

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 29, 2020

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Skellie, Rozell, Campbell, Haff, Hicks, Fedler, Shaw, Ferguson, Wilson

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

SUPERVISORS: Hall, Henke, Losaw, Ward, O'Brien, Hogan, Clary, Griffith

Debra Prehoda, Clerk

Roger Wickes, County Attorney

Al Nolette, County Treasurer

Deborah Donohue, Supt. Public Works

Joe Brilling, Executive Director, Sewer District

AGENDA AS PRESENTED IN COMMITTEE NOTICE:

1. Call to Order
2. Accept Minutes – December 1, 2020
3. Department Reports/Requests:
 - A. Sewer District
 - 1) Request for Budget Amendment – 2020 Budget
 - 2) RFQ Award Recommendations
 - 3) Feeder Street, HF Project Update
 - B. Department of Public Works
 - 1) Department Updates
4. Other Business
5. Adjournment

Chairman Skellie called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. via teleconference.

A motion to accept the minutes of the December 1, 2020 meeting was moved by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Mrs. Fedler and adopted.

SEWER DISTRICT – Joe Brilling, Executive Director, addressed the following items with the committee:

- 2020 Budget Amendment – A motion to increase the following accounts in the amount of \$46,590 and decrease fund balance in the amount of \$46,590 to cover budget shortfalls:

Increase Account	Amount	Decrease Account	Amount
GB8000.8110.4030.01	\$380.00	GB8000.599	\$46,590.00
GB8000.8110.4100	\$10.00		
GB8000.8110.4250.01	\$9,500.00		
GB8000.8120.4280.01	\$5,000.00		
GB8000.8120.4320.01	\$20,000.00		
GB8000.8130.4010	\$1,200.00		
GB8000.8131.4280.01	\$8,500.00		
GB8000.8131.4590	\$2,000.00		

was moved by Mrs. Fedler, seconded by Messrs. Wilson and Campbell and adopted.

- RFQ Award Recommendations – The RFQ was to look at four or five sewer shed areas in the village of Hudson Falls (multiple situations), received ten submissions and would like to award to Environmental Design Partnership, Clifton Park. This award has been reviewed and approved by the Sewer District Board of Directors. A motion to award the contract to Environmental Design Partnership was moved by Mr. Campbell and seconded by Mrs. Fedler. Discussion. The candidates were not advised of a budget number for the services. The district was looking for their qualifications, experience and approach to what they are looking to do.

These are projects that meet their long-term control plan requirements. The awardee will be advised that the district budgeted \$50,000 for these services. The motion to award the contract to Environmental Design Partnership was moved by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mrs. Fedler and adopted.

- Feeder Street, HF Project Update – The paving job was unsatisfactory and they are holding the retainage and the paving costs from that contract until next spring when they come back and correct the unsatisfactory paving job.
- Unpaid out of district user fees from town of Queensbury residences. There are three accounts in arrears for a total with penalties of \$1265. He was going to take legal action because none of these out of district users responded to the certified mailings they were sent and the Sewer District wants to recoup those costs. There is a utility moratorium on termination of services. He would like to take legal action to recoup the funds due the district. The County Attorney stated he is going to need authority to pursue those bills in courts and then pay either the County Attorney or the Sewer District's outside counsel for representing them. These would go to small claims court. A motion to authorize the Sewer District to pursue those unpaid out of district user fees through a legal action was moved by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Messrs. Wilson and Hicks and adopted.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS – Deborah Donohue, Superintendent of Public Works, addressed the following items with the committee:

- Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration has a new safety regulation and it's called the federal motor carry safety administration clearinghouse that maintains the records of all drug and alcohol violations in a central repository. The County is all set up in the program. The Superintendent asked if the committee wants the County to participate in a shared service where we kind of administer this program for the town DPWs. The agency that tests the town employees will have to enter this information into the system. Every year they have to run all their employees to detect if there are any positive drug screens and this would pick up any violations that occurred if the employee was working a second job. They are independent from who does the drug tests for the county/town DPW employees. More information can be found at the FMCA clearinghouse website. The cost is \$1.50 per person per year. A motion to authorize the towns participation in the County's federal motor carry safety administration clearinghouse program at a cost of \$1.50 per employee per year was moved by Mr. Haff and seconded by Mrs. Fedler and Mr. Campbell. Discussion. All the County has to do for the towns is run the query once a year and would advise the town of any adverse report. The Superintendent has not talked about this with the Town Highway Superintendents yet. A motion to authorize the towns participation in the County's federal motor carry safety administration clearinghouse program at a cost of \$1.50 per employee per year was moved by Mr. Haff, seconded by Mrs. Fedler and Mr. Campbell and adopted.
- Permanent Easement – DPW wanted to get a temporary easement for the Co. Rt. 31 Shushan Bridge Replacement project but now the utility company would like it to be a permanent easement so two poles could be removed and replaced with one pole in a new location which would allow for constructability for this bridge; crane access, map attached. It needs to be a permanent easement because the guide wire that holds it down will take up more room than we need or than we have in our right of way and need to go through a process called condemnation because they cannot reach the landowner. The Superintendent asked for the committee's input. Mr. Haff stated condemnation, eminent domain don't do it. It is the Superintendent's understanding that the property is in bankruptcy and the Treasurer confirmed that was correct. Extensively have tried to contact the landowner. The Superintendent will work

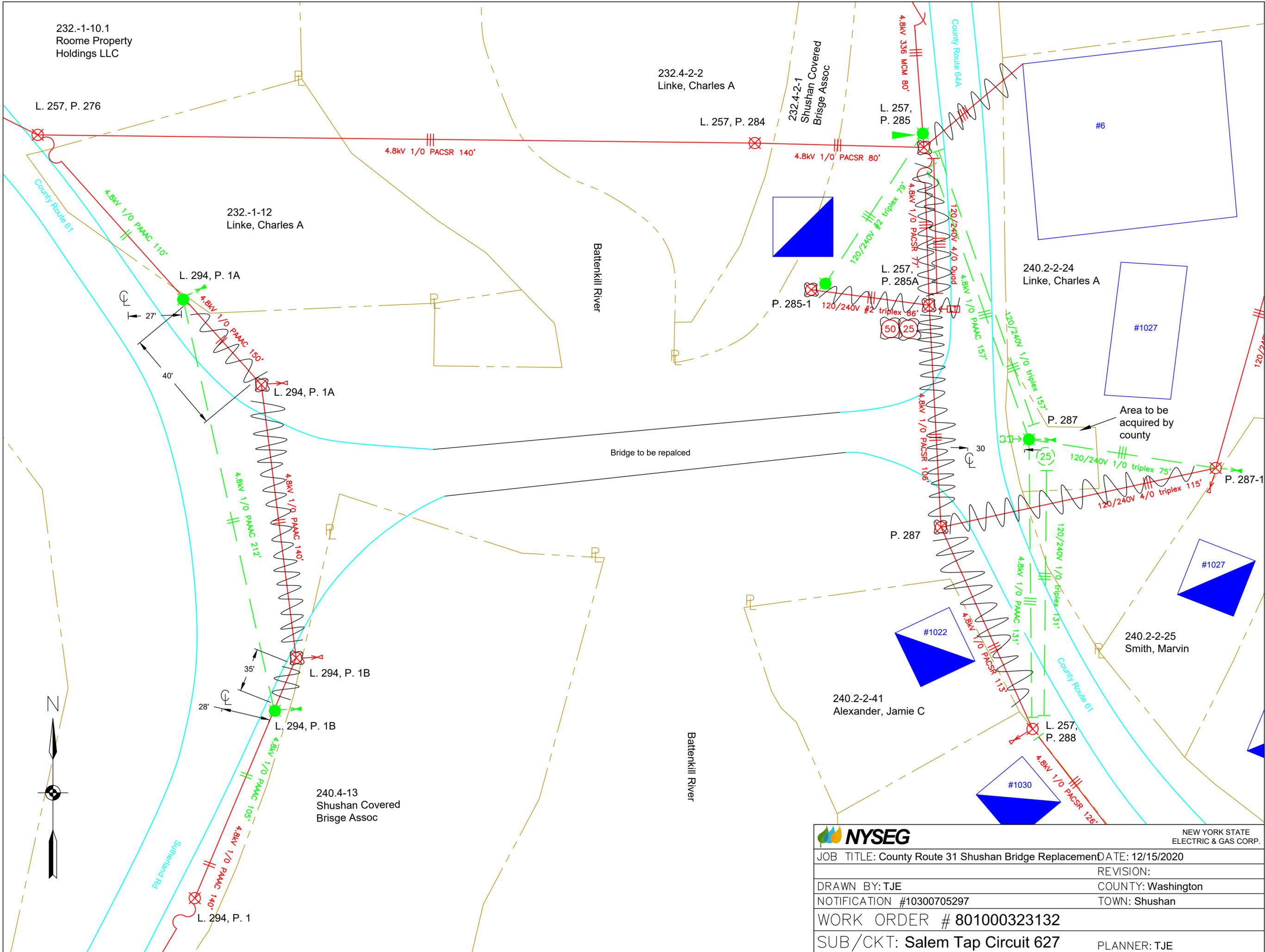
with the Treasurer on contact information for the landowner and the Superintendent stated if she cannot contact the landowner they may move forward with the temporary easement because the temporary puts the pole over there and at the end of project moves it back. The County Attorney stated that if she cannot get ahold the landowner in all likelihood still going to have to condemn it even temporarily. The Superintendent stated ideally the project should go out to bid this month and getting close to having to delay the project. The Treasurer stated this property is currently in an active bankruptcy case and there are nine years' worth of taxes owed on seven parcels in total; a large dollar amount. Mr. Haff suggested the Salem Supervisor try to connect with the landowner. This bridge has been flagged many times in the last two years and also shut down last summer. The County Attorney stated the best route is to go through the bankruptcy attorney. Mr. Campbell stated if we have an answer from the bankruptcy attorney within the next week this matter could be addressed at the Finance Committee meeting. The \$17,000 was determined by the right-of-way consultant and it was the cost for a permanent easement. Mr. Hicks stated he was "in a harsh mood today and if we're considering a guy who's evaded taxes for nine years and is in bankruptcy if we're going to potentially squash a little bid of his rights versus the thought of a red flag and that and cutting off whatever it's going to cut off to those two municipalities when I weigh those two things I don't have any problem getting a temporary easement moving forward to get the damn bridge fixed". A motion to move forward with a temporary easement to get the bridge fixed, authorizing the Chairman of the Board to sign condemnation for this particular project, was moved by Mr. Hicks and seconded by Mr. Shaw. Discussion. Mr. Skellie stated a permanent easement to relocate the pole would work so much better for the houses around the area and the bridge. A motion to move forward with a temporary easement to get the bridge fixed, authorizing the Chairman of the Board to sign condemnation for this particular project, was moved by Mr. Hicks, seconded by Mr. Shaw and adopted. Mr. Haff opposed.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Public Safety – Tim Hardy, Deputy Director, was advised by the state that they are evaluating the potential of a federal disaster declaration for the large winter snowstorm on the 16th and 17th. So, the County has identified a 48-hour period and each municipality can identify their own probably from midnight on the 17th through midnight on the 19th as being our prime snow removal time and any overtime, equipment costs or any other contract costs could potentially be eligible for that. Supervisors were asked to contact their highway superintendents and get those figures back to Public Safety by 1:00 PM on December 31st to get them compiled and in to the State. Have to hit our threshold of \$254,000 and the State has to hit the threshold of \$30M to be able to request that federal disaster declaration which would make those costs eligible for reimbursement. Chairman Skellie stated the County and Town Highway crews did an amazing job through those snowstorms trying to get things open and people through and thanked them for that.

A motion to adjourn was moved by Mrs. Fedler, seconded by Mr. Ferguson and adopted. The meeting adjourned at 11:08 A.M.

Debra Prehoda, Clerk
Washington County Board of Supervisors



		NEW YORK STATE ELECTRIC & GAS CORP.	
JOB TITLE: County Route 31 Shushan Bridge Replacement		DATE: 12/15/2020	
DRAWN BY: TJE		REVISION:	
NOTIFICATION #10300705297		COUNTY: Washington	
WORK ORDER # 801000323132		TOWN: Shushan	
SUB/CKT: Salem Tap Circuit 627		PLANNER: TJE	