

Buildings and Grounds Committee Minutes
April 12, 2016 – 4:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Peck; Supervisors Grattidge, Pemrick, Richardson, and Szczepaniak; Chad Cooke, Deputy Administrator; Michael Churchill, McFarland Johnson; Carl Zeilman, Emergency Services; Tom Speziale, Keith Manz, Public Works; Steve Dorsey, County Attorney; Dr. Jerold Brotzge, NYS Mesonet Project Manager; Andrew Jarosh, Treasurer.

Chairman Peck called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

On a motion made by Mr. Szczepaniak, seconded by Mr. Pemrick the minutes of the February 9, 2016 minutes were approved unanimously.

Mr. Churchill gave a brief update on the airport projects. He said they are still waiting for FAA to sign off on the Master Plan. The T-hanger design is waiting for information from the fabricator, with anticipated construction to begin in the fall.

Mr. Zeilman said a couple of months ago he was approached by the SUNY Research Foundation from Albany, NYS Mesonet, which is an early weather warning detection system. They have reached out to Saratoga County, as they feel the county would make a good partner for one of their weather stations. Mr. Zeilman said the system would be paid for by the SUNY Research Foundation. The Emergency Services Department would have access to real time data, instantly through the system which would help with agricultural needs, and emergency response.

Dr. Jerold Brotzge, program manager for the Mesonet Project stated that the project is a FEMA funded project. He said long term the project will be paid for by funds from State, Federal and private funding. There will be no cost to the county as a site host. The tower will be 33ft. high within a 33ft x 33ft plot of land enclosed by a fence. The project is all solar powered and automated, so there will be no ongoing utility costs. The data is made available to both the State Government as well as private corporations.

Dr. Brotzge said the plan is to have 125 stations installed across the state and ready for operation by the end of 2016; currently there are 28 installed and operating.

Dr. Brotzge said at the state level they are working every week with the Department of Homeland Security and FEMA to take the data, and get it integrated into their system. Once the stations are installed the focus will be to train the emergency managers at the county level on how to access and use the data.

Mr. Pemrick asked how individuals would be able to access the information. Dr. Brotzge said information will be put on the website and TV news stations.

Mr. Dorsey said a request has been made for a permit to install the station on county property with a time frame of 30 years. Included would be the ability for the county to terminate the plan with a twelve month advance notice. He said there will be no lease or rental payments.

Mr. Grattidge proposed that the resolution include a 10 year permit with a 10 year renewal option; that the Commissioner of Public Works approves the installation plans; and that Mesonat shall restore the site to its original condition should the station no longer operate.

A motion was made by Mr. Grattidge, seconded by Mr. Pemrick to authorize the execution of a Land Use Permit/Lease to the Research Foundation for the University of Albany to construct and operate a weather station on County Farm Road Property. Unanimous.

Mr. Manz said USDA-NRCS is currently leasing a space in County Building #5. The original lease was for five years and they have requested several short term leases since. They are now requesting another one year extension without a 3% increase.

A motion was made by Mr. Richardson, seconded by Mr. Szczepaniak authorizing a one year lease extension to USDA from October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016 for office space in Bldg. 5. Unanimous.

On a motion made by Mr. Richardson, seconded by Mr. Pemrick the meeting was adjourned unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom