

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE MEETING

April 10, 2006 – 3:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Chairman M. Johnson; Supervisors Grattidge, Hargrave, Hunter, Janik, Richardson, Thompson, Gutheil; David Wickerham, Co. Administrator; Joe Ritchey, Rick Gardner, DPW-Bldgs.; Jim DiPasquale, Sewer District; Steve Williams, Daily Gazette

Chairman Johnson called the meeting to order.

Mr. Hargrave moved to approve the minutes of the March 13th meeting. Mr. Thompson seconded. Unanimous.

Mr. DiPasquale requested **approval for granting two easements for access to the Saratoga County Sewer District interceptor line.** He stated a residence in the Town of Clifton Park and one in the Town of Halfmoon are looking to utilize our sewer line, and they need to cross County property. Our County property has the interceptor line, and to cross County property, an easement has to be put in place. He stated these are single family homes. **Mr. Richardson moved to approve these easements. Mr. Hunter seconded. Unanimous.**

Mr. Ritchey distributed copies of the final Architect's Report on County Complex addition/renovation and Mental Health/Public Health space needs. Chairman Johnson requested the Committee to look these over before next month's meeting, and come back with any questions. We can get the architect back in if we need to, she said.

Chairman Johnson said we had the opportunity to visit Public Health and Mental Health, and she recommended visiting the courthouses to see their setup. You may want to visit the damage to the interior structures to some of the buildings, she said. She stated these arrangements can be made by calling Joe or Rick. I will make the arrangements for the court system for a day to visit them, she added.

Mr. Thompson said it seems like we are not building anything here for the future. Mr. Ritchey mentioned the project is through 2011. Mr. Thompson said maybe we should look at a new building somewhere else, because the County will be growing bigger. We have a shot this time of doing it right, he said. Chairman Johnson asked him how many years is he looking at, and he said 10 to 12 years. Mr. Ritchey said the architects are just putting a percentage of space to it. They do not know the future of the County, he said.

Mr. Janik said maybe our planning is short ranged. We should allow for future expansion of a building down the road. He mentioned the cost would be unbelievable to build on this building or any of our other buildings. Our plans should include projection for future expansion.

Mr. Ritchey said they tend to find when departments move into a new building, they fill it up.

Chairman Johnson said she will be distributing a graph form of how much our personnel and County has grown over the last 40 years.

Mr. Grattidge said that Dale Angstadt seemed to indicate the need to be in close proximity to the hospital. Can we get some kind of a handle of all lease arrangements up there. Would they be able to remain there? If they can live being further away from the hospital, there is a medical building on the other side of the bank that has a For Rent sign up, he said. Maybe we can look at rental options, he added. He said the Public Health building seems to have some structure needs. He said they need to be reorganized for security there. Right now, the building is wide open to anyone, he said. To me, it seems like Mental Health has more immediate needs than Public Health, he said. He asked if there was a possibility of transferring some services to the hospital. Chairman Johnson said she will ask Mr. Ritchey to contact the hospital on what it would cost them to provide the services we are providing for out patient services.

Chairman Johnson said SEDC and the IDA are working on a plan to come up with available land and buildings. I have asked Ken Green to give us this information within 1½ miles from the hospital, she said. She stated after we look over everything, we can start to put our recommendations together for the Law & Finance Committee, and this may take a couple of months. Mr. Janik said Public Health and Mental Health have to justify more why they have to be in Saratoga Springs. Chairman Johnson said it is important they be on a direct transportation line.

Mr. Grattidge said he heard 50% of the clientele are from the City, so should the City be shouldering some of the costs for these services? Mr. Wickerham said the Friendship House is for those deinstitutionalized. Most come from the Wilton catchment area, he said. Mr. Thompson asked if we are the only County around with a Mental Health unit. Mr. Wickerham said no, some counties combine the services.

Mr. Thompson said what happens if Saratoga Hospital took over these services – what about the County employees? Chairman Johnson said the Hospital would take them on. Some of them are not County employees, she said. Mr. Wickerham said there are two satellite offices in Mechanicville and Clifton Park. Mr. Grattidge said Glens Falls Hospital is providing both inpatient and outpatient services for Warren County.

Mr. Wickerham stated it is very confusing, and Dale would have to provide the information. I do not have the knowledge to tell how our program differs from someone elses, he said.

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

Respectfully submitted, Elaine M. Sodemann