

Law and Finance Committee Minutes
May 13, 2020 – 4:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Daniel Pemrick; Committee members Ed Kinowski, Todd Kusnierz, Jonathan Schopf, Kevin Tollisen, Sandra Winney, Mo Wright; Supervisors Phil Barrett, Eric Connolly, Tara Gaston, Alan Grattidge, Jack Lawler, Dick Lucia, Darren O'Connor, Bill Peck, Tom Wood and Chairman of the Board Preston Allen; Spencer Hellwig, Chad Cooke, County Administrator; Steve Dorsey, County Attorney; Roger Schiera, Bill Fruci, Elections; Carl Zeilman, Emergency Services; Jenniffer McCloskey, Employment & Training; Keith Manz, Public Works; Anna Stanko, Real Property Tax; Dan Rourke, Sewer; Andrew Jarosh, Treasurer.

Chairman Pemrick called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance in person and on the phone.

On a motion made by Mr. Kinowski, seconded by Mrs. Winney, the minutes of the March 17, 2020 meeting were approved unanimously.

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

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

- Authorizing the acceptance of additional state aid in the form of COLAs for Direct Care and Direct Support Professional initiatives in the amount of \$45,367 in the Mental Health Department and amending the budget in relation thereto.

Mr. Cooke said that this COLA will be distributed to several Mental Health providers as authorized by the Health and Social Services Committee. Their authority was granted by a resolution in 2018 by the Board in an effort to avoid several additional resolutions to amend contracts for amounts that constitute less than 10% of contract totals.

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

PUBLIC SAFETY

- Authorize a 2-year agreement and a 1-year renewal option with Cummins Sales and Service in the amount of \$19,924.82 per year for generator preventative maintenance at 800 MHz radio tower sites.
- Authorizing a tower agreement with the Saratoga Springs City School District for the placement of a communications antenna and related equipment on the County's radio communications tower on Mt. McGregor.

Mr. Cooke said that for the first item there are ten 800 MHz radio tower sites. For the second item the communications equipment will improve communications with buses in remote areas. This is a 5-year agreement with the option of extending for 4 additional 5-year terms. The School District's rental cost is \$1,800 per year with a 5% escalator for each 5-year renewal.

On a motion made by Mr. Kinowski, seconded by Mrs. Winney, the following resolution was approved unanimously.

REAL PROPERTY TAX

- Authorizing the postponement of the 2020 foreclosure proceeding for 2018 delinquent taxes until 2021.

Mr. Cooke said that due to the pandemic, it is not practical to carry out the foreclosure proceeding this year. 2018 and 2019 delinquent tax foreclosure proceedings will be conducted in 2021 concurrently. Mr. Dorsey said that people can pay their taxes at any time. Mr. Wright said that some people may be four years in arrears by next year. Mr. Dorsey said that there may not be a free first pull due to the length of years in arrears, but that decision will be made at a later date.

On a motion made by Mr. Kusnierz, seconded by Mrs. Winney, the following resolution was approved unanimously.

RACING & GAMING

- Resolution supporting Saratoga's Thoroughbred Racing meet in 2020.

Mr. Cooke said that this item is a resolution supporting Senator Jordan and Assemblywoman Woerner's efforts to engage the Governor regarding thoroughbred racing in Saratoga without fans this racing season. Their engagement seeks to provide NYRA permission to start racing at Saratoga to help bolster the economy while maintaining all necessary public health protocols.

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

PUBLIC WORKS

- Authorizing an amended agreement with Clark Patterson Lee in the amount of \$158,000 for construction support services associated with the replacement of the CR 13 bridge over Cadman Creek in the Town of Providence.

Mr. Cooke said that no budget amendment necessary. The County share for this project is \$7,900 and is already included in the 2020 budget. Mr. Wright confirmed with Mr. Manz that this is a Bridge NY project.

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

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

- Authorizing the creation a Reserve Account for the purposes to transferring allocated airport capital funds associated with the County's airport property currently occupied by the Gateway House of Peace.

Mr. Cooke said that that the county purchased this property in 1988 with FAA grant funds, and it is currently being leased to the Gateway House which is not being utilized for aviation purposes. As a result, the FAA requires that the County have this portion of the property appraised and it was in September 2019 at a total value of \$165,000 and then have this amount placed in an interest bearing account to be used for aviation related purposes. The County had allocated a little over \$300K in County funds to support its share of airport related projects for 2020. Based on the recent Federal Cares Act, the County share is now fully covered by federal aid. Therefore, a portion of the County funds that were allocated can be transferred into this interest bearing account to satisfy the FAA requirement. There is no impact on the Gateway House of Peace.

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

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Approving the Workforce Development Board budget for program year 2020-2021 for \$96,400 and authorizing agreements with Warren and Washington Counties to fund WDB services.
- Authorizing an agreement with the Washington County Economic Opportunity Council, Inc. to administer the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Title I Adult Program services and Dislocated Workers Program in Washington County.
- Authorizing an agreement with Washington County EOC for the administration of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Youth Program in Washington County.

Mr. Cooke said that for the first item, the budget must be approved to support the office of the Workforce Development Board Director, which is a required position under this program. The total budget for the upcoming program year from 7/1/20 to 6/30/21 is \$96,400, which is the same as last year and we'll have to have another resolution addressing the distribution of these funds once it's configured by the State. For the second item and third items, the contract amounts are \$249K and \$132K respectively. For both items, the original contracts from 2018 have the option of two 1-year renewals, this year is the second renewal.

On a motion made by Mr. Kinowski, seconded by Mr. Kusnierz, the following resolutions were approved unanimously.

LAW & FINANCE

- Authorizing the Chair to execute a tower license agreement with Cellco Partnership, D/B/A Verizon Wireless, for the placement of communications equipment on the County's Lakeview radio communications tower in the Town Of Day.
- Authorize the Chair to execute an agreement with the NYS Board of Elections for a grant in the amount of \$126,148 to reimburse 2019 early voting costs.
- Authorize the Chair to execute an agreement with the NYS Board of Elections for a grant in the amount of \$321,119 to reimburse additional election costs due to COVID-19.
- Authorize the Chair to execute an agreement with NTS Data Services in the amount of \$23,121 for absentee ballot mailing services.
- Authorizing a 1-year veterinarian professional liability insurance policy from 5/8/2020 through 5/8/2021 in the amount of \$3,830.15.
- Authorizing the Chair to execute a task order with National Grid in the amount of \$1,730,000 associated with the District's environmental benefit project to install a solar array at the treatment plant.
- Authorizing a contract with Greenman-Pedersen for professional engineering and construction services in the amount of \$228,627 associated with a project to upgrade the treatment plant's HVAC systems, roofing systems, and construction of a storage building.

For the first item, Mr. Cooke said that this is a 5-year agreement with up to eight 5-year extensions. Verizon's annual rent is \$26,400 and will escalate 10% per 5-year renewal. For the second item, the funds will be used to help defray costs associated with hardware expenses in excess of other grant sources for this purpose, compensation for election inspectors and for other related early voting expenses. No budget amendment is needed, the revenue amount is already in the 2020 budget. For the third item, the grant funds are to help defray voting costs related to COVID-19. Additional costs related to COVID-19 include printing costs and postage due to increased number of mail ballots as well personal protective equipment for poll workers. For the fourth item, services include printing absentee applications and instruction sheets, and mailing them to 51K eligible voters. For the fifth item, the County now employs a full-time veterinarian at the Animal Shelter. This policy provides for up to \$1M in professional liability coverage with a \$2,500 deductible. For the sixth item, the total amount includes \$260K in NYSERDA rebates and \$150K for NYSEG interconnection review study. The study may not be needed, but due to schedule of compliance requirements for this project as part of a consent order, it is necessary to include worst-case scenario costs at the onset in order to move the project along with as few delays as possible.

A 2019 year end budget report and 1st quarter 2020 first quarter was distributed to all Supervisors. Mr. Cooke said that the last page of the report indicates the projected year end

deficit. Each quarter they reach out to all Department Heads who provide year end projections. With the potential anticipated loss of Sales tax revenue, the projected deficit is approximately \$18M. Yesterday at the Public Works and Buildings & Grounds meetings there were some identified savings. Some of those savings were included in these projections. Approximately \$1.3M were not bringing the projected deficit down to \$16.7M. There are some additional initiatives that Human Resources is working on as part of an austerity plan which could include hiring freezes, suspending any COLA for non-union employees for 2021, voluntary furloughs to be negotiated with the Unions, consolidated operations, early retirement. We don't have any figures associated with those initiatives yet, they are a work in progress, but they are working on things to drive that number down.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Therese Connolly
Deputy Clerk of the Board