

Law and Finance Committee Minutes  
December 10, 2008 – 4:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman A. Johnson; Supervisors Grattidge, Hunter, Peck, Thompson, Wood, Southworth, Yepsen, Sausville, Wright, Jenkins and Veitch; David Wickerham, County Administrator; Mark Rider, County Attorney; John Murray, County Auditor; Jason Kemper, Planning; Paul Lent, Emergency Services; Janet Glenn, Alan Kempf, Public Health; Jack Kalinkewicz, Personnel; Bill Davis, Jim DiPasquale, Sewer District; Dan Butler, Animal Shelter; Sandi Cross, Office for the Aging; Dale Angstadt, Mental Health; Denny Finnernan, Terry Lowenthal, League of Women Voters; Pat Monahan, Alane Chinian, NYS OPRHP; Press.

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

**On a motion made by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Grattidge the minutes of the November 12, 2008 meeting were approved unanimously.**

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

**PERSONNEL**

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into agreements with Blue shield of Northeastern New York, Inc. for a renewal of our employee health insurance policies for 2009.**

Mr. Wickerham said this is the annual renewal for the county Health Insurance with an increase of 13%. This is the third renewed contract with Blue Cross Blue Shield.

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

**PUBLIC HEALTH**

- **Authorizing an increase in compensation from \$38,169 to \$39,505 for Public Health's Medical Director Dr. DelGiacco, effective January 1, 2009.**
- **Establishing hourly rates for aide agencies providing Certified Home Health Aide (CHHA) and Long Term Home Health Care Program (LTHHCP) services effective January 1, 2009 as follows:**

**Greater Adirondack Home Aides:**

**\$25.54 per hour to \$26.05 per hour**

**Home Health Partners, Inc:**

**\$20.50 per hour to \$22.00 per hour**

**Holiday rate: \$30.75 per hour to \$33.00 per hour**

**Living Resources:**

**\$17.00 per hour to \$17.85 per hour for HHA Service**

**Holiday rate: \$25.50 to \$26.75**

**\$16.50 per hour to \$17.35 per hour for PCA Service**

**Holiday rate: \$24.75 to \$26.00**

**\$14.50 per hour to \$16.25 per hour for Homemaker Services**

**Holiday rate: \$21.75 to \$25.35**

**Visiting Nurses Home Care:**

**\$19.70 to \$20.30 per hour**

**Holiday rate: \$28.71 to \$29.58**

- **Authorizing an increase in the rates paid for physical therapy visits as follows:**

**\$77 per initial visit to \$79 per initial visit requiring OASIS start of care**

**\$57 per visit to \$58 per visit no OASIS completed**

**\$62 per visit to \$64 per visit with OASIS completed**

**\$13 per attempt to make visit to \$14 per attempt to make visit**

- **Authorizing an increase in the rates paid for occupational therapy visits as follows:**

**\$56 per visit to \$60 per visit**

**\$12 per attempt to make visit to \$14 per attempt to make visit**

**\$5 additional to Towns of Day, Edinburg, Hadley or Waterford to \$6 per visit**

- **Authorizing an increase in the rates paid for respiratory therapy visits as follows:**

**\$60 per visit to \$65 per visit**

**\$0 additional to Towns of Day, Edinburg, Hadley or Waterford to \$6 per visit'**

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with NYS Department of Health to accept \$200,635 for the Public Health Preparedness Grant for bio-terrorism response and preparedness.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with NYS Department of Health to accept \$75,000 Cities Readiness Grant for the period of 8/10/08 to 8/09/09.**

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an amended contract with the Alcohol Substance Abuse and Prevention Council of Saratoga, Inc. to accept an additional \$8,788 in State Aid and amending the budget in relation thereto.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an amended contract with Franklin Community Center to accept an additional \$4,974 in State Aid and amending the budget in relation thereto.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an amended contract with Transitional Services, Inc. To accept an additional \$5,961 in State Aid.**

Mr. Wickerham said annually Public Health has a number of contract services where there are changes to the rates on a regular basis.

Dr. Del Giacco is the primary medical director at the Saratoga Hospital and the only respiratory specialist in the area. He has requested, and the committee has authorized, a 3.5% increase in pay.

The second item is a number of proposed rate increases for Certified Home Health Aides and Long term Home Health Aides. The total request for the year is \$5,800.

The physical therapy visits are an increase of approximately 2%, which total approximately \$7,631.

The occupational therapy visits will increase for a total cost of approximately \$1,465 for the year.

The medical social work visits will increase for a total cost of approximately \$1,195 for the year.

The respiratory therapy visits will increase for a total cost of approximately \$1,315 for the year.

Mr. Wickerham said in the past the county has received a bio-terrorism grant. The grant has been renamed as the Public Health Preparedness Grant, and the terms remain the same at \$1 for every resident of the county as of the last census, for a total of \$200,635.

Mr. Wickerham said the Cities Readiness Grant in the amount of \$75,000 was authorized last year. The county will receive this grant for a second year.

Mr. Wickerham said the State as it finds money, will give money to pass through to different agencies that the county oversees for the community of Mental Health. The funds for ASAP and Franklin Community Center are actually funds from 2007.

Mr. Wickerham said the funds for Transitional Services Inc. are for 2008.

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

### **EQUALIZATION AND ASSESSMENT**

- **Authorizing the County to participate in legal actions to oppose the APA's attempt to change the terms and conditions of lake front property development with the State Park.**
- **Authorizing the conveyance of tax acquired property to the Town of Northumberland.**

Mr. Wickerham said the first item is an authorization for the county to take legal action against the APA. The APA has recently changed their terms and conditions on lake front property development, further restricting the rights of land owners in the adirondacks who own lake front to utilize their own property. All of the counties within the Adirondack Park are participating in the lawsuit and have asked Saratoga County to contribute \$3,000 and be one of their members for the suite.

The second item is a conveyance of a tax-acquired parcel in the town of Northumberland. It is a street in subdivision where taxes were not paid. The town will pay the county for all the back taxes, penalties and interest in order to attain the property for the purpose of creating a town road.

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

### **BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS**

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into a lease agreement with USDA Farm Service Agency for office space from October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2013 at a cost of \$31,955.44 for the first year with a 3% increase annually thereafter.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with Springer Waste for refuse pick-up at a cost of \$58,956 for 2009 with two one year options to renew.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into agreements with CT Male Associates, PC to completed the remaining design phases of the new County Animal Shelter at a cost not to exceed \$38,500 and terminate the contract with Petersen Architecture, PLLC.**

Mr. Wickerham said the first item is a lease with the Farm Service Agency, which is the federal portion of soil and water. The lease for next year will be the same as this year at \$31,955.44. For the next three years there will be a 3% increase.

The second item is refuse pickup at the county that is bid out on a regular basis. Bids were sent out with four responses, Springer Waste as the lowest bid at \$58,956. The second bid was \$63,182.

The third item is authorizing the remaining phases for the county Animal Shelter, with five phases in all. Each phase will be authorized separately and then approved by the Buildings and Grounds committee.

The fourth item is the termination of the contract with Petersen Architecture, which was the firm that was not successful in designing the project within an acceptable budget.

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

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with Pacheco Ross Architects, PC to complete Phase 1 of the Public Safety Building design at a cost of \$385,000.**

Mr. Johnson said the next step to be taken with the Public Safety Building is to refer it to the Department of Health for signoff on the design of the facility as it relates to public health.

Mr. Johnson said it would be helpful to have a presentation by Pacheco Ross to the Buildings and Grounds Committee for 2009 as to the current status of the Public Safety Building. After a review and sign off by Public Health the project could then proceed to the next phase of the design.

**A motion was made by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Ms. Daly to refer the Public Safety Project back to the Buildings and Grounds Committee for 2009 for review with Pacheco Ross Architects, PC and the Department of Health. Unanimous.**

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

### **SOCIAL PROGRAMS**

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into agreements with agencies to implement the 2009 annual implementation plan for the Office for the Aging.**

Mr. Wickerham said agreements with the agencies are the same for 2009 as it was for 2008. The only change was a better price for the transportation fees in Saratoga Springs. All of these funds have been included in the 2009 budget.

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

## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with J&A Bayly Construction for the removal of the Spruce Mountain Radio Tower and Transmitter building at a cost not to exceed \$32,160.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee to accept \$17,967 in aid for extra seatbelt checkpoints and amending the budget in relation thereto.**

Mr. Wickerham said the Traffic Safety Board has received funds from the state to provide extra seat belt checks. Each police agency in the county will receive a certain amount of funding from the Governor's office.

## **LAW AND FINANCE**

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

- **Amending the 2008 budget to reappropriate \$600,000 in unspent funding for land preservation purchases approved in 2007, but not finalized until 2008.**

Mr. Wickerham said every year approximately \$750,000 is appropriated for land preservation. The purchases that were made in 2007 were not finalized until 2008. Unless there is a final contract the funds cannot be released. The funds will be reappropriated from the fund balance.

- **Confirming the 2009 Scale of charges for the Saratoga County Sewer District.**

Mr. Wickerham said the Sewer District sets the rates that have to be confirmed by the Board of Supervisors. There is an appeal process for anyone that feels the rates should be changed.

Mr. Johnson said the scale of charges for 2009 have been published. There is one appeal that has been filed by the Office of State Parks and Recreation.

Mr. Davis, Sewer Commission Chairman has reviewed the appeal and is recommending the following: The appeal and recommendation is justified. In the past billing has been on peaked demand of approximately 700 units. If it was done on actual flow it would be approximately 313 units. It was recommended by the Sewer District to bill on actual flow.

**A motion was made by Ms. Daly, seconded by Mr. Thompson to amend the charges for Mt. McGregor and the State Parks Recreation to bill on the actual flow as recommended by Mr. Davis, Chairman of the Sewer Commission. Unanimous.**

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

- **Establishing capital accounts for the Saratoga County Animal Shelter and the Public Safety Building and authorizing transfers of \$500,000 and \$1,000,000 respectively.**

Mr. Wickerham said the 2008 adopted budget there was \$500,000 put in for the Animal Shelter and \$1 million for the Public Safety Building. If this is not put into the capitol account, the money will go back into the fund balance at the end of the year. A capitol account will be established for the two projects, allowing for the payment of any bills that are incurred from here on out.

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

- **Levying amounts payable to the County Treasurer and the Town Supervisors.**

Mr. Wickerham said this is the authorization for the County to issue tax bills.

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

- **Authorizing levy for unpaid 2008 Sacandaga Lake maintenance assessments, Stillwater Hydro in the amount of \$47,280.23. Unanimous.**

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

- **Establishing January 2, 2009 at 2:30 p.m. as the date and time for the organizational meeting of the 2009 Board of Supervisors.**

Mr. Johnson thanked the committee for their support throughout the year.

**A motion was made by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Hunter to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of Litigation. Unanimous.**

No action was taken.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Sansom