

Law and Finance Committee Minutes

April 15, 2009 – 4:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Peck; Supervisors Daly, Grattidge, Sausville, Thompson, Wood, Wright, Southworth, Rowland, Jenkins, Veitch, A. Johnson, M. Johnson; David Wickerham, County Administrator; Ed Tremblay, Paul Lent, Emergency Services; Wes Carr, Youth Bureau; Mark Rider, County Attorney; Sam Pitcheralle, Treasurer; Jason Kemper, Planning; John Murray, County Auditor; Diane Brown, Maplewood Manor; Greg Serno, Carla Silverstein, Compass Risk Management; Spencer Hellwig, Mgmt. Analyst; Sandi Cross, Office for the Aging; Dan Butler, Animal Shelter; League of Women Voters; Press.

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

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

PUBLIC HEALTH

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

- **Recognizing National Nursing Home Week, May 10 – May 16, and acknowledging the services provided by all of the nursing homes in Saratoga County.**

On a motion made by Ms. Daly, seconded by Mr. Grattidge the following item was approved as follows: Aye – Daly, Grattidge, Sausville, Thompson, Wood – Abstained – Peck – Absent – Hargrave.

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with Saratoga Hospital for laboratory services provided to residents of Maplewood Manor at a cost of 80% of the Medicare fee schedule and \$15 per draw for draw stat charges.**

Mr. Wickerham said the county has a minor contract with Saratoga Hospital to provide laboratory services to residents at Maplewood Manor. It is anticipated that the cost will be approximately \$10,000 for the year.

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

RACING

- **Urging the State of New York to expeditiously resolve the issue of VLT operations at Aqueduct Racetrack to preserve thoroughbred racing operations within the State.**

Mr. Wickerham said when the franchise was being bid last year; one of the key components was funding from VLT's. The funding would come from Aqueduct VLT's to support NYRA activities. It is a concern that lack of those funds would adversely effect racing in Saratoga Springs. It is suggested that a letter be sent to the Legislature expressing concern.

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

- **Authorizing conveyance of tax acquired parcels to the successful bidders from the March property auction.**
- **Accepting a \$15,261.44 tender offer on a parcel in the Village of Stillwater**
- **Authorizing conveyance of a tax acquired parcel to the Town of Charlton for \$558.57.**
- **Authorizing the refund of 2008 and 2009 taxes on a parcel in Wilton for a total \$6,347.96.**

Mr. Wickerham said there were 21 parcels sold at auction. One was returned and will be conveyed to the second bidder. The net profit from the auction was \$86,227.

- **Authorizing corrections of tax bills in the Towns of Clifton Park (\$6,480), Halfmoon (\$5,765.51), and Wilton (\$12,089.12).**

A motion was made by Mr. Sausville, seconded by Mr. Thompson to approve the authorization of corrections to the tax bills in the towns of Clifton Park, Halfmoon and Wilton. The motion was passed by the following vote – Aye – Daly Grattidge, Sausville, Thompson and Wood. – Abstained – Peck – Absent Hargrave.

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

PUBLIC SAFETY

- **Amending the 2009 budget to accept a \$125,000 member item grant for the purchase of equipment and training services for emergency service volunteers.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Albany, Rensselaer, and Schenectady Counties to build WMD Hazardous Material Response and Decontamination capabilities on a regional basis.**

- **Authorizing acceptance of State Grants for Community Work Order (\$13,000) and Pre-Trial Services Programs (\$21,600).**
- **Authorizing participation in 2009 State STOP DWI Program and contracts with local agency participants.**

Mr. Wickerham said the first item is an old member item grant from 2008. The county has been assured that it is to be honored; however, the money will not be spent until the funds are actually received. The bulk of the money will go to replacing two water pumps at the fire training center and the rest will be for general training. There will be no cost to the county as this is 100% state aid.

The second item is a Memorandum of Understanding where the County of Albany is looking to get a grant for Hazardous Materials Response supplies and decontamination capabilities for the region. Part of the grant requires a memorandum of understanding with surrounding counties about how the money will be used and how everyone will benefit from it.

The third item is approval of the county Alternative to Incarceration Program. Funding is reduced by approximately 8% from last year's figures.

The fourth item is the authorization of the STOP DWI Program. There is approximately \$395,000 in the fund, which is entirely funded by fines that are collected in the county for DWI.

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

SOCIAL PROGRAMS

- **Proclaiming May as "Senior Citizens Month" in Saratoga County.**
- **Authorizing renewal of an agreement with Shenendehowa Senior Citizens/Care Links Community Caregiver Program at a cost not to exceed \$30,000.**
- **Authorizing County contribution for purchase of senior transportation vans in the Towns of Waterford (\$20,000) and Hadley (\$15,000).**
- **Amending the 2009 budget to accept \$43,763 from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) for the Senior Nutrition Program.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into a renewal agreement with GTL Inc. for personal emergency response systems at a cost of \$34.95 per unit per month at a total cost not to exceed \$15,000.**

- **Amending the 2009 budget to accept \$360,104 from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for job training services provided through the Saratoga County Employment and training Administration.**

Mr. Wickerham said the third item is a program at the State that gives significant leverage to purchasing Senior vans. Any town that wishes to have one should apply through the Office for the Aging. The program operates on a rotating basis.

Stimulus funds have been received for the senior nutrition program increasing the number of meals that can be distributed through the meals on wheels program.

There is a renewal agreement with GTL, Inc., which is a personal response system that automatically registers with emergency responders.

Employment and Training will be receiving a total of \$530,000. The stimulus funds are for two years, therefore, \$360,000 will be received in 2009 and \$170,000 in 2010. This will go toward increasing openings in the summer youth program and other services to develop skills.

LAW AND FINANCE

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

- **Amending the budget to transfer \$30,000 from Contingency to the Clerk of the Board for costs intended for the NYSE Fall Conference to be held in Saratoga County.**

Mr. Wickerham said Saratoga County was selected as the site of the NYSAC Fall conference this year. There will be approximately 500 representatives from counties all over the State.

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

- **Authorizing County insurance coverage through May 8, 2010 at a total cost not to exceed \$659,125.**

Mr. Wickerham said this is approximately a \$400,000 saving over what was budgeted.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Grattidge the meeting was opened to Executive Session. Unanimous.

No Action was taken.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom