

LAW AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

APRIL 9, 2008 – 4:00 P.M.

Present: Chairman A. Johnson; Supervisors Daly, Grattidge, Thompson, Wood, Hargrave, Rowland, Veitch, Southworth, Lucia, Raymond, M. Johnson, Wright, Yepsen; Spencer Hellwig, Mgmt. Analyst; Bill Fruci, Diane Wade, Elections; Paul Lent, Ed Tremblay, Emergency Services; Sam Pitcherale, Treasurer; John D. Murray, County Auditor; Jim DiPasquale, Sewer District; Wes Carr, Youth Bureau; Dale Angstadt, Mental Health; Sue Lent, Self Insurance; Jim Murphy, District Attorney; Dan Butler, Animal Shelter; Sandi Cross, Office for the Aging; George Hodgson, Emergency Services; Carol Holley, Real Property; League of Women Voters; Press.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Grattidge, seconded by Mr. Thompson the minutes of the March 12, 2008 meeting were approved unanimously.

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

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

- **Authorizing the renewal of the Employers Liability Coverage through Russell Bond & Company at a premium cost of \$26,219.**

Mr. Hellwig said this is a request to renew third party liability coverage for the workers comp pool. This protects the county against third party lawsuits that arise out of claims that are filed by workers covered under the workers comp policy. The premium is an increase of approximately \$300.

On a motion made by Ms. Daly, seconded by Mr. Wood the following was approved unanimously.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into a renewal contract with SEDC to provide administrative services to the Empire Development Zone at a cost not to exceed \$60,000 per year.**

Mr. Hellwig said this is a renewal contract with SEDC to provide administrative services for the empire zone administration. The funds are the same as last year and are available within the 2008 budget.

On a motion made by Mr. Wood, seconded by Mr. Grattidge the following was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC HEALTH

- Authorizing the Chairman to enter into amended contracts with various agencies and amending the budget under Mental Health to accept additional state funding as follows:

Cost of living adjustments:

820 River St., Inc.	\$425
Prevention Council	\$6,778
Saratoga Bridges & NYS ARC	\$289
Community Human Services	\$93
Family & Children Services of Capital Region	\$517
Mechanicville Area Community Center	\$61
Northeast Parent & Child Society	\$139
Saratoga Center for the Family	\$43
Shelters of Saratoga	\$224

Cost of Living adjustments & new one time funding:

Franklin Community Center	\$5,205
Transitional Services, Inc.	\$120,380

One time funding:

Unlimited Possibilities	\$5,781
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Mr. Hellwig said this is state aid that is going to be passed through to these various organizations. The county has contracts with these organizations to provide their services for the Mental Health Department. In all cases, except for one, the money will be used for cost of living adjustments, at a rate of 2.8%. This is all 100% State Aid.

On a motion made by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Ms. Daly the following were approved unanimously.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

- Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with Petersen Group Architects at a cost not to exceed \$25,000 plus up to \$38,500 in expenses for architectural services relative to the construction of a new County Animal Shelter.
- Requesting home rule legislation that would enable the County to swap approximately 10.23 acres of County forestland with 10.23 acres of other lands in the Town of Moreau.

Mr. Hellwig said the first item is authorizing a contract with the Peterson Group Architects for a contract in an amount not to exceed \$25,000 plus an additional \$38,500 for architectural expenses. In addition, that contract will include construction documents, bidding phase work, administration, and inspection. There were three proposals submitted for the contract.

The second item is a request from Supervisor Jenkins in the Town of Moreau. The town is currently in the process of building a new town hall and there is a parcel of property located adjacent to the Moreau property that is owned by the county. They would like to use this part of the site to construct the town hall and have offered to exchange an equivalent amount of property owned by the town, in return for the county giving them county property. This will be done after Mr. Hodgson reviews the timber value of the property that is owned by the county and the town of Moreau. If there is a discrepancy the town will pay the county the difference.

