

Law and Finance Committee Minutes
February 13, 2008 – 4:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman A. Johnson; Supervisors Daly, Grattidge, Hunter, Peck, Thompson, Wood, Veitch, Yepsen, Hargrave, Southworth, Richardson, Lawler, Jenkins and Lucia; Alan Kempf, Janet Glenn, Public Health; Joe Ritchey, Public Works; Mark Rider, County Attorney; Blue Neils, Cornell Cooperative Extension; Sam Pitcheralle, Treasurer; Jason Kemper, Planning; John Murray, County Auditor; Paul Lent, Emergency Services; Dale Angstadt, Mental Health; Jim DiPasquale, Bill Davis, Richard Doyle, Sewer Dist.; Ed Hernandez, Delaware Engineering; Sandy Fisher, Diane Brown, Maplewood Manor; Jack Kalinkewicz, Personnel; Barbara Thomas, League of Women Voters; Press.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Hunter, seconded by Ms. Daly the minutes of the January 9, 2008 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mr. Johnson said, last year Mr. Barrett appointed a committee to design and build a new county website. The committee is going to recommend ICOM Tech Services. Mr. Levine, from ICOM Tech Services gave a brief powerpoint presentation on what the new website might look like.

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

EQUALIZATION AND ASSESSMENT

- **Accepting tender offers in the Towns of Corinth \$1,833.57; Day \$1,900.76; Hadley \$10,851.02; Halfmoon \$19,649.47; Providence \$694.22; and Wilton \$15,266.66.**
- **Authorizing the County to file an amicus curial brief to protect the County's taxable interest in State owned parks and nature preserves. (Law and Finance Approval Only)**
- **Rescinding resolution #255-07 and agreements with Calibre Investments, Group, LLC and Victory Mills Holding, LLC and awarding a \$50,000 bid to Riverview Realty, LLC if the \$100,000 deposit is not received by February 22, 2008.**
- **Amending the 2008 County budget to re-appropriate \$134,420 in expenses and revenues for the continuation of the Real Property Tax Administration Technology Improvement Grant.**

- **Authorizing corrections to tax bills in the Town of Saratoga in the amount of \$2,817.06 and Wilton in the amount of \$45,446.**
- **Canceling \$106.13 in taxes on a parcel in the Town of Ballston.**

Mr. Wickerham said with regard to item two, there was a supervisor in the western part of the state that took issue with the fact that the State was not paying taxes in their town, but they were paying taxes in other counties. A law suite was filed and the judge agreed that was not fair, the State should not pay anyone taxes. There is a consortium of seven other counties who have hired an attorney to file an amicus curial brief and they have asked Saratoga County to be a participant. The cost to the county would be between \$4,000 and \$5,000 and will be covered under a minor contract.

The Third item is a resolution that is conditional. On February 22nd Calibre Investments Group will have to fulfill their obligation to the County in order to take over the Victory Mills Plant. If that offer fails, the Victory Mills Plant would then be offered to Riverview Realty, LLC for \$50,000, which was their offer at the original auction.

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

PUBLIC HEALTH

- **Amending the 2007 budget to recognize a shortfall of \$900,000 in the Maplewood Manor.**
- **Reappropriating \$89,600 in funding for billing software for Mental Health.**
- **Amending Resolution #240 of 2007 to accept an additional \$25,000 in the Bioterrorism grant and amending the budget in relation thereto.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to accept an additional \$25,000 in the Bioterrorism grant and amending the budget in relation thereto.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to accept additional cost of living funds for the following grant programs:**

Lead Poisoning Grant -	\$1,806
Children with Special Needs Program -	\$1,373
Early Intervention -	\$7,122
Immunization Action Program -	\$1,136

and amending the budget in relation thereto.

Mr. Wickerham said there is a substantial revenue shortfall in the Maplewood Manor budget. The largest part, \$750,000 deals with rebasing, which was part of a three-year rebasing formula that was expected. The Governor has removed this from the 2007 and 2008 budget resulting in the shortfall. The County has subsidized Maplewood Manor in excess of \$6 million for 2007.

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

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- **Reappropriating \$50,301 in expenses and revenues for grant programs operated by the Planning Department:**

Legislative grant for GIS equipment purchases	\$19,562
GIS needs assessment	\$28,000
Farmland viability activities funded under various sources of State Aid	\$ 2,739

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with the Saratoga County IDA to provide administrative services at an annual cost of \$22,500 for the period beginning 1/1/08 and ending 12/31/09, subject to the review of the annual cost.**
- **Authorizing an amended agreement with Greenman-Pederson, Inc. to perform an additional \$90,000 in engineering services to complete tasks not included in the original contract for the Zim Smith Trail.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with Cornell Cooperative Extension for the provision of services required by NYS DEC Water Quality Contract to implement the Saratoga County Intermunicipal Stormwater Management Program at a cost of \$344,000 and reappropriating \$258,000 in expenses and revenues to fund this program.**
- **Introducing a proposed local law prohibiting illicit discharges, activities and connections to the County of Saratoga Separator Storm Sewer System and setting March 12, 2008 at 4:50 in the County Board Rooms as the date, time and place for this hearing.**
- **Establishing a Stormwater Management Policy to provide minimum controls for construction activities engaged in by Saratoga County on new facilities, roads or other capital improvements that will disturb one (1) or more acres of soil.**

Item Three:

Mr. Wickerham said, Greenman-Pedersen has been doing the engineering services for the Zim Smith Trail. The request for an additional \$90,000 is for additional services for the Zim Smith Trail that was started several years ago and was scheduled for completion in 2006. Due to delays, additional expenses have been incurred.

Mr. Thompson asked what the additional \$90,000 would cover?

Mr. Johnson said he and Mr. Kemper met with Greenman-Pedersen to document the added expenses. Segmenting was an issue because all of the bid documents had to be done twice. There were also additional inspection fees because of the segmenting.

Mr. Thompson asked who would be enforcing the Local law prohibiting illicit discharges, activities and connections to the Saratoga County Sewer System?

Mr. Neils said Mr. Ritchey from the Department of Public Works would be overseeing that.

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

LEGISLATIVE AND RESEARCH

- **Adopting a County Legislative Program for 2008**
- **Supporting A-0733, which would allow towns and cities to impose a real estate transfer tax and create community preservation funds.**

Mr. Wickerham said the following items would be included in the County Legislative Program for 2008:

1. VLT revenues
2. Potential closing of the Mt. McGregor minimum security camp
3. Racing Franchise
4. Nursing home situation and unfunded mandates
5. Requesting special items relative to the Emergency Radio System
6. Supporting various towns in the requests for assistance

Item two is in support of Assembly Bill A-0733, which would allow towns and cities to impose a real estate transfer tax and to create community preservation funds. If enacted, it would be a permissive law, not a requirement. Each town and city would have to make the decision as to whether they would want to impose the real estate tax.

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 NYSDOT to accept \$600,000 in airport grants to complete various airport capital projects.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with Edwards and Kelcey to provide \$470,177 worth of engineering services relative to airport grant projects.**
- **Amending the 2008 County budget under Emergency Services to reappropriate \$53,000 in expenses and revenues for schematic design services of the proposed public safety building.**

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

VETERANS

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with the Saratoga Performing Arts Center to provide a venue for the annual Veterans concert at a cost not to exceed \$11,500.**

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

PUBLIC SAFETY

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with Sabre Towers for the purchase of three towers at a cost not to exceed \$209,870.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with Alcatel Lucent to purchase a four (4) site – three (3) path microwave system at a cost not to exceed \$543,501.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with CSI to provide two (2) communication shelters for the Towns of Milton and Providence at a total cost not to exceed \$200,000.**

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with Blue Wing Services to provide technical and engineering services needed to obtain licenses at a total cost of \$22,500.**

CHAIRMAN'S ITEM

- **Appointing Douglas Farrar of the Town of Ballston, George Downs of the Town of Malta, Michael Bashore of the Town of Milton and Jeff Mahar of the Town of Stillwater to the County Advisory Board at a term to expire 12/31/09.**

LAW AND FINANCE

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

- **Appointing Robert S. Near as the Director of Weights and Measures and Consumer Affairs.**

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

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with ICOM Tech Services to provide construction and launch of a new County website at a cost not to exceed \$29,362.**

Mr. Wickerham said, after interviewing three companies, the subcommittee that was established by Chairman Barrett last year decided those ICOM Tech Services would best satisfy the needs of the county.

Mr. Grattidge asked when the new website is expected to be complete? Mr. Kemper said completion is expected by summer of 2008.

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

- **Setting March 12, 2008 at 4:45 p.m. in the County boardroom as the date, time and place to hold a public hearing on the Saratoga County Sewer District's expansion project.**

Mr. Wickerham said the County Sewer District's expansion project would cost approximately \$50 million and would double the capacity of the sewer system.

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

- **Reappropriating capital projects in the Sewer District budget totaling \$906,868.**

Mr. Wickerham said all 16 capital projects would be completed by year's end.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom