

Law and Finance Committee Minutes
September 14, 2016 – 4:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Kinowski; Committee members John Collyer, Dan Lewza, Jean Raymond, and Matt Veitch; Supervisors Preston Allen, Phil Barrett, Alan Grattidge, Art Johnson, Dick Lucia, Peter Martin, Bill Peck, Dan Pemrick, Jonathan Schopf, Tom Wood and Chairman of the Board Mo Wright; Spencer Hellwig, County Administrator, Chad Cooke, Deputy County Administrator; Steve Dorsey, County Attorney; Brian O’Conor, County Auditor; Mike Zurlo, Sheriff; Rick Castle, Undersheriff; Andrew Jarosh, County Treasurer; Craig Hayner, County Clerk; Marcy McNamara, Personnel Director; Dan Rourke, Sewer District Executive Director; Joanne Bosley, Real Property Tax Director; Keith Manz, Public Works Commissioner; Sandi Cross, Director for Office of the Aging; Jason Kemper, Director of Planning and Lori Pitcherelle, Public Health Director of Patient Services.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Collyer, seconded by Mr. Lewza the minutes of the August 10, 2016 meeting were approved unanimously.

PERSONNEL & INSURANCE

On a motion was made by Mr. Veitch, seconded by Mr. Collyer the following resolutions were approved unanimously.

- Authorize a contract with Martin J. McGuinness, Esq. as a part time Assistant Public Defender at salary grade 18 for 35 hours per pay period.
- Authorize amendments to the County’s Policies and Procedures Manual to amend the workplace violence policy, add the lockout and shelter in place policy, and add the emergency lockdown policy.

Mr. Hellwig said that the Assistant Public Defender is a part time position without benefits and is funded through a State grant.

Mr. Hellwig said that on a monthly basis the Personnel department is reviewing and revising policies. This month the workplace violence policy will be updated and two additional policies added.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

On a motion was made by Mr. Lewza, seconded by Mrs. Raymond the following resolution was approved unanimously.

- Proclaiming October 2016 as “Manufacturing Month” in Saratoga County.

Mr. Hellwig said that currently there are approximately 132 manufacturing companies that employ 8,000 positions with approximately \$686M in gross payroll.

EQUALIZATION & ASSESSMENT

On a motion was made by Mr. Collyer, seconded by Mrs. Raymond the following resolutions were approved unanimously.

- Authorization to accept tender offers for one parcel in the Town of Corinth (\$3,311.22) and one parcel in the Town of Northumberland (\$2,930.88).
- Amending Resolution 76-2016 and authorizing the Chairman to execute a corrective deed for tax parcel #219.5-1-30 in the Town of Stillwater.

Mr. Hellwig said that the original resolution conveyed the parcel back to only two of the former owners, this resolution will convey the parcel back to all four owners.

SOCIAL PROGRAMS

On a motion was made by Mr. Collyer, seconded by Mr. Lewza the following resolution was approved unanimously.

- Authorize a contract with Northeast Dining and Lodging DBA Golden Corral to provide meals for the home delivered meal program and the congregate meal program at a cost of \$5.98 per meal for the term from 1/1/2017 to 12/31/2020.

Mr. Hellwig said that this is a 16% decline from the current rate. This new agreement will save the County approximately \$150,000 per year.

PUBLIC HEALTH

On a motion was made by Mrs. Raymond, seconded by Mr. Veitch the following resolution was approved unanimously.

- Amend Resolution 117-2015 to authorize an extension of the agreement with Health Research, Inc. through December 31, 2016 for the expenditure of Public Health Emergency Preparedness Grant Funds.

Mr. Hellwig said that this grant extension allow the Public Health Department additional time to finish the Public Health Live project which educates practitioners on the Ebola and Zika viruses.

PUBLIC SAFETY

On a motion was made by Mr. Lewza, seconded by Mr. Collyer the following resolutions were approved unanimously.

- Proclaiming October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.
- Authorize acceptance of a \$12,500 Governor's Traffic Safety grant to increase seat belt usage and reduce dangerous driving behaviors.
- Accepting an Aid to Defense grant from the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services in the amount of \$15,500.

Mr. Hellwig said that the aid to defense grant is an annual grant to offset some of the costs associated with defending individuals in felony cases.

PUBLIC WORKS

On a motion was made by Mr. Veitch, seconded by Mrs. Raymond the following resolutions were approved unanimously.

- Authorizing an agreement with County Waste and Recycling Services Inc. for the transportation, processing and recovery of recyclables and scrap metal from the County's recycling centers and the Edinburg Town Highway Garage.
- Authorizing intermunicipal agreements with the Towns of Clifton Park, Corinth and Moreau and the City of Saratoga Springs for the purpose of managing the collection of recyclables at the County recycling centers located in their respective municipalities.

Mr. Hellwig said the County Waste agreement is a 2 year agreement with the option of two 2-year extensions. The intermunicipal agreements are four year agreements with two 2-year extensions and cover the costs incurred related to managing the recycling centers no longer occupied by County staff.

LAW & FINANCE

On a motion was made by Mr. Collyer, seconded by Mr. Lewza the following resolution was approved unanimously.

- Authorizing an amendment to the agreement with New England Waste Services of ME. Inc. DBA Casella Organics to include surcharge fees for extended load times and sludge volumes over 425 tons per week, and a fuel adjustment.

Mr. Hellwig said that Casella was hired after the previous vendor was unable to provide the level of service required. This amendment to the agreement will authorize compensation for certain cost overruns and also adjustments resulting from fuel cost fluctuations using the diesel fuel index.

On a motion was made by Mr. Lewza, seconded by Mr. Veitch the following resolution was approved unanimously.

- Authorizing termination of agreement with Marshall & Sterling for health insurance administrative and consultant services.

Mr. Hellwig said that the personnel department will manage the process through a minor contract with a vendor. Next year after reviewing the needs of the County, an updated contract will be brought to the board.

On a motion was made by Mrs. Raymond, seconded by Mr. Lewza the following resolution was approved unanimously.

- Introducing a proposed Local Law identified as “A Local Law to authorize overriding the property tax levy limit established by general municipal law § 3-c for the 2017 Saratoga County Budget”, and setting a public hearing thereon.

Mr. Hellwig said that they are initiating the process and taking the necessary steps to get the local law in place within the required timeline. The process of adopting a local law takes between 5-11 weeks.

Mr. Hellwig said that despite taking steps such as privatizing the nursing home, privatizing the landfill as well as the abolishment and reclassification of County positions, the county continues to see an increase in the use of fund balance to balance the budget. Over the last three years, fund balance use has increased and can no longer be ignored, in 2014 \$1M, 2015 \$1.4M and 2016 just under \$2.4M. The State’s enactment of this legislation has only made it more difficult for the county to provide its services.

Mrs. Raymond said that it is important to make it clear that the tax cap is not 2%, this year it is 0.68%. For a county that is growing and wants to continue to provide the services it provides, the county cannot continue to be static.

Mr. Kinowski said that he spoke with the committee members and all concurred that this is the right move forward.

Mr. Veitch agreed in voting to move this forward to set the public hearing, however he is not fully committed on voting to override or not. Mr. Veitch would like to know what the budget impact is if they do nothing, how much revenue is gained by not exceeding the tax cap, the figures received by incremental tax increases, the impact to the tax payer and, programs and initiatives that will be served by exceeding the tax cap.

On a motion was made by Mr. Veitch seconded by Mr. Lewza the following resolution was approved unanimously.

- Awarding trails grants to the Towns of Saratoga, Hadley, Halfmoon, Stillwater and the Town/Village of Corinth.

Mr. Hellwig said that item from the Trails Committee will authorize payments to the municipalities for trail work.

Mr. Peck addressed the Committee on behalf of Mr. Richardson who could not attend today. The Board recently passed a resolution for the Hudson Hoosic Partnership allowing \$200,000 for cash flow purposes while the Partnership awaits reimbursement from the State on several grants.

The Partnership may come back next month to request an increase in this amount. The project is the design and construction of the Gateway Visitor Center in the Village of Schuylerville. The Timber Frame Guild are constructing the building using old style methods such as hand chiseling and notching the lumber.

On a motion made by Mrs. Raymond, seconded by Mr. Veitch the meeting was adjourned unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Therese Connolly
Legislative Clerk