

LAW AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES  
OCTOBER 11, 2006 – 4:00 P.M.

Present: Chairman Barrett; Supervisors DeCerce, Hargrave, A. Johnson, M. Johnson, Peck, Wood, Raymond, Daly, Lucia, Trottier, Janik, Keyrouze, Sausville, Richardson and Gutheil; David Wickerham, County Administrator; Jack Murray, County Auditor; Michael Valentine, Planning; Kathy Marchione, County Clerk; Lori Wilkins, Deputy County Clerk; Alan Kempf; Helen Endres, Public Health; Joe Ritchey, DPW; Jim DiPasquale, Sewer Dist. #1; Mark Rider County Attorney; Sam Pitcherale, County Treasurer; Roy McDonald, Assemblyman 112<sup>th</sup> Dist.; Barbara Murphy, 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 September 13, 2006 meeting were approved unanimously.**

Mr. McDonald said the City of Mechanicville is seeking a \$100,000 matching grant along with a \$100,000 grant from Senator Bruno, which will be utilized to pursue a variety of grant applications for overall planning, especially since it is just within a few miles of where the technology park will be. Mechanicville is a one-mile city with a tremendous history and in the past a tremendous geography, he said.

Mr. Pitcherale gave a brief update on the current audits from the Treasurer's office, and distributed copies to all committee members for their review. The county continues to do a very good job with the State Transportation Assistance Program, which includes the consolidated local street, and highway improvement program, the Marchiselli program and the multi-model program.

Mr. Pitcherale said what is noteworthy in this single audit as well as the financial report is that there are no findings of any material weaknesses, no reportable conditions of internal control issues over financial reporting and no reportable conditions of internal control issues over any major programs.

Mr. Pitcherale said, in short, we know that Saratoga County finances are in great shape and this audit report for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2005 clearly states that our procedures and financial reporting is without any reportable conditions involving internal controls or financial reporting issues. The county has received an "A" from the outside independent auditors, he said.

Mr. Pitcherale said as the Board of Supervisors' considers the 2007 budget process with the condition of the county as stated in the financial report and with the process that Mr. Wickerham and the budget review committee will be going through, the county is in very good financial shape to consider continuing the tradition of reducing the county property taxes in 2007. Copies of the audit report were presented to all supervisors for their review.

## **PUBLIC HEALTH**

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

- **Authorizing Public Health Nursing to write off uncollectibles in the amount of \$918.15. (Law & Finance Approval Only)**

Mr. Wickerham said these are 2005 debts, by writing them off the county is able to apply to the bad debt pool.

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

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with the NYS Department of Health to accept a \$200,635 Bio-terrorism grant for the period beginning August 31, 2006 and ending August 30, 2007.**

Mr. Wickerham said the \$200,635 bio-terrorism grant money is based on the census report allotting \$1 per person. The funds will be used for bio-terrorism training.

## **EQUALIZATION AND ASSESSMENT**

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

- **Conveying 17 parcels sold at the September auction to the successful bidders.**
- **Approving a refund of \$7,372.56 in the Town of Clifton Park for an assessment error on sewer charges.**
- **Authorizing conveyance of lands in the Town of Moreau to Moreau Realty, LLC for \$66,000.**

Mr. Wickerham said the County Treasurer has made a report of the auction for the year. The county received a gain over the taxes owed of \$230,332.

The second item is a refund where there was an assessment error on a sewer charge, where they were put into the wrong sewer district.

The third item is the conveyance of a parcel of land in the Town of Moreau, to Moreau realty LLC for \$66,000. This is a property that has an environmental hazard. Sealed bids were sent out with the high bid of \$66,000.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

- **Directing the County Administrator to release the RFP's for the Community Emergency Notification System.**

Mr. Barrett said a memo and timeline with regard to the Community Emergency Notification System were distributed to all Supervisors. The RFP did go out with a return date of November 1, 2006.

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

### **BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS**

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with Anjerami Oliver Waldbillig Associates for replacement of the Maplewood Manor's kitchen sewer lines at a cost not to exceed \$152,506.**

Mr. Wickerham said last month there was a special resolution to declare the emergency and hire the engineers. Anjerami Oliver Waldbillig Associates was the low bid of \$152,506.

### **SUPERVISOR'S ITEM**

- **Honoring the memory of Carl Seymour former Supervisor from the Town of Northumberland.**

### **LAW AND FINANCE**

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

- **Authorizing Inter-agency transfers necessary to close out the 2006 budget.**

Mr. Wickerham said this allows money to be put toward items that are necessary without having to come back for a board resolution. When the budget is finalized a copy of all the transfers that were made pursuant to this resolution will be distributed to all supervisors.

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

- **Approving IDA bonds in the amount of \$5 million to refinance a project for the American Housing Foundation, Inc.**

Mr. Wickerham said this is a senior housing program for the Town of Malta. The project is under the municipal financing rule, which has to be approved by the BOS. This will offer the Town of Malta some additional tax breaks and does not come out of the county financially at all.

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

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an amended contract with APCC (Air Pollution Characterization and Controls) for the amended amount of \$15,000 for each year of the remaining term of the bid.**

Mr. Wickerham said this is an amended contract for the sewer district with APCC for \$15,000. APCC does testing for emissions control and pollution testing. The county has been with them for many years. In the past it has not exceeded \$10,000 and has been done under a minor contract. Bids were sent out with the low bid of \$15,000 for three years.

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

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with Info Quick Solutions for digitizing mortgages and deeds at a cost not to exceed \$162,750.**

Mr. Wickerham said this year began a two-year project with the Board of Supervisors approval for digitizing mortgages and deeds.

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

**On a motion made by Mr. Hargrave, seconded by Mr. DeCerce the meeting returned to Open Session.**

Mr. Rider said the resolution to go to the Board of Supervisors would be authorizing a settlement of the legal action entitled "Saratoga Springs Enlarged School District vs Saratoga County and others for a contribution amount of \$68,000 from Saratoga County.

**A motion was made by Mr. Hargrave, seconded by Mr. Johnson to approve a resolution authorizing a settlement between the Saratoga Springs Enlarged School District vs Saratoga County and others for a contribution amount of \$68,000 from Saratoga County. Unanimous.**

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Sansom