

Law and Finance Committee Minutes

September 9, 2009 – 4:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Peck; Supervisors Daly, Grattidge, Hargrave, Sausville, Thompson, Wood, Yepsen, Southworth, Wright, Jenkins, Lucia, Veitch, M. Johnson, Wormuth, Rowland, and Raymond; David Wickerham, County Administrator; Spencer Hellwig, Mgmt. Analyst; Mark Rider, County Attorney; Bill Davis, Sewer District; Jason Kemper, Planning; Jim DiPasquale, Sewer District; Jack Kalinkewicz, Personnel; Joe Ritchey, Public Works; John Bishop, Bishop-Beaudry Construction; Daniel Butler, Animal Shelter; Tony Scavone, Employment and Training; Paul Lent, Emergency Services; Diane Brown, Maplewood Manor; Sam Pitcherale, Treasurer; Jack Murray, Auditor; Press.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Hargrave, seconded by Mr. Sausville the minutes of the August 12, 2009 meeting were approved unanimously.

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

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into agreements to accept \$89,000 in snowmobile funding.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to apply for and accept a New York State Stormwater Management Grant in the amount of \$400,000. Grant will be matched by in-kind services at no additional cost to the County or municipalities.**
- **Approving modifications to IDA bonds for the American Housing Foundation, Inc.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into agreements with K.B. Logging to log a lot in the Town of Moreau at a revenue of \$11,976.**
- **Designating the Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce as the county TPA and authorizing them to apply for \$263,850 in “I Love New York” grants.**
- **Introducing a Local Law revising Empire Zone boundaries to include relative portions of the Luther Forest Technology Site.**

Mr. Wickerham said the first item is the annual snowmobile-funding grant that is applied for each year in the amount of \$89,000. The actual amount received is substantially less, and is given as a pass through to the various snowmobile clubs depending on how many miles of trail they have and how many miles of trail they groom.

The second item is an application authorizing the Chairman to apply for and accept a grant from the NYS Stormwater Management. The county has a contract with Cornell Cooperative Extension to lead. These are additional funds that are available and Cornell Cooperative Extension is going out to seek the funds. There is no additional cost to the county.

The third item is a modification of an IDA bond. Last year the Board of Supervisors approved an IDA Bond for the American Housing Foundation. In order to continue to receive the benefits of the IDA, it will require the Board of Supervisors to authorize the IDA bond at not cost to the county.

The fourth item is a small parcel of land in the town of Moreau where a portion of it is being logged. There was a question of some minor site problems and safety issues. Two proposals were received with K.B. Logging submitting the highest revenue in the amount of \$11,976.

The fifth item is an annual resolution designating the Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce as the county TPA, and authorizing them to apply for the "I Love NY" grants. The total for the entire area of the Saratoga /Capital area is \$263,850. Saratoga County will apply for the entire amount, as well as other counties. The county expects to receive approximately \$50,000 in revenue, which will go directly to the Chamber of Commerce for tourism

The sixth item is the introduction of a local law to revise the Empire Zone boundaries. Global Foundries is in an Empire Zone and there are some other areas that are extraneous to the Global Foundries. Rather than to waste the empire zone in those areas that are never going to be developed for economic development, it was thought that it would be better to revise the boundaries.

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

PERSONNEL

- **Amending the Policies and Procedures manual relative to the workplace violence policy, orientation process, date of longevity increments, and managerial sick leave benefits.**

Mr. Wickerham said annually the Policy and Procedures manual is updated. Amendments were made relative to the workplace violence policy, orientation process, date of

longevity increments, and managerial sick leave benefits. A copy of all the changes has been distributed to each Supervisors mailbox.

Mr. Peck said the managerial sick leave benefits have been changed to match the contract.

Mr. Wickerham said in the original Policy and Procedures Manual the Law and Finance committee authorized additional sick leave for managerial staff even if they had not earned it. The now, Personnel Committee felt that was not fair and wanted it changed to follow the rules for all employees.

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

PUBLIC HEALTH

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into a renewal agreement with Christy Britton-hare for speech pathology services at a cost of \$45 per hour not to exceed 520 hours annually from June 1, 2009 through July 31, 2010.**
- **Amending resolution No 86 of 2008 to correct the contract amount for Saratoga Center for the Family to \$18,758.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an amended contract with Community, Work and Independence, Inc. to accept an additional \$129 in Cola funding from OMRDD and amending the budget in relation thereto.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an amended contract with Unlimited Potential to accept an additional \$126 in Cola funding from OMRDD and amending the budget in relation thereto.**

Mr. Wickerham said the first item is a renewal of the speech pathology contract for Maplewood Manor, which expired on July 31, 2009. When the services are needed they are provided by contract for \$45/hr., which is the same rate that has been in effect for the past couple of years.

The second item is an amendment to the Center for the Family contract. At the end of last year the Board of Supervisors authorized all the contracts in the budget for Mental Health. The budget and the contract for the Center for the Family did not match; it was off by \$312.00. This resolution will amend that, to authorize the full amount of \$18,758. The full amount will then be passed through to the Saratoga Center for the Family.

The third and fourth items are COLA increases that the State Legislature authorized for direct care workers who are not State workers.

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

EQUALIZATION AND ASSESSMENT

- **Authorizing the acceptance of tender offers in Galway (\$3,251.65) and (\$3,347.65) Northumberland.**

Mr. Wickerham said there were two tenders offers, one in Galway and one in Northumberland. There may be additional tender offers between now and the Board meeting. The county auction is set for September 22nd at 5:30 p.m.

Mr. Wickerham said people would have until 5:00 p.m. on the day of the auction to redeem their property.

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

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

- **Awarding the Animal Shelter construction contacts to the lowest responsible bidders in an amount not to exceed \$5,300,000.**
- **Authorizing the bonding of up to \$5,300,000 for the construction of the new Saratoga County Animal Shelter.**

Mr. Wickerham said bids were sent out for the Animal Shelter and there are a number of contracts that need to be awarded to move forward. The total of all the contracts will not exceed \$5.3 million. In addition, there is one contract that had to be re-bid, but is still included in the total.

Mr. Wickerham said the Board of Supervisors intent is to bond for the construction

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

PUBLIC SAFETY

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with Dr. Stephen B. Feldman to provide psychological services for the Public Defender's Office related to family court proceedings.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into a lease agreement with Clifton Park Center to provide exhibition space for the Saratoga County Animal Shelter to house adoptable felines.**

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an amended agreement with Chazen Companies to authorize an additional \$49,400 for unanticipated costs associated with eminent domain proceedings in Lake Luzerne, additional engineering for Mt. McGregor site and work required by the US Army Corps of Engineers at the Fraker Mountain site.**

Mr. Wickerham said the first item is authorizing a contract with Stephen Feldman who provides psychological services for the Public Defender's Office. In each of the last two years this individual has been utilized. The \$10,000 limit for authorization by the Administrator has been exceeded; therefore, a general contract will need to be approved.

The second item is an agreement with Clifton Park Center. They have worked through Mr. Barrett and the Animal Shelter to provide a leased space within Clifton Park Center at no cost to the county. Volunteers will man the facility.

The third item deals with the Chazen Company engineers for the county radio project. There was additional work that was required in order to meet the needs and to get to the point where the entire project could be bid out. The total cost was \$49,400, which provided additional services for the eminent domain proceedings in Lake Luzerne, additional engineering for Mt. McGregor site and work required by the US Army Corps of Engineers at the Fraker Mountain site. The approximate total that has been spent with Chazen is \$660,000.

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

SOCIAL PROGRAMS

- **Amending the 2009 Compensation Schedule to extend the Employment and Training Counselor Aide, temporary position, to December 31, 2009 for an additional cost of \$10674.**

Mr. Wickerham said Employment and Training has received additional funding, which happens when unemployment is relatively high. A request has been made to extend a position that was slated to end September 30th. They would like to keep this person on until the end of the year, but in order to do it the comp plan will need to be amended for 2009 to extend the position until December 31st.

Ms. Daly asked what the currently unemployment rate was in the county? Mr. Scavone said currently it is at 6.3%.

LAW AND FINANCE

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

- **Designating Saratoga County as a recovery zone under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act in order to qualify for subsidized funding of interest rates.**

Mr. Wickerham said there is a part of the stimulus package that allows discounted or reimbursed interest rates for buildings. A closer look is being taken at the Animal Shelter in terms of traditional bonding which is tax exempt bonds and taxable bonds that will receive a significant discount because the federal government will fund a major part of the interest.

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

- **Amending Resolution 124 of 1977 relative to the publication of the notice for the Public Hearing on the annual scale of sewer charges.**

Mr. Wickerham said resolution 124 of 1977 is the procedure under which the Sewer District operates. One of the requirements is for the publication of the annual scale of sewer charges to be published in the official newspaper of every municipality within the Sewer District. This becomes a very cumbersome process to determine which ones are official and which ones aren't. Now that the Gazette is one of the two official newspapers, and both of the official newspapers are daily papers covering most of the county, a request has been made to amend the resolution requiring the publication to be in the official newspapers of Saratoga County only.

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

- **Authorizing a settlement with Rist Frost Associates in the amount of \$25,000 and Diment Construction Co., Inc. in the amount of \$10,000 in damages for a defective propane system at the Fire Training Center.**

Mr. Wickerham said the propane system that was installed at the county fire training center several years ago did not work properly when it first came in, and the county had a great deal of expense in order to make it work. A claim was put in against the architects and the construction company, and negotiations have been ongoing for some time. The County Attorney believes this is a fair settlement, with the county receiving \$25,000 from Rist Frost Associates and \$10,000 from Diment Construction Co., Inc.

A motion was made by Mr. Hargrave, seconded by Mr. Thompson to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of Litigation and Personnel. Unanimous.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Hargrave to move to the full Board of Supervisors that Lauren Roberts be hired as the new County Historian. Unanimous.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Sansom