

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

Present: Chairman Sausville; Supervisors Daly, Rowland, Wood, Veitch, Wormuth, Wright, M. Johnson, Grattidge, Collyer, Southworth, Raymond, Peck, Lewza, Lawler and A. Johnson; Spencer Hellwig, Administrator; Ryan Moore, Mgmt. Analyst; Steve Dorsey, County Attorney; Daniel Butler, Animal Shelter; Sandi Cross, Office for the Aging; George Martin, Sam Pitcherelle, Treasurer; Hans Lehr, Mental Health; Bill Davis, Chad Cooke, Sewer District; Brian O’Conor, Auditor; Karen Levison, Kristin Levy, Public Health; Joanne Bosley, Real Property; Keith Manz, Public Works; Ed Tremblay, Emergency Services; Jason Kemper, Planning; Press.

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

On a motion made by Mrs. Wormuth, seconded by Mr. Wright the minutes of the January 9, 2013 meeting were approved unanimously.

Chairman Sausville announced the appointment of Supervisor Wormuth as Committee Vice Chair.

EQUALIZATION AND ASSESSMENT

- **Accepting a tender offer in the Town of Providence for \$4,536.43.**
- **Authorizing a correction to the 2013 tax roll from \$8,131.54 to \$1,124.54, a difference of \$7,007.00, for a parcel located in the Town of Ballston.**

Mr. Hellwig said the first item is a tender offer in the Town of Providence that includes all penalties and interest.

The second item is a tax correction that is a result of the current owner being billed for a 2011 re-levy that was paid by the previous owner. The current owner has not paid the tax bill which is why there is no refund involved. The tax bill will be corrected and the new owner will then have eight days to submit their payment on the corrected tax bill and avoid any penalties and interest.

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

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into a renewal agreement with Cornell Cooperative Extension to manage the MS4 Stormwater Management Program at a cost not to exceed \$50,000.**
- **Approving the amendments of the boundaries of Saratoga County Consolidated Agricultural District #2 and authorizing the issuance of a negative declaration under SEQRA.**

Mr. Hellwig said the first item is the annual authorization for the contract with Cornell Cooperative Extension to manage the MS4 Stormwater Management Program. The \$50,000 that is used to cover this contract is in the Planning Departments budget.

The second item will authorize an amendment to the boundaries of the Consolidated Agricultural District #2 to include three additional parcels in the Town of Malta. The public hearing for this amendment to the district is scheduled for 4:55 p.m. this afternoon. In total it will add just over 30 acres to the district.

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

PUBLIC HEALTH

- **Authorizing an amendment to the contract with Transitional Services Association, Inc. to accept \$18,570 in additional funding from the NYS Office of Mental Health (OMH) for two supported housing units and amending the budget in relation thereto.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with the NYS Department of Health for the Rabies Program for the period of April 1, 2012 through March 31, 2017.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with the Visiting Nurse Service of New York (VNSNY) for the provision of long-term care services by the Public Health Nursing Service, reimbursable at the following rates: Registered Nursing \$150/visit; Physical therapy \$140/visit; Occupational Therapy \$140/visit; Speech Therapy \$140/visit; Respiratory Therapy \$120/visit; Nutritionist \$120/visit.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into a participating provider agreement with Universal American Corporation for the provision of Medicare-eligible nursing services at a reimbursement rate equivalent to 100% of the Medicare allowable as defined by CMS on the date of service.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to accept additional funds from the NYS Department of Health for the Immunization (\$8,760), Children with Special Health Care Needs**

(\$2,118) and Lead Prevention (\$2,942) programs and amending the 2013 budget in relation thereto.

Mr. Hellwig said the first resolution is for authorization to amend the Mental Health budget to accept an additional \$18,570 of state aid for two supported housing units.

The second item is approval of a new five year contract with the Department of Health for the Public Health Departments rabies program. The total grant award is \$71,924.50 which will be spread out over the five year term of the contract.

The third item is a directive from the New York State Medicaid Redesign Team who now requires that all public health clients requiring 120 days or more of Medicaid reimbursed long term care services be enrolled in a Managed Long Term Care Program. The visiting nurse service administers this type of program and this contract will allow the Public Health Nursing Department to be reimbursed by them for providing services to the patients.

The fourth item is a resolution authorizing a new agreement to make the Public Health Nursing Service an in network provider to today's options, which is a Medicaid Managed Care solution that is offered by Universal American Corporation, which is similar to the contract that Public Health would enter into with a private insurance company. This contract sets reimbursement rates for the covered services that are provided by the nurses who are enrolled in the program.

The final item is a resolution to accept an additional \$13,820 in state aid to cover a combination of computer software, hardware and various office supplies and the costs associated with those supplies for immunizations, Lead Poisoning Prevention Program and the Children with Special Health Care Needs Program.

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

PUBLIC SAFETY

- **Amending the 2013 budget to re-appropriate \$596,107 in expenses and revenues for equipment, supplies, training and other costs that are reimbursable under the NYS Homeland Security Funding.**
- **Authorizing the transfer of \$47,200 from the Animal Shelter Trust Fund for the purchase of various services, equipment and supplies and amending the budget in relation thereto.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with Pictometry International to geo-locate, display and make searchable every physical structure in the county larger than 150 sq. ft. at a cost not to exceed \$44,125.**

Mr. Hellwig said the first item is a budget amendment to re-appropriate \$596,107 in Homeland Security Funding for the purchase of various equipment, training supplies and other eligible emergency service costs. One Hundred and sixty eight thousand dollars of this total is the funding that the Board approved at the end of last year, but came after the budget was adopted, so it will also be a part of the re-appropriation.

The second item is a transfer from the Animal Shelter Trust Fund which will be used to cover an assortment of medical equipment and general supply items as well as costs that are associated with medical services that are provided by Veterinarians and Technicians at the Animal Shelter.

The final item is for authorization to enter into a contract with Pictometry International to provide an assortment of digital data and imagery services that will allow Emergency Services responders to access high resolution images of every physical structure in the county that exceeds 150 sq. ft.

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

SOCIAL PROGRAMS

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into provider contracts for the Expanded In-Home Services for the Elderly Program (EISEP) to provide housekeeping and personal care for the elderly.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with the State Office for the Aging to accept a Systems Integration Grant in the amount of \$36,800 and amending the budget in relation thereto.**

Mr. Hellwig said the first item is a renewal of the provider contracts that are covered under the Expanded In-Home Services for the Elderly Program. Under these contracts a vendor supply care taker is to provide personal care and do household chores to help Senior's stay in their homes as opposed to being placed in a nursing home or other facility.

The second item is for a grant that has been awarded to the Office for the Aging by the State, which will be utilized to implement a number of initiatives that have been identified by the State as priorities, including forming a partnership with the Alzheimer's Association, some options counseling, dementia screening and the expansion of services for chronic disease management as well as several other areas of services. Mrs. Cross, Director, is proposing to hire a part time clerical staff member that would manage the implementation of these initiatives. That position will be brought to the Personnel Committee next month, and upon their approval, to the Law and Finance Committee, and then to the Board. The individual will be paid for using grant funds. This position will be contingent upon continued funding, so when the funding is gone so is the position.

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

PUBLIC WORKS

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an amended agreement with Greenman Pedersen, Inc. for additional construction inspection services related to the replacement of the CR7 (Stewarts Dam) Bridge in the amount of \$103,498.**

Mr. Hellwig said the above item is a contract amendment that is necessary to pay for some additional inspection services that were needed with the Stewart's Dam replacement that related to some technical issues that came up with the coffer dam. The total amount of the work is \$103,498 and the county's share will be \$5,175 and is available within the budget.

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

LEGISLATIVE AND RESEARCH

- **Adopting the 2013 Saratoga County Legislative Program.**
- **Urging the Federal Railroad Administration and the NYSDOT to accept the New York Vermont Bi-State Intercity Passenger Rail Study option that would retain Ethan Allen service through Saratoga Springs while adding a new service line to Rutland, Vermont via the City of Mechanicville.**

Mr. Hellwig said this years' legislative program has thirteen items that were approved today by the Legislative and Research Committee. Copies of the plan have been given to the Board members. Mr. Moore has included a thorough summary of all the items to help familiarize everyone with each of the legislative priorities.

The second item is a resolution supporting the continuation of Amtrak Rail Service, which is known as the Ethan Allen line that originates in Saratoga Springs and travels to Rutland, Vermont. Under Amtrak's current proposal they would be replacing this route of this line service with one that runs from Mechanicville to Vermont and abandoning the Ethan Allen line. The Empire State Passenger Association is recommending against this because it would reduce ridership within the City of Saratoga Springs by as much as 25%. Supervisor Veitch has spoken with Supervisor Richardson about keeping the line in place not only from Saratoga Springs to Rutland, but also supporting the new service to Mechanicville and Vermont as well. Supervisor Richardson as well as the City of Saratoga Springs and Supervisor Veitch are all in support of having both routes maintained.

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

CHAIRMAN'S ITEM

Appointing Jason W. Rocque, of Waterford, to the County Fire Advisory Board for the term expiring 12/31/14.

LAW AND FINANCE

- **Amending the 2013 budget to re-appropriate \$3,708,101 in expenses and revenues to complete the balance of work related to capital projects of the Saratoga County sewer District.**

Mr. Hellwig said the above item is to authorize a re-appropriation of \$3,708,101 from the 2012 capital projects budget into 2013 to cover the costs associated with upgrades to the treatment facility, some interceptor relining and the upgrades that are currently underway to Saratoga Lake and Routes 4 and 32 treatment systems.

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

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with Mission Communications to service Remote Terminal Units (RTU's) for the Saratoga County Sewer District's pump station radio system at an annual rate of: \$227.40 per unit (M80); \$347.40 per unit (M110); \$563.40 (M800).**

Mr. Hellwig said item is a contract approval with Mission Communications to service Remote Terminal Units for the pump station radio systems which are cellular phone based. This vendor will be responsible for monitoring all radio systems that are used in the district pump stations and signal failure within the pump stations so the service crews can be dispatched.

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

- **Ratifying an emergency condition and authorizing the Chairman to enter into an amended agreement with Delaware Engineering in the amount of \$374,475 for additional design, contract administration and inspection work related to the replacement of the belt press thickener at the SCSD Sewer Treatment Plant and amending the budget in relation thereto.**

Mr. Hellwig said as part of the Sewer District's sludge operations the district maintains equipment that is used to thicken the sludge for incineration. The existing thickeners have been in place since the late 70's. In 2012 there was a temporary repair which the district now has to rectify with the replacement of this equipment. Due to the long lead times involved in replacing the equipment the district declared an emergency situation and is asking for the

Board's approval to ratify this emergency condition and authorize an amended agreement with Delaware Engineering for the work associated with the design of the new thickeners.

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

- **Accepting an additional \$4,739,473 in Federal Medicaid assistance and authorizing payment of a local match of 48.28% which amounts to \$2,288,218.**

Mr. Hellwig said the Federal Medicaid Assistance Program is providing additional Federal revenue for the Long Term Care operating costs at Maplewood Manor. In order for the County to access this funding, we must put up a local share which amounts to \$2,288,218 or 48.28% of the total to generate the federal payment of \$4,739,473. This additional funding will be used to reduce the need for bond revenue to cover operating costs this year at the facility.

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

On a motion made by Mrs. Wormuth, seconded by Mr. Wood the meeting was adjourned to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the Hudson River Black River Regulating District. Unanimous.

On a motion made by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Veitch the meeting was reopened to Regular Session.

A motion was made by Mr. Rowland, seconded by Mr. Wood to authorize settlement of litigation with the Hudson River Black River Regulating District. Unanimous.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom