

Law and Finance Committee Minutes
January 14, 2009 – 4:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Peck; Supervisors Daly, Grattidge, Hargrave, Thompson, Wood, A. Johnson, Rowland, Wright, Jenkins, Veitch, Connelly Wormuth Lawler and Yepsen; David Wickerham, County Administrator; John Ciulla, Public Defender; Sandi Cross, Office for the Aging; Ed Tremblay Emergency Services; Sam Pitcheralle, Treasurer; Kathy Marchione, LoAnn Sanders, County Clerk; Jack Murray, Auditor; Jack Kalinkewicz, Personnel; Jim DiPasquale, Bill Davis, Sewer District; Denny Finneran, League of Women Voters; Press.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Hargrave, seconded by Ms. Daly the minutes of the December 10, 2008 meeting were approved unanimously.

Chairman A. Johnson announced Mr. Wood as the Vice-Chairman of the committee.

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

PERSONNEL

- **Amending tender offers in the Town of Halfmoon in the amount of \$4,199.66 and the Town of Milton in the amount of \$2,952.24.**

Mr. Wickerham said there is a vacant position of food service helper at Maplewood Manor, and the administrator has looked at the position and determined that it does not need to be filled with a full time position. It is recommended by the personnel department to abolish the full time position and replace it with a part time position, saving the county approximately \$31,000.

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

EQUALIZATION AND ASSESSMENT

- **Accepting tender offers in the Town of Halfmoon in the amount of \$4,199.66 and the Town of Milton in the amount of \$2,952.24.**
- **Authorizing the conveyance of a tax acquired parcel in the Village of Schuylerville to the village for \$3,618.79.**
- **Accepting a tender offer from Trustco Bank in the amount of \$11,491.76 for a tax acquired parcel in the Village of Ballston Spa.**
- **Authorizing the County Auditor to approve tax refunds under \$2,500 with the approval of the County Treasurer and the Director of Real Property.**

Mr. Wickerham said the first item consists of two regular tender offers, one in the town of Halfmoon and one in the town of Wilton.

The second item is a conveyance to the Village of Schuylerville in that amount of \$3,618.79. This is a parcel that the Village requested by resolution. It had to go through the normal procedure by going on the auction. The owner did not redeem the property and the county has pulled it off the auction in order to convey it to the Village of Schuylerville.

The third item is a bank tender offer where the initial person who was on the property was foreclosed by the bank. The county will accept the money from the bank, which includes penalties, interest and taxes due in 2008.

The fourth item is a resolution authorizing the county Auditor to approve tax refunds under \$2,500. This will require the approval of the County Treasurer and Director of Real Property. The Auditor is required to make a monthly report to the Equalization and Assessment Committee of all parcels that have received refunds.

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

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

- **Authorizing the reappropriation of expenses and revenues for multi-year projects: Airport \$4,007,150 and Treasurer/District Attorney renovations - \$326,000.**

Mr. Wickerham said there is a carryover on the Airport and the renovations currently going on for the Treasurer and District Attorney's office. Ninety percent of the airport is funded by the FAA grants and the remaining 10% comes from the county. The total county costs for both renovations is approximately \$700,000.

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

PUBLIC WORKS

- **Reappropriating \$195,462 in expenses and revenues for the completion of engineering services for (Stewarts Dam Bridge, Geyser Road and County Rt. 7 over Daly Creek.**

Mr. Wickerham said these are all bridge projects. The Stewarts Dam Bridge and Geyser Road Bridge will have money that will be reappropriated. They are both HBRR projects so there is 95% funding for the two projects. The Rt. 7 bridge over Daly Creek in the Town of Day is a small project of approximately \$5,000 for the engineering work. The total county cost for all projects would be just under \$15,000.

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

PUBLIC SAFETY

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with the NYS Department of Criminal Justice Services to accept \$27,336 in State Aid for the recruitment and retention of Assistant District Attorneys and amending the 2009 budget in relation thereto.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to accept a \$71,200 Crime Victims Board Grant for costs related to crime victims advocacy in the District Attorney's office.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to accept a \$45,000 Operation Impact Grant from New York State for costs incurred in the prosecution of certain serious felony cases in the District Attorney's Office.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to accept a \$17,000 Legislative Grant in the District Attorney's Office and amending the budget in relation thereto.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to accept a \$34,812 Violence Against Women Grant in the District Attorney's Office.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with Stephen Feldman for psychiatric services for Public Defender clients.**
- **Amending the budget under Emergency Service to increase expenses and revenues by \$206,938.52 for the purchase of homeland security materials.**

Mr. Wickerham said the Department of Criminal Justice has a recruitment and retention grant for assistant District Attorney's. This is the third year for this program.

The Crime Victims Board Grant is one that has been received for several years and is already in the budget.

Operation Impact is a grant from the State that acknowledges the additional costs of serious felonies and makes money available. The grant is for \$45,000, receiving a 10% cut from the \$50,000 grant of last year due to the State budget.

The next item is a legislative grant that was secured under former Senator Bruno for a vehicle for one of the District Attorney's investigators. This will be paid for entirely by State money.

The last grant is the violence against women grant. It is the eleventh year that the county has received this grant for approximately \$35,000. This was a grant that was cut by approximately \$1,200 from the previous year.

Item six is a contract for psychiatric services for the public defender and the prosecution of one of his cases. The administrator's office has the authority to contract up to \$10,000 for minor contracts. Due to certain cases and circumstances that the Public Defender has had, they have gone over the \$10,000 authority by \$825. This is an agreement for a contract in 2008.

Item seven is a grant that was received last year for Emergency Services under Homeland Security. There were a number of purchases that were approved by the Board of Supervisors in the HAZMAT area. The purchases still need to be made, as they were not completed last year.

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

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into a contract with Saratoga Economic Development Corporation for administering the Empire Zone Program at an annual cost of \$60,000.**
- **Clarifying Local Law No. 5 of 2008 to recognize that the name of the project applicant for the AMD Empire Zone may change without any impact on the local law.**

Mr. Wickerham said the first item is a renewal contract for the Empire Zone Program with has been administered through SEDC. They will continue to do that for a total of \$60,000 for the year, which is the same amount they have been paid for the service for the last four years.

The second item has to do with a special meeting for local law 5, in order to facilitate the establishment of an Empire Zone around the AMD project. The exact name of the corporation has not been determined, and the state felt that the local law needed to be amended to clarify that whatever successor name was chosen it would still be the same as far as the empire zone rules and would maintain the same benefits of the empire zone.

SUPERVISOR'S ITEM

- **Honoring the memory of Dr. Paul Grattan, former Supervisor from the Town of Waterford, on his recent passing.**

LAW AND FINANCE

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

- **Authorizing Saratoga County to participate in legal action against EPA on behalf of the Hudson River communities.**

Mr. Wickerham said funding in the amount of \$100,000 has been set aside to help communities in their battle with the EPA to ensure that they get clean water. There has been a request from the Supervisors in that area that the county add its name, to add weight to the effort.

Mr. Lawler thanked the committee for the commitment of \$100,000 to the river communities. He said a lawsuit has been filed and an answer is due imminently. With the county's support, hopefully it will add greater meaning to the lawsuit, he said.

Mr. Lawler said there are approximately 40,000 people that are affected, amounting to approximately 20% of the county's population.

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

- **Authorizing the Chairman to apply for and accept a grant of \$45,000 for Explore Saratoga County Quadricentennial Commemoration grant.**

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

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into agreements with Insituform Technologies, Inc. in the amount of \$769,430 for Phase II of the Saratoga County Sewer District's sewer lines for interceptor repairs in the town of Halfmoon.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into agreements with Trinity Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$124,313 for upgrades at the Saratoga County Sewer District's Burning Bush Pump Station in the Town of Clifton Park.**
- **Reappropriating \$2,853,133 in expenses and revenues under the Saratoga County Sewer District as follows:**

Insituform Technologies, Inc.	\$769,340
Trinity Construction, Inc.	\$124,313
C.T. Male	\$ 26,107
C.O. Falter	\$1,534,601
Brunswick Electric	\$382,862
TVGA	\$ 15,910

Mr. Wickerham said the first item has to do with repairs to the interceptor in the sewer system. There were five bids received with the low bid from Insituform Technologies, Inc. in the amount of \$769,430. The second bid was approximately \$1 million.

The second item is for an upgrade at the Burning Bush Pump Station in Clifton Park. There were ten bids receive with the low bid from Trinity Construction.

The third item is a reappropriation of approximately \$2.8 million, of which all money comes from the sewer district fund balance and sewer users. No money comes from the general fund.

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

- **Amending the 2009 budget to accept a \$15,000 member item for the completion of a virtual reference manual with instructions on how to correctly file and record official documents.**

Mr. Wickerham said last year the County Clerks Association put together a Virtual Reference manual for all county clerk's. Mrs. Marchione was the president of the Association, and the State needed to work through a municipality.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Sansom