

Law and Finance Committee Minutes
October 11, 2017 – 4:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Collyer; Committee members Preston Allen, Paul Lent, Kevin Tollisen, Matt Veitch, Mo Wright; Supervisors Phil Barrett, Alan Grattidge, Dick Lucia, Peter Martin, Bill Peck, Dan Pemrick, Jean Raymond, Tom Richardson, Jonathan Schopf, Tim Szczepaniak and Tom Wood; Spencer Hellwig, Chad Cooke, Brian O’Conor, County Administrator; Steve Dorsey County Attorney; Craig Hayner, County Clerk; Karen Heggen, District Attorney; Bill Fruci, Roger Schiera, Elections; Carl Zeilman, Emergency Services; Marcy McNamara, Diane Brown, Human Resources; Michael Prezioso, Mental Health; Jason Kemper, Planning; Cathi Duncan, Public Health; Keith Manz, Public Works; Dan Rourke, Sewer; Michael Zurlo, Sheriff; Andrew Jarosh, Treasurer; Ridge Harris, Gramercy Communications; John Boltz, John J. Boltz Consulting; Press.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Veitch, seconded by Mr. Lent, the minutes of the September 12, 2017 meeting were approved unanimously.

On a motion made by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Tollisen, the following resolution was approved unanimously.

EQUALIZATION & ASSESSMENT

- Approving and Confirming Auction Sale of County-Owned Lands Acquired for Unpaid Taxes.

Mr. Hellwig said that ten parcels were sold and the resulting net to the county was \$52,631.

On a motion made by Mr. Veitch, seconded by Mr. Allen, the following resolutions were approved unanimously.

HUMAN RESOURCES & INSURANCE

- Authorizing a renewal contract with BlueShield of Northeastern NY to administer the County's medical and prescription insurance services, including stop loss insurance, in the amount of \$22,297,678.
- Authorizing a renewal contract with Metropolitan Life Insurance Company (MetLife) for the County's dental health insurance in the amount of \$677,258.64.
- Authorizing a renewal contract with MVP Insurance Company to provide coverage under the Medicare Advantage Plan to retirees that are enrolled in Medicare at a cost of \$3,481,560.

- Authorizing an amendment to the County's Policy and Procedure Manual to provide for the revision of the Temporary Appointment Policy.
- Authorizing an amendment to the County's Policy and Procedure Manual to provide for the revision of the Part-Time Employee Policy.
- Reappointing Tina Potter as Commissioner of Social Services for a term of five (5) years commencing October 26, 2017 and ending October 25, 2022.

Mr. Hellwig said that the first three items are renewals of health insurance policies. The first item is for active employees and is a 7% increase over this year's agreement. The second item is the dental agreement and is 4.5%. The third item's premium reflects an additional 157 retirees who could presumably take advantage of the County's plan through Shared Services. The County Share is \$2.9M which is around a 7% increase over this year's. Mr. Hellwig said that Human Resources, in conjunction with the Insurance consultant, worked on the renewals and negotiation of rates over the past 6 months.

For items four and five, the practices have already been in place and the changes to the policy and procedure manual codify those practices. For the temporary employees, the changes relate to holiday pay and where they stand if moving to a permanent position, for the part time employees, the changes relate to short term disability benefits and the option to join the retirement system. For the final item, Mrs. Potter has been a county employee for 35 years.

On a motion made by Mr. Lent, seconded by Mr. Wright, the following resolutions were approved unanimously.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Designating the Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce as the County's Tourism Promotion Agency and Authorizing the Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce to apply for an "I Love New York" grant for 2018.
- Authorizing the Conveyance of Kinns Road Park Parcel to the Town of Clifton Park.

Mr. Hellwig said that the first item will allow the Chamber to apply for State Aid, up to \$225K. It will also satisfy the match for the County Contribution of \$375K per year. For the second item, Governor Cuomo has signed the Home Rule legislation and this will allow the county to finalize it.

On a motion made by Mr. Allen, seconded by Mr. Veitch, the following resolutions were approved. Mr. Tollisen recused himself from the Public Defender item vote.

PUBLIC SAFETY

- Authorizing the acceptance of a Local Assistance grant from the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services in the amount of \$10,000.

- Authorizing the acceptance of a Homeland Security FEMA grant from the NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services in the amount of \$72,479.
- Authorizing the acceptance of an Aid to Prosecution grant from the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services in the amount of \$57,820.
- Authorizing the acceptance of an Aid to Defense Grant from the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services in the amount of \$15,500.
- Authorizing the acceptance of an Emergency Management Performance grant from the NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services in the amount of \$86,724 and amending the budget in relation thereto.
- Authorizing the acceptance of a NYS and Municipal Facilities Grant in the amount of \$100,000 for the construction of a Shared Storage Facility.

Mr. Hellwig said that for the first item, the funds will be used to create special ID cards for senior citizens. For the second item, the funds will be used for the continuation of the Sheriff's electronic policy and procedure manual available to deputies on their car computers as well as equipment for the dive team and communication equipment. For the third item, this is the first year the grant has become competitive and DA Heggen was able to get an additional \$16,520 in funding. The fourth item was also a competitive grant. Both grants will be used to offset the cost of prosecuting or defending violent felony cases. The fifth item is a housekeeping item in the Emergency Services Department. For the final item, the funds will be applied against the cost to construct a pole barn to store various pieces of emergency service equipment.

On a motion made by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Tollisen, the following 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, and appropriating funds for Construction and Construction Inspection for the County Road 27 (Bluebird Road) Pavement Preservation Project, in the amount of \$550,300.
- Amending the Consultant Agreement with Greenman Pedersen, Inc. to add Construction Inspection and Support Services for the County Road 27 (Bluebird Road) Pavement Preservation Project, PIN 1760.64, in the amount of \$51,888.

Mr. Hellwig said that a budget amendment is not needed for the above items, funds are already in the budget as part of the 2017 Capital Plan.

On a motion made by Mr. Lent, seconded by Mr. Allen, the following resolutions were approved unanimously.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

- Authorizing an amendment to H2M's Consultant Agreement for services related to the design and construction of the New Public Safety Facility by adding Phase III Design Development Services including; Design Development, Contract Documents, Bidding Services, Printing Services, Construction Administration and Modified Construction Management Services in the amount of \$1,526,225 and amending the budget in relation thereto.
- Naming the Saratoga County Board of Supervisors as the lead agency in the SEQR review of the new Public Safety Facility.
- Authorizing acceptance of a \$90,476 Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) grant for an environmental study at the Saratoga County Airport through an amended consultant agreement with McFarland Johnson for \$98,529 and amending the budget in relation thereto.

Mr. Hellwig said that for the first item, a budget amendment of \$412K from Fund Balance will place the funds necessary to keep the project moving for 2017. For the second item, this is part of the process involved in getting approval for the Public Safety Facility. For the final item, the study involves the Karner Blue Butterfly, NYSDOT match is \$ 5,026 (5%). County match is \$5,027 (5%) for a total maximum project cost of \$100,529 .

On a motion made by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Tollisen, the following resolutions were approved unanimously.

PUBLIC HEALTH

- Authorizing Community Mental Health renewal contracts for 2018.
- Authorizing a five-year contract with TenEleven Group, Inc. for an electronic medical records system in the amount of \$379,815 and amending budget in relation thereto.
- Authorizing a contract with Capital District Respite, Inc. to provide respite services for the early intervention program at a rate of \$28.50 per hour.

For the first item, Mr. Hellwig said that the county share is unchanged from 2017 and the amounts have been placed in the 2018 tentative budget. For the second item, the agreement is necessary as the existing software is no longer compliant with Federal Regulations. The costs will be down approximately \$5,000 per year. For the final item, the agency will be providing respite services for children involved in the early intervention program. The county is required under the regulations to provide the services and half of the costs will be reimbursed by the State of New York.

On a motion made by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Allen, the following resolutions were approved unanimously.

LEGISLATIVE & RESEARCH

- Supporting Statewide Constitutional Amendment Ballot Proposal #3 that creates a land account to address specific public health and safety concerns for use by towns, villages, and counties having no viable alternative other than using forest preserve land.
- Introducing a local law to prohibit target shooting on County owned Loudon Road forest lands and setting a public hearing on Wednesday, November 15, 2017 at 4:40 pm.

Mr. Hellwig said that the first item will support a constitutional amendment that will create a 250-acre land bank allowing local governments to request land for qualifying projects in exchange for the State adding additional acreage to the preserve. This is an attempt to simplify the process so that municipalities involved will have a much easier time addressing their needs. Mr. Wright said that they would like to make people aware that this item is on the ballot. They have complete bipartisan, environmental and local government support.

Mr. Hellwig said that the second item will not interrupt or interfere with the ability of anyone to use the property for hunting purposes, it will be prohibiting target shooting only.

Mr. Hellwig said that there are two Chairman's items. The first is appointing Kevin Tollisen to the Saratoga County Prosperity Partnership, and the second is appointing Jennifer Koval to the Soil & Water Conservation District.

On a motion made by Mr. Lent, seconded by Mr. Veitch, the following resolutions were approved unanimously.

LAW & FINANCE

- Authorizing an agreement to purchase Clear Ballot System and amending the budget.
- Authorize an amendment to Resolution 222-2015 to revise Saratoga PLAN/NYS Grant Funds total to \$450,048 and authorize a transfer from the Open Space Reserve in the amount of \$55,273.10 for the Town of Northumberland 2015 Farmland Protection Grant.
- Authorizing inter-agency transfers necessary to close out the 2017 budget.
- Resolution honoring the 100th Anniversary of women voting in New York State.
- Resolution supporting increased State Support for Cornell Cooperative Extension County Associations in the State of New York.

Mr. Hellwig said that for the first item, the ballot system will allow for quicker results to the public and is 100% covered through the Help America Vote funds. For the second item, the original resolution that authorized the county participation also named various funding levels for Saratoga PLAN, and as a result of Saratoga PLAN not getting the level of funding originally place, it's being amended to reflect the amount of funding actually received and reaffirming the

County's willingness to maintain their contribution level at \$80K. The third item is an annual housekeeping item. For the fourth item, the statewide election was held on November 6, 1917. New York was the first eastern state to pass Women' suffrage which ultimately led to the 19th amendment of the US Constitution. For the final item, the State appropriates approximately \$7M per year and that amount has been in place for decades. In Saratoga County alone, the county provides \$1M per year of funding.

A motion was made by Mr. Lent, seconded by Mr. Wright, the meeting was adjourned to Executive Session for a discussion of settlement of pending litigation.

On a motion made by Mr. Tollisen, seconded by Mr. Veitch, the meeting was reopened to Regular Session. Unanimous.

A motion was made by Mr. Tollisen, seconded by Mr. Veitch, to authorize the settlement of litigation commenced against Delaware Engineering, D.P.C and North Country Engineering, P.C. Relative to deficiencies in the design and construction of the 2008-2012 expansion of the Sewer District's Wastewater Treatment Plant. Unanimous.

A motion was made by Mr. Tollisen, seconded by Mr. Veitch, to authorize the retention of Napoli Shkolnik, PLLC as special counsel to commence litigation against the manufacturers, distributors and possibly certain prescribing physicians of opioid pharmaceuticals to recover the County's damages in combatting and treating opioid abuse.

Mr. Hellwig said that the above item will be at no cost to the county. The item will be brought to the special Board meeting scheduled for today at 4:40pm.

On a motion made by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Lent, the meeting was adjourned unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Therese Connolly
Deputy Clerk of the Board