

LAW AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

MARCH 15, 2006 – 4:00 P.M.

Present: Chairman Barrett; Supervisors DeCerce, Hargrave, A. Johnson, M. Johnson, Wood, Yepsen, Gutheil, Grattidge, Sausville, Lucia, Lawler and Trottier; D. Wickerham, County Administrator; Sam Pitcherale, Deputy Treasurer; Mark Rider, County Attorney; Bob Christopher, Social Services; Jack Murray, County Auditor, Paul Lent, Emergency Services; Jack Kalinkewicz, Personnel; Jim DiPasquale, Sewer District; Ed Tremblay, Emergency Services; Sandi Cross, Office for the Aging; Joanne Bosley, Carol Holley, Real Property; Press.

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

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

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

SOCIAL PROGRAMS

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with Wendy Lukas at a cost not to exceed \$30 per hour for certified dietetic services.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to accept an additional \$16,000 under the Office for the Aging for the Community Services for the Elderly funding and amending the budget thereto.**

Mr. Wickerham said there is a requirement to have a certified dietician in the Office for the Aging. The individual who was originally in the position left. An RFP was sent out with one reply from Wendy Lukas at a cost not to exceed \$30/hr. The total cost to the county would be \$28,000 before reimbursement.

The second item is additional money that has been sent down from the Community Services for the Elderly Funding in the amount of \$16,000. This will be put into the Office for the Aging budget.

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

EQUALIZATION AND ASSESSMENT

- **Authorizing the conveyance of five- (5) tax acquired parcels to the Town of Clifton Park for back taxes, penalties, and interest in the amount of \$23,533.55.**
- **Authorizing the conveyance of two Champlain Canal parcels to the Town of Saratoga for \$1,242.67, an amount equivalent to the taxes that would have been generated over the past 15 years.**
- **Authorizing the reinstatement and auction of a tax delinquent parcel in the Town of Moreau with a minimum bid of \$130,000.**
- **Authorizing conveyance of a County owned gravel pit to the Corinth School District for \$12,000, the amount of taxes which would have accrued were the property not exempt.**
- **Accepting tender offers for properties in the Towns of Clifton Park, Corinth, and Malta in an aggregate amount of \$19,475.60.**

Mr. Wickerham said the first item is with regard to five parcels in the Town of Clifton Park that the town is interested in purchasing for the back taxes, penalties and interest.

Item two is with regard to conveying two parcels in the Town of Saratoga to the town. Both parcels are located on the Champlain Canal for a total of \$1,242.67.

Item three is a reinstatement of a tax delinquent parcel. There was a parcel in the Town of Moreau that was pulled from the auction several years ago due to environmental concerns. The county would like to get them out of inventory and back on the tax rolls. Therefore, they are working with the local judges to have a system, whereby, people can clean them up and at the time they finish cleaning them up, the county will then deed the property over to them by a special auction.

Item four is the conveyance of a county owned gravel pit to the Corinth School District. This is a tax-acquired parcel that the county has kept and has been used as a gravel pit for the past ten or twelve years. The Corinth School District has come to the Town of Corinth and asked if they can purchase the parcel. After researching what the taxes would have been over the past ten or twelve years the figure was approximately \$12,000. The county would agree to convey the property to the school district for that amount.

Item five is to accept tender offers one in each of the following towns: Clifton Park, Corinth and Malta. These are people who are redeeming their properties prior to the auction, he said.

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

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with J. Thomas Roohan for a renewal of a lease for Supreme Court Justice Frank Williams in the amount of \$2,965.22 per month.**

Mr. Wickerham said this is a renewal of a lease for the Supreme Court Justice in Saratoga Springs. The total reflects a 3% increase with a one year lease.

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

PUBLIC WORKS

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into agreements with the owners of the Stewarts Dam Bridge to share in the cost of repair to the bridge for a total cost, which would not exceed \$330,000.**

Mr. Wickerham said the county is in the process of replacing the Stewarts Dam Bridge. The county has maintained for some years that it actually belongs to a private company and that the county simply has the road over the bridge. The private company maintains they own neither part of it. However, all parties agree that the bridge needs to be replaced. Through the inter-sessions of Public Works and the County Attorney's office they have finally agreed to share half of the costs.

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

RACING COMMITTEE

- **Endorsing the positions of the Concerned Citizens for Racing.**

Mr. Wickerham said the Racing Committee is bringing forth a resolution endorsing the nine points presented by the Concerned Citizens for Saratoga Racing. They are all aimed at protecting the Saratoga Racetrack, i.e., exclusive racing dates, and to ensure that horse racing remains the primary activity as opposed to other gambling activities.

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

PUBLIC SAFETY

- **Establishing April 23rd to April 29, 2006 as National Crime Victims Rights Week in Saratoga County.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to accept a \$30,000 member item grant from Senator Bruno for the purchase of a vehicle and computer hardware and software and amending the budget in relation thereto.**

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an amended contract with Blue Wing Services to allow for an additional \$60,000 in professional services relative to the County application before the Adirondack Park Agency.**
- **Ratifying the emergency purchase of a JPS-SNV-12 Space Voter for the Sheriff's Department at a cost of \$20,625.**
- **Declaring an emergency relative to the safety of the microwave communications towers and authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with Patriot Towers, Inc. to make immediate corrections at a cost not to exceed \$25,900.**
- **Authorizing the expense of \$55,000 of Capital funds for the radio system improvements recommended in the NYSTEC report.**

Mr. Wickerham said the week of April 23rd is National Crime Victims Week. As in the past, the BOS have always sponsored a resolution in recognition thereof.

Item two is a member item from Senator Bruno in the amount of \$30,000 for a vehicle and computer equipment within the District Attorney's Office.

Item three is an amended contract with Blue Wing Services. They are a group that was overseeing some of the work that is being done on the application to the APA. There is additional work that needs to be done to satisfy the APA, i.e. additional requests for information. The additional costs are approximately \$60,000, which are available within the capital project. The original contract was for \$40,000.

Item four is to ratify the emergency purchase of a JPS-SNV-12 Space Voter. This is a key component of the microwave communications system that failed. A Space Voter was very quickly secured through intermunicipal cooperation from Albany. A quick purchase needed to be made in order to stay on line, with the item costing \$20,625.

Item five is declaring an emergency relative to the safety of the microwave communications towers. A NYSTEC report expressed concerns about the tensioning of the guide wires on the current towers and the number of old antennas that were on those. Because of the immediate concern that there could be a danger to those towers, the county declared an emergency so they could go through proposals rather than a bid process. A number of proposals were made with the low proposal from Patriot Towers at \$25,900.

Item six has to do with a number of smaller expenses of various radios and equipment that could be used to try and bring the radio system back to where it was ten years ago in reliability. It is appropriate to take that money from the Capital Funds because all the equipment will be able to be used with the new capital project.

Mr. Barrett commended the Public Safety Committee for staying focused. Some very aggressive time lines were set with NYSTEC. The report came in on time and on budget and now the recommendations are before use as we move forward to improve the system in the short term.

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

INSURANCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into renewal coverage in the amount of \$29,388 for employer's liability coverage through Russell Bond and Company.**

Mr. Wickerham said the Insurance and Risk Management Committee approved a renewal contract for the employer's liability coverage, often referred to as the Dole Vs Dow Coverage. Last year the county went to a \$100,000 deductible and has maintained that. There will be a price increase from the \$28,666 in 2005 to \$29,388 in 2006.

CHAIRMAN'S ITEM

- **Appointing Rod Sutton, Jr. to the Industrial Development Agency to fill the unexpired term of Charles Wade.**

Mr. Wickerham said Mr. Sutton will be replacing Mr. Wade who resigned from the IDA last month.

SUPERVISORS' ITEM

- **Congratulating the Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake girl's volleyball team upon winning the State Championship.**

Mr. Wickerham said the supervisors' from Clifton Park, Charlton and Ballston will be congratulating the girl's volleyball team upon winning the State Championship earlier this year.

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

LAW AND FINANCE

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into a contract with Carver Construction in the amount of \$1,304,605 for replacement of pumps, controls, concrete and building components at the Englemore and the Mechanicville Pump Stations and amending the budget to re-appropriate the contract amount.**

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into a contract with Stilsing Electric in the amount of \$528,000 for installation of odor control facilities at the Saratoga Springs Pump Station and amending the budget to re-appropriate the contract amount.**

Mr. Wickerham said the above resolutions are pertaining to sewer contracts. Two months ago the funding was held over because they are part of the big capital improvement plan. The first item deals with the Englemore and Mechanicville pump stations. The \$1.3 is the low of four bids.

The second item has to do with the installation of odor control facilities at the Saratoga Springs Pump Station. There were seven bids with the lowest bid of \$528,000.

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

- **Amending the budget under Emergency Services to re-appropriate funds from the Homeland Security Program in the amount of \$143,125.**

Mr. Wickerham said the county received a Homeland Security grant last year, spending only approximately \$15,000. The county would like to spend the entire amount and is, therefore, asking to re-appropriate the funds into 2006. The funds will be used for a number of generators and the equipment to move generators in an effort to keep emergency power.

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

- **Amending the Compensation Plan under Public Health abolishing one position of Registered Nurse and creating one position of Early Intervention Care Coordinator.**

Mr. Wickerham said Public Health has determined that they would be better served by an Early Intervention Care Coordinator. There would be no difference in salary. The Early Intervention Program has become a very important and expensive program, and they are looking for someone with very specific skills.

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

- **Authorizing the Chairman to settle a claim of \$722,000 against the State of New York relative to Medicaid overpayments.**

Mr. Wickerham said the State has agreed to pay the county \$722,000 relative to some Medicaid overpayments that were made. These dealt with Mental Health and Hygiene

payments. The County Attorney has recommended this as a reasonable sum for this claim.

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

A motion was made by Mrs. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Wood to return to open session.

No action was taken.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Sansom