

Law and Finance Committee Minutes
June 13, 2012 – 4:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Grattidge; Supervisors Daly, Rowland, Sausville, Wormuth, Wright, Lawler, Southworth, Peck, Lucia, Collyer, M. Johnson, and Raymond; Spencer Hellwig, Administrator; Ryan Moore, Mgmt. Analyst; Jack Kalinkewicz, Personnel; Steve Dorsey, Attorney; Wes Carr, Youth Bureau; Tom Speziale, Public Works; Sam Pitcherelle, George Martin, Treasurer; Oscar Schreiber, Public Defender; Sandi Cross, Office for the Aging; Joanne Bosley, Real Property; Robert Christopher, Social Services; Karen Levison, Public Health; Diane Brown, Maplewood Manor; Lisa Scaccia, Employment and Training; Brian O’Conor, Auditor; John Adams, Probation; 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 May 9, 2012 meeting were approved unanimously.

LEGISLATIVE AND RESEARCH

- **Introducing a Local Law establishing “Truth in Taxation” in Saratoga County and scheduling a Public Hearing in relation thereto on July 11, 2012 at 4:55 p.m.**

Mr. Hellwig said the Legislative and Research committee is supporting the adoption of a local law which establishes “Truth and Taxation” in Saratoga County. The law is part of a larger State wide initiative to encourage counties to create a standardized system to deliver property tax information to taxpayers across the state. The law will result in changes to the county tax bill to identify what portions of the bill are the result of state mandates. There will also be a tax bill flyer created to summarize the financial impacts, which will be distributed countywide. It is the hope that the initiative will encourage taxpayers to communicate the same message that the county has been sending to Albany for the past twenty years regarding these mandates.

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

EQUALIZATION AND ASSESSMENT

- **Authorizing conveyance of tax acquired parcels in the Towns of Ballston (3,600), Charlton (\$1,100), Clifton Park (\$125), Corinth (24,700), Edinburg (\$50), Malta (\$2,550), Moreau (\$500) and the Village of Round Lake (\$50,000) and Schuylerville (\$1,400) sold at the March auction to the second bidder.**
- **Authorizing a credit to a tax bill in the Town of Malta (\$37.57).**

- **Accepting a conditional tender offer I the Town of Day in the amount of \$20,072.49.**

Mr. Hellwig said the first item is the conveyance of parcels to the second bidders from the March auction. In addition to the twelve parcels in this resolution there were five additional forfeited parcels, with three of them having no second bidder and one had an undeliverable notification to the second bidder, and an expired response date for the final property. For all seventeen parcels the county will retain \$11,620 in forfeited bids from the initial bidders.

The second resolution is property that was purchased as a road dedication in the Town of Malta in February of 2011. The deed was filed in April of 2012, resulting in a 2012 Town and County Tax bill being generated in error. This resolution will credit the full amount of tax due which is \$37.57 for 2012.

The final item is a tender offer for a parcel on South Shore Road in the Town of Day. The prior owner is in the process of retaining a reverse mortgage and is in need of a conditional tender offer to complete the process. The amount of \$20,072.49 includes all back taxes, penalties and interest.

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

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

- **Designating 14 parking spaces in the Remsen Street Department of Motor Vehicles parking lot as half hour parking for DMV customers only.**
- **Authorizing the County Attorney and the Planning Director to proceed with the subdivision of a parcel of County reforested land to be conveyed to the Town of Moreau for a water pump station.**

Mr. Hellwig said at one time the Remsen Street DMV parking lot was used exclusively for Motor Vehicle customers. Over time the use of the lot has expanded to accommodate use by the public who are visiting other State and County departments as well as some employees, which has resulted in increased demand for the spaces. At this point the County Clerk has come to request the Board's support in designating fourteen of the lots fifty five spaces for DMV patrons, which is approximately one quarter of the total. Those would be marked half hour parking for DMV customers, which will give individuals coming for those types of transactions, short term parking.

The second item is a home rule request made to the State Legislature to designate a parcel of land on Spruce Mountain to replace a piece of county forest land in the Town of Moreau that was needed to construct a water pump station. In addition to that action, the County Attorney

and Planning Director also need the Board's authorization to move forward with a subdivision application that has to be approved by the Moreau Planning Board.

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

PUBLIC HEALTH

- **Increasing the private pay rate at Maplewood Manor beginning August 1, 2012 to \$322 per day plus the State cash assessment for semi-private rooms and \$342 per day plus the State cash assessment for private rooms.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into a three-month agreement with Medical Staffing Network to provide nursing services at a cost not to exceed \$25,000 and amending the budget in relation thereto.**

Mr. Hellwig said the first item is an increase to the private pay rate at Maplewood Manor, which an annual step is taken by the facility to recover actual costs of providing care to residents that are not yet eligible for Medicaid benefits. The increase requested is a \$15 increase from the \$307/day rate plus the State cash assessment, which will bring it up to \$322/day plus the State cash assessment, for semi private rooms. The committee is also requesting the Board's support to establish a new fee for private rooms, which will be \$342/day, plus the State cash assessment. There will be no impact on residents living conditions; this allows Maplewood to recapture the actual costs of providing care.

The second item is for authorization to enter into an agreement with Medical Staffing Network Healthcare, LLC to provide registered nurse services to the Public Health Nursing Department. The need for the contract has arisen out of the department having had two full time RN resignations and two part time RN resignations earlier this year. In addition, there are two RN positions that are currently out on disability and workers comp. There are also two anticipated retirements, which will be a further strain on the department; therefore, the Director of Public Health Nursing has indicated that the temporary staffing will be needed for approximately three months for a total not to exceed \$25,000, which is currently available in one of the positions where the individual is not expected to return until November.

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

PUBLIC SAFETY

- **Authorizing the Chairman to accept a Crime Victims' Board Grant in the District Attorney's Office in the amount of \$66,985.**

- **Authorizing the Chairman to accept an Aid to Prosecution Grant in the District Attorney's Office in the amount of \$41,300.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to accept an Aid to Defense Grant in the Public Defender's Office in the amount of \$15,500.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with Warren, Washington, Essex, Franklin, Clinton and Hamilton counties to become a member of the Adirondack Interoperability Consortium.**
- **Approving the County's Alternatives to Incarceration (ATI) Performance Based Services Plan and authorizing acceptance of the State grants in the amount of \$10,128 for the Community Work Order Program and \$16,827 for the Pre-Trial Services Program for the period beginning July 1, 2012 and ending June 30, 2013.**

Mr. Hellwig said first item is a Crime Victims' Board Grant that is an annual grant from the State that is used to offset the Victim advocate costs in the Public Defender's office. The total for this year is \$66,985, which is a 2% decrease from last year.

The second item is an Aid to Prosecution Grant, which is funding to offset the costs of the District Attorney's office relative to the prosecution of violent felony cases. This funding is unchanged from last year.

The third item is an Aid to Defense Grant given to the District Attorney's office in the amount of \$15,500. This amount is unchanged from last year.

The fourth item is authorization for the county's participation in the Interoperability Consortium. During the Public Safety Committee meeting the resolution was supported by the committee to enter into a memorandum of understanding to allow the county to become a member of the consortium and apply for grant funding that will allow Saratoga County to make the changes that need to be made to interoperability with the adjoining counties.

The fifth item is authorization to renew a contract with DCJS for the Alternative to Incarceration Program. The Pretrial Release Program is run out of the Probation Department and the Community Work Order Program is run out of the Employment and Training Administration. Funding under these grants for the current grant cycle is \$26,955, representing a 17% decrease from last years' funding. Both programs are designed to reduce reliance on incarceration and the cost of housing inmates at the county jail.

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

- **Approving the Emergency Dispatch Cost Allocation formula as developed and recommended by the County Sheriff and the Public Safety Advisory Committee charged with the creation of this pricing option.**

Mr. Hellwig said the above item is approval of the operating costs of the Emergency Dispatch Center that will be used to calculate a per call cost figure. The figure will then be used as part of a cost allocation formula, which uses call volume to calculate a dollar value for each individual agency with access to the Sheriff's communication network. In the case of for profit agencies, this value will represent an annual access fee that they would pay under a new local law that is currently being drafted by the County Attorney. This resolution represents a preliminary step toward that end since the law cannot be drafted without the approval of this budget and allocation formula.

Mr. Rowland said he would be voting no on this resolution as it creates an unfair advantage of nonprofit vs. profit. There are currently 911 fees that are applied to the process and there is no difference in the dispatch process for a nonprofit or profit. This floats the tax burden from one pocket of a taxpayer to another pocket of the taxpayer, he said.

Mr. Sausville said that it seems as though we are dealing with a life or death matter that is the core responsibility of the county and when we begin to decide to charge fees to one organization over another organization this represents double taxation. Consumers in those counties that have a for profit organization, pay through their telephone usage and also through the county resources that we have to cover the 911 service. This is such a fundamental service of life and death that we owe the residents of the county an obligation to do this in the most expeditious fashion without extra taxation.

Mr. Grattidge recommended that this resolution be moved on to the entire Board for a full debate of the Board at the Tuesday, Board Meeting.

Mrs. Wormuth said that while she respects what both colleges have said, she worries that this will encourage volunteer and non for profit organizations just to become profit organizations. This will not only create the swing of an apex between non for profits and profits, but we will have everyone going in that direction. If they see that funds are available, not only will we pass it on to a small portion of our community, but everyone will go that way and there would be no reason for them not to, she said. As Supervisors in our own communities we will no longer have control over the budget of some of these agencies.

Mr. Wright said he would like to hear opinions from other supervisors before moving forward. There has been a lot of discussion on this subject and it needs to be made public.

Mr. Peck said if this is going to go to the full Board then every Supervisor should have a copy of the proposal that was put forward before the Board Meeting to understand how it affects each individual agency.

Mr. Peck said the proposal is not to charge on a per call basis because the OIG opinions do not allow for that. This is a fee structure based on prior call volumes.

Mr. Rowland said if it is the intent to forward the motion before the entire Board at the Tuesday Board Meeting without an endorsement, he would concur with that.

A motion was made by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mrs. Wormuth to approve forwarding the above resolution on to the Full Board of Supervisors for their consideration at the Board Meeting on June 19, 2012. Unanimous.

SOCIAL PROGRAMS

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into agreements with the Town of Stillwater to provide \$15,000 in funding for a senior transportation van.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into agreements with the Town of Clifton Park to provide \$20,000 in funding for a senior transportation bus.**
- **Authorizing the Youth Bureau's 2012 funding applications and contracts in the amount of \$125,846.**
- **Accepting \$7,682 in additional funding for the Summer Youth Employment Program and amending the budget in relation thereto.**

Mr. Hellwig said the first two items are authorizations for the Office for the Aging Department to provide funding to subsidize the purchase of senior a transportation vehicle for the town of Stillwater with a contribution of \$15,000, and a bus in the town of Clifton Park with a contribution of \$20,000.

The third item is Youth Bureau annual funding for two delinquency prevention programs which include the Youth Development and Delinquency Prevention Program and the Special Delinquency Program. This resolution authorizes the necessary contracts and funding for the various agencies that provide the programs.

The fourth resolution is with regard to Board approval last month for the summer youth employment program funding. Shortly after that it was discovered that an additional \$7,682 was available for providing employment opportunities for the youth that are eligible for the program. This resolution will authorize the county to increase the funding level to accept the additional money that is available for that program.

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

PUBLIC WORKS

- **Authorizing the Chairman to apply for and accept funding from the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation for the rehabilitation of the Dix Bridge in the Town of Northumberland in the amount of \$300,000.**
- **Supporting the Town of Malta's request to designate an existing commercial access improvements appropriation in the Federal Highway Bill for the Town's proposed Round Lake Road Corridor project, subject to review by the County Public Works Department at no cost to the County.**

Mr. Hellwig said the first item is a \$300,000 grant from the NYS Office of Parks and Recreation and Historic Preservation which will be used to reduce the county's share of the \$3.1 million that was approved for the Dix Bridge rehabilitation project. Initially, the county's contribution was set at \$675,000. This will allow for a reduction in the contribution from the county to \$375,000. In addition, there is another \$6,000 from the towns of Greenwich and Hudson Crossing Park, reducing the county contribution to \$369,000. The grant reimbursement will be given to the county at the end of the project, he said.

The second item is a member item that was secured in 2004 by Congressman Sweeney in the Federal Highway Bill for commercial access and improvements, and the Luther Forest Technology area. The municipalities that were included were the towns of Malta, and Stillwater, as well as, the Village of Round Lake. Some of those funds have been previously spent down for other local road improvement projects, with approximately \$5 million carried over to the federal budget. The town of Malta is seeking permission from Congress to designate those existing unspent funds for the Round Lake Road Corridor project. They are looking for permission to proceed with the project because the improvements will be on county owned and maintained roads.

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

PERSONNEL AND INSURANCE

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into a renewal agreement with Sedgwick to provide third party administrative services for the County's Self-Insurance Program at an annual cost of \$260,940 commencing July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2014.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into a renewal contract with Girvin and Ferlazzo at an annual cost of \$10,000 plus hourly charges of \$185 (2012), \$190 (2013), \$195 (2014) for appearances in court or other hearings.**
- **Amending the 2012 Compensation Plan to eliminate three registered professional nurse positions under Public Health Nursing and create three**

registered professional nurse positions under Social Services effective July 1, 2012 and amending the budget in relation thereto.

Mr. Hellwig said the first item is recommending a renewal of the county's contract with Sedgwick to continue to provide third party administrative services for the county self-insurance program. The contract was approved after the retirement of the former Self Insurance Administrator. At the end of 2010 part of the restructuring of this department included the abolishment of the Administrators position and approval of the TPA agreement to assume responsibility for managing the workers compensation claims. The annual renewal cost will be \$260,940, which is approximately 5% less than that of the expiring contract.

The second item is a committee recommendation a renewal of a contract with Girvin & Ferlazzo for labor relation services. There is no change in 2012 to the expiring contract terms; however, in 2013 the hourly rate for court appearances will increase to \$190 and in 2014 to \$195.

The third item is authorizing an amendment to the compensation plan to abolish three nursing positions in Public Health and create three new nursing positions in Social Services. This is part of an effort to improve efficiency in the delivery of services provided under the homecare program. Under State law home healthcare and other personal services provided by our Social Services Department must be done under the supervision of a registered nurse. It has become increasingly difficult to manage the number of assessments that are needed each month due to staffing shortages in Public Health. The program has been done as a joint effort between Social Services and Public Health Nursing. Due to the staffing shortages at Public Health as well as some inherent scheduling issues when the joint visits are required, which involve representatives from each department, this alternative is a step toward dealing with those hardships that are making it difficult to complete the required assessments in the time frames that are authorized under the law. There are a number of other case management issues that will also be resolved under the proposed reconfiguration.

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

LAW AND FINANCE

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with Joe Johnson Equipment, Inc. for camera equipment for the Saratoga County Sewer District at a cost not to exceed \$65,372.**

Mr. Hellwig said the first item is a request from the Sewer District to request authorization to enter into an agreement with Joe Johnson Equipment to purchase a new camera system for pipe inspections. The current equipment is approximately sixteen years old and the repair costs could potentially run into thousands of dollars in addition to the fact that the technology is now outdated. There is funding within the district's 2012 capital budget to purchase new

equipment. There were four bidders that submitted proposals, with the lowest qualified bid from Joe Johnson Equipment at \$65,372.

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

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with Brunswick Electric to upgrade the Saratoga County Sewer District's pump station radio system at a cost not to exceed \$348,093.**

Mr. Hellwig said the second item is requesting authorization to replace the existing radio system in the pump stations for the new cellular based system. In order to comply with the federal communications requirements by 2013 the district will have to convert its radio system to a narrowed band updated system low monitor flow data, pump one time, generator one time, etc. The data is recorded manually, currently by employees. The district is seeking to convert this system and all pump stations to a cellular based web hosted system. This was the lowest qualified bid of the seven bids that were received. This is included in the 2012 capital budget, he said.

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

- **Designating Saratoga County Sewer District No. 1 as lead agency for SEQRA analysis of proposed upgrade of Saratoga Lake sewer lines as well as construction of a new sewer line in Halfmoon.**

Mr. Hellwig said the third item is designating the Sewer District as the lead agency for the SEQRA analysis of the two capital improvement projects. This will provide the necessary environmental impact review that is required by the State.

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

Mr. Grattidge said the monthly budget report was distributed to all Supervisors on June 4th. He said the overall expenditure report showed that after five months 33% of the budget has been spent with 39% for revenues.

The sales tax report is still positive and is running ahead of what was collected last year.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom