

LAW AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

APRIL 12, 2006 – 4:00 P.M.

Present: Chairman Barrett; Supervisors DeCerce, Hargrave, A. Johnson, M. Johnson, Peck, Wood, Keyrouze, Daly, Sausville, Gutheil, Trottier, Lucia, Raymond and Yepsen; David Wickerham, County Administrator; John Murray, County Auditor; Wes Carr, Youth Bureau; Carol Holley, Joanne Bosley, Real Property; Dan Butler, Animal Shelter; Mark Rider, County Attorney; Jim DiPasquale, Bill Davis, Richard Doyle, Sewer District; Helen Endres, Alan Kempf, Public Health; Diane Brown, Maplewood Manor; Sam Pitcherale, Deputy Treasurer; William Baker, Personnel; Barbara Murphy, Barbara Thomas, League of Women Voters; Press.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Hargrave, seconded by Mr. Peck the minutes of the March 15, 2006 meeting were approved unanimously.

On a motion made by Mr. Wood, seconded by Mr. A. Johnson the following were approved unanimously.

SOCIAL PROGRAMS

- **Proclaiming May as “Senior Citizens Month” in Saratoga County.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into agreements with approved providers of itinerant services for the pre-school handicapped children’s program.**

Mr. Wickerham said with regard to item two there is also such an agreement in place for children ages 3-5. Several years ago there was an early intervention component for ages 0-2. In the past there were no resolutions giving authorization. This resolution will provide that authorization.

On a motion made by Mrs. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Hargrave the following were approved unanimously.

PUBLIC HEALTH

- **Proclaiming May 14th to May 20th as “National Nursing Home Week” in Saratoga County.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into a contract with Thomas Nicolla Consulting Services, PLLC for physical therapy services at Maplewood Manor at an hourly rate of \$44.03 effective April 1, 2006.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into contracts with medical social workers to increase the compensation rate from \$50 per visit to \$58 per visit. The refusal rate will go from \$50 to \$12 effective May 1, 2006.**

Mr. Wickerham said item two is with regard to a contract at Maplewood Manor for consulting services for physical therapy. There were two quotes received, with Thomas Nicolla Consulting Services as the lowest quote. The contract period will be a 20-month contract in order for all contracts to have an expiration of December 31st.

Mr. Wickerham said item three is an increase in rates with contract workers for from \$50 to \$58 per visit. These rates have not been increased in ten years, he said. In the event that the social workers go out to find no one at home, they will receive \$12 for their transportation costs. The additional cost to the county is approximately \$1,500. The total for the program is \$14,000.

On a motion made by Mr. Peck, seconded by Mr. DeCerce the following were approved unanimously.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with Forest Solutions to provide forestry consulting services at an amount not to exceed 10% of the gross stumpage fees collected from timber sales and up to \$50 per hour for services not related to timber sales.**
- **Granting an easement over County forestlands in the Town of Clifton Park to National Grid in order to facilitate the construction of a Town bike path.**

Mr. Wickerham said the county has forestlands that they are responsible for protecting. A consultant is hired to provide guidance as to what should be taken out in order to timber the forest in the best possible place. Proposals

are issued approximately every 4 or 5 years. There were four proposals, with Forest Solutions as the low proposal.

The second item is with regard to an easement in forestlands in the Town of Clifton Park. An easement needs to be granted to National Grid in order to facilitate the construction of a bike path that is being built in the town.

On a motion made by Mr. DeCerce, seconded by Mrs. Johnson, the following were approved unanimously.

EQUALIZATION AND ASSESSMENT

- **Authorizing the conveyance of 28 parcels sold at the March auction.**
- **Accepting a tender offer in the amount of \$5,701.56 for a property in the Town of Greenfield.**
- **Accepting a tender offer for a parcel in the Town of Hadley in the amount of \$1,947.16.**
- **Amending Resolution No. 95-06 and authorizing conveyance of a tax acquired parcel to First National Acceptance Company of North America in the amount of \$11,155.67**
- **Authorizing a refund of \$5,590.39 on a parcel in the town of Clifton Park due to an erroneous school tax re-levy.**

Mr. Wickerham said the county auction was held last month with 28 parcels ready to be conveyed. Of the parcels that were up for auction, the county collected approximately \$438,000.

The second item is with regard to a tender offer made in the Town of Greenfield that the Supervisor pulled in anticipation that the owners would pay.

The third item is with regard to a tender offer in the Town of Hadley. The individual came in a day after the auction to pay his remaining taxes. He had paid the two years prior. There were extenuating circumstances as to why the individual had not paid the remaining taxes due before the auction. Therefore, the committee felt it was appropriate to void the sale and to convey the property back to the original taxpayer.

Mr. Wickerham said with regard to item four, last year, early on, the county conveyed a tax parcel to an individual on a tender offer. Later it was determined that it was not the individual who should have received that, it was the financial institution.

Mr. Wickerham said item five is with regard to a refund. Any refunds under \$500 must be approved by the Board of Supervisors. This is a school re-levy where the Niskayuna School District erroneously re-levied a tax on a parcel in the town of Clifton Park, which was paid by the owner.

On a motion made by Mr. DeCerce, seconded by Mrs. Johnson the following was approved unanimously.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

- **Authorizing the conveyance of easements on the County sewer properties for certain properties in Halfmoon and Clifton Park.**

Mr. Wickerham said the main interceptor tank runs parallel to the northway and is in the backyards of some homes. The sewer commission has determined that it is appropriate to provide these people with an easement so they can hook up to the sewer system. The expenses will be paid by the landowners, he said.

On a motion made by Mrs. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Hargrave the following were approved unanimously.

- **Authorizing the Chairman to accept \$21,100 in State Aid from DCJS for the purchase of case tracking software and installation services and amending the budget in relation thereto.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to accept \$37,500 in State Aid for the Community Work Order and Pre-Trial Release Programs.**
- **Authorizing the STOP-DWI Plan for 2006 and authorizing the Chairman to enter into agreements with agencies necessary to implement the plan.**

Mr. Wickerham said the first item is a \$21,000 state grant from DCJS for software and hardware for the probation department. This is additional aid that is available. The state has settled on a particular system for case management tracking and will provide the \$21,000 in assistance. The total cost is approximately \$30,000.

The third item is to authorize a STOP-DWI Plan for 2006. There is an advisory committee that makes recommendations on how those funds should be spent. Additional monies will be used for police enforcement activities.

On a motion made by Mr. DeCerce, seconded by Mr. Wood the following was approved unanimously.

INSURANCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT

- **Authorizing the Chair to enter into contracts for insurance coverage for the period of May 8, 2006 to May 8, 2007 at a total cost not to exceed \$1,030,778.**

Mr. Wickerham said the County periodically bids out for insurance in an effort to ensure the best price. This is done every three years with approval of the contract on an annual basis. Proposals were submitted with a result of substantial savings in costs and increases in coverage. The total of the contracts will be \$1,030,778. There was \$1,348,000 allotted in the budget resulting in approximately a \$317,000 savings.

SUPERVISORS' ITEM

- **Congratulating the Shenendehowa Boys Soccer Team for winning the State Championship**

Mr. Wickerham said there would be a resolution to congratulate the Shenendehowa Boys Soccer Team for winning the State Championship again.

On a motion made by Mr. Hargrave, seconded by Mr. Peck the following was approved unanimously.

LAW AND FINANCE

- **Amending the budget under Data Processing Users Committee to transfer \$30,200 into the Probation Department Budget to purchase computers and software and \$1,100 into the Environmental Management Department for a replacement computer.**

On a motion made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mrs. Johnson the following was approved unanimously.

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into a contract with C&S Engineers for professional services to evaluate and prioritize a section of the reinforced concrete interceptor line at a cost not to exceed \$70,200.**

Mr. Wickerham said seven proposals were received with the best proposal from C&S Engineers.

A motion was made by Mr. DeCerce, seconded by Mr. Hargrave to move into Executive Session for the purpose of Personnel. Unanimous.

A motion was made by Mr. DeCerce, seconded by Mr. Hargrave to return to open session. Unanimous.

Mr. Wickerham said a request has been made to amend the compensation from Animal Shelter Aid to Senior Animal Shelter Aid, and to appoint Dan Butler as the Animal Shelter Supervisor, effective April 21, 2006. This change is due to the resignation the current supervisors Ms. Norris-Hernandez.

A motion was made by Mr. Hargrave, seconded by Mr. Johnson to approve an amendment to the compensation plan from Animal Shelter Aid to Senior Animal Shelter Aid, and to appoint Dan Butler as the Animal Shelter Supervisor, effective April 21, 2006. Unanimous.

On a motion made by Mr. DeCerce, seconded by Mr. Wood the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom