

Law and Finance Committee Minutes  
November 12, 2008 – 4:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman A. Johnson; Supervisors Daly, Grattidge, Hunter, Peck, Thompson, Wood, Wright, Southworth, Wormuth, Veitch, Richardson, Sausville, M. Johnson, Hargrave, Yepsen; David Wickerham, County Administrator; Shelby Schneider, SEDC; Mark Rider, County Attorney; Paul Lent, Ed Tremblay, Emergency Services; Sam Pitcherelle, Treasurer; Rick Gardner, Public Works; Alan Kempf, Janet Glenn, Public Health; John Murray, Auditor; Diane Brown Maplewood Manor; Robert Christopher, Social Services; Dan Butler, Animal Shelter; Denny Finneran, League of Women Voters; Press.

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

**On a motion made by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Ms. Daly the minutes of the October 15, 2008 meeting were approved unanimously.**

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

**SOCIAL PROGRAMS**

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with Northway Process Service at a cost of \$30 per service and \$.40 per mile.**

Mr. Wickerham said an RFP was done for process serving outside the county. Any summons within the county is done by the Sheriff. There were six proposals with the lowest from Northway Process Service at \$30 per service and \$.40 per mile. The second lowest was for \$45 per service, plus mileage. In the past the county has spent approximately \$11,000 on the process service.

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

**EQUALIZATION AND ASSESSMENT**

- **Accepting a tender offer in the Town of Milton for \$2,887.23 for parcel #203.5-1-51.**

Mr. Wickerham said this parcel was pulled from the auction. It took some time to get the tender offer in place because it required signoffs. It is now ready to be sent back to the owner of record to all interest, penalties and taxes.

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

## **LEGISLATIVE AND RESEARCH**

- **Endorsing the GO21 mission of building a stronger economy, reducing highway congestion, improving air quality, and improving quality of life by advocating for increased use of freight rail transportation and supporting federal investment tax incentives to increase freight rail hauling capacity.**

Mr. Wickerham said this is a resolution endorsing the GO21 mission which is an organization trying to increase support of rail traffic in the United States. It will also provide support for the inter-modal railway project that the Pan Am Norfolk Southern has agreed to construct at the Mechanicville train yards.

**On a motion made by Mr. Peck, seconded by Mr. Hunter the following was approved unanimously.**

## **PERSONNEL**

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into a renewal contract with Girvin and Ferlazzo at a cost annually of \$10,000 plus \$185 per hour for appearances in court or before PERB.**

Mr. Wickerham said this is the annual renewal for labor attorney's Girvin and Ferlazzo. The cost remains at \$10,000, which includes the negotiation of all contracts and basic contract administration. In addition, they will appear in court for PERB at the current rate of \$185 per hour.

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

## **PUBLIC HEALTH**

- **Increasing the private pay rate at Maplewood Manor to \$245 per day plus the State Cash Assessment.**
- **Writing off \$1,485 in uncollectible debts.** (Law and Finance Committee approval only)

Mr. Wickerham said the increase in the private pay rate for Maplewood Manor is an increase of \$10 per day to \$245/day.

The second item is a write off of uncollectible debt for Public Health Nursing. The county has a very aggressive debt collection process. The reason for moving these debts out early is because there is a fund at the State for bad debts for Public Health, where the county can apply in order to have the debts made whole.

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

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

- **Setting December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:00 p.m. in the County Chambers as the date, time and place for a public hearing on empire zone inclusion for The Foundry, Inc.**

Mr. Wickerham said this is a local law setting a hearing date for December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:00 p.m. for the empire zone inclusion of The Foundry, Inc. This was already in place for AMD, however, the spin off organization that is actually going to run the chip fab is The Foundry, Inc., or some subsequent name. This will authorize that organization or its subsequent name to have inclusion into the empire zone. This is needed in order to close on the property and begin construction as soon as possible.

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

### **BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS**

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into agreements with Integrys Energy Services for electricity at a cost negotiated by Municipal Electric and Gas Alliance.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into agreements with Hess Corporation for natural gas at a cost negotiated by the Municipal Electric and Gas Alliance.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into a lease agreement with the Saratoga Soaring Association in the amount of \$2,925 annually for 45,000 sq. ft. of land area from 1/1/09 – 12/31/27.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into a \$30,942.33 lease agreement with Saratoga Springs for the Supreme Court Law Library for a five (5) year term with an annual increase of 3%.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into a renewal agreement for lease of space for Alcoholism Services with 254-258 Church Street Associates for \$87,780 annually from 1/1/09 – 12/31/13 with increases only on the operational building expenses.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into a five (5) year agreement with the NYS Office of Court Administration to accept 100% reimbursement for cleaning services and 25% of preventive maintenance work done by the County.**

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into a contract with Heritage Springs Waterworks, Inc. to provide water at the County Airport at a quarterly rate of \$88.72 for the first 9,000 gallons and \$3.80 per thousand gallons thereafter.**

Mr. Wickerham said the first two items deal with Municipal Gas and Electric Alliance, which is an organization that provides services to NYSAC members, trying to aggregate electrical and gas costs in order to lower the costs. The expected savings is between 4% and 8%. The electrical contract is a one year contract going to 12/31/09 and the gas contract is a two year contract through 12/31/10.

The third item is authorizing an agreement with Saratoga Soaring Association. They have been renters at the airport for some time with a hanger that they put up themselves. The county will lease the space to them at an annual amount of \$2,925.

The fourth item is authorizing a lease agreement for the Supreme Court Law Library in Saratoga Springs that the county is obligated by law to maintain. There will be a 3% increase over the next five years. The \$30,942.33 reflects the 3% increase for the current year.

The fifth item is a lease agreement for space for Alcoholism Services with 254-258 Church Street Associates for an annual fee of \$87,780 for the period 1/1/09 – 12/31/13.

The sixth item is a five year agreement with the NYS Office of Court Administration, where the county provides services to the court system in the county complex. The county will receive approximately \$285,000 for those services.

The seventh item is a contract with Heritage Springs Waterworks, Inc. to buy water for the fixed base operator. Heritage Springs Waterworks, Inc. will not sell water to a tenant, they will only sell to the owner. The county will have the contract with Heritage Springs for the water, but the bills will be sent to North American, with no budget impact to the county.

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

### **PUBLIC SAFETY**

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into a contract with Susan Hayes at a cost of \$100 per autopsy to assist the coroner.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into contracts with Dr. Jack Paston at a rate of \$650 per autopsy, \$25 per death certificate, \$75 per scene investigation, and with Forensic Medical Services at a rate of \$800 per autopsy, \$25 per death certificate, \$75 per scene investigation, effective January 1, 2009.**

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with Capital Digitronics to perform repair and maintenance work on the Public Safety Radio System at an annual cost of \$71,550.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with Bombard Excavation of Middle Grove to construct a roadway for the Fraker Mountain Radio Site at a cost of \$191,000.**

Mr. Wickerham said the second item are the contracts for next year for the coroner with an increase to \$650 for an autopsy performed by Dr. Paston, who is the only pathologist in Saratoga County. In addition, the rate for Forensic Medical Services will be \$800 per autopsy a service from Albany County that is used for a more extensive autopsy requiring testimonies in court.

The third item is a contract that the county has had with Capital Digitronics for some time to maintain the radio system. An RFP was sent out with Capital Digitronics as the only respondent. There is a large increase in the annual cost, which is up to \$71,550 based upon the equipment in place. As new equipment is purchased for the new radio system the costs will go down, due to lower maintenance costs.

Mr. Wickerham said the fourth item is a requirement to build a road up Fraker Mountain so that the tower site for the Radio System can be maintained. Bids were sent out with the low bid received from Bombard Excavation of Middle Grove for \$191,000. The next lowest bid was \$205,000.

### **LAW AND FINANCE**

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

- **Authorizing levy for unpaid 2008 Sacandaga Lake maintenance assessments, Albany Engineering Corp. \$108,838.84.**

Mr. Wickerham said Sacandaga Lake has maintenance assessments, for some reason the utilities companies are unable to pay within that time frame, therefore, they default from the payment. The county will relevel the taxes to Albany Engineering Corp in the amount of \$108,838.84.

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

- **Setting December 3, 2008 at 5:30 p.m. in the Saratoga County Board Rooms as the time and place for the public hearing on the 2009 budget.**
- **Adopting the 2009 County Budget.**

- **Appropriating amounts finally set forth in the 2009 County Budget.**

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Sansom