

LAW AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

MARCH 12, 2008 – 4:00 P.M.

Present: Chairman A. Johnson; Supervisors Grattidge, Hunter, Peck, Thompson, Wood, Southworth, Jenkins, Wormuth, Veitch, Hargrave, M. Johnson, Yepsen, Sausville, Lucia, and Raymond; David Wickerham, County Administrator; Mark Rider, County Attorney, Paul Lent, Emergency Services; Daniel Butler, Animal Shelter; Sam Pitcherale, Treasurer; Wes Carr, Youth Bureau; Jason Kemper, Planning; John Murray, County Auditor; Bill Davis, Jim DiPasquale, Richard Doyle, Sewer District; Jasper Nolan, Republican Chairman; Larry Rogers, Ed Hernandez, Mary Beth Bianconi, Delaware Engineering, PC.; Sandy Cross, Office for the Aging; Carol Holley, Chris Aldrich, Real Property; Wilma Koss, Saratoga Lake; Press.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Wood the minutes of the February 13, 2008 meeting were approved unanimously.

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

EQUALIZATION AND ASSESSMENT

- **Accepting tender offers in the Towns of Day \$781.97, Greenfield \$19,324.08, Hadley \$26,150.74, Halfmoon \$469.70, and the Village of Round Lake \$12,225.88.**
- **Denying a request for a \$542.35 refund of county taxes for parcel 172.-2-27 in the Town of Galway.**

Mr. Wickerham said by law the county is required to deny or accept any requests for refunds. There was a request made that went through Real Property. There was no cause for the action, as there were no assessment errors or assessments missed. On that basis, the recommendation from the Real Property Services was to deny the refund.

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

SOCIAL PROGRAMS

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into eleven renewal contracts for the Expanded in Home Services for the Elderly Program (EISEP) to provide personal aide care to the elderly.**

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with Care Links to provide oversight and coordination of volunteer services given to senior residents in Saratoga County at a cost not to exceed \$30,000 per year.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into agreement with GTL, Inc. for the provision of personal emergency response systems at a cost of \$34.95 per unit per month.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into a renewal contract with a registered dietician to provide nutrition services to the Office for Aging at a cost of \$35 per hour.**
- **Authorizing the acceptance of a \$10,000 New York State grant for the Saratoga County Council on Autism and amending the budget in relation thereto.**

Mr. Wickerham said the first item is a renewal of the Expanded in Home Services Program, with the 11 contract rates set by Medicaid.

The second item is an expansion of services into the southern part of the county. These are non-medical services that are provided by volunteers. The oversight and administration of the program is \$30,000. The funds are 100% provided by the State.

The third item is an expansion of services relative to personal emergency response systems. The services will expand from the current 17 persons up to 48 persons, which will be an increase of \$12,000 annually. The funds are 100% provided by the State.

The last item is a \$10,000 grant that was secured by Assemblyman McDonald for Autism.

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

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

- **Approving the NYS Department of Transportation relocation, replacement, and/or reconstruction of the county sewer main located within the construction zone of the NYSDOT Route 67 bridge replacement in the Town of Ballston.**
- **Approving the NYS Department of Transportation relocation, replacement, and/or reconstruction of the Zim Smith Trail located within the construction zone of the NYSDOT Route 67 bridge replacement in the Town of Ballston.**

Mr. Wickerham said the Department of Transportation has been working as part of the AMD project on the Northway interchanges. They had to create a bridge, which went across county sewer and also the Zim Smith Trail. They are asking the county to

acknowledge that they are the ones fixing the area, and that the county will be responsible for the maintenance of the county sewer and the Zim Smith Trail as before.

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

PUBLIC SAFETY

- **Accepting a \$117,000 Homeland Security Grant to purchase radio equipment for the Saratoga County Sheriff's Department and amending the 2008 budget.**
- **Approving the 2008 Pre-Trial & Community Work Order Services plans and accepting \$37,500 in state aid.**
- **Authorizing a Animal Shelter fee increase for feline Leukemia and FIX virus test from \$10 to \$13 and authorizing the shelter Director to make all future changes to the shelter diagnostic fees to underwrite the actual cost of diagnostic kits for cats and dogs.**

Mr. Wickerham said there is a \$117,000 Homeland Security Grant for the Sheriff, with a portion to be given to Emergency Services. The money will be used for mobile radios.

The second item is the annual authorizations to the Alternative to Incarceration plans. The \$37,500 is the same that has been received for the last five years. They are two separate programs that are run by the Probation Department and the JTPA.

The third item is authorizing an increase in animal shelter fees. At the end of 2007 the county changed the animal shelter fees for some adopting animals. Since then the cost of the feline leukemia kit has risen. The county is looking to recoup their costs. In addition to increasing the cost from \$10 to \$13 to the individual, the county would be authorizing the Animal Shelter Director to make future changes if the prices rise in the future and report back to the Board of Supervisors.

LAW AND FINANCE

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

- **Amending the 2008 budget to appropriate \$28,000 in expenses and revenues from the contingency account to pay for the emergency repair of the phone system in the services building.**

Mr. Wickerham said approximately a month ago there was a flood in the Social Services building. Part of the damages that occurred during the flood were to the telephone system. Emergency repairs were done to fix the system for a total cost of \$28,000. The county will be applying for insurance coverage with a \$25,000 deductible.

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

- **Authorizing Saratoga County Sewer District #1 to proceed with a major project to increase the treatment capacity of the sewer district.**
- **Authorizing the Saratoga County Sewer District #1 to bond up to \$52,224,921 to fund the sewer capacity upgrade.**
- **Authorizing a request for the Comptroller's approval of proposed sewer plant upgrade.**

Mr. Wickerham said the Board of Supervisors will need to authorize the Sewer District to go ahead with the project, which is to double the capacity of the sewer plant. The county will authorize the sewer district to go to bonds; they will be general obligation bonds in an amount up to \$52,224,921.

On a motion made by Mr. Hunter, seconded by Mr. Grattidge the meeting adjourned to Executive Session for the purpose of Litigation.

On a motion made by Mr. Hunter, seconded by Mr. Grattidge the meeting returned to open session.

Mr. Wickerham requested a resolution authorizing the Chairman to accept and execute a settlement agreement on the lawsuits of the Saratoga Water Services relative to the County.

A motion was made by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Peck to authorize the Chairman to accept and execute a settlement agreement on the lawsuits of the Saratoga Water Services relative to the County. Unanimous.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom