

Brad Bentley: Just a remark – everybody, Martha's got a new email address.

Judy Hunt: Martha, I didn't write that down. What was it? Mac

Martha Anderson: No, [mca412258@yahoo.com](mailto:mca412258@yahoo.com).

Judy Hunt: Want to move to Operations Bob?

Bob Franzen: We accepted our minutes? Everybody say yes? (*all responded yes*). Thank you. Operations then we'll go into see what we're doing what we're coming up with – operations report.

### **Operations**

Brad Bentley: So, hopefully everybody got that this afternoon. **Staffing** still the same. Bart's on duty and the DPF is currently on winter shifts with highways. Bart's doing what he can out there – plowing the parking lots and taking care of wintertime activities. Our **ongoing tasks** right now are kind of preparation for next season. We're working on the purchase of a new front end lawn mower, it's in process. A John Deere tractor which is in process right now. We've gotten an agreement with the Luensman gate keeper that opened the parks last year for Luensman so he is on. But we are now looking for a new gate keeper at Erlandson. If anybody's got any friends or people that they know that want to open up the park, for now I guess it's the gate since the bathrooms are still – until the COVID issue goes away I would imagine we will keep the bathrooms closed. That's an ongoing discussion and see what the circumstances around at the time we open. But we do need a new gatekeeper out there because the existing one has declined to sign on for another year. If anybody knows anybody, let us know. Otherwise Sam and I are going to put our heads together and figure out what a couple of the options are. Have the Sheriff's office open up the gate, that might work for a little while. So there's a couple different options we might have, but it's probably not as ideal as getting someone close by that lives there, doesn't mind going over there and taking care of it. So, Tom or Bob you guys got somebody just let Sam know and he'll give him a call.

Bob Franzen: Can do that, yes.



Sam Zafuto: If Phil's interested Bob, let me know his contact info.

Bob Franzen: Right, okay.

Brad Bentley: We're in the process of **closing out the 2020 budget**. Sam, anything of note there that you want to mention.

Sam Zafuto: No, there's some minor overages based on employee benefits related to the furlough. Other than that, it was a pretty easy year to be closed out with a resolution that will go to the legislature in February.

Brad Bentley: Moving on to **trail information**. I passed along an email that I got from overland trails, winter trail etiquette between cross country skiers, snow shoers and hikers. Basically we would, if there's any help that we could provide on maintaining the cross country ski paths from being disrupted by hikers or snow shoers. Trying to separate out separate paths. I don't- I went cross country skiing I was a teenager so if anybody has any past history or what anybody's done in the past that would make everything easier for everybody, signage, or how to get messages out that ... I think it's a good thing, that's what people should be doing but I'm not sure how to educate people for use of trails.

Martha Anderson: That is what they do but most people will see a track and they don't care if they're on skis or snow shoes, they'll go on a ski trail on snow shoes and just really scuff it up and make it impossible. It's been that way forever. I don't know what to do. Maybe an editorial in the paper or something that we list trail etiquette in it or something. Or maybe get an article in the paper that says trails are open for skiing and snow shoeing but could you follow the rules? I don't know.

Brad Bentley: Does anybody have a friendly reporter that they know that can, that would be willing to print that story for you.

Bob Franzen: There was an article in the paper the other morning, a reader's forum type thing, people ski, snowmobiles not walk on the shoulders of the trail. It's in the Post Journal, I don't know if everybody else saw it or not. There's something there maybe we can go on. Find out who the person was and where they did get knocked around and see if that's anything that we can be looking into.

John Hemmer: Did that article mention anything about trail etiquette?

Bob Franzen: I guess the trail etiquette was skiers were there and the snowmobilers were running so close to them that they were falling right off the trail. So now somehow or other both of them were using the same trail, we don't know which one is which, is it a snowmobile trail or is it a ski trail? I don't know where the article is but we'll just have to dig it up and take a look at it. Maybe we could find out the person who wrote it, their name was there. Maybe we can tack on that.

Martha Anderson: Over by Mount Pleasant there is a place where it kind of runs together and there's, where the other place, where they kind of do run together and I've had snowmobiles

go by me not like real close but they're there and I always step off to the side, but they're out there. That happened to me on in Long Point state park so it happens everywhere unfortunately.

Brad Bentley: Does someone want to write a letter to the editor? Post Journal or Observer? Maybe as a Parks Commission member or something like that. To just see if they will want to print something about trail etiquette and how it's important that the trail be used, it's important to keep the cross country trails separate from snow shoers and not limit the use if those things are interrupted. I don't know what the right words are but, from someone who is more eloquent than I am ...

Martha Anderson: I can look on line and see if there's an actual trail etiquette like listing that we could base into it that would ...

Marla Connelly: There's lots of things on line that way. I've done a lot (*inaudible*). We're in the middle of a project with Long Point right now that addresses some of those issues that you experienced Martha. We're working on formulating out a trail etiquette thing that will be on our kiosks once we get that all together. We can get together and put on the kiosks that Jacob is hopefully going to have funded.

Martha Anderson: That would be a really good thing.

Jacob Bodway: Marla, are you doing anything about the snow dog trails? Is that part of the trail etiquette for Long Point?

Marla Connelly: I'm not sure of the question Jacob.

Jacob Bodway: The snow dog out there?

Martha Anderson: The bike group right?

Martha Anderson: Snow dogs used on all of our trails. I'm not what you're...

Jacob Bodway: It's like the double track that we groom and then there's the single track. Is there anything about the single track? We like having skier on there, we like having snow shoers on there. It's the people who go out there without any snow shoes that kind of post hole the trail.

Marla Connelly: That's the etiquette stuff that will help. For example, I was at my doctor the other morning and we were talking about the trails and she said "*yah, I got some real dirty looks from some mountain bikers that I was making post holes as they called it along their trail.*" I think education.

Martha Anderson: Yah, and it does machine and it makes a huge difference when you hit those holes. I'm sure it does on bike too. Marla, if you could send me any links you have to that etiquette stuff I would appreciate it.

Marla Connelly: Sure, I'll send you what I've been working on.

Martha Anderson: Great, thanks so much.

Brad Bentley: Martha, did you get the email I sent?

Martha Anderson: I did not.

Brad Bentley: I might be at fault for saying it. So, she had a diagram in her email that she sent along, I will send it to you right now.

Martha Anderson: Okay.

Brad Bentley: Sorry about that. I'm guilty of my own ...

Martha Anderson: No, it's just, I mean I got hacked and it's just been horrendous and so it's been, that's what it is. We'll get there.

Brad Bentley: I'll send it over to you so at least you have it to the email that you gave me.

Martha Anderson: That would be good.

Brad Bentley: Well if anyone wants to go send out notifications. I think it's a communication issue and the more we get it out there to the public the better it will be. I don't know, it's something that we think...

Keith Carrow: I was talking to my supervisor about it earlier. We had to increase usage of the trails and it's become more and more of a problem. It's a problem on a lot of different sides. We've got horse trails that certain users are going to have to have a certain etiquette, a big powerful horse, so it crosses many different venues, not just the trail sports so I'm kind of thinking to turning to the folks in Albany to see what they've got to try to educate. Just to be fair to all users. People are trying to get out because we're telling them to get out. And they don't understand because they've never done it or experienced it before.

Martha Anderson: And we want them out there. That's our point. We just want them to be aware.

Keith Carrow: Yes, we want everyone to get along and to know the rules.

Brad Bentley: Well, it's just being respectful of others. That's what it comes down to. If there are any other ideas anyone wants to pass along to me, let me know and I'll see what I can do.

Jacob Bodway: I could share real quickly the thing you sent. This is the trail etiquette sign. That seems pretty, because as long as the trail is wide enough it seems pretty good. I don't know how wide the trail is going to be once we're done with the overland project to fit all three side by side but....

Martha Anderson: And a lot of places there's not a lot of room for skating on the west side trail but east side, yah, they have to on Boutwell Hill, the skate ski is limited there. Very limited on the west side trail. Thank you.

Brad Bentley: All right, back to 4, other **trail information**. Conversing with Shelly (*inaudible*) on the Wegmans passport release, I think we've been talking about it more that we've been doing anything about it. She had been trying to reach out to Wegmans to get a quote for the press release. I'm not sure if the whole vaccine roll out stuff is consuming a lot of people's time but I'm sure it is. We decided to move forward with the press release without them if, unless they come to the table last minute. I sent in my comment yesterday to try and get that out to everybody. (*crosstalk*) It might be that ship has sailed because it already went over to the county exec. I think that (*trail etiquette*) deserves its own attention. The big thing on the Wegmans passport is to complete your booklet. You basically get a free bag. A paper bag, the ones they hand out are a \$1.99. To complete the book and then you're also eligible for a \$250 cash reward at Wegmans. They do that drawing once a year in October or November so we want to get this out now so people can get their passport books and markers are out on the trails. So those are all ready to go. It's just a matter of making the announcements. So look for that and I think that was all set up by you guys so I want to thank everybody who contributed to that effort. I'm just trying to get it across the finish line here. Any questions on that? Today or tomorrow. We'll see. It may be late for today. Possibly tomorrow. **2021 Budget** – nothings really changed there. 2021 we have expensed \$9,000, that's for personnel. Just recurring operating expenses. **Capital Projects** – hasn't changed. The (*inaudible*) for the lower deck and the tractor, those are the, on order. About \$21,500 for the front deck mower and \$10,000 for the John Deere tractor. Bathroom at Luensman still on hold till we get more visibility on what's going to happen with COVID. We'll decide a little bit more how to proceed with that project going forward. And then I wanted to do an oil and gas revenue update. Out of the forestry/park we have not seen very much revenue from the forestry and as you guys are hopefully aware excess revenue that is above what the property taxes are normally goes to help fund capital improvements at the parks. So when we have very little revenue from the existing oil and gas, the taxes have to be made up by local share. We expect based on what we've seen so far from last year our revenues did not come in as budgeted. Sam, do you have the amounts?

Sam Zafuto: Thus far for the oil and gas revenue in forestry is \$2,178.34. We had an expected budget of \$7,000 and \$7,000 does not cover the taxes.

Brad Bentley: So that's not good news, but it is what it is. I guess somewhat on the bright side the oil and gas lease that we did for reforestation property #9 with Sam Kohler, we should be getting our first royalty check there. It's not anything to write home about but he's getting that up and going. For us, every little bit counts. That is my report. Any questions?

Bob Franzen: Front deck mower, on our account here it was going to be in 2020 for \$21,500. Was that last year or, working on?

Sam Zafuto: We didn't purchase it based on the way last year played out. So it will be purchased at the beginning of this year for this year's park season. Coincidence the warrantee period based on this year's season. But that is a 2020 project but we'll be doing it in 2021.

Bob Franzen: Okay, well the tractor we got for \$10,000, is that going to be replaced then?

Sam Zafuto: Yah, that's a new project that was approved as a capital project last year for the capital budget so that's in there.

Bob Franzen: But our 2020 we had to replace the ATV for \$20,000. Is that going to be for this year too then?

Sam Zafuto: No, through the capital plan last year that was moved out a couple years so that will not be for 2020.

Bob Franzen: Okay.

Brad Bentley: Yah, Bob, we've had to make some adjustments. I think part of that is COVID hit. The county put all capital projects on hold mid-summer if you recall. So that really disrupted a lot of plans of trying to get things done. So by the time we got to the end of the season there was no point in using something once and starting the warrantee period. We felt it was in the county's best interest to try to hold till this year so we could get a full season out of it under full warrantee. Start that fresh in the spring here so ... And we've had to make other adjustments to all that so it's a little bit of a moving target from what our original plans were, but budgets are tight and we have to watch what we spend and make sure it's in the right places here so...

Bob Franzen: This tractor, is that the original one that we're trading in then? or we had one in between?

Brad Bentley: Do you know the answer to that Sam?

Sam Zafuto: It's two separate pieces that they are trading. One was a front mount mower. I'm not sure if this one, it's not for Luensman, it might be Erlandson. I'd have to pull up the capital to see which ones we're replacing at Luensman for you. I can send it to you Bob.

Bob Franzen: Okay. I wanted to know if we had an inventory of everything we had you know. That's everything with no help. We've been kind of behind the eight ball. I didn't know if we still had all our old equipment that we're doing and revamping it and getting new, trading it in or if this is something we have always had there and just didn't know what to do with it.

Sam Zafuto: I can put in next month's commission – we'll attach a current listing of parks inventory of equipment.

Bob Franzen: Okay. Okay. I know we were talking of different things. Spring's coming I know and everything it's going to be a while for our next meeting maybe we can figure out, like the Muskegee Incorporated (?) they were talking about bridges on the waterway. I know we haven't got a way to do anything right now but if that's coming up maybe we can get that going February or March meeting anyways so we can see what we're doing with people had been interested in volunteering with bridges and access points at the waterways. Another thing like

this equipment there, if we can get something going in another month here maybe we can find out exactly what we are doing for the rest of the summer if we get help. If we don't get help or how we can do it.

Brad Bentley: I did have one other thing I forgot to have Sam have me put it on there but – update on the donated bench at Luensman. We are still actually waiting for the check from the family. I'm not sure if there's an issue there or not. We haven't ordered the bench yet because we need the check before we order it. Sam's been reaching out to Whit and he just haven't been able to make contact with him, right?

Sam Zafuto: He did email me back a couple weeks ago. He was going to send the check so I could get the purchase order and get it ordered through Jamestown. So at this time I hadn't heard from him this week and haven't received the check as of now.

Brad Bentley: I would have hoped to have had the check by now. We don't seem to have it yet. It's kind of in a holding pattern at this point until we have it. Hopeful we'll still get that. Just in case everyone wondered where that was. Any other questions?

Jacob Bodway: I have a quick one. Where is this meeting broadcast on Facebook?

Brad Bentley: It is, Kathy can probably answer that.

Kathy Tampio: If you are on Facebook, search for Chautauqua County and it should have the Chautauqua County emblem on the left hand side, that's the official site. Click on that and then you should see live video. Find it?

Jacob Bodway: Yes, thank you so much.

Kathy Tampio: You're welcome.

Brad Bentley: We post this meeting on the website afterwards.

Kathy Tampio: Yes, it will still be on the Chautauqua County Facebook page. So if you "like" that site then the live meetings will come up on your notifications.

Keith Carrow: Depending on where you are on the meeting right now there are a couple of things I wanted to talk about. I don't know if you guys have any more to talk about. We have a five year agreement with Chautauqua County and the DEC that's expiring in the end of September. I'm going to go back through it. There's some verbiage that needed to be changed. I'll send it to DEC legal just to see if that's okay. I think last time I had to go through Parks and I believe if will go through, it will definitely go through Kristen. I'll start the process because I think last time it took about a year but this is just a renewal so it really shouldn't take so long. Currently we have a timber sale going on in Chautauqua Gorge State Forest. Normally it's not a plowed road. It's not been a big issue. I closed off that portion of the road with the Town of Chautauqua because it's just sheer ice and we had a (*inaudible*) truck through there and it runs fairly often. For right now we find people hiking on the trail in the way of the timber sale but the road access we are trying to cut off. I've been in contact with Matt. We reopened two sections

of trail that were closed previously because of timber harvesting. Whalen still needs cleanup and Panama State Forest still needs some cleanup. We'll deal with that when it comes time. The equipment shouldn't get too far in the way of anyone hiking the trail. We have a future timber harvest at (*inaudible*) State Forest that affects part of the trail. We'll plan it where there, we'll close the lower section for a certain amount of time and reopen it once it's safe. 28<sup>th</sup> Creek Road over on Harris Hill, there's a sale right on 28<sup>th</sup> Creek Road. The company's hoping to get into it in about a month. If it affects a trail we'll let everyone know that it's being closed for a certain amount of time. It's real easy to redirect the traffic though because of the mountain bike trail heads. It shoots right down a road and goes right to the ongoing trail so it really shouldn't inconvenience much of anything. That's just a quick rundown. If anyone has any questions on any of the activities that are going on I can answer any questions.

Brad Bentley: You brought up a reminder for me to give an update on my side. Just to give you an update on the Erlandson Park timber sale and (*inaudible*), Rick Constantino had emailed over on January 5<sup>th</sup> to myself and Becky Anderson to get the template for the timber sales so Lee's putting some stuff together. I just haven't seen anything more on that as far as the details. But he did say he completed the marketing of the timber sales, trees to be removed and I think he's trying to fill in his parts so that we'll see what that looks like. He hasn't sent me over any dates yet he just asked for more time. So Tom, I don't know, did, have you talked to Rick at all, or did Bob say anything about the timber sale over there?

Tom Erlandson: I have not. Ron Johnson, I think Ron is still active but he's the former president of Forecon. Ron called me a while back and basically said what you just said so that's what I know.

Brad Bentley: All right. When I see something more I'll, maybe we'll see something for next month's meeting. I will get that out there to everybody. See what that looks like.

Tom Erlandson: Ron did say there's not a lot of money there in the timber sale. But it may be sufficient to pay for improving the view, those trees. Might be watched as far as cost and revenue go.

Brad Bentley: Yah, that's the sense I got as well. Keith reminds me of all the things I forgot I'm doing. I didn't have any questions for you Keith. You just remind me.

Bob Franzen: Anyone hear from Don and (*inaudible*) down the road here, let's see what we can come up with that. Legislation report, we got anything on that John?

### **Legislation**

John Hemmer: Update – we're in the process of trying to get to the law department, help us with the ... well we were gonna change the resolution but now it's going to go through the Code and Mr. Bentley, have you talked to Steve Abdella lately? Is that going through?

Brad Bentley: In my spare time he sent me a draft because what we found out is the parks is just part of the DPF that needs to be updated so Steve took a shot at editing the whole section. I gave some comments back to him but I think he might have gotten distracted by some

other stuff. I think it's in-between me and Steve somewhere to actually update the language that affect the number of board members as well as the ... he's got some very historical information with regard to the DPF as a whole, including landfill, parks, highway, buildings and grounds. So there's a, I think we're trying to take out more than just the parks which is why it is taking a little bit longer than probably the original expectations. I think that's where we're at. John, if I have a little spare time I think I'll take a note and see if I can call Steve tomorrow to see where he's at because, since he's not here I get to tell him it's in his shop. For now I'll say it's in his lap. It very well may be just something we need to coordinate time wise.

Kathy Tampio: John, this is Kathy, in the meantime you can proceed with reappointing everyone that expired at the end of 2020. It was everybody except for Bob and Judy. And if you want to make a motion to fill the one seat that's open because of Ainsley's resignation, you can do that now. I can have that resolution prefiled for the February meeting. If that's what everyone wants to do.

John Hemmer: That sounds good to me. Bob, what do you think about that? Do you want to carry it through that way? Want to not wait until we get the revision to the Code? Just move ahead with filling the seat?

Kathy Tampio: And then when the Code is revised and it's in effect you can add two more members at that time.

Judy Hunt: That probably sounds good to you Jacob, right? Let's propose that we do that.

John Hemmer: Okay. Well there's the motion to and or to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Ainsley and to add Jacob to our roster and move ahead with that by Ainsley. We have a second for that?

Tom Erlandson: John, you are not permitted to make a motion because you are ex-officio so the motion must come from someone else. Kathy, I believe I'm correct there.

Kathy Tampio: Yes, I though Judy was doing that.

Tom Erlandson: I'm sorry. I do want to reiterate what I said a couple of months ago that historically it has been the very important approach of the Parks Commission to have county-wide representation. As it stand right now everyone is from south county. Judy Hunt is from Findley Lake, Marla Connelly is from Ellery, Martha is from Ellery, Bob Franzen is from Busti, Steve is from Jamestown and I'm from the Town of Carroll. I do believe and I urge you to consider someone from the north county. I do have a candidate. Her name is Carrie McCausland. She is very interested in being a member. She lives in Brocton and I would nominate Carrie McCausland as a new member of our commission.

Judy Hunt: I would suggest that we remedy that situation when we have two more members eligible to be on the commission.



Brad Bentley: I know I'm not a voting member, but I will say that I'll add to what John's saying. Our full intention is to add in the Charter a total of nine. The language is being drafted to add those additional two members so that we can address Tom, your concerns. I agree with you. I think full representation if we can get it is important which is why we're expanding the board to nine. I think it will allow two members, not just one. If we put Jacob and another nominee it would also allow for another person. Maybe from the north county if you have someone else. I think our proposal is to actually get more representation from the north county through those other two members.

Tom Erlandson: I have also contacted Dr. Mike Jabot who is on the faculty of SUNY Fredonia and asked Mike if he had any suggestions from the north county. Particularly from the Fredonia/Dunkirk area. He did send me a name today so that's another person we can contact from the north county as well.

Bob Franzen: We could wait another month to do this.

Judy Hunt: I would say you ought to contact him Tom in anticipation of those two additional commission members. But I suggest for now that we nominate Jacob to fill the vacant position. And what's the wording on that? Do we have to reclaim all the people that are expiring (terms)? What was that word you used Kathy?

Kathy Tampio: Reappointments.

Judy Hunt: I suggest reappoint those four – Tom and Marla, Martha and Steve.

Kathy Tampio: Is that your motion that the commission members recommend Jacob Bodway to fill the vacant position and to recommend the reappointment of members Steve, Marla, Martha and Tom?

Judy Hunt: That's it exactly. Do I hear a second?

Steve Sandberg: I'll second that.

John Hemmer: Thank you Steve. Okay – all in favor of the motion please say aye. Anyone opposed to the motion?

***Motion Unanimously Carried***

John Hemmer: Okay. Looks like that motion carries. That will be good, thank you.

Kathy Tampio: Okay I'll get that resolution ready with Mr. Hemmer. It will be at the request of you.

John Hemmer: Good, thank you.

Judy Hunt: Welcome aboard Jacob.

Jacob Bodway: Yes, thank you.

John Hemmer: Thank you Jacob.

Brad Bentley: Now you don't have to ask to stay. Now you have to stay.

Judy Hunt: He has to go teach.

Jacob Bodway: I do have to teach this semester. I'm doing it on-line so it's not a big deal. It's a transition from one to the next. I don't think too many of the meetings last past 5:15 anyway so we should be alright.

Judy Hunt: And here we are at 5:05 and pretty well done. Anything else for the good of the order?

Tom Erlandson: Jacob, you're from Ellery, am I correct?

Jacob Bodway: I live in Bemus Point. Town of Ellery. I live right next to Long Point State Park.

Keith Carrow: I also worked on the Rails to Trails board with Carrie and she will be a very good addition.  
*Crosstalk*

Brad Bentley: Does someone want to invite Carrie to the next meeting and we can get to meet her? In anticipation of ...

Judy Hunt: Yes, that's a good idea.

Brad Bentley: Get to know us. She may not be an official member but ....

Judy Hunt: She can be a guest.

John Hemmer: It's a public meeting, right?

Kathy Tampio: Right and you have a couple months depending on when Steve and Brad agree and the County Executive agree on the Code changes. Once that official letter comes to the Legislature then 30 days have to go by before its official unless the legislature objects.

Brad Bentley: Right. But for all practical purposes she could be in and give her input. I don't think we have to wait for her to be a person nominated to have her participate. Like Tom said I think it's important that get all those viewpoints in as fast as possible.

Kathy Tampio: Just like Jacob participated too.

Judy Hunt: Tom, you'll contact that other person?

Tom Erlandson: I'm in contact with one of them, had been. The other was just relayed to me today so I'll work on it.

Judy Hunt: If he's interested have him join us also at the February meeting which will be February 25<sup>th</sup>.

John Hemmer: Okay. Same time?

Judy Hunt: Same station, probably.

Brad Bentley: I guess is there any other, other.

Judy Hunt: Are we done, Bob?

### **New Business**

Bob Franzen: New business, one thing. Is there a way, just a question here, the new maintenance building in Falconer, the upstairs seems to be pretty empty. Is that a spot we can have a meeting or does the airport have space we can have a meeting. Come up with an awful big area if we have to. Any chance on that? Instead of going through Zooming?

Brad Bentley: John, do you know how long the legislators and the committees are meeting via Zoom? Is that still continuing?

John Hemmer: As far as I know it's a continuation. I don't think that there's any plans to go back to in person meetings right away.

Brad Bentley: So you haven't heard anything from Pierre?

Kathy Tampio: I spoke to Chairman Chagnon today and I asked him about that and he wants to continue all February meetings by Zoom.

Brad Bentley: Bob, I have to follow the rules of the county. If they're discouraging in person meetings which I believe is still happening. For February I think it's by Zoom. We'll see what March brings. I certainly want to get back to meeting in person if we can when it's safe to do so. I know that I miss having meetings with my own staff. I do everything conference calls and Zoom these days with my own staff just so we aren't in the same room together.

Bob Franzen: Okay.

### **Next Meeting: February 25, 2021, 4:00 pm**

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kathy Tampio  
Clerk, Chautauqua County Legislature  
*Approved 2/25/2021*