

Law and Finance Committee Minutes  
August 13, 2015 - 4:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Wright; Supervisors Collyer, Daly, Sausville, Lewza, Kinowski, Tollisen, Jenkins, Peck, Raymond, Veitch, Richardson, Johnson, Wood, Martin, Lucia, and Allen; Spencer Hellwig, Administrator; Chad Cooke Deputy Administrator; Keith Manz, Public Works; Craig Hayner, County Clerk; Marcy McNamara, Personnel; Brian O'Conor, Auditor; Ed Tremblay, Emergency Services; Andrew Jarosh, Treasurer; Press.

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

**On a motion made by Mr. Tollisen, seconded by Mr. Sausville the minutes of the July 15, 2015 meeting were approved unanimously.**

**RACING AND GAMING**

- **Supporting the re-privatization of the New York Racing Association (NYRA) as a not-for-profit corporation by the end of 2015 or sooner.**

Mr. Hellwig said in 2012 the State created a temporary NYRA reorganization board to restore public trust and transparency to the racing industry. The board was set up to oversee NYRA who had just been given the franchise agreement. That board has just now served out its three year term, which was extended for a year during the 2015-2016 state budget cycle. This resolution is requesting, based on NYRA's accomplishments over the last three years, for them to reprivatize NYRA and turn the operation entirely over to them, so they can take advantage of some planning and capital improvements that are being held up as a result of this outside entity having some control and oversight of the NYRA operations.

**A motion was made by Mr. Sausville, seconded by Mr. Lewza the above resolution was approved unanimously.**

**PUBLIC SAFETY**

- **Authorizing the transfer of \$60,000 from the Animal Shelter Trust Fund for the purchase of various services, equipment and supplies and amending the budget in relation thereto.**
- **Authorizing an amendment to the HazMat agreement with the City of Saratoga Springs to include calibration of equipment, training and related services.**

Mr. Hellwig said on an annual basis the county has to appropriate funds from the Animal Shelter Trust Fund to cover various expenses within shelter. This year a request is being made

for a \$60,000 appropriation to be spent on the costs associated with spay and neutering of the animals, as well as equipment and supplies.

The second resolution is for an amendment to the HazMat agreement with the City of Saratoga Springs to cover the cost of upkeep and maintenance, as well as calibration of equipment that is used by the Hazardous Response Team. Up until 2013 this work was done by the NYS Department of Homeland Security. They no longer provide that service; therefore, the county needs to have someone who will make sure that the equipment is maintained and calibrated so it is ready to be used. The cost is \$5,750/yr. and is available within the Emergency Services budget.

**A motion was made by Mr. Lewza, seconded by Mr. Collyer the above resolutions were approved unanimously.**

### **PUBLIC WORKS**

- **Authorizing the implementation , and funding in the first instance 100% of the Federal-aid and State "Marchiselli" program aid eligible costs, of a transportation federal aid project, appropriating funds therefore, and amending the budget in relation thereto.**
- **Authorizing a consultant agreement with Clark Patterson Lee for design services related to the rehabilitation of the Zim Smith Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridget over NYS Route 9 in the Town of Clifton Park in the amount of \$10,000.**
- **Authorizing an amendment to the inter-municipal agreement with Washington County for costs associated with the painting of the CR27 (Bluebird Road) over the Hudson River (A.K.A. Fenimore Bridge) to increase the Washington County share from \$25,000 to \$921,790.**
- **Authorizing acceptance of property from the New York State Department of Transportation in connection with the transfer of ownership of the Batchellerville Bridge to Saratoga County.**

Mr. Hellwig said the first resolution will authorize the implementation and funding for the rehabilitation of the Zim Smith Trail Bridge, which is a Bike and Pedestrian Path that goes over Rt. 9 in the Town of Clifton Park. Of the \$10,000 amount, the county's share is \$500.

The second resolution will authorize a consulting agreement with Clark Patterson Lee for the design services related to the rehab project of the Zim Smith Trail Bridge.

Mr. Hellwig said the county currently has an inter-municipal agreement with Washington County to cover a portion of the local share costs associated with the painting of the Fenimore Bridge over the Hudson. The agreement will need to be amended now that the construction

and inspection contract has been awarded to increase the amount of the local share that they will be paying.

The final resolution will authorize the county's acceptance of a road and right-of-way properties from the New York State Department of Transportation that is connected to the transfer of the Batchlerville Bridge to Saratoga County. Mr. Hellwig said in 2006 the Board agreed to take ownership of the Bridge upon completion.

**On a motion made by Mr. Sausville, seconded by Mr. Tollisen the above resolutions were approved unanimously.**

#### **PERSONNEL AND INSURANCE**

- **Amending the Saratoga County Policy and Procedures Manual to include changes in the Vacancy Review policy.**
- **Amending the Compensation Schedule to create up to two positions of Animal Shelter Aide per diem in the Saratoga County Animal Shelter.**

Mr. Hellwig said the first resolution will authorize revisions to the Vacancy Review Policy which was last amended in 1992. Most of the changes deal with meeting times, department head involvement and various exceptions to the policy. The one policy addition that will be added to the manual is that the Personnel Chairman will be added to the vacancy review committee, which includes the Chairman of the Board, Chairman of Law and Finance, County Administrator, and Director of Personnel.

The second item is for authorization for two per diem Animal Shelter Aide Positions primarily to address staffing shortages in the shelter on the weekend shifts as a result of the full and part-time employees not being willing or able to work on some of the weekend hours. There has also been an increase in the volume that is being driven by the number of animals that are being cared for and requiring some additional staffing on the weekends.

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

#### **CHAIRMANS ITEM**

- **Appointing J. Wes Carr to the Community Services Board**

Mr. Hellwig said the Chairman has appointed Mr. J. Wes Carr to the Community Services Board to serve as the Developmental Disabilities representative. This is a fifteen member board that provides the Mental Health Services oversight to Saratoga County.

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

#### **LAW AND FINANCE**

- **Executive Session - Litigation**

**On a motion made by Mr. Kinowski, seconded by Mr. Sausville the meeting moved into Executive Session for the purpose of Litigation. Unanimous.**

**On a motion made by Mr. Sausville, seconded by Mr. Lewza the meeting reopened to Regular Session. Unanimous.**

Mr. Wright read the following resolution.

- **Authorizing the County's participation in litigation against Internet hotel booking companies for failure to remit the full amount of hotel occupancy tax owed Saratoga County, and authorizing the retention of special counsel.**

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

Mr. Hellwig distributed the quarterly report to all Supervisors for their review. He said his current projections are of the \$1.4 million that was budgeted to balance the budget this year, there was a drop of approximately \$780,000. The two largest variables highlighted in the report are going to be driven by revenues out of Social Services as well as what the actual year end costs are for expenses that are still being paid for Maplewood Manor.

**On a motion made by Ms. Daly, seconded by Mr. Lewza the meeting was adjourned unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Sansom