

Law and Finance Committee Minutes
March 14, 2012 – 4:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Grattidge; Supervisors Daly, Sausville, Veitch, Wormuth, Wright, Hargrave, Southworth, Peck, Yepsen, Collyer, Richardson, Lucia, M. Johnson, Jenkins, Barrett, and Lawler; Spencer Hellwig, Administrator; Ryan Moore, Mgmt. Analyst; Ed Tremblay, Emergency Services; Sam Pitcherelle, George Martin, Treasurer; Karen Levison, Public Health; Chad Cooke, Sewer District; Andrew Davis, Veterans; Stephen Dorsey, Attorney; Joanne Bosley, Real Property; Brian O’Conor, Auditor; League of Women Voters; Press.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Sausville, seconded by Mrs. Wormuth the minutes of the February 15, 2012 meeting were approved unanimously.

EQUALIZATION AND ASSESSMENT

- **Accepting tender offers on parcels in the Towns of Ballston (\$12,579.40), Clifton Park (\$250,056.48), Corinth (\$3,434.24), Day (\$1,446.41), Edinburg (\$6,277.25), Greenfield (\$59,608.11), Hadley (\$4,421.93), Halfmoon (\$12,154.70), Moreau (\$4,107.26), Northumberland (\$14,413.52), Providence (\$1,658.12), Saratoga (\$4,732.98), Stillwater (\$19,586.47), and Wilton (\$2,247.04) and in the Village of Ballston Spa (\$14,443.68), Corinth (\$39,348.61, South Glens Falls (\$28,403.02) and Stillwater (\$10,473.26)**
- **Canceling \$2,769.10 in taxes on an exempt parcel in the City of Saratoga Springs.**
- **Authorizing a correction to the 2012 tax roll from \$8,431.18 to \$3,316.23, a difference of \$5,114.95, for a parcel located in the Town of Malta and a refund of 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, and 2011 sewer charges in the amount of \$23,861.75 for said parcel.**
- **Authorizing a correction to the 2012 tax roll from \$6,764.53 to \$3,966.53, a difference of \$2,798.00, for a parcel located in the Town of Clifton Park, a refund of 2011 sewer charges in the amount of \$2,798.00 for said parcel, and a refund of 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010 sewer charges in the amount of \$9,112.00 for said parcel.**

Mr. Hellwig said the first item is a total of 19 tender offers totaling \$489,392.48 for parcels located in 14 towns and 2 villages. These payments are for 2009, 2010, and 2011 taxes. As a result of these payments the parcels were removed from the auction. The auction was very successful with 43 parcels sold for a total of \$419,000.

The second item is for a property that was acquired by SUNY for the State of New York in the City of Saratoga Springs on March 25, 2011. Since it is owned by the State it is wholly exempt from all taxes. A request is being made for authorization to cancel taxes on the parcel.

The third item is for a property in the town of Malta, which is owned by K&C Touch Free Car Wash, Inc. Due to a clerical error the parcel was incorrectly assessed for 21 sewer units when it should have been six. The correction is for \$5,114.95. The Town of Malta will give the remaining corrections. The refunds will be granted to the owner from 2007 up until it is transferred into the current owner's hands. The portion on the county side is \$14,600, and the rest is for the town. The owner has eight days from the date of the corrected tax bill to mail the payment without incurring any penalties or interest.

The fourth item is also a correction to a 2012 tax roll in the town of Clifton Park, which is owned by Exit 8 Carwash, Inc. This was due to a clerical error that incorrectly coded the property for 22 sewer units when it should have been six. The corresponding refund for 2011 will go to the current owner and the refund for tax years 2007 through 2010 will go to the previous owner of the parcel.

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

VETERANS

- **Requesting Home Rule Legislation to rename the New York State Route 9P Bridge the Saratoga County Veterans Memorial Bridge.**
- **Requesting Home Rule Legislation to designate Routes 9P, 432 and 32 as Saratoga County Veterans Memorial Highways.**

Mr. Hellwig said initially there was a resolution that came out of the Veterans committee that not only requested home rule legislation to designate the NYS Route 9p bridge as the Saratoga County Veterans Memorial Bridge, but also requested a designation of routes 9P, 432 and 32 as the Saratoga County Veterans Memorial Highway. A decision was made today to separate the one resolution into two. At the committee meeting it was discovered that there was already legislation pending in Albany for the designation.

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

PUBLIC HEALTH

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with Harris Beach, PLLC to provide an operational assessment, options identification, RFP review and**

proposal selection for Maplewood Manor study at a cost not to exceed \$50,000 and amending the 2012 budget.

- **Amending the 2011 budget to appropriate \$767,873 in expenses and revenues in Maplewood Manor's budget.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into agreements with appropriately accredited colleges or universities to provide Master of Public Health (MPH) interns for community health experience.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with the NYS Department of Health for the Early Intervention Program beginning October 1, 2011 through September 30, 2016.**

Mr. Hellwig said the first resolution is to authorize entering into an agreement with Harris Beach, PLLC to conduct an operational assessment of Maplewood Manor to identify and evaluate all viable options for the future operation and management of the skilled nursing facility, which will range from continued ownership, to liquidation of the entire operation. The contract will include the services of Arthur Webb who is a recognized expert in the field of nursing home structuring, operation and disposition.

The second item is a budget amendment in Maplewood Manor to cover unbudgeted expenses in their 2011 budget. Additional expenses total \$767,873 and are primarily in the health insurance benefits line, which cover both active employees and retirees. This should be the last year that this type of amendment is necessary since we have now based the budget numbers on actual policy costs for each individual employee, as opposed to the old methodology which was done as a percentage of payroll for each of the divisions. The revenue to cover this overage will come from Maplewood Manor's unappropriated fund balance, which is just under \$1.2 million.

The third item is for authorization to allow our Public Health Nursing department to provide master level students in need of public health internships an opportunity to satisfy some of the educational requirements by providing a service to a public healthcare entity. The services will include updating the department website; an education book at the county fair, outreach and community program for the early intervention and children with special healthcare needs program. The public health director indicated that these are students that are very close to graduating and will require very little supervision to complete these projects.

The fourth item is a resolution that will authorize a five year extension of the early intervention grant agreements with the Department of Health for the annual funding that Public Health Nursing receives for their work under the Early Intervention Program. The funding for the current program year is included in the budget.

Mr. Lawler asked if the county surplus had improved by \$1 million from what was projected. Mr. Hellwig said in the 2012 budget there was \$1 million leftover from IGT

that was budgeted to cover a portion of the deficit. The remaining \$8.7 million was to come out of the general fund in terms of a transfer. What ended up happening was the year ended, in terms of a surplus revenue, at \$2.2 million. The \$1 million was taken off that budget, which left \$1.2 million. From the \$1.2 million we are now taking \$767,873, leaving approximately \$380,000. From the \$380,000, \$50,000 will be deducted for the study.

Mr. Lawler asked if the IGT money would recur. Mr. Hellwig said they did not budget for that, but there have been discussions that there is potential that it will.

Mr. Grattidge said they would know when the State budget passes.

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

PUBLIC SAFETY

- **Amending the 2012 Saratoga County budget to reappropriate \$102,471 in expenses and revenues under the Sheriff's Department for purchases made under New York State Local enhanced wireless 911 funding.**
- **Authorizing participation in the 2012 State Stop-DWI Program and authorizing contracts with local agency participants.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with Halfmoon Waterford Fire District for the loan of a 1996 Ford F350 utility vehicle to be used by the Saratoga County Fire Investigation Unit to respond, when request, to fire scenes throughout the county.**

Mr. Hellwig said the first item is a request by the Sheriff to reappropriate \$102,471 in expenses and revenues for the purchase of some wireless 911 equipment. This is an enhanced 911 wireless grant from the State that will reimburse the Sheriff and the County for the expenses that are incurred for the acquisition for this equipment.

The second item is the Boards annual approval of the STOP DWI Program, which is required by the State to authorize the county's participation in the STOP DWI Program. The program uses DWI fine money to fund activities that include law enforcement, substance abuse treatment, education and other prevention measures. The 2012 program total of \$337,533 has been approved by the State for this program year.

The fourth item is for authorization to enter into a municipal cooperative property loan agreement consistent with general municipal law, which will allow the Halfmoon-Waterford fire district to loan a utility vehicle to the county fire scene investigation unit to respond, when requested, to fire scenes throughout the county. The agreement would be for a term of five years and would be effective on April 1, 2012.

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

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with G&T Enterprises for the harvesting of four forestry lots in the Town of Moreau. The County will receive approximately \$21,000 for the timber on these lots.**
- **Capital region collaboration and Local Government Efficiency (LGE Grant) (no resolution)**

Mr. Hellwig said there are two resolutions that are shown, one of them is not going to be brought to the Board this month.

Mr. Hellwig said the first item is a revenue contract that will need Board authorization to enter into agreement with G&T Enterprises for the harvesting of timber in the Town of Moreau. A bid package was mailed to 43 vendors, with three bids being submitted for the work. A total of four parcels will be harvested in the Town of Moreau under this contract.

On a motion made by Ms. Daly, seconded by Mrs. Wormuth the above resolution authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with G&T Enterprises for the harvesting of forestry lots in the Town of Moreau was approved unanimously.

Ms. Daly said the other item under Economic Development is to obtain next month a resolution of support for a multi grant application for Capital Region Collaboration and Government Efficiency. This is a grant application that is designed to provide technical and financial assistance to projects that stand to save municipalities money. The committee did approve a letter of support. This would be a matching grant program should the grant be successful. The county portion would be \$2,000. There is participation by the company, Aeon Nexus, who is actually the lead in designing and writing the grant, participating at \$4,000 along with CEG. Each city, Albany, Schenectady and Troy is participating in a \$1,000 matching grant. Ms. Daly said they have intended to move ahead with a letter of support and have offered to be the lead applicant, should the committee at the next meeting pass a resolution in support of the entire application. Aeon Nexus will be giving a presentation at the next Economic Development Committee meeting and Ms. Daly encouraged all interested Supervisors to attend.

Ms. Daly said Global Foundries is moving forward with their initiative with the Board of Supervisors to offer a presentation to all local government officials from cities, towns and villages within Saratoga County and their designees. The event will be on March 28th between 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. beginning with a reception 4:00 to 4:30 and a presentation and discussion from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. All names must be sent to the Board of Supervisors office staff, as a list of attendees must be provided to Global Foundries. The RSVP date is March 23rd.

LAW AND FINANCE

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an amended agreement with EDP for additional inspection services relative to the Halfmoon interceptor relining project and upgrades to the Clifton Knolls and Kashmiri Pump Stations, at a cost of \$14,595.**

Mr. Hellwig said this resolution is a \$14,595 amendment to the districts contract with Environmental Design Partnership, LLC for additional inspection work under the capital projects that are being completed for the Halfmoon relining interceptor project and upgrades to the Clifton Knolls and Kashmiri Pump Stations in the Town of Clifton Park. The additional costs for the inspection hours will be covered from the \$32,000 in savings from one of the contractors working on the project.

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

Mr. Grattidge said the monthly budget report and sales tax reports were sent electronically to all Supervisors. Questions can be directed to Mr. Grattidge or the County Administrator.

Mr. Grattidge said he is anticipating having the first budget meeting after the Board Meeting in April.

On a motion made by Mrs. Wormuth, seconded by Mr. Sausville the meeting was adjourned. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom