

## Law and Finance Committee Minutes

October 14, 2009 – 4:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Peck; Supervisors Daly, Grattidge, Hargrave, Sausville, Thompson, Wood, Connelly, Wright, Veitch, Richardson, Rowland, Southworth, A. Johnson; David Wickerham, County Administrator; Spencer Hellwig, Mgmt. Analyst; Bill Fuci, Diane Wade, Elections; Jason Kemper, Planning; Mark Hoppe, Ed Tremblay, Emergency Services; Sam Pitcherelle, Treasurer; Robert Christopher, Social Services; Joseph Ritchey, Public Works; Terry Stortz, Alan Kempf, Public Health; Kathy Marchione, LoAnn Sanders, County Clerk; John Murray, Auditor; Sandi Cross, Office for the Aging; Dan Butler, Animal Shelter; Paul Lent, Emergency Services; John F. Nolan, Saratoga County Chairman; Denny Finneran, League of Women Voters; Press.

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

**On a motion made by Mr. Hargrave, seconded by Mr. Wood the minutes of the September 9, 2009 meeting were approved unanimously.**

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

### **VETERANS**

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with Panza's Restaurant to provide food for the World War II Veterans' Night at a cost not to exceed \$19 per person.**

Mr. Wickerham said after going out for proposals, Panza's Restaurant was the low proposal at \$19/person for the WWII Veterans' Night.

### **PUBLIC HEALTH**

- **Writing off of uncollectibles (\$938) in Public Health (LAW AND FINANCE APPROVAL ONLY)**

Mr. Wickerham said the Public Health Committee has approved the writing-off of uncollectibles. The total write-off of \$938 is from 2008 and 2007 only. It is beneficial to expedite the write-offs in order to apply to the State Charity Pool for those revenues.

**A motion was made by Mr. Hargrave, seconded by Ms. Daly to approve writing off of uncollectibles in the amount of \$938 in Public Health. Unanimous.**

- **Authorizing the Chairman to accept grants from NYS DOH for Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN) Program to cover fiscal years 2010, 2011, and 2012.**

Mr. Wickerham said the Department of Health has a three-year grant program that will end this year. They would like to extend it for another three years to 2012. Annually the county receives \$26,405.

**A motion was made by Mr. Grattidge, seconded by Mr. Wood to approve authorizing the Chairman to accept grants from the NYS DOH for the Children with Special Health Care Needs Program to cover fiscal years 2010, 2011 and 2012. Unanimous.**

### **PUBLIC WORKS**

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with Delsignore Blacktop Paving, Inc. of Troy to resurface CR 108 (Dunning Street) Malta at a cost not to exceed \$359,307.28.**

Mr. Wickerham said this was a bid contract with seven bids received for the resurface of Dunning Street in the Town of Malta. The low bid was from Delsignore Blacktop Paving, Inc. for \$359,307.28.

**A motion was made by Mr. Grattidge, seconded by Mr. Hargrave to approve authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with Delsignore Blacktop Paving, Inc. of Troy to resurface CR 108(Dunning Street) in Malta at a cost not to exceed \$359,307.28. Ayes – Daly, Grattidge, Hargrave, Sausville, Thompson, and Wood. Abstained – Peck. Motion passed.**

- **Authorizing the Chairman to accept a NYSDOT grant under Public Works for the rehabilitation of CR43 (Geysers Road) over D&H RR Bridge in the amount of \$1.9 million and amending the budget in relation thereto.**

Mr. Wickerham said this item is part of the Long-Range Capital Plan and would be for the actual construction work on Geysers Road totaling \$1.9 million. There will be several resolutions for this because when using stimulus funds it is required to be done a certain way. One resolution will deal with the budget transfer and amendment to the Capital Plan, and the other will be to award to the contract.

**A motion was made by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Grattidge to approve authorizing the Chairman to accept a NYSDOT grant under Public Works for the rehabilitation of CR43 (Geysers Road) over D&H RR Bridge in the amount of \$1.9 million and amending the budget in relation thereto. Unanimous.**

## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

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

- **Authorizing the Chairman to award the contract for microwave communications to the Motorola Corporation for a total cost of \$11,796,299.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into agreements with Baron Utilities for site construction on Mount McGregor at a cost not to exceed \$191,000.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into agreements with Crawford Electric to relocate the fuel cell units of Providence and Halfmoon at a total cost not to exceed \$13,500.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to accept the 2008 Homeland Security Grant in the amount of \$246,000.**

Mr. Wickerham said there were three bids for the microwave communications system with the low bid from Motorola Corporation of \$11,796,299. The funds will not be spent until such time the system is accepted, which is expected to be in the forth quarter of 2010 or first quarter of 2011. At that time the Board of Supervisors can make the decision to lease or bond.

As part of the project, there is construction at Mt. McGregor, which was included in the budget for the entire project. After going out to bid, four bids were received with the low bid from Baron Utilities at \$191,000, which was lower than what was budgeted, resulting in a slight savings.

The fuel cell units will be moved from Providence and Halfmoon to the new buildings. There is a significant expense in hooking them up, but it is less expensive than buying new ones. Three proposals were received with the low proposal from Crawford Electric at \$13,500.

The final item is acceptance of the 2008 Homeland Security Grant in the amount of \$246,000.

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

## **SOCIAL PROGRAMS**

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with the City of Mchanicville to provide \$17,000 in funding for the purchase of a generator to be installed at the Mechanicville Senior Center.**

- **Authorizing the Chairman to accept \$784,800 in state and federal funding in the Department of Social Services for the “Back to School” program and amending the budget in relation thereto.**

Mr. Wickerham said the first item is a grant through the Office for the Aging of state funds, which will go for the purchase of a generator in the Mechanicville Senior Center. These are pass through funds at no cost to the county.

The second item is accepting the state and federal funding so the money that was spent on the back to school program from Governor Paterson can be budgeted.

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

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with BOCES to allow the use of County Owned property in Northumberland and Wilton for the training of students in forestry, water conservation, wildlife and nature studies.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to accept a NYS Stormwater Management Grant in the amount of \$400,000. This grant will be matched by in-kind services at no additional cost to the County or municipalities.**
- **Declaring Saratoga County as lead agency under SEQR for the Bullard/Edie Road Property and making a determination of no negative impact.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into agreements with the Saratoga Hilton for the January 2010 Planning Conference at a cost not to exceed \$30,000.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with HMA Contracting Corp. who was the low bidder for the construction of the Zim Smith Trail in the Town of Ballston at a cost not to exceed \$659,107.61.**

Mr. Wickerham said the county has always had a program with Saratoga BOCES to provide them with the ability to do logging and timbering in order to train people in the BOCES program. The county is allowing them to go into another lot to do timbering, where BOCES will provide the insurance so the county is not held liable in any way. The county allows BOCES to keep the timber they take down and to sell it.

Mr. Wickerham said last month there was a resolution accepting a NYS Stormwater Management Grant. The State has specific wording that they require and the County was asked to comply.

The third item is with regard to the Bullard/Edie Road trails in Wilton. Approval must be obtained from DEC and requires a SEQR declaration naming the County as lead agency.

The trails committee has looked at the impact statement and has determined there will be no significant impact to the trail area.

The fourth item is an agreement with the Saratoga Hilton for the annual January Planning Conference in 2010 for \$30,000. The funds will be used to reserve and use the facility.

The fifth item is the appropriation of \$400,00 from the general fund in order to access some stimulus funding and complete the Zim Smith Trail through the town of Ballston. The total cost will be \$659,107.61 with the county's share at \$260,370.

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

### **LEGISLATIVE AND RESEARCH**

- **Opposing NYS's new plate re-issue project which would raise costs on motor vehicle operators up to \$45 without providing any additional services.**
- **Urging New York State and all New York State counties and cities to adopt a policy that favors the purchase of personal computers that are powered by AMD chips.**

Mr. Wickerham said that NYS in an effort to get more revenue has started a new program to reissue new license plates. The reissue will be \$20, plus another \$25 if an individual would like to keep the same plate number. The County Clerk's Association statewide has opposed this.

The second item is a policy that would favor the purchase of computers that is powered by AMD chips only. AMD chips will be the only chips built in New York State to be used to power personal computers. Mr. Wickerham said it certainly makes sense to invest in those industries. The county has already been doing this for several months, as the chips are typically cheaper and provide the county with a cost savings, he said.

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

### **EQUALIZATION AND ASSESSMENT**

- **Authorizing conveyance of tax acquired parcels to the successful bidders from the September property auction.**
- **Authorizing a refund of 2009 taxes and correcting 2007 & 2008 taxes on a parcel in the Town of Northumberland that was assessed incorrectly.**

Mr. Wickerham said that in September the County had a small auction with properties that had not sold at prior auctions. All the properties were sold at this auction with the exception of one.

The second item is a refund of 2009 taxes and a correction of the 2007 and 2008 taxes on a parcel that was assessed with a house on it, when there was never a house built. The parcel was part of an estate, where the estate paid the 2009 taxes, but not the 2007 or 2008 taxes.

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

### **LAND PRESERVATION**

- **Awarding Open Space Grants to the Towns of Saratoga (\$350,000), Town of Northumberland (\$300,000), City of Saratoga Springs (\$30,000) and to the Town of Clifton Park (\$70,000) for a total of \$750,000.**

Mr. Wickerham said the Land Preservation Committee is charged with reviewing land applications and distributing the funds in the Land Preservation fund. They are recommending the following open space grants: Town of Saratoga (350,000), Town of Northumberland (\$300,000), City of Saratoga Springs (\$30,000) and Clifton Park (\$70,000).

Mr. Peck said this year applications totaled approximately \$2.5 million.

Mr. Grattidge pointed out that these properties are not coming off tax rolls. They are still tax paying properties. As we look at growth through the years, the land with easements will not have houses on them or be adding children to the schools. When you add in the costs of having to build infrastructure and having to maintain the infrastructure and sending children to school it is a very cost effective program, he said.

### **CHAIRMAN'S ITEM**

- **Appointing Debra Rohr to the Community Services Board in a developmental disability slot for a term to expire on December 31, 2010.**

### **SUPERVISOR'S ITEM**

- **Honoring the memory of Scott Brown, former Supervisor from the Town of Ballston. (Supervisor Patti Southworth)**

### **LAW AND FINANCE**

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

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with Mullen Movers for transporting voting machines for the November 3, 2009 General Election at a cost of \$90 per machine.**

Mr. Wickerham said the electronic machines are now stored for voting. They will have to be delivered for Election Day. This was done for the primary at a cost of approximately \$5,000. The delivery of the machines for Election Day will take the total over \$10,000. After receiving several quotes from moving companies, the lowest quote received was from Mullen Movers at \$90 per machine.

Mr. Thompson asked how many machines would have to be moved? Ms. Wade said 114.

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

- **Authorizing Inter-agency transfers necessary to close out the 1009 County Budget.**

Mr. Wickerham said between now and the end of the year there will be a lot of movement within the budget. In order to avoid having to bring every resolution to the Board for approval of transfer, this request gives the County Administrator authorization. Mr. Wickerham will provide a list of all transfers to the Board of Supervisors by the end of the year.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Sansom