

Law and Finance Committee Minutes

February 9, 2011 – 4:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Thompson; Supervisors Daly, Grattidge, Peck, Sausville, Veitch, Wormuth, Rowland, Wright, Yepsen, Collyer, Lucia, Southworth, Kinowski, Hargrave, Lawler, M. Johnson, Raymond and Wood; Spencer Hellwig, Administrator; Lori Stiles, Public Health; Jack Kalinkewicz, Personnel; Bill Davis, Jim DiPasquale, Sewer District; Brian O’Conor, Auditor; Tom Speziale, Public Works; Chris Aldrich, Joanne Bosley, Real Property; Jason Kemper, Planning; Sandi Cross, Office for the Aging; Sam Pitcheralle, D’Arcy Plummer, Treasurer; Stephen Dorsey, County Attorney; Press.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Veitch, seconded by Mrs. Wormuth the minutes of the January 12, 2011 meeting were approved unanimously.

SOCIAL PROGRAMS

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into renewal contracts for the Expanded In-Home Services for the Elderly Program (EISEP) to provide personal aide care to the elderly.**

Mr. Hellwig said this is the renewal of the contracts with the ten separate agencies that provide home care services for the elderly. The services include personal care and some household chores, laundry, shopping, etc. This is designed to help Senior’s stay in their homes. The rates are unchanged from 2010.

On a motion made by Mr. Grattidge, seconded by Mr. Peck the above resolution was approved unanimously.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

- **Introducing a Local Law authorizing the lease of County property located at 479 Rowland Street in the Town of Milton to Gateway House of Peace, Inc. for the purposes of operating a hospice home and scheduling a public hearing on 3/9/11 at 4:45 p.m.**

Mr. Hellwig said this an introduction of a Local Law to transfer the property ownership of county property from the town of Milton to the Gateway House of Peace, Inc. for the purpose of operating a hospice home. A Public Hearing will be set for March 9, 2011 at 4:45p.m.

Mr. Grattidge asked how long the lease was for? Mr. Dorsey said it would be a five-year lease.

On a motion made by Mr. Peck, seconded by Mr. Veitch the above resolution was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC SAFETY

- **Amending the 2011 Budget to re-appropriate \$288,890 in appropriations and revenues for the purchase of equipment and items approved under the State's Homeland Security funding.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to accept a \$25,000 Grant from the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services for the purchase of video recording equipment for use by law enforcement and amending the budget in relation thereto.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with Office Data Systems, Inc. to provide digital recording equipment to record and prepare statements of defendants in criminal cases in an amount not to exceed \$114,000 and amend the budget in relation thereto.**
- **Proclaiming April 10 – April 16, 2011 National Crime Victims' Rights Week**
- **Amending the Budget to provide for an additional \$109,888 for detention prevention services and authorizing amendments to contracts for these services.**

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into agreements with the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services to accept \$46,782 in State Aid for reimbursement of expenses related to implementation of the Ignition Interlock program.**

Mr. Hellwig said the first resolution is a re-appropriation of funding for the Sheriff's department. This amount represents a combination of four separate Homeland Security resolutions that still have balances left from 2010. There are a number of items that have yet to be purchased, including some vehicles, wireless 911 equipment, canine units, a robot and submersible radio equipment.

The second item is \$25,000 for Video Recording equipment. The District Attorney's office has obtained approval for funding to purchase some additional video recording equipment. As part of the 2011 budget process, the Long Range Capital Committee approved this, and ultimately the Board approved it when they adopted the budget \$75,000 in funding to purchase some video recording equipment as part of a statewide initiative to record statements during investigations. In addition to the \$75,000, this \$25,000 will allow for the purchase of some additional equipment for interrogation rooms.

The third item is a contract with a vendor that will be installing the rooms and providing the equipment. The \$115,000 represents \$100,000 for the equipment and installation. The additional \$15,000 is for the purchase of some presentation and redacting equipment that is needed to prepare the recordings for court appearances. This contract for \$115,000 is also going to require an additional \$15,000 from contingency.

The fourth item proclaiming April 10-15th as National Crime Victims Rights week includes a Candle Light Vigil and a number of other activities. The District Attorney's office will be providing information on what events are going to be planned for that week.

The fifth item came out of the Social Programs committee last year. There is a prevention/detention grant that was received. This resolution today is to allow the Probation Department to actually enter into a contract or amend the contract with Berkshire Farms to provide additional services to prevent secured detention as an alternative, allowing the juveniles to stay in their homes and out of home placements that normally occur when juveniles are

locked up for various offenses. This contract would run from July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012.

The sixth resolution is to enter into a contract with DCJS for some federal aid that has been awarded to the county for expenses implementing Leandra's Law. Under Leandra's Law offenders are required to install an ignition interlock device if they are sentenced to probation or conditional discharge for a DWI conviction. The county's ongoing expenses include the cost of supervision in monitoring the devices. In most cases the offenders are paying for the devices and the maintenance costs with the companies that install them, but the county still incurs costs through our probation officers that have to monitor those sentences. The \$46,782 represents some federal aid to help offset the costs.

Ms. Daly asked if the Prevention/Detention program was not going to begin until July 2011? Mr. Hellwig said the current contract is set to expire then, so the new agreement will pick up at that point.

Mr. Peck asked if we were shifting money from detention to prevention or is this an additional \$109,888 that is coming in just for prevention? Mr. Hellwig said \$85,000 of that total is for Berkshire Farms for the supervision and the counseling that they provide. The remaining money is given to the county for administering that. The money is coming from a grant from the Federal Government.

Mr. Lawler asked if we would be considering a resolution to accept the grant? Mr. Hellwig said the grant was accepted in December. Social Services actually receives the grant. At this point, the budget amendment allows us to move the money out of the Social Services budget into the Probation budget.

Mr. Lawler asked if this was the six-month figure? Mr. Hellwig said the balance of the grant will be included in the 2012 budget requests. Whatever is not spent this year to cover the contract through the portion that goes into 2012 will move into next years budget.

Mr. Lawler asked where the \$109,888 was going? Mr. Hellwig said it is all going into this year.

Mr. Lawler asked if this was a recurring Federal grant? Mr. Hellwig said we are only going to be budgeting for the portion that is left next year. It isn't known right now if we will get it or not, he said.

Mr. Lawler said, so in the 2012 budget the number that will be budgeted is actually half. Mr. Hellwig said, yes.

On a motion made by Mrs. Wormuth, seconded by Mr. Peck the above resolutions were approved unanimously.

RACING

- **Urging Governor Cuomo and the NYS Legislature to authorize the reinstatement of VLT revenues for Saratoga Springs and Saratoga County.**
- **Opposing Governor Cuomo's proposal to impose a 3.75% state surcharge on purses for all horse races run in New York.**
- **Supporting the Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce in its efforts to preserve horse racing in Saratoga County as a premier attraction and economic engine.**

Mr. Hellwig said in 2008 the City of Saratoga Springs and the County stopped receiving the VLT revenues. The first resolution is to request that the Governor and the State Legislature reinstate that revenue source, since they continue to provide the money to communities with racino's located in their county's, in addition to the City of Yonkers.

The second resolution is opposing a new surcharge proposed by Governor Cuomo. There is an attempt by the State to add this surcharge to purses to recover some of the costs of running the State Wagering and Racing Board. This is not consistent with the Governor's pledge not to raise taxes to cover the State deficit.

Mr. Hellwig said the Chamber of Commerce has prepared a white paper that contains a number of specific actions that should help make horse racing expand and prosper. The components include getting the VLT's up and running at Aqueduct and the reorganization of the OTB operations to ensure

that racing remains strong in the State. The Racing Committee has discussed the various items and is asking the Board for their support.

On a motion made by Mr. Peck, seconded by Mr. Veitch the above resolutions were approved unanimously.

PERSONNEL

- **Introducing a Local Law to amend the Saratoga County Compensation Schedule by increasing compensation for County officials who are term officials and setting a public hearing for March 9, 2011 at 4:50 p.m. in the Board meeting room.**
- **Appointing Lisa Scaccia as Employment and Training Program Director II at Grade 16, Base Salary of \$66,631.**
- **Appointing Hans Lehr as Director of Community Mental Health Services at Grade 21, Step 7, \$111,952.**
- **Appointing Catherine Shrome as Director of Purchasing at Grade 16, Base Salary of \$66,631.**

Mr. Hellwig said last month a public hearing was held on a local law and due to changes that had to be made to the law it was pulled for consideration in a vote last month, and sent back to the Personnel Committee to be reviewed and changed. At this point the law has been modified to correct the deficiencies and the law essentially to increase the compensation for elected officials and appointed officials who are in the middle of a fixed term. The increase that is proposed in law is consistent with the amount that was given to employees under a CSEA agreement and other management and confidential employees that are not covered under this law.

The second item is appointing Lisa Scaccia as the new Director of Employment and Training. Lisa is currently employed as a counselor in this department and was selected by the search committee, which included the Chairman of the Board, Chairman of Law and Finance, Chairman of the Personnel Committee, Administrator, and the Personnel Director. The group selection was sent to the Personnel Committee supporting the recommendation.

The third item is appointing Hans Lehr as the Director of Community Mental Health Services. Hans has been the Deputy Director for a number of years and has worked in the department since 1995. Prior to his work as a deputy he was in charge of the Alcohol Services unit. His appointment as the Deputy occurred in 2002. Mr. Lehr was interviewed by the search committee, which has made the recommendation that he be appointed to fill the vacancy.

The fourth item is appointing Catherine Shrome as Director of Purchasing. Ms. Shrome has worked in the department since 1976, with her last 22 years as a buyer. That position has been abolished as part of the reorganization of the department. Ms. Shrome was selected by the search committee and the recommendation was forwarded to the Personnel Committee for their approval.

Mr. Lawler asked where the \$20,000 was going to come from? Mr. Hellwig said it is a little unclear as to what we are going to wind up with next year in terms of personnel. There are going to be savings and there are going to be costs. At the end of the year we are going to be coming back to the Board to talk about what is going to be needed to cover the costs. It is unclear at this point what that number is going to be. There is a rough idea as to how much the CSEA number is, and how much the management group that has been approved is going to cost. There are, however, vacancies that have been delayed in filling, variances in terms of the starting salaries, and the salaries of department heads that have left.

On a motion made by Ms. Daly, seconded by Mrs. Wormuth the above resolutions were approved unanimously.

EQUALIZATION AND ASSESSMENT

- **Accepting tender offers on parcels in the towns of Galway (\$2,589.47), Moreau (\$7,689.23), Day(\$6,008.99) and the Village of Waterford (\$8,824.66).**
- **Authorizing a correction to the 2011 tax roll for a parcel in the Town of Clifton Park**

Mr. Hellwig said the second item is a correction to a tax roll where there was demolition costs that were inadvertently added to the tax bill that have since

been paid. The bank is going to be paying for those costs. The assessor is going to correct the tax roll and remove the costs.

On a motion made by Ms. Daly, seconded by Mr. Veitch the above resolutions were approved unanimously.

CHAIRMAN'S ITEM

- **Appointing John Adams to the Capital District Youth Center, Inc. (CDYCI) Board of Directors for a term to expire 12/31/2012.**
- **Appointing Ronald Rybicki and Robert Hodorowski to the Fish and Wildlife Management Board Region 5 for a term to expire 12/31/2012.**

Mr. Hellwig said the first item is appointing John Adams to a vacancy at the Capital District Youth Center to a Board of Directors position. This facility is a secured detention center that the county shares with Schenectady, Rensselaer and Albany Counties. The Center is located in Albany County and Mr. Adams responsibility is to represent our interests on the Board.

The second item is to appoint Ronald Rybicki and Robert Hodorowski to the Fish and Wildlife Management Board. This is a three-member board that is made up of one landowner, one Supervisor and one Sportsman. They are essentially responsible for formulating various fish and wildlife practices in our region.

On a motion made by Mrs. Wormuth, seconded by Mr. Grattidge the above resolutions were approved unanimously.

SUPERVISOR'S ITEM

- **Proclaiming May 24, 2011 as Colonel Elmer E. Ellsworth Day**

Mr. Hellwig said Colonel Elmer Ellsworth was a soldier and patriot that was born in the town of Malta.

On a motion made by Mrs. Wormuth, seconded by Mr. Grattidge the above resolution was approved unanimously.

LAW AND FINANCE

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with Carver Construction, Inc. for general construction related to upgrades at the Clifton Knolls and Kashmiri pump stations in the Town of Clifton Park at a cost of \$619,100.**

Mr. Hellwig said the contract with Carver Construction, Inc. for \$619,100 is for construction services related to upgrades of two pump stations in the Town of Clifton Park, Kashmiri and Clifton Knolls. They will be upgrading the pumps and the controls for the pump stations.

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

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with Stilsing Electric, Inc. for electrical construction at the Clifton Knolls and Kashmiri pump stations at a cost of \$115,280.**

The second item is the electrical work that is going to be done with the upgrade of the two pumping stations. In addition to the electrical work they are also going to be adding a backup generator to the Clifton Knolls location. There were a total of nine bids with Stilsing Electric as the low bidder at \$115,280; the high bid was \$199,000. This will include a backup generator at the Clifton Knolls Station.

On a motion made by Ms. Daly, seconded by Mr. Veitch the above resolution was approved unanimously.

- **Amending the 2011 Budget to re-appropriate \$1,833,400 in appropriations and revenues to complete the balance of work related to capital and other 2010 projects.**

Mr. Hellwig said the re-appropriation of \$1,833,400 is for an assortment of capital projects in the sewer district. A portion of that total relates to those two contracts, \$735,000 for the pump station work and there is an additional \$994,000 that is included in the total that is for the relining of interceptor lines in the town of Halfmoon.

On a motion made by Mr. Veitch, seconded by Mr. Peck the above resolution was approved unanimously.

- **Amending the boundaries of Saratoga County Consolidated Agricultural District #2 to include five acres in the Town of Malta.**

Mr. Hellwig said the amendment is for a parcel in the town of Malta that is owned by Susanne and David Haight. The land will be used for farming and the expansion of their greenhouse business. A public hearing was held on January 27, 2011 with no comments in opposition of the petition.

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

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

On a motion made by Ms. Daly, seconded by Mr. Grattidge the meeting was re-opened to regular session.

No action was taken.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom