

Law and Finance Committee Minutes
July 15, 2015 - 4:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Wright; Supervisors Collyer, Daly, Sausville, Lewza, Kinowski, Tollisen, Allen, Wood, Richardson, and Martin; Spencer Hellwig, County Administrator; Wes Carr, Youth Bureau; Cathi Duncan, Michele Wood, Public Health; Sandi Cross, Office for the Aging; Jamie O'Neill, Planning; John Warmt, Purchasing; George Conway, Steve Dorsey, County Attorney; Carl Zeilman, Emergency Services; Joanne Bosley, Real Property; Diane Brown, Personnel; Brian O'Connor, Auditor; Craig Hayner, County Clerk; Keith Manz, Public Works; Chad Cooke, Deputy Administrator; Drew Jarosh, County Treasurer; Press.

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

On a motion made by Ms. Daly, seconded by Mr. Collyer the minutes of the June 10, 2015 meeting were approved unanimously.

EQUALIZATION AND ASSESSMENT

- **Rejecting a request to delete outstanding real property taxes.**
- **Correcting 2015 tax bill and authorizing a tax credit**

Mr. Hellwig said the above resolutions are both related to the same parcel.

The first resolution is rejecting the request to delete the outstanding property taxes. In merging the parcels the taxes were outstanding on both parcels; therefore the request to have the taxes deleted on one of the parcels should be rejected as a result of it already having been issued by the town assessor.

The second item is for correcting the tax bill. After the properties were merged, they received a tax bill for \$9.50 on one of the merged parcels. In that case, a tax credit is being recommended.

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

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

- **Amending the 2015 budget under Public Works to increase expenses and revenues in the Public Works Department by \$754,262 relevant to insurance proceeds received for the replacement of the "Mack Shack" building, various equipment, parts and supplies lost in a fire as well as professional services.**

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with Clark Patterson Lee in the amount of \$62,340 for engineering services related to the replacement of the "Mack Shack".**
- **Authorizing acceptance of a NYSDOT grant in the amount of \$700,000 for the construction of a six (6) unit T-Hangar at the Saratoga County Airport.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with McFarland Johnson in the amount of \$104,000 for engineering services associated with the design and construction of a six (6) unit T-Hangar at the Saratoga County Airport.**

Mr. Hellwig said the first resolution is to amend the budget to increase the appropriations by the insurance proceeds as a result of the fire that destroyed the building at the Public Works Department at a cost of \$750,000.

The second resolution is a contract for the engineering and design services related to the buildings construction.

The third resolution is a grant from the New York State Department of Transportation which will be used to cover the cost of constructing a new six unit hangar at the Saratoga County Airport.

The fourth resolution is for authorization to enter into a contract with McFarland Johnson to do the engineering work relative to the design of the structure.

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

PERSONNEL AND INSURANCE

- **Amending resolution #17-2015 to approve a revised standard workday resolution for elected and appointed county officials for retirement purposes.**

Mr. Hellwig said the above resolution is to approve a revised standard workday resolution to reflect the staffing changes of elected and appointed positions in the county.

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

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- **Setting a public hearing on proposed amendments to the boundaries of Saratoga County Consolidated Agricultural Districts #1 and #2.**

- **Authorizing an agreement with the Town of Saratoga and the Historic Hudson-Hoosic Rivers Partnership advancing local sponsor funding for the design and construction of the Gateway Visitor Center in the Village of Schuylerville and amending the 2015 budget.**

Mr. Hellwig said the first item is setting a public hearing on the proposed amendments to the boundary of the Saratoga County Consolidated Agricultural District's. There were nine petitions that were approved by the agricultural board, with eight of them in the town of Edinburg and one in the town of Wilton.

The second item will authorize an agreement with the Town of Saratoga and the Historic Hudson-Hoosic Rivers Partnership to provide up to \$200,000 in funding for costs associated with the design and construction of the Gateway Visitors Center in the Village of Schuylerville. They have received notice from the State that there is funding available to cover these costs; however, they don't have the startup money to initiate the work which generates the payments at a later date to the State of New York. The loan will be used by the partnership and the town to get the work under way.

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

SOCIAL PROGRAMS

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with Home Helpers & Direct Link for in-home respite care services at a cost of \$18/hr.**
- **Accepting \$9,551 in funding from the New York State Office for the Aging (NYSOFA) for direct call and support costs incurred by Saratoga County.**
- **Amending resolution @115-2015 to accept an additional \$17,170 in State Aid for Runaway and Homeless Youth programming and amending the budget in relation thereto.**

Mr. Hellwig said the first resolution is an agreement with Home Helpers and Direct Link for respite care services to allow the main caregiver some time away from the house and avoid institutionalizing residents who are otherwise self- sufficient.

The second resolution was some additional state aid that was included in the recently adopted State budget, and the county is accepting that money which will go against some of the staff costs in the office and will lower the county's costs for those services.

The third item is an amendment to a resolution that the Board adopted last month, which is a part of the Runaway Homeless Youth Grant. The State budget included an additional \$17,170 that was not included in last month's resolution.

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

PUBLIC HEALTH

- **Approving the consolidation of the Town of Galway and the Village of Galway Vital Registration Districts.**

Mr. Hellwig said under Public Health Law the Town of Galway and Village of Galway are both required to report vital statistics for the communities. Both entities have come to the decision that they would like to combine their districts into one to simplify the process. In order for the district to actually be created, they need Board approval to move it to the State.

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

PUBLIC WORKS

- **Authorizing a supplemental funding agreement with NYSDOT for construction services for the repainting of the CR27 (Bluebird Road) bridge over the Hudson River in the Town of Moreau in the amount of \$252,790 and amending the budget in relation thereto.**

Mr. Hellwig said the above resolution is a capital project to paint the Fennimore Bridge. The low bid was \$252,790 above what was budgeted. This resolution will allow Public Works to draw down the additional state funding to make up the shortage. The \$252,790 represents the additional money that is needed. The county's share of the increased cost is approximately \$12,000, which will be transferred out of fund balance.

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

PUBLIC SAFETY

- **Authorizing an agreement with Dr. Jacqueline Bashkoff, Ph.D. to perform psychological evaluations and court testimony at a rate of \$150/hr. not to exceed \$20,000 annually.**
- **Amending resolution \$123-15 to provide an additional \$5,293 for asbestos removal at the Spruce Mountain 911 radio shelter.**
- **Authorizing a Memorandum of Understanding and license agreement between the Town of Colonie Police Department and the Saratoga County Office of Emergency Services.**

- **Authorizing a Memorandum of Understanding between NYS Division of Homeland Security and Saratoga County for the temporary load of Interoperable Communications Resources.**

Mr. Hellwig said the county has a minor contract with Dr. Bashkoff to perform psychological evaluations for parents in custody cases and support collection cases. It appears that they will be going over the \$10,000 threshold; therefore, this resolution will authorize the contract cap at \$20,000 annually. It will also reflect a reduction in the rate under the minor contract that was \$175/hr. The Public Defender was able to negotiate a lower rate of \$150/hr.

The second item is for Board approval of a contract with Tecta America to replace the roof of the 911 shelter on Spruce Mountain. During the process of removing the roof asbestos was discovered which will have to be removed before any additional work can be done. The \$5,293 adjustment to the agreement will cover the cost of the asbestos removal.

The third item is a memorandum of understanding with the Town of Colonie that will allow Emergency Services to setup a microwave link between the county's tower and Stillwater's tower which is in Albany County and improve communications between both counties.

The fourth item is a memorandum of understanding with the State of New York that will allow Emergency Services to access various communications equipment during a crisis situation.

On a motion made by Mr. Lewza, seconded by Mr. Kinowski the above items were approved unanimously.

LAW AND FINANCE

- **Authorizing a Cooperative Purchasing Agreement between the Empire State Municipal Purchasing Group and the County of Saratoga.**

Mr. Hellwig said the above resolution is to authorize the county's membership in the Empire State Municipal Purchasing Group, which is a purchasing cooperative made up of various municipalities across the state as well as non-profit organizations.

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

- **Ratifying an emergency condition and authorizing the Sewer District's Executive Director to procure necessary goods and services to effect an emergency repair at the wastewater treatment plant in the Town of Halfmoon.**

Mr. Hellwig said the above item is a ratification of an emergency condition at the Sewer District which is related to the repair of aeration tank #7 at the district. They will be paying for

engineering services to design the repair as well as the cost of replacing or installing a dewatering system at the district to fix the problem.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Kinowski, seconded by Mr. Tollisen to move into Executive Session for the purpose of Personnel and Litigation. Unanimous.

A motion was made by Mr. Kinowski, seconded by Mr. Lewza the meeting moved to Open Session.

Mr. Hellwig read the following resolution. Authorizing the commencement of legal action to cover damages resulting from deficiencies in the design and construction of certain infrastructure included within the 2008 to 2012 expansion of Saratoga County's Sewer District #1 Wastewater Treatment Plant, and authorizing the retention of Couch White, LLP as professional counsel.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom