

LAW AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

OCTOBER 10, 2007 – 4:00 P.M.

Present: Chairman Hargrave; Supervisors Gutheil, A. Johnson, M. Johnson, Peck, Thompson, Wood, Hunter, Grattidge, Keyrouze, Trottier, Lucia, Raymond and Daly; David Wickerham, County Administrator; Jason Kemper, Planning; John Murray, Auditor; George Martin, Treasurer's Office; Gerald Lundgren Deputy Treasurer; Mark Rider, County Attorney; LoAnn Sanders, Deputy County Clerk; Kathy Marchione, County Clerk; Dan Butler, Animal Shelter; Wilma Koss, Saratoga Springs Resident; Press.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Wood, seconded by Mr. Peck the minutes of the September 12, 2007 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mr. Lundgren said a press release has been sent out announcing another successful audit. The audit is also available to view on the county website.

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

EQUALIZATION AND ASSESSMENT

- **Accepting tender offers in the Village of Corinth, Town of Moreau, and the Town of Saratoga totaling \$25,596.75.**
- **Conveying 13 parcels sold at the September property auction to the successful bidders.**

Mr. Wickerham said in total the gross receipts from the auction were approximately \$133,000 resulting in approximately \$99,000 profit.

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

PUBLIC WORKS

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with the City of Saratoga Springs allowing for the construction and maintenance of a sidewalk on the Geyser Road Bridge over the D&H Railroad.**

Mr. Wickerham said this is an agreement with the City of Saratoga Springs to allow the construction of sidewalks on the Geyser Road Bridge that will have engineering done this year with construction to follow in 2008. This will be done at no cost to the County; therefore, the City of Saratoga Springs will incur the expenses for the local share, which will be between 5%-20%.

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

LAND PRESERVATION

- **Awarding open space grants to the Towns of Malta (\$186,343), (2) Northumberland (\$28,000 & \$78,032), (2) Saratoga (\$84,000 & \$15,750), Wilton (\$100,000) and the Village of Victory (\$7,875) in the total amount of \$500,000.**

Mr. Peck said there was approximately \$2 million in grant applications, with seven grants awarded.

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

LEGISLATIVE AND RESEARCH

- **Opposing the Governor's Executive Order regarding the issuance of licenses to illegal aliens.**

Mr. Wickerham said the Governor has issued an executive order regarding the issue of licenses to illegal aliens. The County Clerk's Association has opposed this. The Legislative and Research Committee has prepared a resolution supporting the clerk's position and also recognizing support in defense of County Clerk, Mrs. Marchione in the event any action is taken by the Governor.

SUPERVISOR'S ITEM

- **Honoring the memory of Floyd Rourke, former Supervisor from the Town of Northumberland.**

LAW AND FINANCE

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

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into agreements with the NYS Board of Elections to accept a grant in the amount of \$8,032 in the Elections Department and amending the budget thereto.**

Mr. Wickerham said this is a grant from the NYS Board of Elections in the amount of \$8,032. This is a reimbursement grant. Determinations have been made by the State Elections Department, of areas that need upgrading to meet access requirements

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

- **Authorizing the Chairman to accept a grant in the amount of \$28,000 from the NYS Archives Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund, authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with Fountains Spatial, Inc. for a GIS needs assessment and implementation plan, and amending the budget thereto.**

Mr. Wickerham said this is a grant that Planning Director, Jason Kemper applied for last year to do a GIS needs assessment and implementation plan. The grant has since been received and proposals have been sent out, with four quotes received.

Mr. Peck said this is going to make a great improvement in the records system and real property services. Citizens in the county will be able to go to the county website to find out real property information.

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

- **Authorizing transfer to the Water Authority of NYSDEC permits.**
- **Authorizing transfer to the Water Authority of Army Corps of Engineer permit**
- **Authorizing transfer of FAB Grant proceeds to the Water Authority.**

Mr. Wickerham said a few months ago there was a resolution transferring the project over to the Water Authority and in doing so, transferring all of the permits and funding. However, in dealing with the various State grants, often times there is the need for a resolution dealing with one item at a time. In consultation with the County Attorney, it has been determined that the most effect way to do it is to have one resolution authorizing the transfer of the DEC Permits to the Water Authority from the County.

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

- **Authorizing Inter-agency transfers necessary to close out the 2007 budget.**

Mr. Wickerham said this would allow for the necessary transfers as the budget is closed out for the year and not have to come to the Board of Supervisors for each transfer that goes through. As in the past, a record of all the transfers will be made and the report will come to the Law and Finance committee in February when the budget closes out.

Mr. Gutheil said that his town is incurring expenses on moving voter machines. After contacting the Board of Elections it was said that they were paying for truck rental only. Mr. Gutheil asked if other towns were incurring expenses that were not being reimbursed? Discussion followed.

Mr. Wickerham said the county would be paying for the poll workers.

Mr. Gutheil said last December the Law and Finance Committee discussed salaries, and how everything comes on fast at the end of the year. Discussion took place as to how it would be dealt with in 2007. Mr. Gutheil suggested forming a personnel committee where they would be in a position to make recommendations and be more involved.

A motion was made by Mr. Gutheil, seconded by Mr. Thompson to amend the rules of the Board and to create a Personnel Committee. Ayes – Hargrave, Gutheil, Thompson Noes – A. Johnson, M. Johnson, Peck, Wood. Motion Failed.

Mrs. Johnson said definition of the mission and goals of the committee need to be established.

Mr. Gutheil said the committee should not be set up to micro manage departments, however, they should have some oversight on department heads. This should be done before the year's end, he said.

A motion was made by Mr. Peck, seconded by Mr. Wood to authorize the Chairman of the Law and Finance Committee to appoint three Supervisors, to form a subcommittee, to establish a charge of the Personnel Committee, and report back to the Law and Finance Committee. Unanimous.

Mr. Hargrave appointed the following supervisors to the Personnel Subcommittee: Gutheil – Chair, members, Thompson, Peck and Hargrave.

On a motion made by Mr. Hargrave, seconded by Mrs. Johnson the meeting was adjourned to Executive Session for the purpose of Litigation. Unanimous.

No action was taken.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom