

Amended
Long Range Capital Planning Committee Minutes

September 27, 2010 – 3:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Wickerham; Supervisors Peck, Wood, and Sausville; Jim Bowen, Sheriff; Jim Murphy, District Attorney; Joe Ritchey, Rick Gardner, Public Works; Press.

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

Mr. Wickerham gave the charge of the committee as follows: The committee is an advisory committee to Mr. Wickerham and the incoming Chairman who are responsible in putting the budget together. A list of the capital items has been distributed to all committee members, and based on the decisions of the committee items will be placed in the tentative budget for the capital program. The budget will not become final until the entire Board of Supervisors votes on it.

Mr. Wickerham asked that the committee give he and Mr. Wood the flexibility, as they go through the budget, that in the event that they have problems making the tax rate stay the same and keeping those numbers down, that they have some flexibility in making the final assumptions of what are put in the tentative budget.

Mr. Wickerham said it is important to know that capital projects are looked at over a long period of time. Between \$8 million and \$12 million in capital improvements are done yearly.

Records Mgmt/Imaging System

Mr. Hellwig said we are currently in the final year of a five-year contract with Info Quick systems for leasing and maintenance of records management business software. The process involves digitizing paper records so that they can be viewed electronically. The contract also provides some validation services to ensure that the indexes that are used to search the records is accurate. The contract is set to expire at the end of 2011. The money that was approved in 2010 has been paid throughout the year. Payments are made on a monthly basis, and are approximately \$16,000/mo. Mrs. Marchione is going to be negotiating a new contract at the end of 2011, so there will be one month in 2011 that is going to be under a new contract. There is no anticipation of any problems covering any adjustments for that month, he said. Mr. Hellwig said when the contract was originally approved, part of the process involved creating a new document fee that Mrs. Marchione used to offset the capital costs, so essentially this has been able to be done at not cost to the taxpayers. It has been paid for by the people who have been using the records.

Mr. Peck asked if there are a number of organizations that do this? Are we going to be able to go out for a variety of bids or is it the type of software that is licensed by one

company? Mr. Hellwig said, to some extent it is proprietary. After speaking to Mrs. Marchione as to whether or not it would go out to an open process again, it turns out that the county has quite a bit invested in the current agreement and she does not anticipate much, if any, increase over the existing contract.

Animal Shelter

Mr. Hellwig said in 2010 the county placed \$450,000 in the budget in anticipation of borrowing \$5.3 million for 15 years at an interest rate of 4%. When the actual bonds were issued, the terms had changed and that amount was lowered from \$5.3 million to \$5.1 million or \$5,180,000. The Animal Shelter has a trust fund and the county was able to extract approximately \$120,000 out of the fund to cover some of the capital costs. The terms of the bond that was actually issued went from a 15 year to a 20 year bond and the interest rate dropped from what was anticipated at 4% down to 3.3%, resulting in a net decrease in the principal and interest costs of approximately \$80,000 for this year. The bonds are federally subsidized because the bonding was available under the municipal bond act, which was part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Over the course and life cycle of the bond we receive federal subsidies totaling in excess of \$1.3 million which is a considerable savings that we would not have otherwise realized under normal terms.

Mr. Sausville asked how the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act help the county? Mr. Hellwig said on an annual basis, they provide a federal subsidy. The county will budget the money for the principal and interest payments and based on that expense in the budget the federal government will give the county a subsidy of approximately \$80,000/yr. against that expense. Rather than place the money in a revenue account, we will actually put in against that expense line and lower the expense in the budget every year for the 20-year cycle. The net savings over the life of the bond is over \$1.3 million. Mr. Sausville asked if the subsidy was guaranteed? Mr. Wickerham said, yes, the premium is guaranteed throughout the life of the contract.

Emergency Radio System

Mr. Hellwig said the county placed \$620,000 in the 2010 budget to cover a bond of \$6.7 million, which was issued in October of 2009. That debt was for the tower sites to cover the engineering costs and the construction costs. There is a second bond for approximately \$11 million for the equipment and was issued in 2010. The interest costs were estimated based on a 15-year cycle. When the bonds were issued it went from a 15 year down to a 10-year cycle and the interest rate came in quite a bit lower than anticipated, which was 4%. They were issued at a net interest rate of 2.7%. At the September 2010 board meeting the Board of Supervisors approved a resolution with some modifications to the debt service. The projects were amended to place another \$140,000. The additional money was the outcome of the changes and how the bonds were issued. The \$620,000 represents the money that was placed in the budget in 2010 for that project.

Highway Reconstruction

Mr. Ritchey said there was approximately 12 miles of highway reconstruction done in 2010. There were three main projects completed: a 3 ½ mile section on County Road 10 in the town of Corinth and Day; 5 mile section on County Road 32 in the town of Wilton; Fayetteville Road in the town of Providence; and two tenths of a mile on Lake Hill Road in the town of Ballston.

Bridge Reconstruction

Mr. Ritchey said there were six projects that were worked on in 2010. Three were grouped into a contract for rehabilitation: Coons Crossing over the Anthony Kill in the town of Halfmoon; Fenwyck Street, over the Gordon Creek in the Village of Ballston Spa; Bath Street, Village of Ballston Spa; Geyser Road, over the D&H railroad. County Road 4 over the Glass House creek has been completed; County Road 32 over the Snook Kill has been completed. There were two engineering projects: South Shore road over Parker Brook, and Malta Avenue over the Kayaderosseras Creek.

Mr. Wickerham said no one has been as aggressive as we have in reconstructing our roads. In the time that Mr. Ritchey has been here all the county roads have been reconstructed at least once and we are probably half way through for a second reconstruction cycle, which is well within the life expectancy of each of the roads.

Recycling Equipment

Mr. Ritchey said some money was saved in the replacement of four recycling containers for 2010.

Parking Lots

Mr. Ritchey said a section of the Maplewood Manor parking lot was redone with a combined effort between Public Works and a contractor.

Buildings Equipment

Mr. Ritchey said they had to rebuild the grinding station out at the jail that serves all of the county buildings, along with the Animal Shelter and Public Works.

Airport Improvements

Mr. Ritchey said this was anticipated to be phase three of an aviation easement project; however, the FAA did not come through with a grant this year. The only expense for this year will be the property on Windham Way where the county, through eminent domain, took a tree down.

Courthouse Interior Renovation

Mr. Ritchey said this was a schematic design project, which the architects have completed and gave a presentation to the Buildings and Grounds committee on their recommendation. This project is waiting for financial planning from the Office of the Court Administration.

Mr. Wickerham said most of the money that was put into the capital program last year will be spent.

Mr. Hellwig said that Mr. Murphy has submitted a request for 2011 to purchase video-recording equipment. Each law enforcement agency in the county would require this equipment if the legislation is approved.

Mr. Murphy said over the years the public, legislature; juries and defense lawyers have become somewhat suspicious about what law enforcement officers are doing behind interrogation doors. What has happened is that presently there is a law that has passed both the Senate and the Assembly that says any statement made when the defendant is in custody is inadmissible unless the interrogation is electronically recorded. The purpose is to require the creation of an electronic record of an entire custodial interrogation in order to eliminate disputes in court as to what actually occurred during the interrogation process, therefore, improving the prosecution of the guilty while affording protection to the innocent. Mr. Murphy said that is something that the District Attorney and law enforcement want, certainly anything that we can use to convince the jury that the law enforcement has done the right thing. The jurors can watch what is going on and if the wrong person is being held, then hopefully, long before the trial it will be known. This is equally important so that resources are not wasted targeting or pursuing someone who did not commit the crime.

Mr. Murphy said, right now of the 62 counties in the state, 30 of those counties presently record interrogations.

Mr. Murphy said the way that the legislature has created this, is despite the fact that it is the law enforcement agencies that actually have to do the recording, they must be able to access and record the defendants statements. The job of the District Attorney is to figure out how to implement this.

The following is a breakdown on how the rooms would be shared by each law enforcement agency in the County.

1 room for the Saratoga County Sheriff Department shared with the Village of Ballston Spa Police Department, Galway Police Department, Charlton Police Department and New York State Police in Malta.

2 rooms for the New York State Police, with 1 room in the New York State Police Clifton Park, and shared with the Stillwater Police Department, and the Waterford Police

Department; the 2nd room would be shared by the New York State Police Wilton, and South Glens Falls Police Department

1 room for the Saratoga Springs Police Department would be shared with the New York State Park Police

1 room for the Mechanicville Police Department

Mr. Murphy said they have been meeting for approximately a year with all of the head law enforcement officers and have asked the present State Police and the Chiefs to come together to review several different vendors, all of whom are on State contract, and all have been interviewed. After all interviews a recommendation to go with IRecord was made. All of the neighboring counties Albany, Schenectady and Rensselaer have already implemented this same program.

The construction costs are related to installation of sound proofing, hidden digital recorders (one that shows the overall view of the room and a second shows a close up of defendant), one touch recording and separate monitoring area.

Mr. Bowen said it is very important to have the video equipment, not only for the sake of the inmate, but also for the safety of the people in the county to get the conviction and keep these people off the street.

Mr. Peck asked whose responsibility is it to make copies and supply the courts. Mr. Bowen said if it is an arrest by the Sheriff's Department they will have to provide it to the District Attorney. The area in which the recording was made is the one that is responsible.

Mr. Bowen said without this equipment numerous cases could be lost throughout the county. This is something that we desperately need.

Mr. Wickerham asked if they have decided not to do this at the State level? Mr. Murphy said because the State Police are such a large organization, there has been no central decision on how this is going to be implemented.

Mr. Bowen said the New York State Police are not doing it, they are leaving it to the District Attorney.

Mr. Murphy said this is not a law enforcement agency problem, it is the District Attorney's problem; therefore the District Attorney has to get their law enforcement agencies together and figure out how to do it.

Mr. Wickerham said it is less about law enforcement than it is about the State continuing to pass their costs along to everybody else and not pay their share of the bill. It would seem logical that we would take care of the other towns and cities in the county because

they are the counties responsibility. When we are building rooms for the State Police, why isn't the State paying for that expense?

Highway and Bridge Reconstruction

Highway request for 2011 approximately \$4,077,000; Bridge request \$590,000.

A motion was made by Mr. Sausville, seconded by Mr. Wood to approve Highway and Bridge Reconstruction expenses for 2011 as follows: Highway \$4,077,000; Bridges \$590,000. Unanimous.

Highway Equipment

Highway Equipment request for 2011 \$600,700

A motion was made by Mr. Sausville, seconded by Mr. Peck to approve Highway Equipment expenses for 2011 in the amount of \$600,700. Unanimous.

Buildings Vehicles

Building Vehicle requests for 2011 \$24,500.

A motion was made by Mr. Sausville, seconded by Mr. Wood to approve Building Vehicle expenses for 2011 in the amount of \$24,500.

Recycling Center in Town of Milton

Improvements to the recycling center in the town of Milton for \$48,000.

A motion was made by Mr. Peck, seconded by Mr. Wood to approve \$48,000 for improvements to the Recycling Center in the Town of Milton for 2011. Unanimous.

Recycling Equipment

Mr. Ritchey said that one 56 yard OT Container and one 30 yard OT Container is critical for replacement at a cost of \$29,925.

A motion was made by Mr. Sausville, seconded by Mr. Wood to approve \$29,925 for the purchase of one Open Top 56 yard Container and one Open Top 30 yard Container for recycling. Unanimous.

Parking Lots

Request to repair/repave the parking lot at Building #3 for \$50,000.

A motion was made by Mr. Peck, seconded by Mr. Wood to approve \$50,000 for the repair and repaving of the parking lot at Building #3 of the main complex for 2011. Unanimous.

Roof Replacement

Request to replace the roof at the Department of Public Works building at a cost of \$150,000.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood, seconded by Mr. Sausville to approve replacing the roof at the Department of Public Works Building in the amount of \$150,000. Unanimous.

Buildings Equipment

Requesting the purchase of a generator to provide emergency backup power for Building #1 at the county's main complex in the amount of \$125,000.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood, seconded by Mr. Sausville to approve the installation of a generator in Building #1 of the county's main complex for a total of \$125,000. Unanimous.

Airport Improvements

Request to continue Phase 2 of the Avigation Easement Project, and to obtain easements in order to subsequently control/clear tree obstructions that exist on all runway ends at a cost of approximately \$2,029,000.

A motion was made by Mr. Peck, seconded by Mr. Sausville to approve the continuation of Phase 2 of the Avigation Easement Project and to obtain easements in order to subsequently control/clear tree obstructions that exist on all runway ends at a cost of approximately \$2,029,000. Unanimous.

Records Mgmt/Imaging System request: \$193,140; Animal Shelter: \$463,290; Emergency Radio System: \$2,750,188.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood, seconded by Mr. Sausville to approve the following requests to the 2011 Capital Plan: Records Management/Imaging System \$193,140; Animal Shelter \$463,290; Emergency Radio System \$2,750,188. Unanimous.

Maplewood Sewer Repair

Requesting \$400,000 to repair the severely deteriorated sewer lines at Maplewood Manor.

A motion was made by Mr. Sausville, seconded by Mr. Wood to approve \$400,000 to repair the severely deteriorated sewer lines at Maplewood Manor. Unanimous.

Video Taping System

A motion was made by Mr. Sausville, seconded by Mr. Wood to approve \$75,000 for the purchase of a Video Taping System to be used by Law Enforcement Agencies and the District Attorney's Office for interrogations. Unanimous.

Mr. Wickerham said the county should bill the State for each of the services and make them aware that this service is for their benefit and that they should be paying for their own.

Mr. Wood said, we need to budget the money to get the job done. We will keep our eyes open and if there is money available we will go after it.

Mr. Peck said a bill should be tabulated, and on a monthly or quarterly basis it should be submitted to the State for payment.

Mr. Wickerham said the total for all recommended expenses for 2011 is approximately \$11.6 million in capital expenses with revenues of approximately \$2.5 million.

Mr. Wickerham reminded the committee that the first priority is to keep the tax rate the same.

On a motion made by Mr. Sausville, seconded by Mr. Peck the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom

