

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
GENESEE COUNTY LEGISLATURE
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15, 2022 AT 6:00 PM
OLD COURT HOUSE, 7 MAIN ST. BATAVIA, NY**

In attendance: Senator George Borrello, Chief of Staff Alison Hunt, Legislator's Stein, Clattenburg, Maha, Torrey, Klotzbach, Yunker, Deleo, Dibble, Hawley. County Manager Matt Landers, Assistant County Manager Tammi Ferringer, Legislature Clerk Lisa Casey, County Attorney James Wujcik, County Highway Superintendent Tim Hens, Assistant Engineer Justin Gerace, Lobbyist from Sheridan & Hohman Partners Katie Hohman, Sheriff Sheron, Undersheriff Mazur, Planning Director Felipe Oltramari.

The Genesee County Legislature held a Committee of the Whole on Wednesday, June 15, 2022 at 12:30 p.m. at the Old Court House at 7 Main Street, Batavia, New York.

Approval of the minutes for the May 11, 2022 Committee of the Whole was motioned by Legislator Yunker and seconded by Legislator Maha.

Legislature Chair Stein called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. This was an introductory meeting to introduce Senator Borrello to the County Team and to discuss three major components that the County is working on: Broadband, Water and the Jail Project. The County Manager discussed the importance of the broadband stating Legislature is committed. 2 of the 11 million dollars of ARPA funds are designated towards the broadband. The County has 1 million in reserve. Mr. Landers mentioned there is 5 million designated towards this issue. Looking at the unserved. Mr Landers thought the project is in the 15 million dollar range. An RFP was issued to find a partner to finish the mapping of this project. Waiting on results. Potentially having the towns and municipalities help us out with some of this endeavor. Would like to use the money we have now to start phase one. This will be a phase approach. The County will seek out grants for help with the cost. Will be careful with assistance that have too many strings attached. Some grants may require to own the fiber, the County does not want to own the fiber. Need a partner that will do this for us like Empire and Spectrum. The County will be wise using the funds. Senator Borrello stated that this County seems to be head of the curve which is key.

Sheriff Sheron discussed the Jail Reform. Spoke on "Raise the Age". Senator Borrello agreed with major issues with the "Raise the Age" which has become a disaster. Costing 1K a day to house in the Erie County Facility. Adding the Bail Reform on top of the Raise the Age is more of a disaster. Senator Borrello stated the committee downstate did not bring law enforcement to the table they only listened to the City representatives. One side says were going to fix the problems the other side says there is no fixing needed. When a change was requested NYC representatives said "A clarification is a change" – this is complete dysfunction happening downstate and leading this bail reform. Discussion of the 70 million dollar jail project is underway. County Manager discussed the design, functionality, location, cost and the project as a whole.

Legislator Chair Stein moved to the Water discussion. Foundation has been laid down. The

cost of this project is 150 million dollars. Five years ago it was stated Phase 2 would take 2 years to build. We are now on year five. Pandemic has slowed the process. Phase three is 3 to 4 times complex. Multiple towers and pump stations. 60 miles of water pipe that needs to be put in urban areas, gates, chili, etc. Mr. Hens calls it the big straw back to the water plant. The goal is to carry the water from other counties to the water plant. Looking to complete Phase 3 in hopefully less than Phase 3. It's a heavy lift for the County. The two large water projects from 1998 to 2001 cost 30 Million dollars. Phase 2 cost 23.5 million dollars, just finishing Phase 2. Genesee County looking at every grant opportunity. Senator Borrello will do what he can to help. Chair Stein losing companies and growth because of the lack of water. Katie Hohman from Sheridan & Hohman has established partnerships with Albany. Genesee County is thriving with shared networking. Legislator Maha is the President of ICAWNY. The County is also engaged in NYSAC. Senator Borrello stated Governor Hochul needs to provide the tools to Genesee County to make this water project obtainable.

At 1:33 p.m. the meeting adjourned upon motion of Legislator Deleo seconded by Legislator Dibble, carried.

Rochelle M. Stein

Submitted for Approval 7-15-22