

Law and Finance Committee Minutes
July 11, 2012 – 4:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Grattidge; Supervisors Daly, Rowland, Sausville, Veitch, Wormuth, Wright, Yepsen, Wood, Kinowski, Collyer, Lucia, Jenkins, Peck, Raymond, and M. Johnson; Spencer Hellwig, Administrator; Steve Dorsey, County Attorney; Sam Pitcherelle, George Martin, Cindy Baker, Treasurer; John Adams, Probation; Hans Arnold, Gerhardt Consulting; Tom Speziale, Public Works; Jack Kalinkewicz Personnel; Joanne Bosley, Real Property; Chad Cooke, Sewer District; Brian O’Conor, Auditor; Wes Carr, Youth Bureau; Ryan Moore, Mgmt. Analyst; Press.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Rowland, seconded by Mr. Sausville the minutes of the June 13, 2012 meeting were approved unanimously.

EQUALIZATION AND ASSESSMENT

- **Authorizing a credit to a tax bill in the Town of Stillwater (\$300.55)**
- **Authorizing a credit to a tax bill in the Town of Providence (\$2,328.51)**

Mr. Hellwig said the above resolutions are for tax credits for properties that are located in the towns of Stillwater and Providence. In the case of the parcel in Stillwater, it is a cemetery and is wholly exempt from taxes. In the town of Providence the property was assessed with a home and that home does not exist, there is a mobile home on the property.

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

LEGISLATIVE AND RESEARCH

- **Introducing a local law to require room remarketers to collect and pay tax on their sales of room occupancy in Saratoga County and setting a public hearing for August 15, 2012 at 4:30 p.m.**

Mr. Hellwig said the above resolution is amending local law No. 7 of 1977, which is the Saratoga County Occupancy Tax Law. The proposed amendments to this law will require on-line room remarketers, such as Expedia and Orbitz, to collect and pay sales tax on their sales of room occupancy in Saratoga County. The amendments are modeled after the amendments that have already been made by the State Legislature to the State’s legislation imposing room occupancy tax upon the same remarketers. In both cases, the purpose of these changes is intended to facilitate compliance of the room remarketers with their obligation to collect this tax and remit it to the taxing entities.

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

PERSONNEL AND INSURANCE

- **Amending the 2012 Compensation Plan to eliminate the position of Deputy Probation Director II, and create one (1) position of Probation Supervisor.**

Mr. Hellwig said the proposed change to the compensation plan will be to eliminate a currently vacant position of Deputy Probation Director with a base salary of \$66,631, and in its place create a new Probation Supervisor position with a base salary of \$50,584. The change was requested by John Adams, Probation Director and is designed to address a current need for additional supervision and administrative support within the department.

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

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

- **Adopting rules prohibiting trespassing in the area beneath the Hadley-Luzerne Bridge, authorizing the installation of appropriate signage in relation thereto and establishing penalties for violating these rules.**
- **Determining no environmental impact relative to the conveyance of a subdivided 2.55 acre parcel on Spruce Mountain in the Town of Corinth to the State of New York and authorizing the Chairman to execute a Short Environmental Assessment Form in relation thereto.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to execute a land donation agreement with the State of New York conveying a subdivided 2.55 acre parcel on Spruce Mountain in the Town of Corinth to the State.**
- **Determining no environmental impact relative to the conveyance of a .082 acre parcel of County reforested land on Spier Falls Road in the Town of Moreau to the Town and authorizing the Chairman to execute a Short Environmental Assessment Form in relation thereto.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to convey a .082 acre parcel of County reforested land on Spier Falls Road in the Town of Moreau to the Town, conditioned upon the passage into law of S.6905/A.9800.**

Mr. Hellwig said the first item is a resolution authorizing the installation of "No Trespassing" signs under the Hadley Luzerne Bridge. The request was made by Supervisor Wright who

informed the Buildings and Grounds committee that there has been a multitude of problems around the bridge, including vandalism, spray painting on the bridge and adjacent rock ledges, and piles of garbage and alcohol containers at the base of the bridge. There have also been a number of injuries and downing's over the years due to the unpredictable currents that flow through this area. The resolution is in accordance with County Law 215, which sets the potential penalties for violations of the law of fines up to \$100 and/or imprisonment of up to 30 days or a combination of both.

The next two resolutions are part of the requirements that the Board must approve to convey a parcel on Spruce Mountain to the State. The parcel contains an old fire tower which in the future will be cared for and maintained by the State of New York. The first resolution is the negative declaration for SEQR, and the second is for the approval of the donation of the land to the State.

The remaining two resolutions are related to the construction of the new Water Pump Station in the town of Moreau. The proposed location of this new station is on county reforested land that will have to be replaced with another piece of reforested land. The State Legislature has already approved the conveyance of this land to the Town of Moreau and we are waiting for the Governor's signature on the bill, he said. In anticipation of that signature and the Governor's approval, the committee has approved the negative SEQR declaration and they have authorized the second resolution to authorize the conveyance of the Spier Falls Road parcel to the town of Moreau. In addition, they have identified a parcel on Spruce Mountain to replace the reforested land that will be used for the pump station.

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

Mr. Wright thanked the committee for taking action with regard to the Hadley Luzerne Bridge. He said it has been a problem for years and needs to be cleaned up.

PUBLIC WORKS

- **Approving the issuance of a final Request for Proposal for the privatization of the County Landfill.**

Mr. Hellwig said the consultant who handled this step has indicated that there have been a number of clarifications that have been made to the RFP. There have been no other revisions to the document based on the comments from the prospective bidders. Upon approval from the Board to release the RFP, the prospective bidders will have until October 8, 2012 to submit their proposals.

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

LAW AND FINANCE

- **Authorizing the Saratoga County Sewer District to initiate eminent domain proceedings seeking easement interests on four parcels of real property located in the Town of Halfmoon.**

Mr. Hellwig said this resolution will authorize the Sewer District to move forward with eminent domain proceedings to obtain permanent easements on four properties in the town of Halfmoon. These easements are needed as part of the Capital Improvement Project to install forced mains on Routes 4 and 32 in the town.

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

Mr. Grattidge gave a brief update on the monthly budget report, stating that everything on the expense and revenue side looks like it is doing what was expected. The sales tax report for June is still running a little above last year, which is positive he said.

Mr. Grattidge stated that there will be a Budget Committee meeting on July 19th at 3:00 p.m. for the purpose of a quarterly review, and to speak about projections moving forward.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom