

Law and Finance Committee Minutes
January 14, 2015 - 4:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Wright; Supervisors Collyer, Daly, Lewza, Kinowski, Tollisen, Wood, Martin, Veitch, Peck Grattidge, Lucia, Johnson, Raymond, Allen and Jenkins; Spencer Hellwig, County Administrator; Ryan Moore, Deputy Administrator; Michael Zurlo, Sheriff; Jason Kemper, Planning; Chad Cooke, Sewer District; Steve Dorsey, County Attorney; Joanne Bosley, Real Property; Eileen Bennett, Data Processing; Andrew Jarosh, George Martin, Cindy Baker, Treasurer; Brian O'Connor, Auditor; Diane Brown, Maplewood Manor; Keith Manz, Public Works; Marcy McNamara, Personnel; Press.

Chairman Wright 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 December 10, 2014 meeting were approved unanimously.

Chairman Wright announced the appointment of Mr. Kinowski as Committee Vice Chair.

EQUALIZATION AND ASSESSMENT

- **Authorizing the conveyance of a parcel in the Town of Greenfield sold at the September 18, 2012 auction to the successful bidder.**
- **Authorizing the County Auditor to approve tax corrections and refunds less than \$2,500.**

Mr. Hellwig said back in 2012 the county foreclosed on a parcel in the Town of Greenfield that was sold at the auction for \$130,000; however, the county was prevented from conveying the parcel to the successful bidder due to a pending divorce proceeding. The State Supreme Court has recently granted the county a motion to dismiss the objections of the property owners, the McAuliffe's, against the foreclosure. The county is now in a position to convey the parcel to the winning bidder.

The second item is an annual resolution authorizing the auditor to approve tax refunds and corrections in an amount not to exceed \$2,500.

On a motion made by Mr. Collyer, seconded by Mr. Kinowski the above resolutions were approved unanimously.

LEGISLATIVE AND RESEARCH

- **Introducing a Local Law allowing for common, safe items be excluded from the dangerous fireworks definition as permitted by NYS Penal Law Section 405 (5) (b), and**

setting a public hearing on such Local Law at 4:55 p.m. on February 11, 2015 in the Board of Supervisors chamber.

Mr. Hellwig said on November 21, 2014 Governor Cuomo signed a law that placed further restrictions on the sale of various dangerous fireworks. At the same time they recognized that certain fireworks, such as sparklers, should not be labeled as dangerous; therefore, the legislation of the law does allow for those devices to be sold and used in counties where a local law is adopted authorizing that. This resolution will introduce that local law and schedule a public hearing for February, followed by its adoption if approved by the Board.

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

PERSONNEL AND INSURANCE

- **Amending Resolution 185 of 2013 to increase the expenditure authorized under the County's Medicare Advantage program with United Health Care from an amount not to exceed \$1,821,924 to an amend not to exceed \$1,881,924.**
- **Amending Resolution 181 of 2013, as last amended by Resolution 260 of 2014, and approving a revised standard workday reporting resolution for elected and appointed county officials for retirement purposes.**

Mr. Hellwig said in October of 2013 the Board authorized a contract with United Healthcare to provide medical and prescription drug healthcare insurance through the Medicare Advantage policy for Medicare eligible retirees. At the time the policy saved the county in excess of \$1.5 million in the 2014 budget. In May of 2014 the Board amended the contract to eliminate a 5% copay provision under the catastrophic phase of the coverage. This was because of difficulties that some of the retirees were having in meeting or paying their 5% costs, for those of them who were dealing with terminal illnesses; this additional coverage protected them against some of the absorbent costs. He said the shortcoming at the time was that the original authorizing resolution would set a cap on the premium that was to be paid and was not amended to reflect the increase in the coverage which was \$60,000. In order for the auditor to pay the bill for the additional coverage, the authorizing resolution will need to be amended that was approved at the end of 2013 so the payment can be made.

The second item is a standard workday resolution for elected and appointed county officials as required under the state retirement system. For retirement reporting purposes, as a result of a request that was made by the Supervisor from the Town of Halfmoon shifting the amount of hours that he is working on town business versus county business, the resolution will need to be updated to reflect those changes in his work day.

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

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with Panza's Restaurant and Catering to provide catering services for the 2015 Planning Conference in an amount not to exceed \$20,000.**
- **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 \$55,000.**

Mr. Hellwig said the first item is for authorization to enter into a catering contract for a caterer to provide meals and snacks at the planning conference. The Planning Department sent out a request for proposals for the services, receiving four proposals, with Panza's being the lowest of the four.

The second item is the annual authorization of the contract with Cornell Cooperative Extension to manage the MS4 Stormwater Management Program.

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

PUBLIC HEALTH

- **Authorizing a renewal agreement with Christine Britton-Hare for speech pathology services at a rate of \$45/hr.**
- **Authorizing a renewal agreement with Thomas Nicolla Consulting Services, PLLC to provide physical therapy services at an hourly rate of \$46.48.**

Mr. Hellwig said the first item is a speech therapy contract with Christine Britton-Hare. It is a renewal agreement for her services to provide speech therapy services to residents at Maplewood Manor at a cost of \$45/hr., which is the same amount that was billed through the expiring agreement.

The second item is for authorization to enter into a renewal agreement with Thomas Nicolla Consulting Services of Latham, who will be providing full time physical therapy services at Maplewood Manor. They are also the current provider, and the hourly rate of \$46.68 is the same rate as the expiring agreement.

On a motion made by Mr. Collyer, seconded by Mr. Tollisen the above resolutions were approved unanimously.

PUBLIC SAFETY

- **Amending the 2015 Adopted Budget to re-appropriate \$86,073 in revenue and expenses for law enforcement, terrorism prevention, and upgrades to Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP's).**

Mr. Hellwig said the above resolution will authorize amendments to the 2015 budget to re-appropriate the balance of two grants that were approved in 2014. The total amount of \$86,073 on the resolution is made up of \$72,000 from a State Homeland Security Grant that was approved for terrorism prevention and law enforcement services, and \$13,573 is the remaining portion for upgrades to public safety answering points (PSAP's) that were completed in 2014.

On a motion made by Mr. Lewza, seconded by Mr. Kinowski the above resolution was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC WORKS

- **Amending the 2015 Adopted Budget to re-appropriate \$1,305,936 in expenses and revenues for engineering and construction costs for county roads and bridges.**

Mr. Hellwig said the Public Works committee has approved a resolution to authorize the re-appropriation \$1,305,396 to complete various road and bridge projects that were authorized as a part the 2014 capital plan. Of the total amount, the breakout of the total cost is 80% federal; 15% state, and 5% local. Of the \$1,305,396 the county's share of approximately \$95,000 will be appropriated from the fund balance.

On a motion made by Mr. Kinowski, seconded by Mr. Tollisen the above resolution was approved unanimously.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

- **Amending the 2015 Adopted Budget to re-appropriate \$146,492 in expenses and revenues to complete unfinished 2014 airport projects.**

Mr. Hellwig said the above resolution is a re-appropriation of funding for 2014 for uncompleted 2014 airport projects, including a wildlife hazard assessment study, airport Master Plan Update, Purchase of avigation easements, and an obstruction removal for a rotating beacon. The county's share is a portion of the total of \$146,492, with the local share of \$28,000 with the remaining total being covered by state and federal aid.

On a motion made by Mr. Kinowski, seconded by Mr. Collyer the above resolution was approved unanimously.

CHAIRMAN'S ITEM

- **Appointing members to the County Fire Advisory Board**

Mr. Hellwig said there are two re-appointments to the County Fire Advisory Board. One representative will be from the Town of Ballston and the second from the Town of Providence.

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

LAW AND FINANCE

- **Establishing a Capital Accounts Fund for the Data Processing Network Infrastructure project and amending the budget in relation thereto.**

Mr. Hellwig said the above item was requested by the Data Processing Department which will create a Capital Project Fund for the Saratoga County Network Infrastructure Project. Due to the fact that the project has now bridged two budget years, the infrastructure upgrades consist of two distinct phases. Phase one began last year, which included the re-cabling of county buildings, wiring closets throughout county buildings in order to re-cable the entire local network area and wide area network. Phase 11 began in 2015, addressing virtualization of the upgrade, which will allow the 28 servers spread throughout the county to be centralized. The fund, if approved by the Committee and the Board, will transfer money out of the operating budget into a Capital Fund where the expenses will be tracked to the work that is going to be done this year. Last year the county spent \$533,000 on various activities that included cabling to get to this point. The money that was budgeted for 2015, \$483,000, was approved by the Long Range Capital Committee and the Board when the budget was adopted, and is the money that will be moved into the Capital Fund to track the expenses that will occur this year to complete the second phase.

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

- **Honoring William J. Davis upon his retirement as Chairman of the Saratoga County Sewer District Commission.**

Mr. Hellwig said Mr. Davis, Chairman of the Sewer Commission was appointed by the Saratoga County Board of Supervisors to the Sewer District in September of 1984. He was selected as the Chairman of the Sewer District Commission by fellow commissioners in 1993. He served on that commission for 30 years, the last 20 of which he was in the capacity of the Chairman. He oversaw the first expansion and major upgrade of the wastewater treatment plant, which occurred from 1995 through 1997, as well as a second major expansion of the facility in 2006 through 2010, which was instrumental in the decision of Global Foundries to locate in the Luther Forest Technology Park. Other major initiatives include the improvement of various maintenance programs, safety improvements and ongoing multi-year relining of the entire

county sewer trunk lines. This resolution will recognize Mr. Davis for three decades of service to the county and residents within the district.

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

- **For reasons of efficiency and economy, designating Environmental One Corporation's E-one grinder pumps as the standard to be used in contracts for the repair, replacement and addition of new grinder pumps in the Saratoga County Sewer District's collection system.**

Mr. Hellwig said the district owns and operates over 400 grinder pumps throughout the collection system that handles in excess of 43 million gallons a day. Approximately 90% of the total inventory is E-1 grinder pumps manufactured by Environment One Corporation. This resolution will designate these pumps as the standard equipment, so when there is a need for repair it can be done in a most efficient and economic manner.

On a motion made by Mr. Kinowski, seconded by Mr. Lewza the above resolution was approved unanimously.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom