

LAW AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES
JUNE 14, 2006 – 4:00 P.M.

Present: Chairman Barrett; Supervisors DeCerce, Hargrave, A. Johnson, M. Johnson, Peck, Wood, Callanan, Janik, Trottier, Connors, Gutheil, Lucia, Sausville and Daly; David Wickerham, County Administrator; Mark Rider, County Attorney; John Murray, County Auditor; Sam Pitcherale, Deputy Treasurer; Wes Carr, Water Project Manager; Daniel Butler, Animal Shelter Director; Joe Ritchey, Commissioner of Public Works; Jim DiPasquale, Sewer District; Carol Holley, Real Property Director; Press.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Hargrave, seconded by Mr. DeCerce the minutes of the May 10, 2006 meeting were approved unanimously.

SOCIAL PROGRAMS

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

- **Commending the Social Services Department for receiving the Child Support Achievement Award.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to accept \$564,858 in Federal funding for the ETA Program Year 2006 and authorizing funding applications and contracts.**
- **Authorizing Workforce Investment Board budget for program year 2006 for \$80,900 and authorizing the Chairman to enter into agreements with Warren and Washington Counties and other entities to fund WIB services.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into a renewal agreement with Adirondack Community College for the Workforce Investment Board staffing services from July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007 at a cost not to exceed \$70,900.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into a renewal contract with Cornell Cooperative Extension to administer the 2006 Workforce Investment Act youth program at a cost not to exceed \$45,000.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to accept \$90,426 in Federal Aid for the TANF Summer Youth Employment Program and amending the budget in relation thereto.**

Mr. Wickerham said for three years running the county Social Services Department has received awards for their efforts in Child Support enforcement.

Item two is funding in the amount of \$564,858 for the ETA Program, resulting in a 27% drop from last year.

Item three is authorizing the Chairman to enter into agreements for the WIB (Workforce Investment Board). Saratoga County in conjunction with Warren and Washington counties will help fund the program. Saratoga County's share will be \$14,700.

The fifth item is a youth employment program that is run through Cornell Cooperative Extension. An RFP was sent out with only one bid, which was from Cornell Cooperative Extension. The total for the program will not exceed \$45,000, which is a drop from \$60,000 in the previous year.

The sixth item is the running of the summer youth program in the amount of \$90,426, which is an increase from last year's \$72,730.

EQUALIZATION AND ASSESSMENT

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

- **Authorizing conveyance of an auction parcel in the Town of Halfmoon to the second bidder for \$950.**
- **Authorizing cancellation of taxes in the Towns of Clifton Park (\$67.20) and Stillwater (\$6.85) due to exemption from Fire District taxes.**
- **Authorizing a \$3,105.34 tax refund in the town of Clifton Park for an error in the Niskayuna school tax relevy.**

Item one is the conveyance to a second bidder for property in the town of Halfmoon for \$950. Mr. Wickerham said last month a number of parcels were conveyed that were sold at the March Auction. Since that time some people backed out, therefore, the offer goes to the second bidder to avoid a second auction

PUBLIC WORKS

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

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an amended agreement with M.J. Engineering to provide additional tasks relative to the design of the Round Lake Bypass. The additional cost will not exceed \$27,000.**

Mr. Wickerham said engineering work has been ongoing on the Round Lake By-pass. The project is near end; however, the state has requested some additional design work, which will incur additional costs of \$27,000. Due to a substantial overall savings on the project, the additional costs will remain within budget, he said.

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

- **Authorizing the completion of a Final Environmental Impact statement for the county Water Project and authorizing expenditures of up to \$294,529 to complete the environmental impact phase of the project.**
- **Requesting Home Rule Legislation to remove a parcel from the county reforestation located in the Town of Moreau and replacing it with a parcel in the Town of Providence.**

Mr. Wickerham said additional expenditures of up to \$294,529 are needed to complete the environmental impact phase of the water project. These include the following items: archeological review, Environmental Impact Study supplementary information, answering all statements made in the draft environmental impact statement, wetland mitigation, and preparation of the final environmental impact statement.

The second item is with regard to putting in a water plant in the town of Moreau that is currently reforestation property. The State has requested the county to commit to another property with similar acreage for forestation purposes. The county will be submitting property in the Town of Providence.

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

PUBLIC SAFETY

- **Authorizing the Chairman to accept a State grant in the amount of \$56,972 for assistance in the prosecution of crime.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with B&L Cremation Systems, Inc. for the purchase of a cremator in an amount not to exceed \$44,500 and amending the budget in relation thereto.**
- **Amending the 2006 County budget under the Animal Shelter to appropriate \$35,000 in expenses for the reconstruction of the crematory roof.**
- **Authorizing an additional \$180,300 for services related to the preparation of a new radio system application for presentation to the Adirondack Park Agency and amending the contracts as appropriate.**

Mr. Wickerham said the first item is an Aid to Prosecution grant that comes from the State on a regular basis. The total for the grant is \$56,972, which has already been included in the budget.

The second item is for the purchase of a cremator at the Animal Shelter. The project went out for bid with three bids received. The lowest bid was for \$44,500.

The third item is for modifications that have to be made to the Animal Shelter in order to install the cremator. The total cost for this service is \$25,000.

The fourth item is to authorize additional revenue for services related to the preparation of the county radio system in the Adirondack Park Agency in the amount of \$180,300.

CHAIRMAN'S ITEM

- **Appointing John Tanchak of Waterford and Dennis Latham of Stillwater to the County Traffic Safety Board for terms to expire on 12/31/06 and 12/31/07, respectively.**

LAW AND FINANCE

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

- **Introducing a local law to enable direct billing for sewer users in the City of Mechanicville and setting July 12th as the date for the public hearing.**

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

- **Capping sales tax on motor fuel and diesel motor fuel at 6 cents per gallon.**

Mr. Barrett said the special meeting to be held today will help to ensure that the sales tax relief on gasoline will move forward quickly, allowing for the reduction to take place by July 1, 2006.

Mr. Pitcherelle distributed handouts with regard to the Sales Tax collected, and the capping of the Sales Tax on Motor Fuel & Diesel Motor Fuel at 6 cents per gallon.

Mr. Pitcherelle highlighted the following statistics:

In 2005 there was approximately \$90,042,393 in collected sales tax. Through May of 2006 the sales tax collected totaled \$21,556,017 compared to \$19,723,203 collected for the same period in 2005.

For the three months of vendor reporting, the county's total sales tax collection is \$1,832,814 more than last year.

The projected total Sales Tax receipts for 2006 is \$94,000,000.

The estimated impact to the county in 2006 at \$3.00 per gallon would be about \$1,300,000.

At \$2.75 per gallon, the estimated impact is about \$900,000.

Historically, the sales tax revenue for fuel sales has been between 11% - 12% of the total sales tax received.

A motion was made by Mr. Hargrave, seconded by Mrs. Johnson to rescind the current APA application for the county Radio Tower Project, and resubmit the new application to the APA. Unanimous.

A motion was made by Mr. Peck, seconded by Mr. DeCerce to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of Litigation.

A motion was made by Mr. Hargrave, seconded by Mr. Johnson to return to Open Session. Unanimous.

No Action was taken.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Sansom