

LAW AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

OCTOBER 15, 2008 – 4:00 P.M.

Present: Chairman A. Johnson; Supervisors Daly, Grattidge, Hunter, Thompson, Wood, Hargrave, Connelly, Yepsen, Wright, M. Johnson, Jenkins, Richardson, Sausville, Veitch, Southworth, Lucia, Wormuth; David Wickerham, County Administrator; Daniel Butler, Animal Shelter; Paul Lent, Emergency Services; Diane Brown Maplewood Manor' Stephen Dorsey, Mark Rider, County Attorney; Joe Ritchey, Public Works; John Murray, County Auditor; Tom Speziale, Public Works; Sam Pitcheralle, Treasurer; Jim DiPasquale, Sewer District; Sandi Cross, Office for the Aging; Kathleen Marchione, County Clerk; Carol Holley, Real Property; League of Women Voters; 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 September 10, 2008 meeting were approved unanimously.

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

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

- **Amending the 2008 County Budget to increase appropriations and revenues by \$75,000 to cover the increased cost of vehicle fuel.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with North American Flight Services to reimburse them up to \$25,000 for removal of tree obstructions identified by FAA and the additional engineering completed to verify the correct obstructions were removed and amending the budget to transfer \$32,375 from the Contingency account.**

Mr. Wickerham said the county would be contracting CT Male to identify the trees and ensure that they are the trees that FAA wants to remove. Nothing will be paid until the job is done.

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

EQUALIZATION AND ASSESSMENT

- **Authorizing the conveyance of eleven (11) parcels sold at the September auction to the successful bidders.**
- **Canceling \$192,08 in taxes on two State owned parcels in the Town of Moreau.**

- **Accepting a tender offer in the Town of Milton in the amount of \$13,429.13.**

Mr. Wickerham said the net profit from the September County Auction was approximately \$87,000.

The second item is private parcels that were turned over to the State for open space purposes. Once property goes to the state it comes off the tax rolls.

The third item is a parcel in the town of Milton that was on the auction list. The taxes were paid in full right before the auction.

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

PUBLIC WORKS

- **Amending the 2008 budget under Public Works to increase Fund 3 by \$430,000 to cover diesel fuel and supply expenses.**

Mr. Wickerham said as regular fuel went up, diesel fuel went up even more. Fund three is the machinery fund, in addition to the purchase of diesel fuel there were supplies that needed to be purchased that also increased in cost. The fund will be increased by \$430,000 to cover those costs. There will be no budget impact to the county.

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

SOCIAL PROGRAMS

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into agreements with Prestige Services, Inc. to provide for the Elderly Nutrition Program from Jan. 1, 2009 through December 31, 2012 at a cost of \$4.46 in 2008 with an annual increase to be determined by the August Consumer Price Index**

Mr. Wickerham said every three years the nutrition program goes out to bid. This year 11 proposals were sent to different firms with one response from Prestige Services for \$4.46/per meal for 2009. This represents a 8-9% increase from last year's rate of \$4.09/per meal.

Mr. Thompson asked how many meals are delivered in a day? Mrs. Cross said, approximately 900/day.

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

PUBLIC SAFETY

- **Authorizing the Chairman to accept a \$3,000 legislative grant to reimburse the County for expenses relative to the New York State District Attorney's Conference.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into agreements with Advanced Network Services to provide services relative to radio improvements at the Halfmoon Water Tank at a cost not to exceed \$148,667.60.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with Albany Investigators for investigative expenses at a cost not to exceed \$12,000.**

Mr. Wickerham said last year the District Attorney was the chairman of the District Attorney's Conference. Senator Bruno was able to provide him with a number of legislative grants to pay for many of the activities throughout the year. This \$3,000 legislative grant is the final payment for expenses.

The second item is a contract with Advanced Network Services relative to the radio tower improvements. There were three responses to the bid with the low bid of \$148,667.60.

The third item is an agreement with Albany Investigators. Under minor contract the county provides investigators to the Public Defender. In this case this individual went over the \$10,000 established under a minor contract at which point an additional \$2,000 will need to be approved by the Board of Supervisors.

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

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into a rental agreement with The Saratoga Hilton for the annual planning conference at a cost not to exceed \$30,000.**

Mr. Wickerham said a new contract is needed as the Saratoga Hotel and Conference Center has been changed to The Saratoga Hilton. The \$30,000 will be the cost for the conference, which will be underwritten by registration fees.

LAW AND FINANCE

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

- **Authorizing Inter-agency transfers necessary to close out the 2008 County Budget**

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

- **Amending the County Budget under the Sewer District to establish a Capital Fund of \$46,127,523 for the Saratoga County Sewer Treatment Plant Expansion.**

Mr. Wickerham said last month the county authorized the bonding of \$32 million for the Sewer Capital Project. The next step is to actually create the capital project within the sewer budget. The cost for the entire project is \$46,127,523.

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

- **Denying the Village of Stillwater's request to extend the Sewer District's boundaries.**

Mr. Wickerham said last month the Board of Supervisors received a request from the Village of Stillwater to extend the sewer district's boundaries as required by law. This was sent to the sewer district for comment. They have recommended denial of the request as there is a long standing practice that would bring in outside users first and allow them to make equity payments at one and a half the normal rate. The extra half would go toward the same expenses that went to all the other sewer district users when the plant was being built. Sometime in the future when it equalizes they will come back and make the recommendation that the sewer district be expanded to include them. This is the same procedure that was used in the town of Wilton.

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

- **Authorizing the Saratoga County Sewer District to accept discharge from the Saratoga County Water Authority Water Treatment Plan as an outside user.**

Mr. Wickerham said in order for the sewer district to accept any discharge from outside of the current boundaries of sewer district #1, it requires a resolution from the Board of Supervisors. There was a request from the Water Authority to be allowed to utilize the sewer. The sewer district felt that was appropriate and that they would be able to handle it, therefore, a resolution from the County would be needed authorizing the acceptance of the discharge from the Water Authority as an outside user.

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

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an amended agreement with Info-Quick Solutions, Inc. to allow for an expenditure of up to \$105,000 for this year only for microfilming in the County Clerk's Office.**

Mr. Wickerham said the current contract is for approximately \$35,000. The County Clerk has completed that portion and will now be able to finish this year. This expenditure will be up to \$105,000, which is already included in the County Clerk's budget.

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

- **Amending the budget under Social Services' Intergovernmental Transfer to appropriate \$5,516,488 and a like amount from the appropriated fund balance.**

Mr. Wickerham said the IGT is a process by which if the County is willing to pay a 50% portion, 50% of Medicaid will come back to Maplewood Manor. Essentially, by paying \$5,515,488 out of the Social Services budget the county will be able to procure \$11 million in funding for Maplewood Manor.

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

No Action was taken.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom