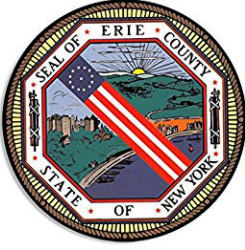


2025 Erie County Capital Projects Committee

June 27, 2024

Agenda

- Review and Approval of Meeting #1 Minutes from June 20, 2024
- Capital Projects Presentations (10 Projects)
 - Social Services (3 Projects)
 - Homeland Security & Emergency Services (2 Projects)
 - External Agencies (5 Projects)
 - Evergreen Ken-Bailey Project
 - Hispanic Heritage Cultural Institute
 - Shea's Centennial Project
 - Graycliff Visitors' Center Project
 - TOP Enterprises Jefferson Gateway Village Project
- Additional Items
- Next Meeting July 18, 2024



MEMORANDUM

ERIE COUNTY
CAPITAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE

DATE: June 20, 2024
TO: Mark C. Poloncarz, Erie County Executive & Chair of the Capital Projects Committee
FROM: Natalie Nitsche
RE: 2025 Capital Projects Committee Meeting #2

Attendance: County Executive Mark Poloncarz, Deputy County Executive Lisa Chimera, Chief of Staff Benjamin Swanekamp, Comptroller Kevin Hardwick, Chairwoman April Baskin, County Attorney Jeremy Toth, Budget Director Mark Cornell, Deputy Budget Director Kim Kajdasz, Commissioner Troy Schinzel, Commissioner Brian Ross, Commissioner Daniel Castle, Deputy Commissioner Thomas Baines, Legislator John Mills, Legislator Timothy Meyers, Michael Breedan, Jessica Schuster (virtual), Bryan Fiume, Scott Kroll, Sean Mulligan, Mark Rountree, Marlaine Hoffman, Antonio Morreale, Timothy Donovan, Alfonzo Harris, Elizabeth Hall, Ryan Rogers, William Whalen, Catherine Walsh (virtual), Nathan Lippitt, Mia Raj, Gabriel Revelas, and Natalie Nitsche.

The County Executive called to order the second meeting of the Capital Project Committee Meetings for 2025 and recognized a quorum. Director Cornell motioned to approve the previous meeting's minutes, which was seconded by Commissioner Schinzel.

County Executive Poloncarz requested that all presenters introduce themselves. Nineteen projects are on the agenda.

Central Police Services

Project #1 – Police, Fire & Medical Computer Aided Dispatch and Record Management System Part 2

Interim Commissioner Marlaine Hoffman discussed that the current software utilized by the department is showing its age and needs to be replaced. Three years ago, the department was awarded \$5 million. An RFP was put out last fall, and the results were received and evaluated, there were three finalists-all of whom came in over \$5 million. The department is asking for an additional \$3.8 million dollars to cover the difference.

The County Executive inquired as to there being a final number. Interim Commissioner Hoffman explained the final number is subject to negotiations. Commissioner Ross confirmed the goal is to have the contract started by July. Commissioner Breedan advised he supports the endeavor.

County Attorney Toth asked if these numbers include maintenance. Interim Commissioner Hoffman advised there is enough money in the maintenance budget to cover the foreseeable future; the maintenance costs will stay approximately the same as they are currently.

County Executive Poloncarz asked that Central Police Services provide final numbers to the Committee when they are available.

Environment and Planning

Project #1 – Erie County Agribusiness Park

Chief Planner Mark Rountree discussed the 240-acre property's need for shovel-ready sites. The site would be designated for agriculturally based businesses: food processing, cold storage, etc. There is an environmental review next week. A water tower and water lines are expected to be completed in August. The design of the access road will be completed in December. Within the next year, it is anticipated that phase one of the access road and utilities will be complete. The goal is to connect the former runway to Eden Evans Center Road and will include demolition of part of the runway and a hanger. The request is for \$800,000. This would help offset some of the costs of phase one construction as well as phase two design and construction.

The County Executive asked how much money is available. Mr. Rountree advised there is \$1.5 million which is earmarked for the construction of roads and utilities. Commissioner Castle asked how much the FAST NY grant is for. Mr. Rountree stated it is anticipated that it will be \$4 to \$5 million. County Executive Poloncarz asked what would happen if the County did not get the grant. Mr. Rountree advised there would be enough money from the County capital to complete the phase one road and utilities. The FAST NY grant would mostly be for the buildout of the park, running electricity across the rail and potentially constructing a gas line.

Director Cornell asked for an elaboration on the SEQR process. Mr. Rountree advised SEQR was started eighteen months to two years ago. There were some wetlands identified that were not anticipated, and about 210 of the 240 acres would be developable.

County Executive Poloncarz then asked about the blanks under the future phases in the Capital Projects booklet. Mr. Rountree advised that FAST NY grant would cover most of the buildout of the park. County Attorney Toth asked about timeline of finding out about the reward. Mr. Rountree anticipates the end of the year.

Project #2 – Buffalo Southern Capital Maintenance

Chief Planner Mark Roundtree advised Buffalo Southern Railroad runs from Tifft to Gowanda. Funding would be a match to State grants, and State grants use federal funding. Thirty-two miles

costs \$300,000. There are a number of culverts that need repairs, tie replacements, and road and rail crossing repairs. The State awarded \$2.1 million in grant funding. Director Cornell and Mr. Rountree discussed County funding contributing to increased grant funding.

The County Executive then asked about \$300,00 being enough for all of the repairs or just some of them. Mr. Rountree confirmed that \$300,000 would not be for all of the repairs and that is dependent on State funding. County Executive Poloncarz inquired as to how much State funding has been received for this project. Mr. Rountree advised about \$2.1 million.

Project #3 – DL&W Capital Maintenance

This rail line runs through Depew and Lancaster. This is for similar capital maintenance projects. State funding is \$1.7 million.

Information & Support Services

Project #1 – WAN Upgrade

Chief Information Officer Michael Breedan discussed the need for a total WAN replacement. It has not been replaced in 12 years at least, and it would be ideal to take advantage of ErieNet. The County Executive asked if \$4 million would be enough. Mr. Breedan confirmed it would. Director Cornell inquired about the consequences of not completing this project. Mr. Breedan advised the consequences would be lack of high speeds, lack of reliability, the services would not be supported. Deputy County Executive Lisa Chimera as if there would be an increased security risk. Mr. Breedan confirmed it could. Vendors stop putting out patches or upgrades, which creates a vulnerability.

County Executive Poloncarz asked if the projects are numbered in order of priority. Mr. Breedan confirmed one through five are in order of priority. The sixth project is joint with Real Property.

Project #2 – Security Improvements

Mr. Breedan discussed the importance of securing the County's perimeter and user privileges. This funding would also contribute to Central Police Services' upgrades as well as remote sites. This would create a firewall between an outside agency and the County. If something were to happen to the agency, it would not impact the County. Commission Schinzel confirmed that the County does not have this currently. The County Executive and Mr. Breedan discussed a hacking incident in Suffolk County.

Project #3 – Server/VDI Replacement

Mr. Breedan discussed that every two years, DISS replaces servers as part of a cycle. County Executive Poloncarz asked how many servers could be replaced with \$600,000. Mr. Breedan advised this would replace 30% of the County's servers. Every two years about one third is replaced. Mr. Breedan discussed the difficulties this would have on the department's operating

budget. Director Cornell asked where the County is in the process of the most recent server replacement. Mr. Breedan advised it will be completed in July.

Project #4 – Backup and Storage

This funding would allow for the replacement of the County's system as well as some cloud-based backup. The County Executive asked if the current backup system is offsite. Mr. Breedan confirmed it is, in the Public Safety Building-standby servers there duplicate everything. Ultimately, the goal is to move backup servers to Monroe County. Director Cornell asked for the status of the existing backup. Mr. Breedan advised capacity has been added to get the County through.

Project #5 – SAP Upgrade

The current version of SAP will be obsolete in 2029. There are two options. One is to upgrade to the newest version and the other is to switch to a new platform. There was a committee to evaluate the options. The current funding request is to upgrade. It will most likely take about 18 months. The County Executive asked for clarification of how the \$4 million will be spent. Mr. Breedan advised that the County pays a yearly maintenance, so the County can move from the old software to the new software at no cost. However, the County will have to convert all of the old applications to new applications. The only software that would need to be purchased is the database software, which the County does not have today.

Comptroller Hardwick confirmed that this is not an optional conversion. Mr. Breedan stated that this is not optional. The Comptroller and Mr. Breedan discussed training during the rollout of the new system and continued training.

County Executive Poloncarz stated that SAP was implemented during the Giambra era and asked what the cost is to change platforms. Mr. Breedan advised it would probably be in the \$20 million range. Director Cornell asked if the County could do smaller increments over the years, and Mr. Breedan agreed that could work.

Project #6 – Govern Application Replacement (Real Property Tax)

This is a joint project with DISS and Reap Property Tax (RPT). There is software, called Govern, which is used to collect taxes. This product needs to be replaced. There have been security issues, and it is past its support life. Towns and municipalities use their own software to collect taxes. It is quite a feat to get this all into Govern. RPT has been working with municipalities and will be putting out an RFP later this year. The goal is to have the municipalities use the same software as the County.

Director Cornell asked if this would purge Govern completely. Mr. Breedan confirmed it would. Director Cornell asked what the ramifications would be if a municipality chose not to use the same product as the County. Mr. Breedan advised there would have to be an interface written to help with compatibility. DCE Chimera asked if there is a plan to educate municipalities on the benefits. Mr. Breedan explained that there have been meetings. There is a little reluctance to use County products. It is anticipated that this program will be provided to them at no cost to entice them.

Sheriff

Project #1 – Helicopter Purchase

Special Assistant to the Sheriff, Elizabeth Hall, discussed phase two of the purchase of a helicopter. It was originally quoted at \$10.5 million; however, a 5% inflation rate was anticipated, which accounts for a new total of about \$11 million. A deposit of \$1.4 million has already been placed. The Sheriff's office was awarded the Crest grant which was for \$1 million. A grant request has also been submitted in the amount of \$9.5 million for Community Progress Funding through Congressman Nicholas Langworthy. The Sheriff's office has been informed the helicopter will be the Congressman's priority for the Appropriations Committee.

County Executive Poloncarz asked if there was a timeframe where the County could expect to hear about the Community Progress Funding grant. Ms. Hall advised later this year. Director Cornell explained that the Appropriations Committee generally takes place over the summer with decisions in the fall. Director Cornell asked for an itemization of all of the upfits that are planned. Ms. Hall advised there is.

The County Executive asked if there is a final number for the cost of the helicopter. Ms. Hall stated she believes the total amount is going to be \$11.1 million. That is the total amount before taking out the deposit and \$1 million dollar grant. County Executive Poloncarz, Director Cornell, and Ms. Hall discussed the balance of the total amount. County Attorney Toth asked if the federal grant is awarded, would that be the whole cost? Ms. Hall confirmed it would be.

Comptroller Hardwick asked when the balance would be due for the helicopter. Ms. Hall confirmed upon delivery. Lieutenant Ryan Rogers advised that once Airbus has completed the green aircraft (an aircraft with nothing in it), the aircraft goes to Metro Aviation. The completion would be managed by Airbus. Once it is completed, and the Sheriff's Office deems it to be satisfactory, then we accept delivery. At that point, the remainder of the funds are due. The estimated delivery window is sometime between May and December of 2025.

Director Cornell asked at what point the figure can be locked in. Ms. Hall advised the next meeting with Airbus is in August. Director Cornell asked if any of the configurations are wants and not needs. Lt. Rogers confirmed there is some prioritization. Most are needs, some are highly desirable wants. Lt. Rogers discussed his experience in traveling to other areas to learn about building a helicopter. He then discussed the necessary mission equipment for successful missions.

The County Executive asked for an itemization of upfits with the needs and wants identified. Ms. Hall advised that is possible.

Project #2 – Security Camera

Lieutenant Alfonzo Harris and Deputy Superintendent William Whalen discussed phase two of replacing analog cameras with digital cameras. Some of the digital cameras will have audio

capabilities, which will greatly enhance security. The quote that provided to the department in November of 2023 was around \$2,021,200, which is where this figure came from.

The County Executive inquired about whether or not the project should be delayed until it is established whether or not there will be a new holding center. Mr. Whalen advised that this equipment can be transplanted to a new facility. A new facility is years away, and in the meantime, there would be coverage in the current facility. That will save on costs for the new facility. Lt. Harris discussed sexual abuse allegations and the benefits of more coverage in the facility. Mr. Whalen also discussed whether it will help monitor staff and whether they are following procedure.

County Executive Poloncarz asked if the cameras would be able to see into the individual cells. Mr. Whelan confirmed that they would just be for common areas. County Attorney Toth asked if this would be the same software. Mr. Whelan described that it will be the same system. The data can be shared with the County Attorney and the District Attorney. Commissioner Schinzel asked if this is replacing outdated cameras and expanding. Mr. Whelan confirmed that. Lt. Harris and Mr. Whelan explained blind spots and body camera footage disadvantages.

Parks

Commissioner Troy Schinzel passed out a handout explaining the Parks Department history of renovations and current structures conditions. The projects are ranked.

Project #1 – Countywide Parks Improvements and ADA Accessibility

This is the general fund. In the past year, this covered stonework, resurfacing of tennis and pickleball courts, design work, hazardous tree removals, demolition of buildings/structures, etc. The County Executive asked if there are any specific projects that are earmarked. Commissioner Schinzel expressed that maybe the Ellicott casino, but this more of a catch all.

County Executive Poloncarz asked how much money is in the general parks fund. Director Cornell advised there is about \$1 million remaining. Commissioner Schinzel discussed unallocated and committed funds.

Director Cornell inquired about County parks becoming more ADA accessible. Commissioner Schinzel is part of every design. The County recently received grant funding to make trails accessible. It started with playgrounds but has now bled into every aspect.

Project #2 - Countywide Shelters, Buildings, and Restrooms

This is primarily for shelters, buildings, restrooms. There are designs and plans for three shelters at Chestnut Ridge Park and Como. Director Cornell asked if this was getting rid of the three small shelters and building one large structure. Commissioner Schinzel confirmed that it is. The County Executive asked for the price of restroom facilities. Commissioner Schinzel estimated anywhere from \$350,000 to \$500,000 which includes gutting, skylights, floors, stonework.

Project #3 – Vehicles and Equipment

This is an annual ask. One piece of equipment to be replaced is a 20-year-old high lift at Como Park. This will also replace the big loaders at the five heritage parks as well as the commercial mowers at the golf courses.

Project #4 – Countywide Roads, Pathways, and Parking Lot Improvements

Last year, the Parks Department did not ask for these funds. Funds from two years ago are still being used. There are paving projects at Chestnut Ridge and Sprague Brook. Director Cornell asked how much of the approximately \$2 million remaining is obligated to these projects. Commissioner Schinzel advised that \$56,000 is unallocated. Director Cornell asked what the priority areas would be with this funding. Commissioner Schinzel discussed potential upgrades and improvements at Ellicott Creek and Como Parks.

Project #5 – Inclusive Playground

Commissioner Schinzel discussed that not only the playground is replaced, but also the surface underneath the playground and the walkway to the playground. A lot of the cost is drainage. The County has nine accessible playgrounds. Possible locations would be Elma Meadows, Wendt, or Ellicott Creek Creekside. Sprague Brook will be completed this year. Isle View is in the bid packet.

The County Executive asked if there is a plan when the County is done building inclusive playgrounds. By the end of the year, they will be across the County. Commissioner Schinzel advised we are getting close to that point and stated that his number has always been around 12- this will cover the County, and the Department can still maintain them.

Project #6 – Park Culverts

Public Works flagged two culverts at Chestnut Ridge. This funding would cover the design and plans to replace those two culverts eventually. The ranking on these culverts is four out of seven. The County Executive asked what the total cost of the culverts is. Commissioner Schinzel advised he does not know the number, which is why the consultant is going to be involved-for the cost estimates. Director Cornell asked if these have WPA wing wall issues. Commissioner Schinzel confirmed that one does; it is separating from the road up top. Commissioner Schinzel and the County Executive discussed the location of the culverts.

Project #7 – Countywide Park Amenities

This funding is for miscellaneous park equipment: grills, benches, tables, totes, etc.

The County Executive inquired about the status of Schenck House. Commissioner Schinzel advised the project is over budget. Funds are being slid over from a project that was under budget. The County Executive asked for a completion time frame. Commissioner estimated in the fall and

discussed the details of construction. A discussion took place regarding the museum layout and design.

Minority Leader Mills asked if \$125,000 is for all the parks and if it is enough for amenities.

Commissioner Schinzel advised it is for all of the parks, and if the fund runs low, more funding can be pulled from the first project. County Parks in a good place as far as totes and picnic tables.

Minority Leader Mills asked if usage of parks is up or down. Commissioner Schinzel advised that use has skyrocketed; additional parking has been added.

Commissioner Schinzel, Minority Leader Mills, and the County Executive discussed park fees

The County Executive asked Director Cornell what the number is which differentiates necessary funding is either included in the budget or capital funding. Director Cornell advised that last year \$650,000 was the threshold and that \$500,000 should be the line. Projects close to \$500,000 should be reviewed.

County Executive Poloncarz asked if there were any questions or comments.

Motion to adjourn made by County Attorney Jeremy Toth and seconded by Commissioner Daniel Castle. The motion carried unanimously.