On a motion made by Ms. Daly, seconded by Mr. Grattidge the following were approved unanimously.

EQUALIZATION AND ASSESSMENT

- **Authorizing the conveyance of properties sold at the March auction to the successful bidders.**
- **Accepting tender offers in the Village of Corinth (\$2,715.60) and the Town of Hadley (\$2,270.47)**
- **Authorizing a correction on a parcel in the Town of Clifton Park totaling \$2,658.51**
- **Rescinding resolution #77-87 and establishing the actual cost per sheet as the fee to be charged for additional tax maps reproduced for municipalities beyond the first set which is free.**

Mr. Hellwig said the first item is the conveyance of a parcel sold at the county auction to the successful bidders. In the auction report from the County Treasurer, the county saw a profit of \$174,712. In addition, \$186,000 was collected in taxes from property owners who paid before the property auction and they were removed from the auction.

The second item is accepting tender payments in the Village of Corinth and Hadley.

The third item is a correction to the tax roll in the town of Clifton Park. There was a church that was charged fire district and library taxes, of which they are exempt.

The fourth item is a resolution that establishes the fee that the county charges for tax maps for municipalities in the county, and also establishes a rate for the public. In the case of municipalities, the county supplies a complete set free; however, the second copy and any additional copies are done for a fee of \$1 per page. At this time the county is currently losing money, and they would like authorization to amend the total to reflect the actual costs to create the maps. The municipalities will still receive the first copy free.

On a motion made by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Grattidge the following were approved unanimously.

PUBLIC SAFETY

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with the NYS Department of Criminal Justice Services to accept \$27,336 in State Aid for the recruitment and retention of Assistant District Attorneys.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to accept a \$36,000 Violence Against Women Grant from the State in the District Attorney's Office.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to accept a \$49,216 Operation Impact Grant from the State in the District Attorney's Office.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to accept a \$70,000 Auto Theft/Insurance Fraud Grant in the District Attorney's Office for the prosecution of auto theft and insurance fraud crimes.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to accept a \$71,200 Crime Victims Board Grant in the District Attorney's Office and amending the budget in relation thereto.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to accept three Legislative Member Items from Senator Joseph Bruno in the amounts of \$11,600, \$35,000 and \$100,000, authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with the NYS Association of District Attorney's for distribution of funds, and amending the budget in relation thereto.**
- **Authorizing the STOP-DWI Plan for 2008 and authorizing the Chairman to enter into agreements with agencies necessary to implement the Plan.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with Capital Digitronics to provide 65 new station house monitors that are required by the new radio system at a cost not to exceed \$39,390.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to accept a \$158,000 Homeland Security Grant to be used for the purchase of new radio system equipment and amending the budget in relation thereto.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to accept a \$13,000 Oliver B. Merlyn Foundation Grant to be used for the purchase of four investigation kits and amending the budget in relation thereto.**

Mr. Hellwig said the first five items are authorizations for grants that are going to be given to the District Attorney's office. All of this money has been placed in these years' budget, with exception of the fifth item, \$72,100, where there was a slight increase of \$900 over the budgeted amount.

The legislative member items are pass through monies from the State. District Attorney Murphy is this years President of the State District Attorney's Association. The money passes through the county budget that happens to be the home of the District Attorney in charge. The \$11,600 and \$35,000 will be used to underwrite the costs of the summer conference being held at the Gideon Putnam this summer. The \$100,000 will be used to fund an Executive Director position.

The STOP DWI program is an annual resolution to certify the plan for this year. Permission has been received from the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee for the program. The 2007 total was slightly less than what was budgeted for this year by \$700. The additional money will be used to fund STOP DWI checkpoints.

Bids were sent out for the Capital Digitronics contract, sending it to eleven vendors and receiving only one response. The \$39,390 will be to purchase radio receivers that will be used to alert the fire service when there is a call for help. The receivers will be compatible with the new radio system.

The Homeland Security Grant is going to be used to purchase laptops, pagers, and portable radios to setup mobile workstations. This is also equipment that is going to be used as part of the new radio system.

The final item is a grant from the Oliver B. Merlyn Foundation for \$13,000 to be used to purchase four investigation kits that will be placed throughout Saratoga County. These kits contain equipment and other resources that are used by the fire investigation teams to work at the fire scenes to do arson investigations.

On a motion made by Mr. Wood, seconded by Ms. Daly the following were approved unanimously.

SOCIAL PROGRAMS

- **Proclaiming May as "Senior Citizens' Month" in Saratoga County.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with Capitaland Taxi Corp. to provide transportation services at cost of \$180 per day when services are provided at a cost not to exceed \$29,980.**

Mr. Hellwig said the second item is to authorize a transportation contract with Capitaland Taxi Corp to provide five-town transportation. There were two bids received for the contract with the high of \$325/day and the low \$180/day.

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

CHAIRMANS' ITEMS

- **Appointing members to the Local Advisory Board for the Saratoga Race Track Facility as follows: George Hargrave, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors; Tom Wood, Chairman of the Racing Committee; David Wickerham, County Administrator; Jason Kemper, Saratoga County Planning Director; Kristina Saddlemire, County Historian for a term to expire 12/31/08.**
- **Appointing Tom Mitchell of the City of Saratoga Springs to the Traffic Safety Board.**

Mr. Hellwig said the first item is appointing members to the Local Advisory Board specifically for the racetrack. This particular group is going to be responsible for

reviewing land development issues in the City of Saratoga Springs relative to development of the racetrack property.

On a motion made by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Ms. Daly the following were approved unanimously.

LAW AND FINANCE

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an amended agreement with Stilsing Electric to allow for an additional \$3,869 to correct defective work of another contractor.**
- **Amending Resolution 122 of 2005 to include First Niagara to the list of authorized depositories and to reflect various bank acquisitions.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into contracts for insurance coverage for the period of May 8, 2008 to May 8, 2009 at a total cost not to exceed \$973,854 and amending the budget in relation thereto.**

Mr. Hellwig said there was some work that was done at the sewer district, which was determined to be deficient. This agreement will allow the sewer district to pay Stilsing Electric to correct the defective work. The money will be taken out of the amount that was originally budgeted to pay the original contractor.

The second item is adding First Niagara Bank to the list of authorized depositories for the county. That particular list contains the banking institutions that are authorized to handle county funds.

The third item is the renewal of the county insurance policies for the upcoming year. The cost of the renewal was \$965,928. What is recommended is to offer that, and in addition, ask for an additional \$8,326 to lower the current deductibles for the property coverage on the county. Under the expiring contract the county has deductibles in the amount of \$50,000. In addition to that, the county is responsible for the defense costs that arise out of the claims. Under this renewal, and with a payment of an additional \$8,000 in premiums, the deductible can be lowered from \$25,000 to \$10,000.

Mr. Hellwig said this is the last year for Cool Insurance. The contracts are typically renewed on an annual basis for three years, after which a consultant will be hired, to prepare new bid specifications. A budget amendment is tied to this resolution because what was placed in the budget is not going to cover the entire amount. The amendment will include \$80,000 from the contingency budget.

A copy of a Premium comparison from Cool Insuring was distributed to all committee members for their review.

Mr. Pitcherelle gave a brief report from the Treasurer's office. He said on Wednesday, April 16th the 2007 annual financial report would be filed with the New York State Comptrollers office. A copy will be made for public review in the County Clerk's office. A final audited report will be available in August.

A motion was made by Mr. Grattidge, seconded by Ms. Daly to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of Contract Negotiations.

On a motion made by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Wood the meeting was returned to open session.

A motion was made by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Ms. Daly to ratify the 2007-2010 contract with the Saratoga County Deputy Sheriff Benevolent Association and amend the budget thereto in an amount of \$695,061. Unanimous.

On a motion made by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Ms. Daly the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom