

Law and Finance Committee Minutes
November 13, 2013 – 4:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Sausville; Supervisors Daly, Rowland, Wood, Veitch, Wormuth, Wright, Peck, Collyer, Southworth, Hargrave, Lucia, Jenkins, Raymond, Richardson; Spencer Hellwig, Administrator; Ryan Moore, Mgmt. Analyst; Steve Dorsey, County Attorney; Sam Pitcherelle, Treasurer; Brian O’Conor, Auditor; Peter Martin, County Clerk; Keith Manz, Public Works; Sandi Cross, Office for the Aging; Joanne Bosley, Real Property; Bill Davis, Sewer District; Blue Neils, Cornell Cooperative Ext.; Jack Kalinkewicz, Personnel; Press.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Wood, seconded by Mr. Veitch the minutes of the October 9, 2013 meeting were approved unanimously.

EQUALIZATION AND ASSESSMENT

- **Authorizing a credit to a tax bill in the Town of Corinth (\$535.33)**
- **Authorizing deletion from the tax rolls of parcels located in the Towns of Ballston, Clifton Park, Greenfield, Milton, Moreau, Northumberland, Waterford, and the Cities of Mechanicville, and Saratoga Springs, and a refund of 2011, 2012 and 2013 taxes in the amount of \$52,974.92 for said parcels.**
- **Authorizing a refund of payments in lieu of taxes to the City of Mechanicville and Town of Stillwater Industrial Development Agency in the amount of \$8,240.44.**

Mr. Hellwig said the first resolution authorizes a credit of \$535.33 due to an enhanced star exemption being removed from the assessment roll. The homeowner was approved for the exemption in 2012, but did not file a renewal application so that did not carry over into 2013.

The second resolution is related to a recent court decision, which determined that fiber optic cables are electric insulators and do not conduct electricity and; therefore, are not taxable as real property under the NYS Tax Law. As a result of that decision, the County Attorney’s office has determined that the applicant is entitled to a refund for the taxes paid for the years 2011 through 2013 on eighteen parcels that are located in the towns of Ballston, Clifton Park, Greenfield, Milton, Moreau, Northumberland, Waterford and Wilton and the Cities of Mechanicville and Saratoga Springs.

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The third resolution relates to two parcels in the Town of Stillwater that are subject to a pilot agreement within the City of Mechanicville and the Town of Stillwater, IDA’s. The property owner was inadvertently invoiced by both the town and the IDA for payments under the pilot agreement for 2009 through 2012, resulting in an overpayment of approximately \$8,000 for the

county portion of those payments. This resolution will refund those payments to the IDA who will reimburse the town of Stillwater, since the town has already reimbursed the property owner for both the county and town portion of the pilot agreements.

On a motion made by Mr. Rowland, seconded by Mr. Veitch the above resolutions were approved unanimously.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into a \$35,522.28 lease agreement with Saratoga Springs for the Supreme Court Law Library for a five (5) year term with an annual increase of 2%.**
- **Introducing a Local Law prohibiting entry into or remaining in county buildings by persons in physical possession of a deadly weapon or dangerous instrument, and setting a Public Hearing for December 11, 2013 at 4:55 p.m.**

Mr. Hellwig said the first resolution will renew the county's five year lease for the Supreme Court Law Library in the City of Saratoga Springs through 2018. The county is obligated under judiciary law to provide and maintain such a library within the county. The expiring agreement cost the county \$34,825 in 2013, and carried an annual escalator of 3%. The renewal agreement represents a 2% increase for 2014, and an additional 2% each year through the end of the contract.

The second resolution is the introduction of a local law prohibiting deadly weapons in county buildings, which is a recommendation of the county Emergency Action and Planning Committee, whose membership includes Supervisor Wood. It has been recommended by the Buildings and Grounds Committee as well as the Public Safety Committee. The law is modeled after similar laws that have been adopted in other counties, and like those laws it is intended to address those individuals who are entering county buildings with certain deadly weapons in their possession. While not intending to harm anyone, but based on escalations of emotions during interaction with county employees, those weapons could be used to potentially harm someone. The county will be posting signs in the buildings indicating that these weapons are not allowed and that violators will be prosecuted.

On a motion made by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Veitch the above resolutions were approved unanimously.

PERSONNEL

- **Amending the 2013 Budget to appropriate \$758,200 from the Self-Insurance Contributory Reserve Fund into the operating budget.**
- **Appointing Daniel Kuhn as the Deputy Coroner.**

Mr. Hellwig said the first item is for authorization to amend the Self Insurance Budget by \$758,200 to cover compensation, medical and legal bills related to large claims in the towns of Edinburg and Clifton Park. The funding to cover the unanticipated costs will be transferred from the contributory reserve fund into the operating budget for self- insurance.

The second item is the appointment of Daniel Kuhn to the temporary position of Deputy County Coroner, while Coroner Tom Salvador recovers from surgery. The rate of pay will be \$100 per case, plus mileage. A four month recovery period is anticipated for Mr. Salvador.

On a motion made by Mr. Rowland, seconded by Mr. Wood the above resolutions were approved unanimously.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- **Designating the Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce as the County TPA (Tourism Promotion Agency) and authorizing the Chamber to apply for “I Love New York” grants for 2014.**
- **Urging the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to fully implement the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act and to make additional reforms to the National Flood Insurance Program, including those requested by the Village of Waterford, in order to provide relief to residents of waterfront communities.**
- **Authorizing the acceptance of a \$363,000 NYS MS4 Stormwater Assistance Grant.**
- **Approving the Issuance of a negative SEQRA declaration affirming that the proposed MS4 Stormwater Assistance Grant activities will not have an adverse environmental impact.**

Mr. Hellwig said in order for the Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce to apply for additional tourism funding from the State they must receive the Board’s designation as the Tourism Promotions Agency for the county. This resolution will give them that designation. There is a match that the Chamber is required to pay to draw down the money and a portion of the money that the county provides the Chamber every year for tourism activities is used to meet that match.

The second resolution is in support of the Village of Waterford’s effort to urge the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s activities to make a number of changes in the way that the National Flood Insurance Program is run. Due to concerns that include costly insurance premiums for the village as well as some unrealistic basic flood elevation levels within the Town, the Village is asking FEMA to acknowledge those concerns and to provide a swift resolution or decision on what changes will be made in the flood insurance program.

The final two resolutions will authorize the acceptance of a \$363,000 water quality improvement grant for the county's Inter-municipal Stormwater Management Program, and it will also declare a negative SEQR declaration that the proposed activities will not have a significant adverse environmental impact.

On a motion made by Ms. Daly, seconded by Mr. Veitch the above resolutions were approved unanimously.

PUBLIC SAFETY

- **Authorizing a three-year lease agreement with Lyme-Adirondack Timberlands, LLC for the Spruce Mountain radio site parcel at an annual cost of \$700.**

Mr. Hellwig said the above item is for authorization of a lease agreement with Lyme Adirondack Timberlands, LLC for a small parcel of property on Spruce Mountain which is used to store radio equipment that is needed for the radio tower. The lease is renewable every three years and this renewal will be for a three year term. The increase over the expiring lease is \$25, going from \$675 to \$700.

On a motion made by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Rowland the above resolution was approved unanimously.

SOCIAL PROGRAMS

- **Authorizing the Chairman to approve the 2014 Annual Implementation Plan for the Office for the Aging and to enter into contracts with all agencies involved in providing services under the Plan.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with the Town of Hadley to provide \$12,000 in funding for the purchase of a senior transportation van.**

Mr. Hellwig said the first resolution is authorizing the Office for the Aging implementation plan, which is required by both the State and Federal Government as a part of the eligibility to receive the funding from those entities. Included in the resolution is authorization for the subcontracts for the various vendors who will be providing the services which include transportation, dietary, and social daycare.

The second resolution is for authorization to provide a \$12,000 contribution toward the purchase of a van in the town of Hadley to transport Senior Citizens to local senior programs. The funding is pass through money from the State under the Community Services for the Elderly Program, and it is available in the budget.

On a motion made by Mr. Rowland, seconded by Mr. Wood the above resolutions were approved unanimously.

PUBLIC WORKS

- **Authorizing an amended agreement with Greenman Pedersen, Inc. for additional construction inspection and construction support services for the rehabilitation of the CR 42 (Dix Road) Bridge over the Hudson River in an amount not to exceed \$125,000.**

Mr. Hellwig said the above resolution will amend the Greenman Pedersen contract for construction and inspection support services for the Dix Bridge rehabilitation to allow for an additional \$125,000 for those services. The construction took seven months longer than originally anticipated due to a number of factors; therefore, these additional costs were incurred by the county for those services.

On a motion made by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Wood the above resolutions were approved unanimously.

LAW AND FINANCE

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with O'Brien & Gere and Barton & Loguidice for a Saratoga Springs Pump Station, Treatment Plant, and Conveyance System Study at a cost not to exceed \$85,000, and amending the budget in relation thereto.**

Mr. Hellwig said the above item is for authorization to enter into an agreement with O'Brien & Gere and Barton & Loguidice to perform capacity analysis of the district's infrastructure along with several other engineering services, which include providing guidance on what steps need to be taken to address the changes in growth that are anticipated with the sewer discharge.

On a motion made by Mr. Veitch, seconded by Mr. Rowland the above resolution was approved unanimously.

- **Opposing the closure of Mount McGregor Correctional Facility.**

Mr. Hellwig said the above resolution is in support of the town of Wilton's opposition of the closure of Mount McGregor Correctional Facility. The medium security facility has been in place since 1976. Its closure will result in the loss of approximately 330 jobs, many of which are residents of the town of Wilton and the County of Saratoga.

On a motion made by Mr. Rowland, seconded by Mr. Wright the above resolution was approved unanimously.

- **Authorizing an amended agreement with Info Quick Solutions, Inc. to provide automated indexing services for criminal court records maintained by the County Clerk's Office at an annual cost not to exceed \$875.**

Mr. Hellwig said the County Clerk currently has a five year contract with Info Quick Solutions, Inc. for the lease and maintenance of computer system hardware and software verification services. This request would be to amend that contract to deal with records that were delivered by County Court to the County Clerk's office this year which had been previously maintained by the courts. Due to the voluminous amount of records and a large number of cases, that would take a significant amount of time and labor to index them manually; therefore, the County Clerk's office is requesting the contract amendment to allow for the process to be automated to handle the additional volume of documents.

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

- **Adopting the 2014 Saratoga County Budget (TO BE TABLED).**

Mr. Hellwig said the above resolution is to adopt the 2014 budget. The resolution will be tabled next week at the Board of Supervisors meeting and won't be acted upon until the Budget Workshop and the Public Hearing.

On a motion made by Mr. Veitch, seconded by Mr. Wright the above item was approved unanimously.

- **Appropriating amounts finally set forth in the 2014 Saratoga County Budget (TO BE TABLED)**

Mr. Hellwig said the above resolution will be to appropriate the 2014 budget amounts for the Board of Supervisors authorization to spend for specific purposes. The resolution will be tabled pending the completion of the budget workshop and the public hearing.

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

- **Setting December 3, 2013 at 5:30 p.m. in the County Board Room as the date, time and place for the Public Hearing on the revised tentative 2014 Saratoga County Budget.**

Mr. Hellwig said above resolution is the setting of the Public Hearing for the 2014 budget, which will be advertised to take place on December 3, 2013 at 5:30 p.m. in the County Board Room.

On a motion made by Mr. Wood, seconded by Mr. Veitch the above resolution was approved unanimously.

- **Approving the 2014 Tax Bill Flyer, pursuant to Local Law Introductory No. 1, Print No. 1 of 2012, establishing Truth in Taxation in Saratoga County.**

Mr. Hellwig said the above resolution is for approval of the Tax Bill Flyer which includes definitions of the State and Federal mandates and a brief narrative summary of the financial impacts that the mandates have on the county budget.

On a motion made by Mr. Veitch, seconded by Mr. Rowland the above resolution was approved unanimously.

On a motion made by Mr. Rowland, seconded by Mr. Wright the meeting was adjourned unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom