

Special Law and Finance Committee Meeting

April 21, 2009 – 3:30 p.m.

Present: Chairman Peck; Supervisors Daly, Grattidge, Hargrave, Sausville, Thompson, Wood, Raymond Southworth, Jenkins, Wright, Wormuth, Rowland and A. Johnson; Spencer Hellwig, Mgmt. Analyst; Mark Rider, County Attorney; Press.

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

Mr. Peck requested approval of a resolution authorizing the County insurance coverage through May 8, 2010 at a total cost not to exceed \$574,087.

Mr. Peck said the committee initially recommended Cool's quote based on a last minute change in recommendations by the county's insurance consultant but then reconsidered. No one was comfortable with the last minute change. The proposed change would be to split the coverage between Cool Insurance as the primary insurance and Marshall & Sterling Insurance, to provide the Healthcare portion, representing additional savings of \$85,000.

Mr. Peck said the coverage will be exactly the same, only \$85,000 cheaper.

A motion was made by Mr. Grattidge, seconded by Mr. Hargrave to approve a resolution authorizing the County insurance coverage through May 8, 2010 at a total cost not to exceed \$574,087. Unanimous.

Mr. Peck requested a resolution urging the State to provide \$25 million of Federal Stimulus funding for the Bachelerville Bridge. This project is the ideal use of federal stimulus money, he said.

Ms. Raymond said the 3,000ft. bridge spans Sacandaga Lake and connects one side of the Town of Edinburg to its other half, and serves as a gateway into the Adirondacks.

After hashing out ownership responsibilities between the county and the state, the state agreed to be responsible for repairs to the current bridge and construction of its replacement. The county then agreed to take responsibility for maintenance of the new bridge.

Initially, the State budgeted \$39 million for the replacement of the bridge, but after the planning process was completed, it was realized that the cost would be \$64 million. The price difference was due to several factors, including the increase in the price of steel, the huge cost of transporting equipment to the land locked lake, and the lake's depth.

Ms. Raymond said without a safe bridge to cross, commuters who live and work on opposite sides of the lake would have to add about 70 miles to their daily commutes, and businesses that depend on patrons to cross the bridge would suffer.

A motion was made by Mr. Hargrave, seconded by Mr. Grattidge to approve a resolution urging the State to provide \$25 million of Federal Stimulus funding for the Batchelerville Bridge. Unanimous.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom