

Law and Finance Committee Minutes  
September 11, 2019 – 4:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Preston Allen; Committee members Scott Ostrander, Dan Pemrick, Jonathan Schopf, Tim Szczepaniak; Supervisors Tara Gaston, Alan Grattidge, Art Johnson, Todd Kusnierz, Bill Peck, Jean Raymond, Rom Richardson, Michael Smith, Matt Veitch, Sandra Winney, Tom Wood and Chairman of the Board Kevin Tollisen; Spencer Hellwig, Chad Cooke, Brian O’Conor, County Administrator; Steve Dorsey, County Attorney; Chris Schall, Auditor, Craig Hayner, County Clerk; Carl Zeilman, Emergency Services; Adam Kinowski, Human Resources; Andrew Jarosh, Treasurer; Barbara Thomas, League of Women Voters; Ridge Harris, Gramercy Communications; Press.

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

**On a motion made by Mr. Szczepaniak, seconded by Mr. Pemrick, the minutes of the August 14, 2019 meeting were approved unanimously.**

**On a motion made by Mr. Pemrick, seconded by Mr. Ostrander, the following resolutions were approved unanimously.**

**HUMAN RESOURCES & INSURANCE**

- Appointing Andrew Blumenberg as the Saratoga County Public Defender effective October 1, 2019.
- Appointing Anna Stanko as the Saratoga County Director of Real Property for a term from October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2025.
- Authorizing an amendment to the Policies and Procedures Manual to revise the Probationary Period Policy.

Mr. Hellwig said that for the first item, Mr. Blumenberg will complete the vacated term for this position through the end of 2019 and will be subject to re-appointment on January 1, 2020. The search committee interviewed 3 applicants. Mr. Blumenberg has worked for the Public Defender’s office for 12 years. For the second item, Ms. Stanko has worked for the County for 31 years and possesses a great deal of institutional knowledge. Ms. Stanko was one of four individuals interviewed from a pool of 9 applicants. For the final item, Mr. Hellwig said that changes include instituting a performance observation within 4 months of employment to document employee conduct, and the review process will be added to the probationers personnel file.

**On a motion made by Mr. Schopf, seconded by Mr. Szczepaniak, the following resolution was approved unanimously.**

## **REAL PROPERTY TAX**

- Approving the auction sale of the former Saratoga County Homestead property in Providence (Tax Parcel #147.-1-38.3) to James Walk of Corinth, Texas for \$55,100.

Mr. Hellwig said that an online auction was held from July 24 through August 28, 2019. The tax lien on the property totaled \$76,656.03 and the County will be sharing the proceeds of the auction sale 50/50 with the EPA based on an agreement with them to cover a portion of the costs associated with the environmental cleanup of the site. This item will be brought to a special meeting of the Board at 4:35pm today.

**On a motion made by Mr. Szczepaniak, seconded by Mr. Pemrick, the following resolutions were approved unanimously.**

## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

- Proclaiming October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Saratoga County.
- Authorizing the acceptance of an Emergency Management Performance Grant in the amount of \$85,193 from the NYS Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services.
- Authorizing a 2-year renewal agreement with a 1-year extension option with RS Telecom, Inc., in the amount \$85,500 per year for services related to maintenance of the County's emergency radio network.
- Authorizing an amendment to the contract with Conflict Defender Kyran Nigro in the amount of \$31,512.35 for reimbursement of administrative services for the period from April 1, 2018 through March 31, 2019.
- Authorizing a memorandum of understanding with the Rural Law Center of New York, Inc. to provide appellate services to clients of the offices of the Public Defender and the Conflict Defender.

Mr. Hellwig said that the first item is to increase awareness of the efforts of the County Sheriff, District Attorney's office and Department of Social Services in preventing domestic violence, and in assisting victims. For the second item, this is a 50/50 match grant administered by NYS on behalf of FEMA. Funds will be used to offset various expenses in Emergency Services. For the fourth item, as part of the County's contract with Indigent Legal Services, additional funds were earmarked to reimburse the administrative assistant services provided by Mr. Nigro's office. For the final item, the agreement is not to exceed \$65K.

**On a motion made by Mr. Pemrick, seconded by Mr. Schopf, the following resolutions were approved unanimously.**

## LAW & FINANCE

- Authorizing an amendment to the contract with General Controls, Inc. in the amount of \$18,698 for additional services and equipment related to the Sewer District's SCADA upgrade project.
- Supporting Senator Tedisco's efforts opposing proposed license plate fees.
- Adopting a Local Law identified as Introductory No. 1, Print No. 1 of 2019 entitled "A Local Law Amending Local Law No. 4 of 2018 to Modify the Annual Pilot Payment Required for Solar Energy Systems".

Mr. Hellwig said that for the first item, there is currently an upgrade project going on at the plant and due to some issues that arose with the existing software, windows 7 upgraded to windows 10, the additional services are required to complete the project. For the second item, the proposed fee is \$25 for new plates with an additional \$20 to keep the same plate number. It is estimated that over 3M drivers will need to upgrade to new plates. The final item will be added to the Board's agenda after completion of the public hearing at 4:25pm today.

Mr. Tedisco thanked the Supervisors for their diligence in protecting their constituents. Mr. Tedisco thanked County Clerk Hayner for being out in front on the license plate issue. Mr. Tedisco said that this is a bi-partisan item, people on both sides of the aisle opposing it and talking about the distortions and lack of transparency. There is general agreement that there is not a wholesale problem reading the current plates. They are being read by law enforcement, thruway and E-ZPass. Mr. Tedisco said that the last plate replacement program was in 2009 and the charge at that time was up to \$15. At the time Governor Paterson charged \$0. Governor Cuomo is proposing to charge the maximum of \$25. With an estimated 3M people changing plates brings the total to \$75M. Mr. Tedisco said that the plates are made in Auburn Correctional Facility, Mr. Tedisco said that he FOILED DMV to find out what the cost of making these plates is, however the DMV response was that the information was not FOIL able. Mr. Tedisco said that he estimates the cost for two plates is approximately \$2.30, not \$25. Mr. Tedisco said that a replacement program is not needed and \$75M being taken out of taxpayers' pockets is not needed. Mr. Tedisco said that last year 189K people left NYS. Of Millennials, 5,500 have left the state over the first 7-8 months. This program is dipping into the pockets of the taxpayers to an extreme.

**On a motion made by Mr. Szczepaniak, seconded by Mr. Pemrick, the meeting was adjourned unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Therese Connolly  
Deputy Clerk of the Board