

LAW AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

FEBRUARY 11, 2009 – 4:00 P.M.

Present: Chairman Peck; Supervisors Grattidge, Hargrave, Sausville, Thompson, Wood, Wright, Rowland, Jenkins, Lawler and Yepsen; David Wickerham, County Administrator; Sam Pitcherale, Treasurer; John Murray, County Auditor; Mark Rider, County Attorney; Jason Kemper, Planning; Art Hunsinger, Fire Advisory Board; Paul Lent, Ed Tremblay, Emergency Services; Wayne Redick, Albany Communications; Britta Degenshein, Motorola; Sandi Cross, Office for the Aging; Dan Butler, Animal Shelter; Barbara Thomas, League of Women Voters; Press.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Hargrave, seconded by Mr. Thompson the minutes of the January 14, 2009 meeting were approved unanimously.

On a motion made by Mr. Hargrave, seconded by Mr. Sausville the following were approved unanimously.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

- **Authorizing the taking of an avigation easement for a parcel in the Town of Milton to remove an obstruction to the County Airport, including such interim tasks as may be required.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to petition the Public Facilities Commission for an extension of the Heritage Springs Water Corporation to include a water main to the County Airport.**

Mr. Wickerham said the first item is authorizing an avigation easement. The Board of Supervisors authorized the removal of some trees to open up the runway at the county airport.

Last year the County authorized the extension of the Heritage Springs Water Corporation to the airport. Since that time the Public Facilities Commission is requiring, that the County sign on, stating, that they will use it.

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

EQUALIZATION AND ASSESSMENT

- **Authorizing corrections to the 2009 tax roll in the Towns of Clifton Park (\$12,173.22) and Saratoga (\$3,576.61)**

Mr. Wickerham said in the town of Clifton Park there was a house built after the taxable status date, but the assessor inadvertently entered it onto the rolls before it had been built. The correction to the tax rolls is approximately \$12,000.

In the town of Saratoga there are a series of parcels that should have been wholly exempt and were not put in that way by the assessor, therefore, there were some fire district assessments that needed to be removed. In total there were 27 parcels for a total of approximately \$3,500.

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

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- **Amending the budget to appropriate an additional \$6,000 in appropriations and revenues for the County Planning Conference.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into a management agreement with the Wilton Wildlife and Preserve to manage a parcel of County forestland at no cost to the County.**
- **Amending the boundaries of Consolidated Agricultural District #2 to include the Glenn Farm in the Town of Galway.**

Mr. Wickerham said there was a very successful planning Conference that Mr. Kemper directed in conjunction with the Planning Board and the Board of Supervisors. The conference was expanded this year, and because of that there were additional registrations creating additional revenues that will be put into the County Budget to pay for the conference.

Mr. Wickerham said approximately seven years ago, the Wilton Wildlife and Preserve asked the County to convey a forestry parcel to them. The County agreed, but the forestry parcels cannot be conveyed without State approval. At that time the Board of Supervisors decided to enter into a management contract, whereas, the Wilton Wildlife and Preserves, Inc. will take all responsibility and liability for actions that occur while managing the parcel.

Mr. Wickerham said there are two Agricultural Districts within the county, and there is a committee that was appointed by the Board of Supervisors that reviews these on a regular basis for possible amendments. There was an amendment requested to include the Glenn Farm in the Town of Galway into Agricultural District #2.

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

PUBLIC HEALTH

- **Authorizing the Chairman to accept an additional \$1,194 in State funding for Transitional Services Association, Inc. and amending the budget under Mental Health.**

Mr. Wickerham said this is where the State has some additional money that they send out to a specific agency. The County has a Mental Health Community Services Board, which acts as a mediary to receive the funds and move them on. They would like to receive this money and pass it on to transitional services. The County will amend the budget under Mental Health to increase both income and expenses by the same amount.

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

LEGISLATIVE AND RESEARCH

- **Urging the NYS Legislature to support the State's Farmland Protection Program and Environmental Protection Fund.**
- **Supporting NYS Senate Bill S.255/S.256 sponsored by Senator Elizabeth Little proposing amendments to Real Property Tax Law in relation to the taxation of property owned by a cooperative corporation.**

Mr. Wickerham said currently the Legislative and Research Committee is in the process of putting together their Legislative program. They wanted to bring forward the above items that they felt should go before the legislature quickly.

The first item is urging the State Legislature to support the Farmland and Protection Program and Environmental Protection Fund. Governor Patterson is trying to close a large deficit at the State level, and part of the means in closing that will be to eliminate some of the Planned Development Rights (PDR) money that has traditionally been available. The committee wants to make the Governor aware that this is a very important program for upstate New York and we would like to continue it.

The second item is supporting Senate Bill 255/256, which is supported by the Equalization and Assessment Committee. This is a proposal to change current law that gives a special tax break to condominiums versus single family homes. Currently, condominiums have to be assessed on the basis of how much rent they can accrue as opposed to how much they cost to purchase. This has no impact on how much money the county makes, but it does have an impact on who pays it. If condominiums don't pay their fair share that means people in single family homes will be paying more, he said.

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

SOCIAL PROGRAMS

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into 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 a renewal contract with a registered dietician to provide nutrition services to the Office for the Aging at a cost of \$35/hr.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into a contract with Capitaland Taxi to provide transportation for seniors in the Towns of Charlton, Edinburg, Galway, Providence, and Saratoga at a cost not to exceed \$26,920.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to accept a \$100,000 Legislative Grant in the Office for the Aging and amending the budget in relation thereto.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with Evergreen Adult Day Care to provide social adult day care services at cost not to exceed \$84,000.**

Mr. Wickerham said the first item is a renewal contract for Expanded in Home Services. The rates are the same as they were in 2008.

The second item is for the registered dietician who provides services for the meals program. The rates are the same as they were in 2008. The total cost for the program will be \$32,260.

The third item is a contract with Capitaland Taxi to provide seniors transportation in certain towns. The rates will be the same as 2008 at \$150/day. They are authorized for a maximum of 180 days for a total cost of approximately \$27,000.

The fourth item is a Legislative grant that has been approved. The grant is for equipment and furnishings for Senior Citizen venues throughout Saratoga County. The expenses need to be incurred before the beginning of the new fiscal year.

The fourth item is with regard to Evergreen Adult Day Care who has been an adult day care provider for years. The rate will remain at the 2008 level. The county's share is approximately \$45,000, which is approximately \$1,700 less than in 2008.

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

PUBLIC SAFETY

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with Motorola Inc. to purchase 1,700 pagers at a cost of \$559,130.**

Mr. Wickerham said last year the Board of Supervisors determined that they wanted to help fire departments as they switched over to the new communications service. One of the ways to do that was to purchase new pagers for them that they will need to access the system. Bids were sent out with three responses. Motorola, Inc was the low bidder. The program will be set up so that the fire companies will turn in their old pagers, and on a one for one basis they will be replaced. There will be an accounting of all the pagers by serial number, and they will be tracked as to what agencies they go to. They will be administered by the Department of Emergency Services.

A motion was made by Mr. Hargrave, seconded by Mr. Thompson to move into executive session for the purpose of Litigation. Unanimous.

On a motion made by Mr. Hargrave, seconded by Mr. Thompson the meeting was reopened to regular session. Unanimous.

Mr. Wickerham requested a resolution **to authorize a settlement of multi-county litigation against pharmaceutical companies, specifically MD Serrano \$385.13; Barr \$11,094.31; Teva IVAX, \$44,377.25; BMS. \$41,536; Thayer, \$4,290; Fujisawa \$1,100; Merck, \$11,000; Little Drug, \$16,000, and further authorizing the Chairman of Law and Finance and the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors to jointly authorize future settlements against pharmaceutical companies as they come in.**

A motion was made by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Sausville to approve the above resolution. Unanimous.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom