

LAW AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 15, 2006 – 4:00 P.M.

Present: Chairman Barrett; Supervisors DeCerce, Hargrave, A. Johnson, M. Johnson, Peck, Wood, Gutheil, Raymond, Sausville, Lucia and Yepsen; David Wickerham, County Administrator; Spencer Hellwig, Mgmt. Analyst; Mark Rider, County Attorney; Ed Tremblay, Emergency Services; Larry Benton, Jamie O'Neill, Planning; Jack Kalinkewicz, Personnel, Sandi Cross, Office for the Aging; Joe Ritchey, Commissioner of Public Works; Sandy Fischer, Maplewood Manor; Carol Lyte, Dale Angstadt, Mental Health; Sam Pitcherelle, Deputy Treasurer; Jim DiPasquale, Sewer District; George Hodgson, Director of Environmental Services; Press.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Hargrave, seconded by Mrs. Johnson, the minutes of the January 11, 2006 meeting were approved unanimously.

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

PUBLIC HEALTH

- **Amending the 2006 County Budget under Mental Health to accept State Aid for the Road to Recovery Program and authorizing the Chairman to enter into the necessary contracts as follows:**

820 River Street Inc. for	\$72,000
Daytop of New York for	\$31,500
Transitional Services Assoc. for	\$30,000

- **Amending the 2005 County Budget under Maplewood Manor to increase appropriations and revenues by \$710,000.**

Mr. Wickerham said the first item has to do with the Road to Recovery Program, which is a state office substance abuse program. At this point there are three agencies that have been contracted with in the past and will continue with contracts with money being passed to them from the State.

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

SOCIAL PROGRAMS

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into renewal contracts for the Expanded in Home Services for the Elderly Program (EISEP) to provide personal aide care to the elderly.**

- **Amending resolution 194 of 2005 to increase the Capitaland Taxi transportation contract for Saratoga Springs from \$300 to \$330 per day.**
- **Amending the 2006 budget under Office for the Aging to accept \$50,000 in Health Insurance Information, Counseling and Assistance Program funding and amending the budget thereto.**

Mr. Wickerham said the EISEP program is one that is funded by the State of New York. The State also approves rates to In Home Health Service Agencies. There are ten separate agencies.

The second item is an amendment to resolution 194 of 2005, increasing the daily rate to Capitaland Taxi Transportation from \$300/day to \$330/day. There was only one bid for the service, he said.

The third item is additional money for the Health Insurance Information, Counseling and Assistance Program. This will provide help to people in understanding what the new Medicare rules are.

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

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

- **Amending the 2006 budget under Public Works to reappropriate \$443,565 in unspent funds to complete acquisition of easements around the Saratoga County Airport.**
- **Amending the 2006 budget under Public Works to reappropriate \$38,800 in unspent funds to complete Building #4 roofing project and the conceptual review of the County Complex and Woodlawn Avenue.**

Mr. Wickerham said, as projects are not completed in the previous year they are reappropriated in the budget as they come through. The \$443,565 is for easements around the Saratoga County Airport, which is leveraged with 97 ½% from Federal and State funds and the county share at 2 ½% of the total cost.

The second reappropriation is for \$38,800. Eight thousand of it is a project to re-roof building #4. The project has been started with some additional work still needing to be done. There is approximately \$8,000 left of the project. The other \$30,800 is for the conceptual review that is being done for the county complex at Woodlawn Avenue.

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

PUBLIC WORKS

- **Authorizing the Chairman to accept a Federal Grant in the amount of \$166,000 for the preliminary engineering of the Stewart's Dam Bridge.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to accept a Federal Grant in the amount of \$126,400 for the preliminary engineering of the Geysers Road Bridge.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with Greenman Pedersen for design and bidding services on the Geysers Road Bridge for \$120,000 and the Stewart's Dam Bridge for \$158,000.**

Mr. Wickerham said two of the county's bridges are eligible for federal funds under the HBRR program, the Stewart's Dam Bridge for \$166,000 and the Geysers Road Bridge for \$126,400.

The third item authorizes the county to enter into an agreement with Greenman Pedersen for design and bidding services for the bridges.

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

LEGISLATIVE AND RESEARCH

- **Adopting the 2006 Saratoga County Legislative Program.**
- **Supporting Senate Bill 3518 to correct an inequity in the law that denied continuous service credit for women who took a leave of absence for maternity and child care in the 1960's and the 1970's.**

Mr. Wickerham said every year the Legislative and Research Committee adopts a countywide legislative program. This is what is used when speaking with legislators in Albany.

The second item is in support of senate bill 3518. This is a bill trying to deal with inequities, where in the 1960's and 1970's when women who became pregnant were not reinstated at their former grade when they came back from pregnancy leave.

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

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- **Amending the boundaries of Agricultural District #1 to include 38 acres of viable agricultural lands in the Town of Moreau and 153 acres in the Town of Wilton.**
- **Amending the boundaries of Agricultural District #2 to include 156 acres in the Town of Malta and 77 acres in the City of Saratoga Springs.**

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an amended contract with Saratoga Hotel and Conference Center for services at the annual Planning conference at a cost not to exceed \$12,600 and amending the budget in relation thereto.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with Saratoga Economic Development Corporation to administer the County Empire Zone at a cost not to exceed \$60,000.**

Mr. Wickerham said the first two items are amendments to agricultural districts. Agricultural district #1 is the district along the Hudson River. There are currently two farms, one in the town of Wilton and the Town of Moreau. They have petitioned to be included and it has been recommended by the Ag district committee.

The other two parcels are in Ag district #2, located in the town of Malta and City of Saratoga Springs.

The third item is with regard to the annual planning conference that was held in Saratoga Springs. There were more attendees than anticipated resulting in more costs, therefore, a resolution was needed to amend the contracts and appropriate the additional \$12,500 in revenues and expenses.

The fourth item is an agreement with SEDC to administer the County Empire Development Zone Program. The \$60,000 is in the county budget for this year. This is a continuation of the same program that has been done before. It was inadvertently left out, therefore, a resolution needs to be approved to backup the contract.

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

WATER COMMITTEE

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into a Financial Assistance for Business Water Program agreement with the State of New York to access the \$10 million in funding provided by Senator Bruno.**

Mr. Wickerham said Senator Bruno has pledged \$10 million toward the water project. That money will go toward the Financial Assistance for Business Water Program.

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

- **Authorizing corrections to the tax bills for three parcels located in the town of Clifton Park.**

Mr. Wickerham said there are three tax bill corrections for a total of \$20,000, due to an invalid levy of school taxes in the town of Clifton Park by the Niskayuna School District.

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

PUBLIC SAFETY

- **Authorizing the Chairman to accept a \$40,000 Electronic Ticket and Accident Report Grant for the Sheriff's Department and amending the budget in relation thereto.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to accept four grants under the District Attorney's Office as follows: Crime Victims Board, \$71,200; Drug Court, \$70,000; Motor Vehicle/Insurance Fraud, \$62,000 and Domestic Violence, \$36,000.**
- **Introducing a proposed Local Law to regulate residency and restrictions of sex offenders and scheduling a public hearing for March 15, 2006 at 4:30 p.m.**

Mr. Wickerham said item one is a grant through the Governor's Traffic Safety Board in the amount of \$40,000 that will provide software that will go on car computers to enhance the ability to do accident reports and put all tickets into the system at once.

The second item is with regard to four grants that have been received from the State through the District Attorney's Office, all of which have been included in the county budget.

The third item is an introduction to the proposed local law to regulate residency and provide other restrictions of sex offenders. There will be a public hearing scheduled for March 15, 2006 at 4:30 p.m.

SUPERVISORS' ITEM

- **Honoring the Saratoga Springs High School Girls and Boys Cross Country Team for their State Championship in 2005.**

CHAIRMAN'S ITEM

- **Appointing members to the County's Fire Advisory Board.**

LAW AND FINANCE

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

- **Amending the budget under Emergency Services to reappropriate funds for the purchase of emergency 911 call recording devices in the amount of \$130,532.**

Mr. Wickerham said this item is for the purchase of 911 recording devices that will record calls that come in. The project was not completed in 2005.

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

- **Amending the budget under the Sheriff's Department to reappropriate funds for the Wireless 911 system in the amount of \$1,539,721.**

Mr. Wickerham said the Wireless 911 system is the major system that the county is trying to put in place in order to track cell phones as well as landline phones. Remaining funds are being carried over in order to continue the project with completion projected this year.

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

- **Amending the budget under Public Works to reappropriate \$722,000 for the Jail Locking Control System.**

Mr. Wickerham said this item is for the reappropriation of \$722,000 from the capital budget for the jail locking control system. There were two systems that are being integrated into one. The project is still being worked on, and will be completed this year.

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

- **Amending the budget under the Sewer Commission to reappropriate \$1,762,407 for portions of the design, bid and construction process that were not completed in 2005.**

Mr. Wickerham said the Sewer Commission has its own capital plan of approximately \$2.5 million. There were a number of projects that are still being worked. They are asking to carry over the money into 2006. Users generate all funds, he said.

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

- **Authorizing payroll deductions for County employees for membership in Federal Credit Unions.**

Mr. Wickerham said recent changes in legislation allow any federally chartered credit union to enroll employees of the county. Requests have been made to expand, giving anyone whose working for the county the opportunity to join with a credit union that has an office within Saratoga County. The county will be adding them for payroll deductions.

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

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an amended contract with Cavanaugh Tocci Association to provide an additional \$8,660 in funding to conduct sound/background noise analysis at key dredging sites on the Hudson River.**

Mr. Wickerham said this item is the amended contract with Cavanaugh Tocci Association. They were the engineers that were hired to oversee the PCB Dredging to make sure the county interests were maintained. In looking at some of the requirements for background noise analysis, there is some additional work that needs to be done, in order to put the county on the firmest ground when going to the EPA. The \$8,660 will be taken from the contingency budget.

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

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with Bollam, Sheedy and Torani PC for auditing services relative to a single audit for New York State Department of Transportation for the 2004 and 2005 years at a cost not to exceed \$4,600.**

Mr. Wickerham said the county has just been made aware that there is an additional requirement for a single audit to go to the NYS Department of Transportation for DOT operations. The county will need to go back to 2004 and 2005 and re-audit for that single audit requirement in order to continue funds flowing. A proposal was received from Bollam, Sheedy and Torani PC to provide auditing services.

On a motion made by Mr. Hargrave, seconded by Mr. Johnson the meeting was adjourned to Executive Session for the purpose of Personnel and Litigation.

On a motion made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mrs. Johnson to return to open session.

A motion was made by Mr. Hargrave, seconded by Mr. DeCerce to approve an additional \$100 for a total of \$12,600 for additional costs created by more attendees than expected to the annual planning conference, held at the Saratoga Hotel and Conference Center.

On a motion made by Mr. Hargrave, seconded by Mrs. Johnson the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Sansom