

Law and Finance Committee Minutes

May 13, 2009 – 4:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Peck; Supervisors Daly, Grattidge, Hargrave, Sausville, Thompson, Wood, Southworth, Yepsen, Rowland, Wright, A. Johnson, Veitch, and Lucia; David Wickerham, County Administrator; Paul Pelagalli, Mark Rider, County Attorney; John Murray, County Auditor; Dale Angstadt, Mental Health; Jason Kemper, Planning; Paul Lent, Emergency Services; Paul Viscusi, Probation; Sam Pitcheralle, Gerald Lundgren, Treasurer; Kate Jeanson, LoAnn Sanders, County Clerk; Spencer Hellwig, Mgmt. Analyst; Robert Christopher, Social Services; Jack Kalinkewicz, Personnel; Brandy Burns, Barbara Shay, Residents; Barbara Thomas, League of Women Voters; Press.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Grattidge, seconded by Mr. Sausville the minutes of the April 15, 2009 meeting were approved unanimously.

Public Input:

Ms. Brandy Burns – 145 Oak Street, Ballston Lake, NY

Ms. Burns asked how much is the grant for the Zim Smith Trail?
What is the importance of putting the trail so close to the railroad?
At what cost is it going to be to the county?

Mr. Thompson asked Mr. Kemper what the grant money would cover?

Mr. Kemper said back in 2002, the Board of Supervisors authorized the County to apply for a federal grant to construct the Zim Smith Trail from Coons Crossing in Halfmoon to Oak Street. At that time a grant was received for \$686,000 and the county matched it with \$174,000. The trail currently has been built up to Underpass Road. This project will have no cost to the County as it will be covered by federal stimulus money.

Ms. Daly said after walking the entire Zim Smith Trail she is 100% certain that all the improvements that are about to be made to the trail will significantly enhance the safety of the trail.

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

PUBLIC HEALTH

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into amended contacts with various agencies and amending the budget under Mental Health to accept an additional \$43,168 in state funding as follows:**

Cost of living adjustments:

Unlimited Potential	\$14,161
United Cerebral Palsy of Tri Counties, Inc.	\$ 1,450
Transitional Services Association, Inc.	\$ 6,618
Northeast Career	\$ 2,773
Franklin Community Center	\$ 330
Community, Work & Independence, Inc.	\$ 348
Saratoga Bridges NYSARC, Inc.	\$11,424
Alcohol & Substance Abuse Council	\$ 5,458
820 River Street, Inc.	\$ 606

- **Authorizing amendments to the contract with Northeast Parent & Child to provide for intensive respite at an hourly rate of \$28.75.**
- **Supporting State and Federal health care reforms to meet the growing cost and demand for health related services in Saratoga County.**

Mr. Wickerham said the State approved COLA for private agencies two years ago. These monies will be pass through money that will be forwarded directly to the agencies for the approved cost of living increases from the State.

The second item is a new program that is available for intensive respite services for people with mental health diagnosis. The payment for the service will be \$28.75/hr., which is a rate that has been approved by the State. All the money for this program will come from the State, for an approximate total of \$25,000/yr. for all the respite programs in Mental Health.

The third item is a resolution supporting healthcare reforms, recognizing that there is a growing need of healthcare and the need for people to be able to access services.

On a motion made by Mr. Grattidge, seconded by Mr. Sausville the following were approved unanimously.

EQUALIZATION AND ASSESSMENT

- **Canceling taxes on six parcels in the Town of Edinburg in the amount of \$619.53.**
- **Authorizing conveyance of two tax acquired parcels to the Town of Clifton Park in the amount of \$2,723.61.**

Mr. Wickerham said the first item is to cancel taxes on six parcels in the town of Edinburg. These are parcels that have been taken by the state within the last year. A bill was sent out as if they were still owned by the private owner. These parcels were all taken in anticipation of the reconstruction of the Batchelerville Bridge.

The second item is the authorization of the conveyance of two parcels in Clifton Park that were tax delinquent and went through the auction process. In the event the owner does not redeem them, the town can redeem the property for principle, interest and taxes owed.

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

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

- **Authorizing the reimbursement of \$40,000 from the anticipated Animal Shelter bond for road relocation and pole barn removal completed by the County Public Works Department.**
- **Authorizing an easement over County property to the Luther Forest Technology Campus Economic Development Corporation to allow them to bring sewer pipes into the Saratoga County Sewer District trunk line.**

Mr. Wickerham said the county is building a new pole barn as part of the new animal shelter project. If the county wants to bond the project, there will need to be a resolution on file stating that the \$40,000 that the county expects to spend is now eligible for bonding, even though the bonding will not occur until later in the year.

The second item is authorization of an easement over County property in the Luther Forest Technology Campus. They will be the largest user of the Saratoga County Sewer District, and will need to cross the county sewer property in order to get the lines to the main plant.

On a motion made by Mr. Sausville, seconded by Mr. Grattidge the following were approved unanimously.

PUBLIC WORKS

- **Authorizing the Chairman to execute all the necessary agreements to accept a Federal Stimulus Grant in the amount of \$464,000 for the resurfacing of CR 108 (Dunning Street) in the Town of Malta.**
- **Amending the Public Works budget by increasing expenditures and revenues by \$464,000 to accommodate a Federal Stimulus Grant.**

Mr. Wickerham said the surfacing of Dunning Street is a stimulus project that has been authorized in the town of Malta. This is 100% federally funded.

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

PUBLIC SAFETY

- **Amending the budget under Probation to accept an additional \$205,228 in State Aid and authorizing the Chairman to enter into agreements with Berkshire Farms for \$85,000 and CAPTAIN of Shenendehowa for \$16,228 for counseling and respite services.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to amend the budget to accept \$82,000 in funding from the New York state Office of Homeland security to purchase dive team equipment and training for the Sheriff's Department.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to accept a \$17,500 Road to Recovery Grant from the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services for the Steps/Road to Recovery Program from January 1, 2009 through March 31, 2009.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to amend the budget to accept a \$13,100 Legislative grant and authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement AR Systems Group, Inc. to provide secure shelving for criminal case files.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into agreements with Baron Utilities to complete work required to co-locate County radio equipment at the FAA tower site in Stillwater at a cost of \$61,200.**

Mr. Wickerham said the first item in Public Safety and the first item in Social Programs are linked as they deal with the same grant. There is an additional grant in the amount of \$236,228 that is available and will be going through Social Services. Social Services will accept the money and keep some of it for administration and the remaining will be sent to Probation to provide alternatives to secure detention for minors. This is 100% state funded.

The second item is a homeland security grant. Every year the County receives a number of homeland security grants that are used partly for law enforcement and emergency services. This grant has been approved to go toward the dive team and equipment for training through the Sheriff's department.

The third item authorizes the acceptance of a Road to Recovery Grant. The grant is much lower than it has been in the past, accommodating only three months of the program. There is concern that the State is going to phase the funding out completely.

The fourth item is a legislative grant for secure shelving for criminal records in the District Attorney's office.

The fifth item is dealing with the installation of radio equipment as part of the radio project. Bids were sent out for the co-location of the equipment with six bids received. The low bid was \$61,200, with the second bid \$10,000 higher and the highest bid at \$134,470.

On a motion made by Ms. Daly, seconded by Mr. Sausville the following were approved unanimously.

SOCIAL PROGRAMS

- **Authorizing the Chairman to amend the budget to accept an additional \$236,228 in State aid for the Department of Social Services to pass through to the Probation Department and the Mental Health Department for juvenile delinquency services.**
- **Authorizing Workforce Investment Board budget for program year 2009 for \$88,467 and authorizing the Chairman to enter into agreements with Warren and Washington Counties and other entities to fund WIB services.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into a renewal agreement Adirondack Community College for the Workforce Investment Board staffing services from July 1, 2008 through June 20, 2010 for a sum not to exceed \$79,467.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into a renewal agreement with Cornell Cooperative Extension to administer the 2009 Workforce Investment Act Youth Program at a cost not to exceed \$35,000 from July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010.**

Mr. Wickerham said the first item is linked to the public safety grant. All other resolutions are for the Workforce Investment Board and the Employment and Training Department. The Workforce Investment Board is a required board to operate the federal money. They have to have their own budget, which is separate from the three counties that make up the board's budget. The amount that has been approved for 2009 is \$88,467. All money comes from the federal government and does not require a County match.

The Workforce Investment Board has a director and rather than put the director on County payroll, which would include Washington and Warren counties as well, the County chose instead to have an agreement with Adirondack Community College, where the college would employ the director.

The fourth item is a renewal agreement with Cooperative Extension. The federal money will be used for an employment program for at risk youth, which will operate through Cooperative Extension. This program is 100% Federally funded.

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

LEGISLATIVE AND RESEARCH

- **Supporting the continued operation of the New York State DEC Tree Nursery in Saratoga Springs and recommending that DEC institute changes to make the operation economically viable.**

Mr. Wickerham said the Legislative and Research Committee is supporting the continuation of the NYS DEC Tree Nursery in Saratoga Springs. They are also recommending that the DEC take a close look at the business plan and make changes necessary to make the operation economically viable.

LAW AND FINANCE

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

- **Updating the County investment program to provide for the maximum amount to be kept in any one bank to \$30,000,000.**

Mr. Wickerham said there is a county investment policy that is established by the Law and Finance Committee for the Board of Supervisors. The treasurer is requesting one change to the policy to increase the amount that is kept in any one bank to \$30,000,000 so the county can obtain the maximum interest rate.

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

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with Brink's incorporated to provide cash courier services for the Saratoga County Clerk at a rate of 20 per trip. The payment to Brink's will actually be made by SBC.**

Mr. Wickerham said the County Clerk has a significant amount of cash that they need to transfer to a bank on a regular basis and they are looking to transfer to HSBC. HSBC has an agreement with Brink's to be their pickup agent, therefore, Brink's will be picking up at the two satellite offices in Wilton and Clifton Park as well as the County, at a rate of \$20 per trip. The \$20 per trip will be paid by HSBC as part of the agreement.

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

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with the NYS Department of Transportation to accept \$1,700,000 in Federal stimulus funding for the construction of the Zim Smith Trail and amending the budget in relation thereto.**

Mr. Wickerham said this is stimulus money for the complete construction of the Zim Smith Trail and amending the budget thereto. There are a number of legal steps that have to be taken to make sure it complies with both State and Federal regulations, which the County Attorney will oversee.

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

On a motion made by Ms. Daly, seconded by Mr. Grattidge the meeting was reopened to regular session. Unanimous.

No Action Taken.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom