

Law and Finance Committee Minutes
November 12, 2014 - 4:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Veitch; Supervisors Collyer, Daly, Grattidge, Kinowski, Lewza, Wright, Sausville, Wood, Johnson, Lucia, Raymond, Martin, Jenkins, and Lawler; Spencer Hellwig, Administrator; Ryan Moore, Mgmt. Analyst; Sandi Cross, Office for the Aging; Tina Potter, Social Services; Kevin Mullahey, Michael Zurlo, Sheriff; Marcy McNamara, Jack Kalinkewicz, Robert Hartman, Personnel; Chad Cooke, Sewer District; Joanne Bosley, Real Property; Keith Manz, Public Works; Brian O'Connor, Auditor; Catherine Duncan, Public Health; Diane Brown, Maplewood Manor; Drew Jarosh, Sam Pitcherale, Treasurer; Craig Hayner, County Clerk; Steve Dorsey, County Attorney; Press.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Kinowski, seconded by Mr. Wright the minutes of the October 15, 2014 meeting were approved unanimously.

EQUALIZATION AND ASSESSMENT

- **Authorizing the deletion from the tax rolls of a parcel located in the City of Saratoga Springs, and authorizing a tax refund for the deleted parcel.**
- **Amending the Manual of Procedures and Policies of the Equalization and Assessment Committee to allow industrial development agencies, public authorities, and local development corporations to purchase foreclosed properties prior to the auction date.**

Mr. Hellwig said the first item is to correct an error made by the City of Saratoga Springs, where a tax parcel was subdivided into two separate parcels. The owner was billed for three parcels and as a result had paid property taxes on three parcels. The refund to the taxpayer will be \$866.86.

The second resolution will revise the Equalization and Assessment Committee's policy that currently allows municipalities and not for profit corporations to purchase foreclosure properties from the county for municipal or corporate purposes prior to the auction sale, by paying the delinquent taxes, penalties and interest. The policy change in the resolution will allow the IDA to pay the delinquent taxes and acquire title to the property subject to any conditions set by the E&A Committee.

On a motion made by Mr. Collyer, seconded by Mr. Lewza the above resolutions were approved unanimously.

PERSONNEL

- **Authorizing the renewal of the health insurance contract with Empire Blue Cross for medical and prescription drug coverage at an annual cost of \$22,919,128.**
- **Authorizing the renewal of the dental contract with Blue Shield of NENY at an annual cost of \$615,194.**
- **Authorizing a \$2,048,411 renewal agreement with United Health Care for all Medicare eligible retirees accessing coverage under the county's health insurance contracts.**
- **Approving and ratifying the 2012-2018 contracts with the Saratoga County Deputy Sheriff's Police Benevolent Association and amending the 2014 budget in relation thereto.**
- **Amending the Compensation Plan to create one (1) position of Early Intervention Program Manager at a base amount of \$50,833 effective November 21, 2014.**

Mr. Hellwig said the first three resolutions are all related to Health and Dental Insurance for County Employees as well as retirees.

The first item will authorize a renewal of the medical prescription health insurance policies. Over the past several months, Mr. Moore, the Personnel Office and the consultant from Marshall and Sterling have worked on this renewal. A recommendation was made to the Personnel Committee to forward the recommendation on to the Law and Finance Committee, recommending a renewal with Empire Blue Cross for the coverage at a cost of \$22,919,128 for 2015.

The second item will also authorize a renewal for dental coverage for active employees, which will be with Northeastern New York at a cost of \$615,194.

The third item is a renewal agreement with United Healthcare to provide coverage under the Medicare Advantage Plan for retirees that are 65 or older and Medicare eligible. The Medicare Advantage PPO and POS policies do provide full coverage for retirees. The reduced premium is a function of United Healthcare obtaining a federal subsidy which is passed along to the county.

The fourth item is for the approval of a collective bargaining agreement for contract years 2012 through 2018 for the Deputy Sheriff's Police Benevolent Association. A vote took place on October 7, 2014 that was approved. The agreement will provide an off base payment for contract year 2012 of \$500, and then 2% for every year thereafter through 2018. The agreement will also include all pre-1998 employees to make a contribution toward their health insurance. He said all county employees will now be contributing toward their health insurance coverages.

The final item is an amendment to the compensation schedule to create (1) Early Intervention Program Manager, who will be responsible for the oversight and supervision of the Early Intervention Program in the Public Health Nursing Department.

On a motion made by Ms. Daly, seconded by Mr. Grattidge the above resolutions were approved unanimously.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- **Authorizing a logging revenue agreement with G&T Enterprises for a timber harvest on two county-owned parcels in the Town of Corinth.**
- **Designating the Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce as the County Tourism Promotion Agency and authorizing the Chamber to apply for "I Love NY" grants for 2015.**

Mr. Hellwig said the first item is the awarding of a logging contract to G&T Enterprises, who was the high bidder on two county owned parcels located in the Town of Corinth. The projected revenue for the timber that is going to be harvested on these parcels is just over \$96,000 for 2015.

Mr. Hellwig said in order for the Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce to apply for "I Love NY" grants they need to receive the Board of Supervisors designation as the county's Tourism Promotion Agency. In addition to that, the funding that is provided by the county for them to do tourism promotion within the county is used by them as a match to draw down the State funds.

On a motion made by Mr. Kinowski, seconded by Ms. Daly the above resolutions were approved unanimously.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS/PUBLIC SAFETY

- **Authorizing a lease of space at Wilton Mall for a Sheriff's Department substation and an inter-municipal agreement with the Town of Wilton for the payment of certain lease related expenses.**

Mr. Hellwig said Sheriff Zurlo and the Town of Wilton have negotiated with Wilton Mall to obtain approximately 920 sq. ft. of space in the mall to serve as a new substation. The lease will be for a term of five years with the option to renew for an additional five year term. The rent will be for \$1/yr. There will be costs associated with renovating the space, which the county will be sharing with the town of Wilton. Any other additional costs, relative to utilities, will be covered through an inter-municipal agreement between the County and the Town of Wilton.

On a motion made by Mr. Lewza, seconded by Mr. Collyer the above resolution was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC SAFETY

- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with the NYS Office of Homeland Security to accept a \$72,500 2014 Homeland Security Grant and amending the budget in relation thereto.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with the NYS Office of Homeland Security to accept a \$165,862 Public Safety Answering Points.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with the NYS Office of Homeland Security to accept a \$587,162 Consolidation and Sustainment grant for upgrades to the Emergency 911 network and amending the budget in relation thereto.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with Albany Medical Center.**

Mr. Hellwig said the first item is for \$72,500, which is the balance of a \$290,000 Homeland Security Grant. Last month the Board approved \$217,000 for Emergency Services, and the remainder of the grant is represented by the \$72,500 amount. That portion represents 25%, which under the terms of the grant must be spent on law enforcement and terrorism prevention activities.

The second item is for \$165,862, a public safety answering point operations grant that will be used to offset costs with the public safety call taking and dispatching expenses. It will also result in an amendment to the tentative budget.

The third item, \$587,162 is another part of the grant. Its primary use will be part of a consolidation initiative that involves the Sheriff's Department, City of Mechanicville, City of Saratoga Springs and the Town of Waterford; \$87,162 of the total will be placed in the 2014 budget for purchases that will be made before the end of the year. The balance of \$500,000 will be placed in the 2015 budget.

The final item is a request for a contract with Albany Medical Center. Up to this point, there has been a minor contract with Albany Medical Center for laboratory services, x-rays and access to the mortuary and other services that are provided to the Coroner's office. In 2013 the contract was exceeded by \$569. Currently, the contract is just under \$6,000 over the limit, which it is a function of the volume of cases, the rates have not changed. The Public Safety Committee has approved a contract not to exceed \$25,000 and has approved the expenses that have exceeded the minor contract.

On a motion made by Mr. Kinowski, seconded by Mr. Lewza the above resolutions were approved unanimously.

PUBLIC HEALTH

- **Authorizing the Chairman to execute all necessary contracts and documents with the NYS Department of Health to accept a Children with Special Health Care Needs grant, and all necessary subcontracts to continue such program, from October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2017.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to accept additional aid from the NYS Department of Health in the amount of \$1,133 for the Children with Special Healthcare Needs Program.**
- **Authorizing an agreement with Attentive Care to provide supplemental staffing services at Maplewood Manor in an amount not to exceed \$30,000.**

Mr. Hellwig said the first item is a three year grant cycle with the State to provide funding for the Children with Special Healthcare Needs. The \$84,000 amounts to approximately \$28,000/year.

The second item is additional funding that is being provided by the Department of Health and will be used by Public Health to update the guides that are used by families who have children receiving the services under the Special Healthcare Needs Program.

The final item is a minor contract that is in place to cover staffing issues that have come up at Maplewood Manor, in terms of having enough employees on staff to run the facility. The current contract of \$10,000 is not going to be enough to cover the anticipated needs to make sure there is adequate staffing. This resolution would authorize an agreement for up to \$30,000.

On a motion made by Mr. Kinowski, seconded by Mr. Wright the above resolutions were approved unanimously.

SOCIAL PROGRAMS

- **Authorizing the Chairman to approve the 2015 Annual Implementation Plan for the Office for the Aging and enter into contracts with all agencies that provide services under the plan.**
- **Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with Nemer Chrysler Jeep Dodge Ram of Saratoga to lease a van for senior transportation for \$364.36 per month for a 39-month term.**

Mr. Hellwig said the first item is for the authorization of the Office for the Aging's annual implementation plan. This authorization is needed to draw down State and Federal revenues to provide funding to cover the costs associated with the various programs that are provided by

the Office for the Aging. This resolution will also authorize all the subcontracts that are used to provide the services.

The second item is authorization for a three-year lease agreement with Nemer Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge Ram of Saratoga to lease a van to transport seniors to medical appointments. Nemer of Saratoga was the low bidder of three proposals received.

On a motion made by Mr. Collyer, seconded by Mr. Wright the above resolutions were approved unanimously.

LAW AND FINANCE

- **Authorizing an agreement with Trinity Construction, Inc. for the construction of replacements of the Saratoga County Sewer District's main sewage pumps #2 and #5 in an amount not to exceed \$104,583.**

Mr. Hellwig said in May the Board of Supervisors ratified an emergency condition, and authorized the Sewer District to procure engineering services for the replacement of two sewage pumps that had been plagued with chronic failures over the past year. As a result of the contract, the work was bid out and the low bidder to conduct the repairs was Trinity Construction at a cost of \$104,583.

On a motion made by Ms. Daly, seconded by Mr. Grattidge the above resolution was approved unanimously.

- **Authorizing an agreement with GHD Consulting Services, Inc. to conduct the Saratoga County Sewer District's Incinerator Alternative Study in an amount not to exceed \$42,500.**

Mr. Hellwig said the Board of Supervisors appropriated \$910,000 from the Sewer Districts fund balance last month to cover the estimated costs associated with transporting the solids from the facility to a landfill. A recommendation has been forwarded to the Board for approval, which is to authorize a contract with GHD Consulting Services, Inc. who will conduct an alternative study on whether or not they should move forward with the repair of the existing incinerator or find an alternative way to deal with the sludge which is a part of the water treatment process.

On a motion made by Mr. Lewza, seconded by Mr. Grattidge, the above resolution was approved unanimously.

- **Amending the 2014 Adopted Budget to transfer \$150,000 from Fund #2 into Fund #3 to cover anticipated year-end expenses in Fund #3.**

Mr. Hellwig said the above item is an inter-fund transfer. He said the authority given to the Administrator by the Board to transfer money within departments to close out the budget does not extend to moving money from one fund to another. As a result, this resolution is requesting approval to move \$150,000 from the Highway Fund into the Machinery Fund to cover expenses related to overages in parts, maintenance and fuel costs.

On a motion made by Mr. Collyer, seconded by Mr. Wright the above resolution was approved unanimously.

- **Establishing the Saratoga County Character First Program Trust and Agency Fund.**

Mr. Hellwig said the Character First resolution will authorize the treasurer to set up a Trust and Agency fund, which will be used to provide scholarship grants to the twelve winners of the monthly essay contest on the various character traits that have been selected by Chairman Sausville. The fund will be funded with \$6,000 of the money that was appropriated in the 2014 operating budget. The scholarship amounts will be \$500 and will require documentation of a tuition bill by the student at the time that they request reimbursement for funding from this account.

On a motion made by Ms. Daly, seconded by Mr. Kinowski the above resolution was approved unanimously.

- **Adopting the 2015 Saratoga County Budget (TO BE TABLED)**
- **Appropriating amounts finally set forth in the 2015 Saratoga County Budget (TO BE TABLED)**
- **Setting December 3, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. in the County Board Room as the date, time and place for the public hearing on the revised tentative 2015 Saratoga County Budget.**
- **Approving the 2015 Tax Bill Flyer, pursuant to Local Law introductory #1, Print #1 of 2012 establishing Truth in Taxation in Saratoga County.**

Mr. Hellwig said the above resolutions are all budget resolutions. He said the first two will be tabled at the meeting next week. The adoption of the county budget will not be brought forward until after the public hearing and budget workshop.

Mr. Hellwig said appropriating the amounts specified in the 2015 budget will not be brought forward until after the public hearing and budget workshop.

Mr. Hellwig said the third resolution will set the date and time of the Public Hearing, and will be advertised by the Clerk of the Board.

Mr. Hellwig said the final item is for approval of the tax bill flyer, which summarizes the breakdown of the mandates that represent the net costs to the county for State programs.

On a motion made by Mr. Kinowski, seconded by Ms. Daly the above four resolutions were approved unanimously.

On a motion made by Mr. Kinowski, seconded by Mr. Collyer the meeting was adjourned unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom