

Law and Finance Committee Minutes

December 15, 2010 – 4:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Wood; Supervisors Daly, Grattidge, A. Johnson, Sausville, Thompson, Wormuth, Yepsen, M. Johnson, Southworth, Lucia, Collyer, Raymond, Rowland, Jenkins, Wright, Hargrave, Veitch, and Richardson; David Wickerham, County Administrator; Spencer Hellwig, Mgmt. Analyst; Joe Ritchey, Public Works; Jack Kalinkewicz, Personnel Director; Bill Fruci, Roger Schiera, Board of Elections; Jason Kemper, Planning; Mark Rider, Steve Dorsey, County Attorney; Robert Christopher, Social Services; Alan Kempf, Janet Glenn, Public Health; John “Jasper” Nolan, Republican Chairman; Bill Davis, Jim DiPasquale, Sewer District; Jack Murray, County Auditor; Jerry Lundgren, Sam Pitcheralle, Treasurer; Paul Lent, Emergency Services; Denny Finneran, League of Women Voters; Press.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Sausville the minutes of the November 10, 2010 meeting were approved unanimously.

EQUALIZATION AND ASSESSMENT

- **Accepting a \$2,3612.73 tender offer in the Town of Ballston**
- **Authorizing a correction to the 2009 tax roll for a parcel in the Town of Malta**

Mr. Wickerham said the second item is a correction to the 2009 tax roll in the town of Malta where the property was coded in error. The taxpayers did not pay and applied for a correction.

Mrs. Wormuth asked how large was the correction? Mr. Wickerham said the actual assessment was \$4,400 and the error assessment was for \$784,000. This was a parcel that is considered wasteland and was not coded as such.

On a motion made by Mrs. Wormuth, seconded by Mr. Johnson the above resolutions were approved unanimously.

PUBLIC HEALTH

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with Harmony Healthcare International, Inc. to conduct Medicare audits and revenue analysis at an annual cost of \$36,400 effective January 1, 2011.**

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into a renewal agreement with Thomas Nicolla Consulting Services, PLLC at an hourly rate of \$46.48 for physical therapy services.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to accept \$78,164 in ARRA funding and amending the budget for expenses related to upgrading Early Intervention Program's client database system and authorizing an agreement with CMA Consulting Services to conduct system training at a cost not to exceed \$15,195.**

Mr. Wickerham said the first item is a request for a contract with Harmony Healthcare International, Inc. for Medicaid audits of all vouchers and bills at Maplewood Manor. They have maintained that they can save the county a substantial amount of money by billing for things that have not been billed for already. The cost will be \$36,400, which represents \$2,800/day for 13 days. There is belief that there will be a minimum of \$130,000 in additional revenue created by the contract.

The second item is a renewal agreement with Thomas Nicolla Consulting Services with regard to physical therapy. The same firm that has been doing it in the past will continue to provide the consultants for the infirmary and the cost will remain the same as it was in the previous year of \$46.48/hr.

The third item is an offer of stimulus money to facilitate an upgrade to the Early Intervention Program client database system. As part of the agreement CMA Consulting Services will be the trainer for the system.

On a motion made by Mrs. Wormuth, seconded by Mr. Grattidge the above resolutions were approved unanimously.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into a five year agreement with Frederick J. McNeary for property located at 431-433 Geyser Road, Town of Milton at a cost of \$2,750 a month for the first three years and \$3,000 a month for the last two years effective January 1, 2011.**

Mr. Wickerham said the committee has been looking for some alternate space for Friendship House. After an extensive search of a number of properties they have settled on a property in the Town of Milton at 431-433 Geyser Road. The cost will be \$2,750/mo. for the first three years and \$3,000/mo. for the remaining two years of a five-year contract. This represents savings of approximately \$38,000 annually.

Mr. Thompson commended the subcommittee responsible for the location of a new building for Friendship for a job well done.

On a motion made by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Johnson the above resolution was approved unanimously.

SOCIAL PROGRAMS

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into agreements with the NYS Office of Children and Family Services to accept \$109,888 in a Prevention/Detention Grant. All funds will be passed through to the Probation Department.**

Mr. Wickerham said this is a 100% State funded grant for Prevention/Detention. The funds go to the Social Services Dept and from there through an MOU that is passed through to the Probation Department to underwrite the costs of probation supervision as well as holding facilities, as necessary, for secure and non-secure detention.

On a motion made by Mr. Grattidge, seconded by Ms. Daly the above resolution was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC SAFETY

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with NMS Labs for postmortem toxicology services in an amount not to exceed \$15,000 in the Saratoga County Coroner's Office.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to accept a \$32,200 US Homeland Security Grant for an Explosive Detection Canine and amending the budget in relation thereto.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to accept a \$132,293 State Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program Grant (SLETPP) for the purchase of an IROBOT for anti-terrorism activities and amending the budget in relation thereto.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into a three (3) year lease agreement with Lyme Timber for a land lease at Spruce Mountain for radio shelter and right of way at an annual cost of \$675.**

Mr. Wickerham said the first item is authorizing an agreement with NMS Labs for postmortem toxicology services, which are required through the Coroners office. The County already has a contract with Albany Labs for some of this. This will be an additional laboratory. There is a specific cost sheet for any procedures that the Coroner's decide they need, and the funds are available in the 2010 budget.

The next two items deal with a Homeland Security Grant for a canine to be trained on explosive detection. Through a State Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program, there will be the purchase of an IROBOT that will eliminate having to put people in harms way.

The fourth item is a three-year lease with Lyme Timber. There is a snowcap for the shelter that allows access to Spruce Mountain in the wintertime when the roads are

impassable. For \$675/yr. the county is leased a shed at the foot of the mountain to house the equipment.

On a motion made by Mrs. Wormuth, seconded by Mr. Johnson the above resolutions were approved unanimously.

LEGISLATIVE AND RESEARCH

- **Urging the State of New York to develop and support a viable solution to the financial crisis caused by the closure of the NYS Off Track Betting Operation.**

On a motion made by Mr. Grattidge, seconded by Mrs. Wormuth the above resolution was approved unanimously.

LAW AND FINANCE

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into a three (3) year agreement beginning January 15, 2011 with NTS Data Services for maintenance and support of the Board of Election's voter records at a cost not to exceed \$162,129 total or \$54,043 per year.**

Mr. Wickerham said with new voting machines this year, there would be a need for maintenance and support for the new machines that will be provided by NTS Data Services. The package is for a three-year contract, not to exceed \$162,129, which represents approximately a 9% increase.

- **Amending Resolution 19707 to reduce the County contribution for the Blanding's Turtle Habitat Project in the Town of Northumberland from \$78,032 to \$74,959.**

Mr. Wickerham said the Blanding's Turtle Habitat Project was funded through the Open Space Program in 2007. This program relies on matching grants and matching expenses. As some grants were not obtained, the project will be for somewhat less. The county's portion will be reduced from \$78,032 to \$74,959.

On a motion made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Ms. Daly the above resolution was approved unanimously.

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into a contract with Delaware Engineering for services provided in obtaining EPA funding for the Saratoga County Sewer District expansion project at a cost not to exceed \$14,492.**

Mr. Wickerham said several years ago the county had an opportunity for a federal grant to be used for the \$50 million upgrade to the county sewer district. This was a \$6.6 million grant that began with former Congressman Sweeney and was maintained by Congressman Guillibrand and Congressman Murphy. At the time they agreed to do the

work and they agreed to not be paid unless the county received the \$6.6 million. The county has received the \$6.6 million, and the money is in the Sewer District's account.

On a motion made by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Grattidge the above resolution was approved unanimously.

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into a contract with McDonald Engineering to provide engineering services to design, upgrade, inspect and administer the contracts for the upgrade of the Saratoga Lake System and the sewer lines in the Route 4 & 32 corridor from the Saratoga County Sewer District's Treatment Plant to Lower Newtown Road in the Town of Halfmoon at a cost not to exceed \$789,300.**

Mr. Wickerham said the next big project that the Sewer District is entering into is the upgrades around Saratoga Lake and the sewer line on Rt. 4 and 32, where an engineer will be needed for the project. An RFP was sent out to eight different firms. The four lowest bidders were interviewed, with McDonald Engineering as the low proposal at a cost of \$789,300.

On a motion made by Ms. Daly, seconded by Mr. Thompson the above resolution was approved unanimously.

- **Confirming the 2011 Scale of Charges for the Saratoga County Sewer District.**

Mr. Davis said of the \$52 million that the Board of Supervisors authorized the Sewer District only spent \$47 million. He also stated that there were no monetary change orders made.

On a motion made by Ms. Wormuth, seconded by Mr. Thompson the above resolution was approved unanimously.

- **Introducing a Local Law to provide the codifying of Local Laws of Saratoga County into a Code and setting January 12, 2011 at 4:45 p.m. as the date and time of the public hearing.**

Mr. Wickerham said several years ago, a program was established to begin codifying all Local Laws. The project has been completed and is available in the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors office.

On a motion made by Mr. Grattidge, seconded by Mr. Johnson the above resolution was approved unanimously.

- **Levying amount payable to the County Treasurer and the Town Supervisors.**

Mr. Wickerham said this allows the creation of the tax bills for the county and towns.

On a motion made by Mrs. Wormuth, seconded by Mr. Grattidge the above resolution was approved unanimously.

- **Establishing January 3, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. as the date and time for the organizational meeting of the 2011 Board of Supervisors.**

On a motion made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Sausville the above resolution was approved unanimously.

Chairman Wood expressed his sincere gratitude and thank you to all county employees who are retiring, for the fine job they have done. It is a result of the fine work that you have done that Saratoga County is in the number "one" position it is in, he said.

A motion was made by Mr. Grattidge, seconded by Mrs. Wormuth to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of Litigation and Personnel issues. Unanimous.

On a motion made by Ms. Daly seconded by Mr. Thompson, the meeting returned to Open Session. Unanimous.

A motion was made by Mr. Sausville seconded by Mrs. Wormuth to authorize the Chairman to sign a consent order with DEC to resolve a SPDES violation at the Saratoga County Sewer District in the amount of \$10,000 plus the value of an environmental benefit project in the Sewer District. Unanimous.

Mr. Wood said that there are many administrators and county officials that are participating in the retirement incentive program, which has resulted in a number of vacancies, requiring action to fill the vacancies.

- **Appointing Spencer Hellwig as County Administrator effective December 29, 2010.**

On a motion made by Ms. Daly, seconded by Mr. Johnson the above appointment was approved unanimously.

- **Appointing Stephen Dorsey as County Attorney effective December 29, 2010.**

On a motion made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Sausville the above appointment was approved unanimously.

- **Appointing Pamela Hargrave as Clerk to the Board of Supervisors effective December 29, 2010.**

On a motion made by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Ms. Daly the above appointment was approved unanimously.

- **Appointing Joanne Bosley as Directory of Real Property Tax Services effective December 29, 2010.**

On a motion made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Sausville the above appointment was approved unanimously.

- **Appointing Brian O’Conor as County Auditor effective January 3, 2011.**

On a motion made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Ms. Daly the above appointment was approved unanimously.

Chairman Wood stated that he is delighted to forward these appointments to the full Board of Supervisors next Tuesday. Each of these people are being appointed at base level for a significant savings to the County.

Mr. Thompson asked if the other people who didn’t get the positions had been notified?

Mr. Kalinkewicz said they would be notified after this meeting.

On a motion made by Mr. Sausville, seconded by Mr. Grattidge the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom