

## LAW AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

NOVEMBER 15, 2006 – 4:00 P.M.

Present: Chairman Barrett; Supervisors DeCerce, Hargrave, A. Johnson, M. Johnson, Peck, Wood, Lucia, Grattidge, Trottier, Sausville, Daly, Raymond, Keyrouze, Gutheil, Callanan; David Wickerham, County Administrator; William Baker, Personnel; Mark Rider, County Attorney; Wes Carr, Water Coordinator; John Murray, County Administrator; Richard Doyle, Jim DiPasquale, Bill Davis, Sewer District; Alan Kempf, Janet Glenn, Public Health; Diane Wade, Bill Fruci, Elections; John Nolan, Republican County Chairman; Janice Burns, 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. DeCerce the minutes of the October 11, 2006 meeting were approved unanimously.**

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

### Legislative and Research

- **Requesting State Legislation to include all of Saratoga County into the Hudson River Valley Greenway.**
- **Opposing the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) decision to make State training school facility rate changes retroactive to 2001-2005 and asking the legislature to outlaw all retroactive rate increases.**

Mr. Wickerham said the first item is to request State Legislation to include all of Saratoga County into the Hudson River Valley Greenway. Right now only Waterford is in, he said. After much research it was founded that there would be nothing binding to be included, however, it would give communities an opportunity to apply for various grants along the Greenway.

Mr. Wickerham said the second item is a resolution in opposition of a decision made by OCFS to make retroactive rate changes in the State Training facilities retroactive from 2001-2005. In fact, in 2005 it would be a 51% increase in the rates retroactively.

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

### SOCIAL PROGRAMS

- **Accepting \$470 in donations made in memory of Joseph DeCerce.**

- **Authorizing Office for the Aging’s 2007 Annual Implementation Plan and related contracts.**

Mr. Wickerham said the donations made in memory of Joseph DeCerco would be used for various Office for the Aging programs.

Mr. Wickerham said item two is authorizing the implementation of the 2007 Annual Implementation Office for the Aging Plan. This will allow contracts to be put together with the various towns and public service agencies that are contracted with to provide services.

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

**Public Health**

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into agreements with NYS Department of Health for the Children and Special Health Care Needs Program for the period of 10/1/06 to 9/30/09.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into amended contracts with various agencies to accept additional State Aid in the amount of \$66,332 and amending the 2006 budget:**

<b>Association for Retarded Citizens</b>	<b>\$8,355 – COLA &amp; additional funding</b>
<b>Community Human Services (CHS)</b>	<b>\$528 – COLA only</b>
<b>Community Work &amp; Independence, Inc.</b>	<b>\$5,884 – COLA &amp; additional funding</b>
<b>Northeast Career Planning</b>	<b>\$4,542 – COLA &amp; additional funding</b>
<b>Northeast Parent and Child Society</b>	<b>\$1,871 – COLA &amp; additional funding</b>
<b>Shelter of Saratoga</b>	<b>\$264 – COLA only</b>
<b>Saratoga Center for the Family</b>	<b>\$253 – COLA only</b>
<b>Transitional Services Association, Inc.</b>	<b>\$29,384 – COLA &amp; additional funding</b>
<b>Unlimited Possibilities, Inc.</b>	<b>\$7,939 – COLA &amp; additional funding</b>
<b>Mechanicville Area Community Center</b>	<b>\$312 - COLA</b>
<b>Road to Recovery Program</b>	<b>\$7,000 – additional funding</b>

Mr. Wickerham said item one is with regard to how the State is changing their way of approaching funding. The State determined they wanted to breakout the healthcare for the Children with Special Needs Program. The total is \$26,593, which will be reimbursed by the State directly.

Mr. Wickerham said in item two, the State Legislature authorized cost of living allowances for not-for-profits for a total of \$66,332.

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

### **PUBLIC SAFETY**

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with Crawford Electric Service, Inc. to install electrical service at the Spruce Mountain Communications Building in an amount not to exceed \$11,000.**

Mr. Wickerham said proposals were sent out for installing electrical service on the Spruce Mountain Communications Building. Of the three quotes received, Crawford Electric Service was the lowest at \$11,000.

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

- **Authorizing an application for \$30,377 in State Aid for the purchase of a utility vehicle and trail grooming equipment and amending the budget in relation thereto.**

Mr. Wickerham said there was a State grant available for the purchase of a Snow Trail Groomer, which the snowmobile clubs felt would be worthwhile and useful not just for membership, but for other people who use the trails for a number of other uses, such as cross country skiing. The grant requires a municipality to actually apply for and accept the grant; therefore, it had to come through an agency such as ours. We have talked with everyone involved with the trails and everyone seems to be in agreement with authorizing this. We would make application for this in the amount of \$30,377 in State Aid, which would be used to purchase, through a State contract, a snow groomer. Once it is received it would be deeded over to the snowmobile clubs and they would be responsible for insurance, liability etc., and would take responsibility of grooming the trails.

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

### **LAND PRESERVATION**

- **Adopting the Saratoga County Green Infrastructure Plan.**

Mr. Wickerham said the Land Preservation committee has adopted a Green Infrastructure Plan, which is an outline for green infrastructure within the county. It does not put any obligation on any specific town or municipality, but does give direction on how it can be obtained.

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

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into agreements with Environmental Capital LLC to act as a fiscal advisor to the County Water Project subject to the approval of the County Attorney and the Contact Administrator.**

Mr. Wickerham said four proposals were received. The Water committee agreed that Environmental Capital LLC was the most appropriate group to handle the project at a cost not exceed \$80,000.

## **LAW AND FINANCE**

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

- **Authorizing the Commissioners of Elections to provide party representatives for the 2006 election year at a cost of \$75 per person per election.**

Mr. Wickerham said as we are struggling to meet the HAVA requirements as the changeover comes from the individual municipalities to the county, one of the requirements this year was to have a party representative to oversee the machine count in each of the towns and cities, both at the primary election and at the general election. There would be 42 people, 21 from each party to handle the 19 towns and two cities for two elections with a subtotal of \$6,300, which is available within the elections budget.

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

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into agreements with Delaware Engineering to provide services relative to the expansion of the sewer plant for a cost not to exceed \$1,966,000.**

Mr. Wickerham said the Sewer District is contemplating a major expansion of the district to double the size. The first part is to get the engineering in place. An RFP was distributed with four responses ranging from \$1.9 million to \$2.5 million. All candidates have been interviewed and the Sewer District is unanimously recommending Delaware Engineering who submitted the low proposal and is also qualified to handle the project.

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

- **Repealing Resolution 142 of 2006 limiting the sales tax collection on the purchase of gasoline.**

Mr. Wickerham said in order to ensure that the savings are passed on to consumers, the Law and Finance Committee decided that it would be appropriate to repeal the resolution and determine the amount of money that was involved in the repeal and use it to further

lower the property tax. The entire Board of Supervisors will review this at the Saturday workshop as well as the Law and Finance Committee.

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

- **Authorizing levy for unpaid 2006 Sacandaga Lake maintenance assessments.**

Mr. Wickerham said there are a number of power providers that have to pay this assessment. It always has to be relieved and then a special bill is sent to them. The levy is on one owner, Branch Associates for approximately \$100,000.

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

- **Setting November 29, 2006 at 5:30 p.m. in the Saratoga County Board Rooms as the time and place for the public hearing on the 2007 budget.**
- **Adopting the 2007 County Budget (TO BE TABLED)**
- **Appropriating amounts finally set forth in the 2007 County Budget. (TO BE TABLED)**

Mr. Wickerham said there are certain things that have to be done as the budget is put together. One is to set a public hearing date, which the chairman has set for November 29<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. in the County Board Room. Also, there are resolutions needed to adopt the Saratoga County Budget and appropriate amounts set forth in the 2007 budget. Neither of these resolutions can be passed at the meeting coming up this month, but they need to be introduced.

**On a motion made by Mr. Hargrave, seconded by Mr. DeCerce the meeting was adjourned to Executive Session for the purpose of Litigation. Unanimous.**

**On a motion made by Mr. Peck, seconded by Mr. Wood the meeting was reopened to public session. Unanimous.**

**No action was taken.**

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Sansom