

## LAW AND FINANCE BUDGET HEARING

NOVEMBER 14, 2006 – 5:00 P.M.

Present: Chairman Barrett; Supervisors DeCerce, Hargrave, A. Johnson, M. Johnson, Peck, Wood, Sausville, Gutheil, Richardson, Keyrouze, Yepsen and Thompson; David Wickerham, County Administrator; Spencer Hellwig, Mgmt. Analyst; Press.

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

### **Lakes to Locks (\$1,500)** – Janet Kennedy

Ms. Kennedy said the Lakes to Locks passage is a national scenic byway that was formed out of the emerging of the Champlain Canal byway and the Lake Champlain byway approximately five years ago. In the process of doing that it was found that the corridor management plan needed to be merged and brought up to date. A National Scenic byway grant was applied for and received. Ms. Kennedy is asking for a Saratoga County share of the match of \$1,500. The corridor management plan allows for the projects that are identified in the plan to be eligible for funding from the National Scenic Byway Program, she said.

### **Moreau Community Center (\$50,000)** – Andrea Bello

Ms. Bello said they have secured funds and are going to be breaking ground in the Spring. The community center is going to be a huge asset to the residents of Northern Saratoga County, providing many jobs. The center will include a senior center, numerous programs, daycare center, eight-lane pool, indoor arena, and indoor gym.

### **Homemade Theater, Inc. (\$14,196)** – Stacy Mann

Ms. Mann said when the Homemade Theater started in 1985 everything that went into the shows came from people's homes, props, costumes, etc. The theater is in its third year of a strategic plan including marketing, human resources and finance. Currently, there are approximately 7,000 attendees to shows, with approximately 220 per show. The Homemade Theater would like to increase that by 10%, therefore, they are looking for a marketing manager to help with that endeavor.

### **Lake George Opera at Saratoga (\$10,000)** – Kurt Tucker

Mr. Tucker said the Lake George Opera was founded 32 years ago on the shores of Lake George. In 2007, it will be the tenth year that the Lake George Opera has been based in Saratoga Springs. There are two main programs performed every year including the professional opera festival at the Spa Little Theater, when the Homemade Theater moves

out for the summer months bringing singers from across the county to Saratoga Springs. The second main program is an education tour that travels to area schools throughout Saratoga County to Albany and Schenectady, North Glens Falls and Western New England reaching approximately 20,000 children each year. The 10,000 grant would recognize that for ten years Lake George Opera of Saratoga has been a vital part of the tourism community in Saratoga County and secondly, it would also help to increase the number of public performances with regard to the education tour. Currently, most of those performances are done through elementary schools.

**Saratoga PLAN (\$7,500)** – Elaine Chinian

Ms. Chinian said Saratoga PLAN is looking to help the local communities that work with the green infrastructure plan to define local town priorities by assisting them in funding efforts, and helping to administer the funds. Ms. Chinian said Saratoga PLAN is very flexible, recognizing that all towns are different. They are willing to setup work shops, identify specific projects, grant locations and matching funds, state, federal and private donation money, etc.

**Saratoga Springs Preservation Foundation (\$11,690)** – Karen Moore

Ms. Moore said last year the Saratoga Springs Preservation Foundation helped groups and individuals in Charlton, Clifton Park, Malta, Town of Saratoga, Stillwater and Ballston Spa. Rather than do this on a one on one basis they are proposing to, in a more formal way, give people the tools through lectures and workshops and resource kits to access the programs, whether it be for private owners or non profits. The preservation foundation runs a statewide preservation conference every year drawing from 43 different municipalities in the state. The programs are always very highly rated bringing in speakers both regionally and nationally.

**Saratoga Rowing (\$25,000)** – Chris Chase

Mr. Chase said last year 45,000 people came to Saratoga County to see or participate in regattas, producing approximately \$8.7 million in revenue to the county. There are approximately 250 volunteers that run the regattas, however, the cost of running regattas in the last few years has increased over 100%. Saratoga Rowing has only been able to increase their fees by 25%. In looking at the athletic scholarships that the rowing club has garnered it totals approximately \$4 million to date.

**Arts Council (\$9,000)** – Dee Sarno – Joe Reeve

Ms. Sarno said the Arts Council has been around for eighteen years, starting out with one part time staff person along with approximately 50 volunteers. The organization has grown considerably over the years with a full compliment of employees who are full time and part time, with 1,200 members that come from throughout the county. The Arts Council is a countywide organization with a mission of Cultivating the Arts, bringing the community easy access to the Arts throughout the county.

Mr. Reeve said between 2001 – 2006 the Saratoga Arts Council has brought over \$700,000 in New York State funds to Saratoga County, with 87% of that money program related. Since 1993 the Arts Council has awarded over \$367,000 in State funding for more than 500 programs in the Arts. The request of \$9,000 from the Arts Council would be used to partially support an employee to help sustain the Arts and Education Program in the county schools and the re-grant programs.

**Universal Preservation Hall (\$150,000)** – Matt Coccan – Jeff Viall

Mr. Coccan said Universal Preservation Hall is a 19<sup>th</sup> Century Church, which is being converted to a performing arts and events center. The economic impact of Preservation Hall would occur through cultural tourism, heritage tourism and events such as weddings and conferences.

Mr. Viall said over \$2 million has been raised thus far, with less than \$350,000 in government monies. There is still a lot more construction to be done including a new roof. The \$150,000 request would be put toward the installation of the new roof, he said.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Sansom