

LAW AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

JUNE 13, 2007 – 4:00 P.M.

Present: Chairman Hargrave; Supervisors Gutheil, A. Johnson, M. Johnson, Peck, Thompson, Wood, Grattidge, Trottier, Keyrouze, Raymond, Lucia and Sausville; David Wickerham, County Administrator; Jack Kalinkewicz, Personnel; Sam Pitcherale, Treasurer; Sandi Cross, Office for the Aging; Dave Cummings, Saratoga County Farm Bureau; Dorothy Christiansen, Horse Park; Janet Glenn, Public Health; John Murray, County Auditor; Carol Lyte, Mental Health; Barbara Thomas, League of Women Voters Paul Lent, Emergency Services; Joseph Ritchey, Public Works; Spencer Hellwig, Mgmt. Analyst; Mark Rider, County Attorney; Kathy Marchione, County Clerk; Daniel Butler, Animal Shelter; Press.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Wood, seconded by Mrs. Johnson the minutes of the May 9, 2007 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mr. Pitcherale distributed a copy of the Moody's review affirming the County's Aa2 rating to all committee members for their review.

On a motion made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mrs. Johnson the following were approved unanimously.

SOCIAL PROGRAMS

- **Authorizing the Chairman to accept an additional \$6,072 in State aid for the Title IIC meal nutrition program.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to accept an additional \$20,669 in State aid for the Expanded In-Home Services for the Elderly Program and amending the budget in relation thereto.**
- **Authorizing the County contribution of \$20,000 to the town of Halfmoon for the purchase of a senior transportation van.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to accept an additional \$15,000 in Health Insurance Information Counseling and Assistance (HIICAP) funding and amending the budget in relation thereto.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to accept an additional \$17,524 in State aid for the senior transportation program and amending the budget in relation thereto.**

- **Authorizing the Chairman to accept an additional \$30,445 in State aid for Community Services for the Elderly (CSE) and amending the budget in relation thereto.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to accept an additional \$38,031 in State aid for the Senior Nutrition Assistance Program and amending the budget in relation thereto.**

Mr. Wickerham said this is the time if year when the State is closing out its budget. Additional funds were available for The Office for the Aging in a number of different areas as stated above. In all the programs there is no County participation, they are all 100% State Aid.

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

PUBLIC HEALTH

- **Authorizing the Chairman to execute revenue contracts with HMO's and Health Insurance Companies with the approval of the Public Health Committee at an agreed rate.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an amended contract with Saratoga Bridges to provide for an increase in respite service rates paid under the Early Intervention Program as follows: \$14.08 to \$17.04 per hour for one child and \$21.12 to \$25.56 per hour for more than one child. This increase is retroactive to January 1, 2007.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to amend the contract and budget to accept an additional \$4,512 in expenses and revenues for Northeast Parent and Child Society.**

Mr. Wickerham said in the last year there have been a number of resolutions that have come forward for various HMO's. These are people who are selling Long Term Health Care Insurance to the benefit of Public Health or the Infirmary. These payments are higher than the Medicaid rate and goes toward paying for the services that the residents receive. The Public Health Committee felt it was best to have a blanket resolution authorizing the Board of Supervisors to accept the revenue contracts with the approval of the Public Health Committee.

The second item is the continuation of services with Saratoga Bridges. There was additional money in the budget and the new rates are out that OMRDD sets. The OMRDD rates now for respite services are \$17.04/hr. for one child and \$25.56/hr. for more than one child and will be retroactive from January 1, 2007. OMRDD provides all the funds for the program; therefore there are no county funds in the program.

The third item is money received from the State for Northeast Parent and Child Society. The pass through part was COLA that was approved by the legislature.

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

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- **Supporting the concept of a regional horse park in the Saratoga-Capital District and commending Cornell Cooperative Extension for taking the lead in preparing Requests for Proposals (RFP's) for the proposed project.**

Mr. Wickerham said the Economic Development Committee had a presentation from Cooperative Extension on the Horse Park concept with a favorable outcome. They support the concept of a regional park covering the Saratoga capital district region and also commend Cornell Cooperative Extension for taking the lead in preparing the requests for proposals for the proposed project. At this point there is no request for funding, as funding has been received from the State Legislature to begin the process.

On a motion made by Mr. Gutheil, seconded by Mrs. Johnson the following was approved unanimously.

- **Authorizing a school tax refund of \$752.47 in the Town of Ballston.**

Mr. Wickerham said this was a star exemption that because of the timing, was not allowed to be put on the tax roll in time. Therefore, the people who paid the bill are now applying for the star benefit they were entitled to.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

On a motion made by Mrs. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Peck the following item was approved unanimously.

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with Jacobs, Edwards and Kelcey to prepare an RFP for the Saratoga County Airport F.B.O. in an amount not to exceed \$20,000.**

Mr. Wickerham said all of the contracts at the Airport are for fixed base operators. There is a subcommittee that has been appointed to review what is necessary to put out an RFP for successor fixed based operator contracts. With the FAA regulations it has been much more complicated than first thought. It is felt that a professional is needed to help with preparing the RFP and then evaluating responses. The request is for an authorization not to exceed \$20,000. The contract with Jacobs Edwards & Kelcey will be for less than that at \$15,700.

- **Amending the budget under Public Works to appropriate \$426,000 in expenses and revenues for the courtyard renovation capital program.**

Mr. Wickerham said the next item is the ongoing project to re-deck the courtyard. Originally the project was budgeted at \$1 million. The cost is higher than that, therefore, we will need to appropriate money for additional expenses. A request has been made to appropriate an additional \$426,000. The current contract calls for \$1,353,030, however, the Public Works Committee has asked for additional money so they will be able to deal with potential concerns for asbestos testing and concrete testing that will have to be done without coming back to the Board.

A motion was made by Mrs. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Peck to approve the above item.

Mr. Gutheil said there is a contingency already built into the numbers and it is this committees' obligation to overlook all the other committee resolutions when they come to us. This project started at \$1 million and is now at \$1,353,030. We are putting in the difference between \$353,030 and \$426,000, plus there is still a contingency to work with.

Mr. Gutheil said he didn't think it was good budgeting practice, since municipalities are quite often targets for change orders that spend the money.

Mr. Gutheil said he would support the \$353,030.

Mr. Gutheil moved to amend the motion to \$353,030, Mr. Peck seconded for discussion.

Mrs. Johnson said the Buildings and Grounds committee felt that if the money is not spent, it isn't spent. There are things that will be coming up and rather than come back again they would just put in what was originally budgeted for the project.

Mr. Peck said he would entrust the judgement of the Buildings and Grounds committee and the Public Works Department to not spend in excess of what they need to.

The original motion to appropriate \$426,000 in expenses and revenues for the renovation capital program was adopted by the following vote: AYES – Hargrave, A. Johnson, M. Johnson, Peck, Thompson, Wood. NOES – Gutheil.

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

PUBLIC SAFETY

- **Authorizing the creation of a trust and agency account to deposit and segregate funds donated to the Saratoga County Animal Shelter.**

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with Pacheco Ross Architects, P.C. to complete a feasibility study for an Emergency Operations Center at a cost of \$18,750 and amending the 2007 budget.**

Mr. Wickerham said there is approximately \$50,000 in donations to the Animal Shelter. The treasurer has recommended that a Trust and Agency account be set up so that any additional funds will go directly to the account and not through the county budget.

The second item is an agreement with Pacheco Ross for a feasibility study for the Emergency Operations Center. An RFP was sent out with four responses, and Pacheco Ross was the low proposal. A State grant was received this year to cover the cost as well as other items within Emergency Services. An amendment to the 2007 budget will need to be done in order to appropriate the \$18,750 necessary to pay for the program.

SUPERVISOR'S ITEM

- **Congratulating the South Glens Falls Girls' Softball Team for their victory in the State Championship in their Class.**

LAW AND FINANCE

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

- **Amending the 2007 Saratoga County Compensation Schedule under the Sheriff's Department to increase the hourly rate for extra Deputies part time from \$9.40/hr. to \$14/hr. effective June 29, 2007.**

Mr. Wickerham said the Sheriff's contract was just settled this year without being without a contract for three years. At the same time, the part-time deputies are not included under the bargaining unit, so there is no bargaining for them. The Sheriff has asked that their salary be increased to \$14/hr., which is still under where the part time correction officers are.

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

- **Authorizing the Chairman to accept a \$25,000 member item from Senator Bruno to create an educational manual to standardize County Clerk practices throughout New York and amending the budget thereto.**

Mr. Wickerham said Senator Bruno has prepared a \$25,000 member item for the purpose of creating an educational manual to standardize county clerk practices throughout the state.

A motion was made by Mr. Peck, seconded by Mrs. Johnson to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of Litigation.

No Action was taken.

On a motion made by Mr. Peck, seconded by Mrs. Johnson the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom