

A G E N D A  
February 15, 2006 5:00 p.m.

Vice-Chairman Barrett called the meeting to order.

Roll call was taken. PRESENT – Raymond F. Callanan, Alan Grattidge, Philip C. Barrett, Anita Daly, Richard Lucia, Mary Ann Johnson, Jean Raymond, George J. Hargrave, Albert Janik, Kenneth J. DeCerce, Paul Sausville, Thomas Richardson, Frank Thompson, Harry G. Gutheil, Jr., Willard H. Peck, Richard C. Hunter, Sr., Thomas N. Wood, III, Cheryl Keyrouze, Joanne Dittes Yepsen, J. Gregory Connors, John Lawler, Arthur J. Johnson - 22. ABSENT - Jeffrey Trottier – 1.

On a motion by Mr. Hargrave, seconded by Mr. Lucia, the minutes of the meeting of January 11, 2006 were approved by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Wickerham reviewed the following Agenda items:

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.

(Dale Angstadt, Mental Health Director)

Amending the 2005 County Budget under Maplewood Manor to increase appropriations and revenues by \$710,000. (Diane Brown, Maplewood Manor Director)

Mr. Wickerham stated this is an end of year adjustment to Maplewood Manor.

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. (Sandi Cross, Office for the Aging Director)

Amending resolution 194 of 2005 to increase the Capitaland Taxi transportation contract for Saratoga Springs from \$300 to \$330 per day. (Sandi Cross, Office for the Aging Director)

Mr. Wickerham stated they were the only bidder on this particular route.

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. (Sandi Cross, Office for the Aging Director)

Mr. Wickerham said this is used to help seniors make decisions on their health insurance enrollment under the new Medicare plan.

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. (Joe Ritchey, Public Works Commissioner)

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. (Joe Ritchey, Public Works Commissioner)

### 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. (Joe Ritchey, Public Works Commissioner)

Mr. Wickerham said \$8,300 is the County's share.

Authorizing the Chairman to accept a Federal Grant in the amount of \$126,400 for the preliminary engineering of the Geyser Road Bridge. (Joe Ritchey, Public Works Commissioner)

Mr. Wickerham stated \$6,320 is the County's share.

Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with Greenman Pedersen for design and bidding services on the Geyser Road Bridge for \$120,000 and the Stewart's Dam Bridge for \$158,000. (Joe Ritchey, Public Works Commissioner)

### LEGISLATIVE AND RESEARCH

Adopting the 2006 Saratoga County Legislative Program. (David Wickerham, County Administrator)

Mr. Wickerham said a copy of this was placed in each Supervisor's box.

Supporting Senate Bill 3518 to correct an inequity in the law that denied continuous service credit for women who took leaves of absence for maternity & childcare in the 1960's and 1970's. (David Wickerham, County Administrator)

Mr. Wickerham stated this is the "Forgotten Mommy Law."

### 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. (Larry Benton, Planning Director)

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. (Larry Benton, Planning Director)

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. (Larry Benton, Planning Director)

Mr. Wickerham stated additional costs were created because there were more attendees than expected.

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. (Mark Rider, County Attorney)

### 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. (Wes Carr, Project Manager)

### EQUALIZATION AND ASSESSMENT

Authorizing corrections to tax bills for three parcels located in the Town of Clifton Park. (Carol Holley, Real Property)

Mr. Wickerham stated these were due to an invalid relevy of school taxes from the Niskayuna School District.

### 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. (Sheriff Jim Bowen)

Mr. Wickerham said this will be used for equipment in the Sheriff's patrol cars.

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. (Jim Murphy, District Attorney)

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. (Mark Rider, County Attorney)

### SUPERVISORS' ITEM

Honoring the Saratoga Springs High School Girls and Boys Cross Country Team for their State Championship in 2005. (Supervisors Al Janik, Art Johnson, Cheryl Keyrouze, Paul Sausville, Frank Thompson, Tom Wood and Joanne Yepsen)

### CHAIRMAN'S ITEM

Appointing members to the County's Fire Advisory Board.

Mr. Wickerham stated these are two year terms.

### LAW AND FINANCE

Amending the budget under Emergency Services to reappropriate funds for the purchase of emergency 911 call recording devices in the amount of \$130,532. (Ed Tremblay, Acting Emergency Services Director)

Amending the budget under the Sheriff's Department to reappropriate funds for the Wireless 911 system in the amount of \$1,539,721 (Jim Bowen, Sheriff)

Mr. Wickerham stated most of the work will be done this year.

Amending the budget under Public Works to reappropriate \$722,000 for the Jail Locking Control system. (Joe Ritchey, Public Works Commissioner)

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. (Jim DiPasquale, Sewer District Director)

Authorizing payroll deductions for County employees for membership in Federal Credit Unions. (Bill Baker, Personnel Director)

Mr. Wickerham stated employees will not be limited to just one credit union within Saratoga County.

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. (George Hodgson, Environmental Management Director)

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. (Chris Callaghan, County Treasurer)

Chairman Gutheil stated the Search Committee formed last August has conducted interviews to fill the vacancy of Emergency Services Director left by Al Dewey. He stated there were 83 applicants, and 15 were interviewed. He said he will be appointing Paul Lent who worked for the County from 1977-1980 in

that same position. Paul has experience in radio communications, has dealt with the APA, and is familiar with the territory that goes with the job. He then introduced Paul Lent who will be starting on March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Peck introduced Melissa Barry, from Behan Associates, who is currently working on the Green Infrastructure Plan, to update the Supervisors on what they have been working on.

Ms. Barry said she is here today in John Behan's place. What we have accomplished to date is a testament to what the future of this project holds, she said. She said they started the inventory phase of this plan last fall. We collected 100 different local plans and documents, she said. She stated they met with many community leaders and compiled a GIS database with over 100 layers in it. It will be an opportunity for future County mapping for all County projects, she said.

Ms. Barry stated in October and November last year, they conducted regional visioning workshops. We asked people to tell us what resources rises to the top for them. In each of those areas, we broke them down into categories, and we developed a sub-regional vision. In December, we met with many representatives of natural resources, agricultural experts and community leaders. These were presented at the County Planning Conference in January, she said. She said they received some really good feedback and enthusiasm in support of the Green Infrastructure Plan. We are taking these visions and are still looking for feedback on them, she said. She stated they are very much interested in meeting one on one to focus in on your area. She said they are starting to talk about accomplishing these goals. We are hoping to have a next set of workshops, maybe in late Spring, going to different areas than the last time, she added. She stated they will draft the plan with the community guiding the effort which will then be presented to the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Peck thanked Melissa for all her hard work and diligentness. He said local communities will be the ones to implement this.

Mr. DeCerce said as the Board's liaison to Cooperative Extension, he put in the Supervisors' mailboxes some informational materials and a yellow card indicating the dates of the 4-H breakfasts. He mentioned the first one is Sunday, 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the 4-H Training Center.

Mr. Johnson invited all Supervisors to attend the Legislative & Research Committee's annual meeting with the State Legislators on March 9<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. He said transportation will be provided. We will be leaving here at 12:45 p.m., he said. He requested the Supervisors to please let Pam in the County Administrator's office know if they will be attending.

Mr. Lawler asked what the \$10 million funding from the Water Committee involves. Mr. Callanan stated this is money from Senator Bruno. We have gone through all applications, and this is the resolution that accesses the money through the Board, he said.

Mr. Lawler asked if there were any penalties if the County does not move forward with this project. Would the County have to repay this \$10 million, he asked. We should know ahead of time before we spend this if there is a possibility this would have to be repaid, he said. Mr. Callanan said we will answer that question before the vote. Mr. Lawler requested some kind of a written verification on this matter.

#### PUBLIC INPUT

Martin Hanahan, President of the Saratoga County Farm Bureau, said he is a dairy farmer in the Town of Saratoga. He is partners with his brother, Pat, and they milk 600 Holsteins in two locations. They raise crops on 1400 acres of land in Saratoga County. They crop land as far north as Wilton to 20 miles south in Stillwater. They have had the pleasure of working with numerous past and present Saratoga County Supervisors, and they hope to continue that into the future.

Mr. Hanahan stated the New York Farm Bureau is an organization made up of 36,000 members and out of those, the Saratoga County Farm Bureau has over 520 members. The Farm Bureau is a non-governmental, non-profit, grassroots organization controlled by member families for the purpose of solving economic and public policy issues that challenge upstate New York and the agriculture industry. Farm Bureau is local,

state and national in scope and lobbies on its members' behalf at those levels. Since we are grassroots, our policies are developed by our members at the local level. These are local farmers, landowners, and agribusiness people who are interested or involved with a rural way of life and protection open space.

Mr. Hanehan said the Saratoga County Farm Bureau is against the City of Saratoga Springs or anyone else using Saratoga Lake as a drinking water source. With the watershed having 244 square miles that covers 11 towns, plus the City of Saratoga Springs and the Village of Ballston Spa, we estimate that 40% of the agricultural land in the County is in the Saratoga Lake watershed. Out of over 574 farms in the County, we estimate that about half are in the Saratoga Lake watershed, he stated. He said far more smaller farms will be impacted by this than larger farms. Many of the larger farms are outside the watershed. Many of the smaller farms will find it an economical hardship to comply with regulations and might have to exit farming. We want to avoid this, he said.

Mr. Hanehan stated regulations and restrictions are costly to everyone and sometimes are put in place without proper study of their intent. Farms in Saratoga County already have regulations in place and are doing an excellent job with water quality issues. Further regulations would just be a cost and a paper burden. He stated the City is pursuing the Lake, even though the cost will be more for the City residents over other alternatives. The County plan will also end up costing more per resident if it was to have two water sources to meet the needs of the people. The city plan will cost everyone in the County more money as property values decline in the watershed due to regulations and restrictions. It would not be possible to draw water from Saratoga Lake without regulations and restrictions while being under control of the DOH, DEC, and EPA. DEC has categorized Saratoga Lake as being stressed already, he stated.

Mr. Hanehan said buying a house in the watershed then having its value decrease would be a problem. Buying a house and then being told you couldn't fertilize your lawn would be a problem. Having lake access and being told you couldn't use it would be a problem.

Mr. Hanehan said why would the City of Saratoga Springs want to use Saratoga Lake when it's a fact it will cost the residents more; it's a fact the studies have all shown that the water quality is not as good in Saratoga Lake; and it's a fact that in 2004, the City Council passed a resolution to consider participation in the County Water System and did not adopt the Saratoga Lake alternative. The Saratoga County Farm Bureau urges all of the Supervisors to help stop this plan.

Mr. Hanehan said the Saratoga County Farm Bureau has put together a packet with their resolutions as well as contact information and different articles, flyers and membership applications for anyone who might be interested in their organization. If you have any feedback or questions, please feel free to call us, he said. Thank you, and we look forward to working with you in the future, he added.

Dean Casey, Saratoga County Farm Bureau Board of Directors, reviewed the 10 resolutions that they have adopted:

1. Opposing Saratoga Lake becoming a drinking water source for any municipalities;
2. Support funding of the Agriculture Economic Development position in Saratoga County;
3. Support continued funding of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Saratoga County;
4. Recommend continued full funding of the Fair by Saratoga County;
5. Recommend multiple use trails, both new and existing, on State, County and local lands, be preserved as such;
6. Appreciating the County's efforts for farmland protection funding and encourage continuation and increased funding for the program;
7. Recommend the addition of an adult equine position to the Cornell Cooperative Extension Association of Saratoga County;
8. Supporting the efforts to support a capital USDA inspected district livestock processing facility in this region;
9. Recommend that the Saratoga County Fair not be scheduled any earlier than the third week in July;
10. Supporting the work of the New York Farm Viability Institute and encourage increased funding for the benefit of agriculture in New York State.

Dave Cummings said he is the Secretary and Equine Committee Chairman, Saratoga County Farm Bureau and a member of the New York Farm Bureau's Equine Committee. He thanked the Board for supporting the request to fund an Equine Research Specialist position at the Cornell Cooperative Extension Office. The position announcement will be issued soon and couldn't come at a better time for residents of this County, he said.

Mr. Cummings said the local media covers concerns and developments with the New York Racing Association, the managers of our beloved Saratoga Flat Track. But thoughts on various calls for action at NYRA must only be part of our continuing mutual concern. He stated draft horses, jumpers, standardbreds, thoroughbreds, and pleasure riding horses have graced his family properties since the late 1880's and have been central to family economic standing. Maintaining horses and operating an equine activity is very costly but also very supportive to the greater Saratoga County commerce. Unlike many other agricultural commodities, equine has been slow to be recognized as a commodity, he said. We don't produce milk, honey and wool, but the year-round economic impact is immense, he stated. Recently recognized by the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets as the largest horse industry (population) in New York State, please consider that Saratoga County residents produce directly or cause to be produced indirectly:

- Hundreds of thoroughbreds with the nation's most successful state breeding incentive program;
- Hundreds of thoroughbred yearlings sold at two public auctions;
- Hundreds of jobs, such as veterinarians, feed and grain suppliers, farriers, building contractors, farm equipment companies, and a variation of horse handlers;
- Hundreds of satisfied equine participants and observers, such as the St. Clements' and Skidmore horse shows, at polo and dressage events, and at Saratoga Gaming and Raceway special events;
- Hundreds of hospitality industry staff serving these events, the training days at the Oklahoma site, and racing days at both the Saratoga Gaming and Raceway and Saratoga Racecourse;
- Hundreds of thousands of dollars in equine operations' property and sales taxes and rental income;
- An estimated \$1.1 million dollars in 2005 property taxes at the Saratoga Racecourse.

Mr. Cummings requested that the Board of Supervisors to help monitor and reasonably guide encroachments on the industry in town towns and County, such as:

- Oppose requirements of special use permits for equine operations;
- Oppose local efforts at legislating beyond already established sound management practices;
- Support a state definition of agriculture as recognized by the Department of Agriculture and Markets to include current employment of real property for the grazing, breeding, managing, selling or producing livestock real property employed for the primary purpose of obtaining a profit by stabling or training equines, including but not limited to providing riding lessons, training clinics, and schooling shows, and other on-farm niche marketing promotion;
- Support the aforementioned multiple use of new and existing trails;
- Expand, improve, and maintain the County Fairground facilities to bring them in line with industry standards;
- Oppose video lottery terminal (VLT) expansion outside of racetracks, thereby ensuring the benefit to agriculture;
- Exempt indoor riding and training rings from NYS building and local codes in a manner similar to building structures that are used for solely agricultural purposes.

Mr. Cummings thanked the Board for the opportunity today for the Saratoga County Farm Bureau to provide commentary for your future deliberations in support of Saratoga County's agricultural community and its appreciating fellow County residents.

On a motion by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Hargrave, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine M. Sodemann