

LAW AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

MAY 14, 2008 – 4:00 P.M.

Present: Vice Chairman Peck; Supervisors Daly, Grattidge, Hunter, Thompson, Wood, Sausville, Hargrave, Rowland, Southworth, Wright, Veitch, Yepsen, Lucia and Jenkins; David Wickerham, County Administrator; Sandi Cross, Office for the Aging; Paul Lent, Emergency Services; Mark Rider, County Attorney; Rick Gardner, Public Works; Bill Baker, Personnel Director; Sam Pitcherale, County Treasurer; John Murray, County Auditor; Jim DiPasquale, Sewer District; LoAnn Sanders, Kate Jeanson, Kathy Marchione, County Clerk; John Ciulla, Public Defender; Press.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Wood, seconded by Ms. Daly the minutes of the April 9th meeting were approved unanimously.

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

Equalization and Assessment

- **Authorizing a refund of \$363.20 for interest paid for 2007 on the re-levy of 2005 property taxes in the Town of Clifton Park.**
- **Accepting tender offers in the Towns of Clifton Park and Stillwater totaling \$491,250.23.**
- **Canceling \$167.68 in taxes on four exempt parcels in the Town of Malta.**

Mr. Wickerham said item one is where there was a long term delinquency and concern over whether there was proper notification given to the taxpayer. The committee decided that they would not charge the individual for the interest for 2007. All penalties and interest have been charged throughout the process. The interest for 2005 and 2006 has been left on. The refund would only be for 2007.

The second item is a tender offer on railroad parcels.

The third item is parcels that were taken by DOT as part of the roadwork that is being done in Malta. When they do that the parcels become exempt, however, because they don't register them until after taxable status day a bill goes out.

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

Public Health

- **Recognizing May 11, 2008 – May 17, 2008 as “National Nursing Home Week” in Saratoga County.**

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

Buildings and Grounds

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into a lease with North American Flight Services for the facility at the western end of the airport, providing an annual income to the County of \$14,797 plus annual cost of living adjustments.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to accept a FAA Airport Improvement grant in the amount of \$73,150 to replace the beacon and design work relative to off site obstructions.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to accept a NYSDOT Airport Improvement grant in the amount of \$1,925 and amending the budget thereto.**
- **Authorizing the conveyance of County owned property, which was purchased with FAA funds near the County Airport to the Town of Milton.**

Mr. Wickerham said the county changed fixed base operators after a thirty-year lease. One of the things that had to be done was to renegotiate all the leases. This would be for A lease on a parcel on the western end of the airport that North American Flight services erected approximately five years ago.

Item two is a FAA improvement grant to replace the airport beacon and design work relative to off site obstructions. The FAA money is 95% provided by the FAA with a 5% local match that is shared with the State of New York.

Item three is a state resolution in which the State would come up with their 5% or \$1,925.

Item four is a 1.14 acre parcel at the edge of the airport that is outside of the airport and taken as part of the obstruction area. There was a request from the Town of Milton for that to be used for an expansion for the Milton Fire House.

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

Veterans

- **Adopting a Cold War Veterans' exemption of 15% of assessed value for property owned by Veterans serving between September 2, 1945 and December 26, 1991.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to accept a \$25,000 Legislative Aid grant from Senator Bruno to purchase a new van for the Veterans Transportation Program and amending the 2008 budget.**

Mr. Wickerham said the State last year authorized a Cold War Veterans' exemption that would take care of those Veterans' who served at the end of World War II and the beginning of the Gulf War, but who did not serve during the Korean War and Vietnam War. This would allow the Veterans' the ability to obtain an exemption of up to 15% of the assessed value of their property. This would only apply to County taxes. Each town would have to initiate this in their respective towns.

The second item is a Legislative Grant from Senator Bruno to purchase a Van for the Veterans' transportation program, which is run every day.

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

Social Programs

- **Commending the Social Services Department for receiving the Child Support Achievement Award.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to accept a \$75,000 NY Connects grant to provide information and referral services for County residents seeking long term care and amending the 2008 budget.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to accept \$134,191 in TANF Summer Youth funding and amending the 2008 budget.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to accept \$483,832 of Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funds for program year 2008 and authorizing funding applications and contracts.**
- **Authorizing Workforce Investment Board budget for program year 2008 for \$87,797 and authorizing the Chairman to enter into agreements with Warren and Washington Counties and other entities to fund WIB services.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into a renewal agreement with Adirondack Community College for the workforce Investment Board staffing services from July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009 for a sum not to exceed \$77,297.**

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into a renewal agreement with Cornell Cooperative Extension to administer the 2008 Workforce Investment Act Youth Program at a cost not to exceed \$35,000.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into a contract with Columbia Greene Community College to provide internship opportunities in return for \$30,000 to fund staff costs required to create and promote the internship program.**

Mr. Wickerham said for the third or fourth consecutive year Social Services has been the top performer in the area of Child Support.

The Office for the Aging has been chosen to receive a \$75,000 New York Connects grant for the purpose of providing referral services and information to people as to what their alternatives are for long term care.

The rest of the items all deal with Employment and Training and the WIB. The county belongs to a service delivery agency that includes Saratoga, Warren and Washington Counties. This is the funding mechanism for all the programs for the coming year, and is 100% funded through federal funds.

The TANF Summer Youth program, which many of the towns participate in, is receiving \$134,191, an increase over last years \$113,000 for the program.

The County will be receiving Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funds that are used to underwrite the entire program in the amount of \$483,832, which is 18% drop from last years approximate \$592,000.

One of the things the County does as the administrative lead for the SDA, is to authorize the Workforce Investment Board budget. They are a separate agency made up of representatives from the three counties. The budget approved by the federal government was \$87,797.

The next item is a contract with Adirondack Community College. The Workforce Investment Board has their own Executive Director. Rather than contract with such a person and make an employee out of the, the County contracts with the college and lets them do the employment work. In order to employ the individual it will cost the college \$77,297, which is approximately a 5.5% increase from last years contract of approximately \$73,000.

The Columbia Greene Community College attained a grant through the Federal Workforce Investment Program for the eleven county areas to provide internship opportunities. Warren, Washington and Saratoga Counties will each receive \$10,000 to fund staff costs necessary to create and maintain the internship program.

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

Public Safety

- **Authorizing the Chairman to accept a \$70,000 Road to Recovery Grant from the State in the District Attorney's Office to help defray the cost of processing substance abuse cases.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to accept a \$21,164 Aid to Defense Grant in the Public Defender's Office for the cost of defending serious felony cases.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with tetra Tec Consultants to develop a Hazardous Mitigation Plan for Saratoga County at a cost not to exceed \$160,000.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with CSI Shelter Technologies, Inc. to provide two (2) communication shelters for the Towns of Halfmoon and Wilton at a total cost not to exceed \$179,000.**

Mr. Wickerham said the first item is a Road to Recovery grant that the District Attorney's office has received in the amount of \$70,000 for substance abuse cases and the prosecution thereof.

The third item is the Hazardous Mitigation Plan for Saratoga County. Earlier in the year the county received a \$225,000 grant from FEMA. Two proposals were submitted with the lowest bid of \$160,000.

The fourth item is authorizing the purchase of two more communication shelters for the towns of Halfmoon and Wilton.

Law and Finance

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

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with CT Male for engineering services relative to interceptor relining, grinder pump replacement programs and an upgrade to the Burning Bush pump station at a cost not to exceed \$53,736.**

Mr. Wickerham said one of the projects that the Sewer District has is the relining of the interceptor and grinder pump replacements and an upgrade to the Burning Bush pump station. They put this out for a request for proposal with seven bids received. The low bid was from CT Male for \$53,736, which will include an extra manhole allowing the county to be separate from the Luther Forest Technology Park and eliminate having to do the work twice.

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

- **Authorizing blanket official undertaking for County officers required by law to execute and file official undertakings.**

Mr. Wickerham said all county officers are required to have an official undertaking and is usually done at the beginning of the year. Since the county has changed insurance carriers as of last month, we now need to update the undertaking with the new carrier, as the carrier is the one who is providing the official undertaking.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom