

## Law and Finance Committee Minutes

July 9, 2008 – 4:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman A. Johnson; Supervisors Daly, Grattidge, Hunter, Peck, Thompson, Wood, Southworth, Veitch, Wright, Raymond, Hargrave, Yepsen, Lucia, Sausville and Richardson; David Wickerham, County Administrator; Spencer Hellwig, Mgmt. Analyst; Mark Rider, County Attorney; Sandi Cross, Office for the Aging; Paul Lent, Emergency Services; Alan Kempf, Janet Glenn, Public Health; Sam Pitcherelle, Treasurer; John Murray, Auditor; Joe Ritchey, Public Works; Dan Butler, Animal Shelter; Press.

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

**On a motion made by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Peck the minutes of the June 11, 2008 meeting were approved unanimously.**

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

### **PUBLIC HEALTH**

- **Amending resolution #254 of 2006 to increase Public Health Nursing Services' Agency fees to maximize Federal and Medicaid funding effective August 1, 2008.**
- **Amending resolution #21 of 2006 to increase Public Health Nursing Services' Pneumococcal inoculation fees from \$25 to \$30 and Influenza inoculation fees from \$12 to \$15 effective August 1, 2008.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with NYS Department of Health to administer the Zoonosis Program for the period of January 1, 2008 through arch 21, 2012.**
- **Amending the Public Health Nursing Service Policy and Procedures Manual.**

Mr. Wickerham said the first item increases the public nursing homes fees from \$160/day to \$170/day with some other smaller fees to increase as well. It is important that the county keeps the fee higher than the current Medicaid rate of \$163/day, as the reimbursement to the county is at the lower rate.

The second item is an increase in service fees for public health nursing for Pneumococcal inoculation and Influenza inoculation fees. This increase will cover associated costs.

The third item is an agreement with NYS Department of Health to administer the Zoonosis Program. This is for any program that deals with a potential animal to human

transfer of disease. In the past it has been done on a case by case basis. The Department of Health is now giving a flat rate. The specific rate will be disclosed at a later date.

Item four is amending the Public Health Nursing Policy and Procedures Manual by adding HIV testing to be done by Court Order, in the event that a victim wanted the perpetrator to submit to an HIV test.

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

### **BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS**

- **Declaring a section of the Old Barge Canal in the Town of Halfmoon as surplus property.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with Edwards & Kelcey to complete engineering services for the replacement of the airport rotating beacon and identification of offsite obstruction for removal at a cost of \$60,300.**

Mr. Wickerham said there is a parcel near the Mohawk River in the Town of Halfmoon that is on the old barge canal that the county has had for many years and has no use or purpose for. A nearby landowner has asked if they can purchase the land, however, the county cannot sell directly to a landowner, but they can put the property on the county auction. The Buildings and Grounds committee would like permission to deem the property “surplus”.

The second item deals with the County airport. Two months ago a grant was received for the replacement of the airport beacon as well as some avigation/obstruction removal. Approval would allow Edwards and Kelcey to move forward.

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

### **PUBLIC WORKS**

- **Accepting responsibility for the maintenance of the storm water management system being constructed by the NYS Department of Transportation on County Route 98 adjacent to the Batchelerville Bridge.**

Mr. Wickerham said there has been disputed ownership of the current bridge. The dispute has now been worked out, and the State will build a new bridge. After completion, it will be turned over to the County, and at that time they will take responsibility for the Batchelerville Bridge and maintenance of the stormwater drainage.

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

## **SOCIAL PROGRAMS**

- **Authorizing the Chairman to accept an additional \$189,127 in State Aid for the Office for the Aging's SNAP, CSE and EISEP Programs and amending the budget in relation thereto.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with Saratoga Chrysler to lease a van for senior transportation for \$345 per month from August 1, 2008 until July 31, 2011.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to accept \$50,000 in additional funding in Employment and Training and to enter into an agreement to purchase Metrix Learning System with the funds and amending the budget.**

Mr. Wickerham said as it gets closer to the end of the year the federal money gets distributed more quickly so that it can be spent before October 1<sup>st</sup>. It is money that is coming to the county from the State. The breakdown for the additional money is as follows: \$47,500 – SNAP; \$92,799 – EISEP; \$48,795 – CSE.

The second item is a renewal of a lease for a van used for senior transportation through the RSVP program. The van will be used to take seniors to appointments outside their towns. This item went out for bid with three respondents. The low bid was for \$345/mo.

The third item is to accept an additional \$50,000 in funding to Employment and Training to be used to purchase licenses to the Metrix Learning System. There are 12 licenses that will be split between Warren, Washington and Saratoga County. The system will be used to assess the skill of an individual that would be out of work, to let them know what skills they would need to improve upon and help them improve on those skills. This is all federal money with no cost to the county.

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

## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

- **Authorizing the Chairman to accept an Aid to Prosecution Grant in the District Attorney's Office in the amount of \$56,972.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to accept two member item grants in the amounts of \$5,000 and \$35,000 in the District Attorney's Office for the NYS District Attorney's Association's summer conference and amending the budget in relation thereto.**

- **Authorizing the Chairman to execute necessary easement documents for the Radio Towers in the Towns of Day, Lake Luzerne, Stillwater, Halfmoon, Hadley and Edinburg.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to execute documents necessary to grant an easement to National Grid for the purpose of establishing a primary electrical service at our Providence Tower site.**
- **Requesting the State to increase the funding for the State Office of Fire Prevention and Control to meet the needs of the State Fire Training Programs.**

Mr. Wickerham said this Aid to Prosecution Grant has been included in the budget for 2008 and it is the same amount that was granted last year from the State.

The second item is a two-member item that will be going through the District Attorney's office for the New York State District Attorney's Association, of which the county District Attorney is President this year. The funds will be used for a conference that is going to be held in August in Saratoga County.

The third item authorizes the execution of all the easement documents for the radio towers in the towns of Lucerne, Day, Stillwater, Halfmoon, Hadley and Edinburg. The county will be paying for some of these, in total, not more than \$100,000, with approximately \$65,000 for the easement in Edinburg.

The fourth item is an easement to National Grid which allow them to bring the electricity to the tower in Providence. The county will need to give them an easement at no cost and will be paying them approximately \$8,700 to extend the line to the tower.

The fifth item is a request that came from the Fire Advisory Board that the county recommend to the state that they increase their funding for the State Office of Fire Prevention in order to meet the needs for the state fire training programs. It is suggested that the state add \$800,000 to their budget.

### **SUPERVISORS' ITEM**

- **Commending former supervisor Jeff Trottier on his service to the Country in the Iraq War.**

Mr. Pitcherale distributed a copy of the Summary of Sewer Expansion Project Debt Issuance to all committee members and gave the following overview:

The Bond Anticipation Note (BAN) bids were opened for the planned Sewer District #1 Waste Water Treatment Plant Expansion Project. The winning bid from Roosevelt and Cross, Inc had a stated interest rate of 2.75% with a premium of \$369,300 to give an effective Net interest rate of under 1.60%. This means that the net interest that the county

will have to pay in this BAN will be \$510,700 instead of the \$880,000. The county will receive a wire transfer of \$32,369,300 (BAN plus premium) on July 22, 2008.

Mr. Pitcherale distributed a copy of the Status of the General Fund Debt Issuance – Animal Shelter and Radio Towers to all committee members with the following outline:

### **Animal Shelter**

1. Awaiting an estimate from the architect for the project for cost estimates by July 30, 2008.
2. Cash needs requirements for the total project

### **Public Safety Radio Project**

1. Awaiting a report from Paul Lent on the project details
2. Cash needs requirements for the total project

### **Debt Schedule Items**

1. Discussion with Supervisors for details of the two projects
2. Resolutions authorizing projects' debt issuance at the August Board of Supervisors meeting
3. Preparation of official statement and financial data to financial advisor and bond counsel.
4. Issuance of Bond Anticipation Note (BAN) in October 2008.

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

### **LAW AND FINANCE**

- **Amending Resolution No. 138 of 2008 to allow for the bonding of expenses relative to the erection of towers at the radio tower sites.**
- **Amending Resolution No. 126 of 2008 to allow for the bonding of expenses relative to the erection of shelters at the radio tower sites.**

Mr. Wickerham said in the last two months there have been towers and buildings built that are associated with the radio project. In order to preserve this for bonding a later date, there needs to be a notation authorizing the construction of those facilities and that bonding is being contemplated.

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

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with The Compass Company, Inc. as the insurance consultant to prepare bid specifications for the County's insurance coverage at a cost not to exceed \$25,000.**

Mr. Wickerham said approximately every three years the county goes out for proposals on the County Insurance coverage in order to keep the costs as low as possible. In doing so the county looks for a consultant to help with the process. A number of RFP's were sent out with only one response from The Compass Company, Inc for \$25,000.

Mr. Wickerham said this is something that the county doesn't have the expertise to do, therefore, he is recommending that the county approve this so that the process of going out to bid for the insurance for 2009 can move forward.

Mr. Grattidge asked what the costs were the last time? Mr. Wickerham said it was three years ago and there was more competition. The price was \$12,500, compared to three years prior to that of \$17,500.

Mr. Wickerham said last year the county appropriated funds to bring all the election districts up to code, meaning that there was a lot of equipment that needed to be stored. The county has been using the DCG Development Co. storage under minor contract. More space is now needed; therefore, eight RFP's were sent out with a bid received from Arnoff in Albany for \$3,500/mo. and one from DCG Development at \$3,600/mo. Due to the increased costs in fuel it would be cost effective to go with the higher price of \$3,600/mo. at a closer location.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Sansom