

# LAW & FINANCE Transcript 4/14/2021

## **SPEAKERS**

Steve Bulger, Lindsey Connors, Tara Gaston, Phil Barrett, Sandra Winney, Penny Heritage, Jonathan Schopf, Dan Pemrick, Matt Veitch, Kevin Tollisen, Several Supervisors, Therese Connolly, Tom Richardson, Tom Wood, Michael Hartnett

### **Jonathan Schopf**

We're gonna call to order the April 14, 2021 Law and Finance agenda session. Therese, can we please just call the roll who's present here and on the line?

### **Therese Connolly**

Just a reminder for Supervisors that are in the room, you'll need to use your microphone for those on the phone to be able to hear you. Supervisor Barrett.

### **Phil Barrett**

Here.

### **Therese Connolly**

Gaston

### **Jonathan Schopf**

I believe she may be on the way.

### **Therese Connolly**

Tollisen.

### **Kevin Tollisen**

Here.

### **Therese Connolly**

Veitch.

### **Matt Veitch**

Here.

### **Therese Connolly**

Winnie.

### **Sandra Winney**

Here.

**Therese Connolly**

Wood.

**Tom Wood**

Here.

**Therese Connolly**

Chairman Schopf.

**Jonathan Schopf**

Present.

**Therese Connolly**

Quorum is present.

**Jonathan Schopf**

Welcome everybody. I apologize we did have a little bit of confusion on the community block grant presentation from the City of Saratoga Springs. We've got a little bit of a lengthy agenda today. So Lindsey did come today and is able to do that presentation. So we'll do that under other business prior to executive session today. Could I get a motion for approval of the minutes from the March 10 2021 meeting?

**Tom Wood**

Supervisor Wood I'll make that motion.

**Jonathan Schopf**

Thank you Supervisor. Do we have a second?

**Matt Veitch**

Supervisor Veitch second.

**Jonathan Schopf**

Veitch second. All in favor?

**Several Supervisors**

Aye.

**Jonathan Schopf**

Any opposed? Motion carries. County Administrator Bulger if you could start with the items under the Real Property Tax committee?

**Steve Bulger**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, everybody. First item under Real Property Tax, authorizing a correction to the tax bill for parcel 248.-1-100 in the Town of Ballston, no budget impact. This parcel in

the Town of Ballston was assessed with an improvement that was not in existence as of the taxable status date which was March 1, 2020. The taxable assessed value was therefore reduced from \$280,000 to \$103,000, and a new tax bill will be generated. Next item, authorizing the cancellation of delinquent current and prospective taxes on tax parcels 266.8-1-41, 266.8-1-98.1 and 266.8-2-98 in the Town of Halfmoon. Budget impact none. These tax parcels were set up in 2003 and 2005 when subdivision maps were filed indicating these strips of land were "lands to be conveyed to the County of Saratoga", the parcels were not conveyed and became tax delinquent. The County took title by tax foreclosure deed in 2015. Next item, authorizing the acceptance of tender offers from two separate parcels in the Town of Malta. For a total of \$44,830.07. No budget impact. The first parcel being 216.-1-25 for \$35,562.93 and the second being parcel 216.-1-25.2 for \$9,267.14. This includes tax years 2017 through 2020 for both parcels. The total tender offer amounts to \$44,830.07 in back taxes that were due. These parcels were originally on the foreclosure list, removed from the list and then sold and they will be placed back on the tax roll as taxable parcels.

**Jonathan Schopf**

Are there any questions on any of these three items? Do we have a motion to move them to the agenda?

**Matt Veitch**

Supervisor Veitch, so moved.

**Jonathan Schopf**

Veitch first, do we have a second?

**Phil Barrett**

Second.

**Jonathan Schopf**

Second, all in favor.

**Several Supervisors**

Aye.

**Jonathan Schopf**

Any opposed? Motion passes. Human Resources and Insurance please.

**Steve Bulger**

Okay first item under HR and Insurance, authorizing the renewal of the third party employer excess liability insurance coverage for workers compensation for the County workers compensation plan. Budget impact none. Funds for the renewal are included in the 2021 budget. This policy protects the County against any third party lawsuits in the event an employee has sustained a severe injury. The policy is through Capital Indemnity Corporation of Madison, Wisconsin, for an annual premium of \$23,868. This is an increase of \$1,047 compared to last year's premium. The term for this coverage will begin on April 15 2021 and last through April 15 2022. Next item authorizing the County's insurance

coverages through May 8 2022. Budget impact none. The County's insurance broker Cool Insurance in concert with our insurance consultant Marshall and Sterling solicited bids this year for all of our coverages, and it is recommended by them to renew these expiring policies as follows. The expected total renewal costs are \$983,393, which includes a \$20,000 loss fund that will cover claim costs that the County is responsible for. This resolution will also include the County's annual blanket undertaking that provides insurance coverage for money and property handled by officers and employees, including the County Clerk and County Treasurer. \$906,750 was budgeted for insurances this year, so a budget transfer from the contingency account for \$76,643 will offset the shortfall in the budget. The premium increases in the Public Health, Mental Health and Cybersecurity coverages were due to extreme market volatility not seen in previous years created by the COVID-19 pandemic. Next item, authorizing amendments to the compensation schedule under the County Treasurer and County Attorney. Budget impact none. This amendment to the 2021 compensation schedule will reclassify one Foreclosure Supervisor to one Foreclosure Specialist under the County Treasurer. This will also create one Paralegal Specialist under the County Treasurer that will abolish one Legal Assistant Real Estate under the County Attorney's department. These reclassifications will provide the County with a total savings of \$40,372. Next item, authorizing the creation of a Petty Cash Policy. This new policy will assist departments who use petty cash, the policy will incorporate an approval request process and audit process, as well as the implementation of a petty cash bank account and debit card process.

**Jonathan Schopf**

Does anybody have any questions on any one of those four proposed resolutions? Hearing none, do we have a motion to approve?

**Tom Wood**

Supervisor Wood to make the motion.

**Jonathan Schopf**

Thank you supervisor. Do we have a second?

**Jonathan Schopf**

I'll second it, Supervisor Winney.

**Jonathan Schopf**

Supervisor Winney. Thank you. Any discussion on the motion. All in favor?

**Several Supervisors**

Aye.

**Jonathan Schopf**

Any opposed? Motion carries. Thank you. Health and Human Services is up next.

**Steve Bulger**

Okay first item, authorizing an intermunicipal agreement with Warren County for the oversight and monitoring of home based crisis services on behalf of Saratoga County. Budget impact none. Saratoga

County will be authorizing Warren County through the Office of Community Services for Warren and Washington Counties to act on behalf of all three counties in administering the monies received from New York State for the purpose of providing home based crisis services. Saratoga County has entered similar inter-municipal agreements in the past, with Warren County for home based crisis intervention services in 2013, and for mobile crisis mental health services in 2015. Next item, authorizing the acceptance of increases in State Aid and the amount of \$11,400 from the New York State Office of Mental Health. Budget impact none, 100% State Aid. The New York State Office of Mental Health State letter amendment number five indicates that effective January 2, 2021 a \$200 per bed stipend was added to 57 supported housing beds. Six of those beds being in rehabilitation support services for \$1,200 and the other 51 beds in Transitional Services Association Inc. for \$10,200. Current budget is \$536K, new amount is \$547K, an increase of \$10,400. Next item, authorizing the acceptance of an additional \$91,165 from the New York State Office of Mental Health for the Veterans Peer to Peer program. Budget impact none, 100% State aid. This grant covers a period of April 1 2020 until December 31 2022, New York State Office of Mental Health state aid letter amendment number 10 of 2020 stated that funding in the amount of \$185,000 was released for the 2020/2021 budget cycle. The County's current 2021 budget for the Peer to Peer program currently contains \$93,835. This additional \$91,165 in funding will bring the total amount to \$185,000. This grant will cover expenses related to salaries, training, advertising, events, website maintenance, media, and more for the program. Next item, authorizing the acceptance of restoration funding from the New York State 2020 budget in the amount of \$230,127 from the New York State Office of Mental Health Office of Addiction Services and Supports, and Office for People with Developmental Disabilities into the 2021 budget. Budget impact none, 100% State aid. New York State has authorized the release of previously withheld funding from the third and fourth quarters of 2020 effective immediately. This resolution will restore the previously withheld funding into the 2021 budget. Next item, authorizing the acceptance of a \$13,000 incentive payment from New York e-health collaborative. Budget impact none. This incentive payment will help establish data connectivity between Saratoga County Mental Health electronic health vendor TenEleven and the Regional Health Information organization HIXNY. Specifically, this payment will allow the County's Mental Health Department to make upgrades to their IT infrastructure and other office equipment to assist in the transition to providing telehealth services to County residents. Next item, authorizing major contracts for contact tracing services with Ashley Hubbard in the amount not to exceed \$52,000, Caroline Regales in an amount not to exceed \$39,000, and Matthew Prock in an amount not to exceed \$45,500. Budget impact none, costs associated with these contracts will be covered by a Health Research Inc. grant. All three of the contact tracers have exhausted the limits of their minor contracts and Public Health is requesting these be moved to major contracts to continue their work in the Public Health Department. All three contact tracers will be paid the same hourly rate of \$25 per hour. The only variance between the three tracers is the maximum number of hours allowed per week. Next item, authorizing an amendment to the major contract with the DiRAD Technologies. Budget impact none, funds for this project have been allocated in the 2021 budget. This item will authorize an amendment to the major contract with DiRAD Technologies previously authorized through Resolution 103-2021. This amendment will include the removal of the \$50,000 not to exceed limit, and replace it with an expiration date of December 31, 2021. DiRAD's call center staff and services have assisted Public Health with the successful registration of County residents to the vaccine interest list, as well as assisting Public Health with the scheduling and registration of vaccine appointments for residents. All costs associated with the DiRAD contract will be reimbursable through Federal

Government relief funds related to the Covid-19 pandemic. Next item, proclaiming May as Older Americans month in Saratoga County. No budget impact. Saratoga County includes more than 46,000 residents who are 60 years of age or older. This year's theme will be Communities of Strength, and focuses on the power of connection and engagement in building strong communities. Next item, authorizing the acceptance of Federal stimulus funding under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, Title III-2 administered and released by the New York State Office the Aging in the amount of \$85,315. Budget impact none, 100% Federal aid. This will provide supplemental funding for senior nutrition programs, specifically home delivered meals to assist with response efforts to the Covid-19 pandemic. The active period for this stimulus funding commenced on 12/27/20 and expires on 9/30/22.

**Jonathan Schopf**

Anybody have any questions about those quite a few items this month? All right, hearing none, do we have a motion to move them?

**Phil Barrett**

So moved.

**Jonathan Schopf**

Supervisor Barrett, second?

**Sandra Winney**

Supervisor Winney, I'll move them.

**Jonathan Schopf**

Supervisor Winney thank you. Any discussion on the motion. All in favor?

**Several Supervisors**

Aye.

**Jonathan Schopf**

Any opposed? Passes. One item under Buildings and Grounds.

**Steve Bulger**

Okay, authorizing an amendment to the 2021 budget reappropriating \$716,599 in unspent capital funds from the 2020 budget for the construction of a snow removal equipment storage building at the County Airport. Budget impact: This project was included in the 2020 budget, a budget amendment will reappropriate these previously budgeted funds into the 2021 budget. 90% of this project is covered through a State grant and the remaining 10% will be transferred from fund balance. The New York State grant amount of 90% equates to \$644,939 and the County share of 10% equates to \$71,660.

**Jonathan Schopf**

Any questions on this one? Do I have a motion?

**Matt Veitch**

Supervisor Veitch so moved.

**Jonathan Schopf**

Supervisor Veitch. Second?

**Tom Wood**

Supervisor Wood second.

**Jonathan Schopf**

Supervisor Wood. Thank you very much. Any discussion on the motion? All in favor?

**Several Supervisors**

Aye.

**Jonathan Schopf**

Any opposed? Motion passes. Thank you. Public Safety you've got a few.

**Steve Bulger**

Okay first item, authorizing the acceptance of grant funding from the US Department of Transportation and Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration for the fiscal year 2020 hazardous materials emergency preparedness grant program in the amount of \$5,172 for the period of April 1 2021 to July 31 2022. This funding will be utilized by the County's Local Emergency Planning committee to support salaries, supplies and training activities. Next item, authorizing the acceptance of additional aid from New York State Stop DWI foundation Inc. in the amount of \$1,500. Budget impact none, 100% State aid. This additional aid will be applied to the current active grant period of October 1 2020 to September 30 2021. These additional funds are used for local DWI crackdown program patrols and activities. Next item, authorizing a contract with Clark Patterson Lee for architectural and engineering consulting services for an amount not to exceed \$30,000. Budget impact none. Funds for this project are included in the 2021 budget. This agreement will be regarding the renovations of the Saratoga County Correctional Facility. The agreement will cover services such as data collection, schematic design, design development and construction documents. This work was previously authorized in 2020 through two separate minor contracts. The County Auditor has requested to combine the two minor contracts into a major contract in accordance with County procurement policies. Next item, proclaiming the week of April 18th to the 24th 2021 as Crime Victims Rights Week. Budget impact none. This reaffirms the County's commitment to creating a victim service and criminal justice response that assists all victims of crime during Crime Victims Rights Week and throughout the year, and expressing the County's gratitude and appreciation for those community members, victim service providers, and criminal justice professionals who are committed to improving our response to all victims of crime so that they may find relevant assistance, support, justice and peace. Next item, authorizing the transfer of \$155,187 from the Animal Shelter Trust Fund to cover construction costs related to a new pre-engineered covered building. Budget impact none. Resolution 211-2020 previously authorized up to 80% of the combined donations in 2019 and 2020 to be allowed for use on the completion of one or two large projects at the Animal Shelter. Due to COVID delays, the Shelter was not able to complete

smaller projects that had previously been done using 80% of only the prior year's donations. Current balance of the Animal Shelter Trust Fund is \$416,040, so less than \$155,187 transfer there will leave \$260,853 remaining.

**Jonathan Schopf**

Thank you. Just note for the record Supervisor Gaston has joined us. Do we have any questions on the Public Safety agenda from anyone?

**Sandra Winney**

This is Supervisor Winney, the construction at the Animal Shelter? I have no idea what that's going on. I guess Steve said it was from 2020. Is there any direction any kind of plans that they're building there? I haven't seen anything come through.

**Steve Bulger**

We have Penny Heritage from the Animal Shelter. And she can answer any questions you may have Supervisor.

**Sandra Winney**

I'm looking for something to look at. I mean, do they have a workup on it to tell us what kind of buildings they're looking for?

**Penny Heritage**

Yes, we do. That's. I'm sorry, who am I speaking with?

**Sandra Winney**

This is Supervisor Winney.

**Penny Heritage**

Supervisor Winney, yes. The project was discussed in the Fall of 2020 with the committee, I do have plans. What it is is a 36 by 48 foot covered, it's a canine pavilion with five foot high sides and an open top. And it's allowing those who are working with canines to get out of the weather in inclement weather and in sunny weather as well when it's very hot and nowhere to escape. I do have a schematic if you'd like to look at it, or if anybody would like to look at it. Engineers at DPW worked on this and it was put out to bid, so we have some figures to go by and to know how much we needed to transfer. But that has been done, but I would be happy to share what the design looks like and any details about its intended purpose.

**Sandra Winney**

Okay, maybe I can stop at the Shelter and look it over with you.

**Penny Heritage**

Absolutely, and if any Supervisors would like to do the same. Okay,



**Sandra Winney**

Thank you very much.

**Penny Heritage**

Thank you.

**Matt Veitch**

Mr. Chairman?

**Jonathan Schopf**

Yes, Supervisor Veitch.

**Matt Veitch**

So I don't necessarily have a question, although I would say that I was a little surprised, and I know we talked about this last year, but I don't really remember too much of it. But, something this size with this much cost, I would think that it would be maybe more appropriately run through the Buildings and Grounds committee, rather than the Public Safety Committee. It seems like this is a little bit of substantial construction of a building on our property. So not necessarily for you, but an overall statement comment. And then the second part of that is that I know that some years ago, we had quite a discussion here at the Board, if I remember, about the use of the Animal Shelter Trust Fund, and that capital projects and buildings are not necessarily the intended use for the people who donate to the Trust Fund. And I don't know if we have any rules or laws or things we've written or resolutions. But there was some discussion some years ago about things like air conditioning systems, or things that are parts of buildings that were considered somewhat inappropriate use of the Animal Shelter Trust Fund. So I'll vote in favor of this, I don't have a problem with going forward as it stands. But I think we need to consider that going forward. That these are donations that people give to the County for the care of the animals, building buildings, and building air conditioning systems, and things are not, I don't think, what they intended for us to use the money for. So that's all I'll say thank you.

**Penny Heritage**

Correct. There was discussion in the Fall about, there was another project in the works and I believe Supervisor Raymond, made the comment as well about a pressure washing system. Yeah, and I do have the Resolution from 2017 and know that it's not for something that's within the budget, say for example, animal food or just routine things, but this is definitely going above and beyond something that's not budgeted, and it's going to be a huge enhancement for the dogs to be able to conduct enrichment and training . Anyway, so thank you for your support of that and if it is written anywhere, I have not seen any specifics. But I get the gist of what you're talking about.

**Matt Veitch**

It may have been just a discussion here, not so much anything we put down and on paper. Bu to me, we're getting \$150,000 for a building to me doesn't seem like what the donors wanted us to use that money for. So just that's it. Thank you.

**Jonathan Schopf**

I wasn't present at this month's Public Safety meeting, but I did pull up the resolution, it's number 211 of 2020, which appears to have permitted the allocation and the use of those funds for the particular capital projects. So I think that's what this is based on.

**Matt Veitch**

Okay, thanks.

**Jonathan Schopf**

And there's some percentages and some amounts in there, with the bid award as part of that Resolution for this pre-engineered building, when the... I'm not sure what the roll up curtain system is but I assume it's an entrance exit way for the for the project. I think that was I think that was through in 2020, where it's coming from.

**Matt Veitch**

Alright, thank you. Appreciate it.

**Penny Heritage**

Any other questions?

**Jonathan Schopf**

I'm not sure if that was through Public Safety or Buildings and Grounds last year. But that's the resolution number. Okay, are there any other questions, for Penny or on any other resolutions? Great, thank you Penny.

**Penny Heritage**

Thank you very much.

**Jonathan Schopf**

No questions? Can I get a motion on the Public Safety agenda items, please?

**Phil Barrett**

So moved.

**Jonathan Schopf**

Supervisor Barrett. Thank you. Do we have a second?

**Tom Wood**

Supervisor Wood I'll second it.

**Jonathan Schopf**

Thanks Supervisor. Any discussion on the motion?

**Sandra Winney**

This is Supervisor Winney. I'd kind of hold off on this 211 a little bit till I get more information on that.

**Jonathan Schopf**

Supervisor, 211 was the resolution in 2020 that authorized this project. Just to be clear.

**Sandra Winney**

Well I'm going to hold up on this one then.

**Jonathan Schopf**

Okay. All in favor of the agenda?

**Several Supervisors**

Aye.

**Jonathan Schopf**

Opposed?

**Jonathan Schopf**

Supervisor Winney, are you in favor or opposed?

**Sandra Winney**

I'm okay with the rest of them, just except for the Animal Shelter Trust Fund. That's all.

**Jonathan Schopf**

Thank you. Law and Finance up next.

**Steve Bulger**

Okay, first item under Law and Finance, authorizing an agreement with the Wladis Law Firm PLLC to provide legal representation of the County for Public Health Services. Budget impact none, anticipated expenditures are included into 2021 budget. This item will authorize the Chairman of the Board to execute a major contract with Wladis Law Firm beginning April 21 2021 and ending April 21 2023. Wladis Law Firm will provide legal representation of the County for Public Health Services transition to a full service Public Health Department, general legal services related to COVID-19 pandemic response, including contract review, grant administration, and other matters as needed and requested by the County Attorney's office. Next item, authorizing the acceptance and administration of \$6,818,071.60 in Federal aid for the COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Program. Budget impact, this resolution accepts \$6,880,071.60 in ERAP funding and the necessary journal entries related thereto. State guidance on program implications is being developed and a resolution may be needed to authorize an agreement with New York State for implementation of this program. These Federal funds were sent to the County in February, where it was anticipated the County would be overseeing their distribution to eligible renters and landlords impacted by the COVID pandemic. The new State budget however, dramatically changes this situation so that New York State now is taking over control of almost all aspects of this program, including setting up a portal for applicants, handling all funds and

disbursements, handling all application approvals, denials and appeals, and taking responsibility for all reporting and usage requirements with the Department of Treasury. In short, this is no longer a Saratoga County program, it is strictly a State program that we are providing limited assistance to. Because we received most of the important information from the State last night at 8pm, we are in the process of preparing all the necessary resolutions and materials for next week's Board meeting. Based on staff analysis, we anticipate the possibility of up to five resolutions for next week's Board meeting for this program. Number one, accepting the money from the federal treasury. Two, authorizing sending that money to New York State. Three, authorizing a contract based on an RFP for program outreach. Four, creating two positions within DSS and any amendments to the Compensation Schedule. And five, authorization to sign agreements with the State to facilitate all of this program. Next item, authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with Eckert Mechanical LLC for installation of AHU-5 at the Saratoga County Sewer District's Wastewater Treatment Plant in the amount of \$57,353. Budget impact none. This project was put out to bid on February 10 2021 and will replace the air handling unit on the roof of the Saratoga County Sewer District's Number one administration building. This project was approved by the Sewer Commission at their meeting on April 8 2021. Next item, authorizing an application to the New York State Comptroller for permission to acquire, construct, and install improvements of the Saratoga County Sewer District interceptor and related facilities. Budget impact none. Bond council recommended the resolution as this is standard practice for the Board of Supervisors to approve the application for content and approve the submission. This includes rehabilitation of the County sewer trunk line, which is approximately 14 miles of the existing interceptor sewer ranging in size from 36 inches to 54 inches in diameter of concrete pipe. Cured in place pipe lining will be the method of rehabilitation used for the pipe. This was also approved by the Sewer Commission at their meeting on April 8 2021. Next item, authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with Xylem water Solutions USA Inc. for maintenance of the UV disinfection system at Saratoga County Sewer District's Number one's Wastewater Treatment Plant. Budget impact none. This project was put out to bid on February 17 2021. During that time, Xylem Water Solutions USA Inc. was the sole bidder at \$19,758 for the project. Ongoing preventive maintenance of the UV system ensures better compliance, less downtime and decreased usage. This also was approved by the Sewer Commission at the April 8 2021 meeting. Next item, authorizing the Chairman of the Board to execute contracts with Barton and Loguidice and Advanced Enterprise Systems Corporation doing business as Utility Cloud for the development, implementation, and software licensing for an asset management program for the Saratoga County Sewer District. Budget impact none. Funds for the contracts are covered into 2021 budget. Two separate agreements will be needed, one for the implementation done by B&L and the other for the software licensing. The agreement with B&L will be for \$62,934. And the Advanced Enterprise System license fee is \$40,000 per year for a three year term. The total year one cost for the project is \$102,934. The software program will assist in both the collection system and the wastewater treatment plan. This was also approved by the Sewer Commission at the April 8 meeting. Next item, authorizing the Chairman of the Board to execute an easement agreement with Anthony DiSienna and Lindsay Donini at 68 English Road in the Town of Clifton Park to allow a sewer lateral to be installed on County lands. Budget impact none. The sewer line must traverse the property at 68 English Road as well as the property at 69 English Road. The homeowner at 69 English Road has already agreed to an easement in principle. This contract will be responsible for all trail restoration, and Saratoga County Sewer District will work with the Planning Department to ensure a problem restoration is done. Next item, introducing a proposed Local Law opting into the new DEC Deer Hunting Pilot

program and setting a date for a public hearing. Budget impact none. Date of the public hearing is May 18 2021, at 3:30pm prior to the scheduled Board of Supervisors meeting. The New York State 2021/22 budget negotiated between the Governor and the Legislature, included a provision for youth ages 12 and 13 to hunt deer under adult supervision in New York State under a pilot program set to expire on 12/31/23. Prior to the enactment of this law, New York State was one of the most restrictive states in the nation, when it came to allowing youth hunters the ability to pursue big game with a rifle, shotgun or muzzle loader. Under the adopted budget language, counties must formally opt in, in the form of a Local Law to participate. New York State DEC is requesting by letter from Commissioner Basil Seggos on 4/9/21 that this option be completed by June 1st if possible, so that the information can be published in the hunting guides that are printed prior to license sales. This resolution will set a public hearing on the Local Law prior to the May Board meeting, and it is the intent to move forward with adoption in May for the Local Law. I'd like to note that Legislative and Review Chairwoman Jean Raymond is fully supportive of this Local Law. I'd also like to note that County Planning Director Jason Kemper who also serves as Chairman of the New York State Conservation Fund advisory board, has been a leading force over several years to get this legislation passed by the State, and was especially instrumental working with the DEC, and State and Senate and Assembly members during the past few weeks to get this included in the State budget. Well done by our colleague.

**Jonathan Schopf**

Thank you. I would echo those sentiments. Thank you, Jason, for all your hard work on that. Does anybody have any questions about any of the Law and Finance items?

**Sandra Winney**

No, but I want to say good work for Jason. He did a great job.

**Jonathan Schopf**

Thank you. Do we have a motion to approve?

**Sandra Winney**

I'll have the motion to approve.

**Jonathan Schopf**

Supervisor Winney. Thank you. Second?

**Matt Veitch**

I'll second.

**Jonathan Schopf**

Second by Supervisor Veitch. Any discussion on the motion?

**Jonathan Schopf**

Hearing none all in favor?

**Several Supervisors**

Aye.

**Jonathan Schopf**

Any opposed? Passes.

**Jonathan Schopf**

We have a minor Chairman's item of an appointment.

**Steve Bulger**

Yes, an appointment to the Soil and Water Conservation District appointing Janet Bartow of Milton Grange, Town of Milton as the Grange representative to the Soil and Water Conservation District for the remainder of Donald Monica's term. This term will expire on December 31 2022.

**Jonathan Schopf**

Thank you. All right. We do have an executive session today. But before we clear out... Oh, I'm sorry. I passed right over that. Do we have a vote on the Chairman's item?

**Matt Veitch**

I'll move it.

**Phil Barrett**

Second.

**Jonathan Schopf**

Supervisor Veitch, second by Supervisor Barrett. Is there any discussion on that item? All right, hearing none, all in favor?

**Several Supervisors**

Aye.

**Jonathan Schopf**

Any opposed? Thank you.

**Jonathan Schopf**

I was saying we're gonna just go out of order a little bit. We'll do other business a little bit of miscommunications on the presentation from Lindsey Connors, who is the Community Development Planner of the Office of Planning and Development in the City of Saratoga Springs on the potential for Saratoga County moving forward with its entitlement status and Lindsay's here. If you step up to the mic. Lindsay has a brief presentation for us and she's here to go ahead with it.

**Lindsey Connors**

Hi everybody, I'm Lindsey Connors. I was just introduced. I'm the Community Development Planner for the City of Saratoga Springs. As you may or may not know the City of Saratoga Springs is what is

considered an Entitlement Community. That is a designation by HUD, basically, based on your size of the municipality. Saratoga County has recently also become eligible to be an entitlement community under that same HUD designation, as the County has now surpassed a 200,000 population count. So the opportunity that I'm here to present you with is that the City at this point is very willing and able to utilize our experience running an entitlement program for the past two decades or so, and relinquish our standing as an entitlement community making our annual allocation now a County resource, and managing that entitlement program on behalf of the County. So there is a little bit of a qualification process that the County would have to undergo in order to actually acquire these funds. Namely, every unit of local government within the County has the option to opt in or opt out of the urban County, that would become an entitlement community. So there are a couple thresholds under which we can qualify as an entitlement community. And I'm recommending that the County move forward under the second threshold, which would be, of the communities opting in, we have over 100,000 population and included in that population would be the majority of the County's low to moderate income population in total. We have tried this previously, fell just a little short. Previously, we attempted to reach this qualification under the first threshold, which would be to have over 200,000 opt ins, and we fell just short of that, by gosh, it was probably about 400 folks, or so it was very, very slight. Last year, efforts were derailed due to the pandemic, which is ongoing. And we hope in the near future to pull this one across the finish line. Entitlement funds are essentially for housing, economic development, elimination of slums and blight, expansion of community services, and neighborhood revitalization. And 70% of the funds do have to benefit our low to moderate income community. So our nonprofits are aware of the opportunity and are really excited and supportive of it. On the back of one of the handouts that was just passed around by Therese, we do have a list of possible future CDBG projects that could be funded with these funds, should we be able to secure that qualification process. There are various, ranging from economic development efforts to Human Services efforts, housing, public facility improvements, you name it. I really do think that it would be a beneficial resource for the County. And entitlement communities tend to be a mechanism for which funding from the Federal Government comes through an emergency situation. So case in point through the CARES act last year, the City as an entitlement community received two additional allocations of funding to assist with our efforts around the pandemic. And those two additional allocations, more than doubled our normal yearly allocation, so it can be quite beneficial for numerous reasons to have this designation. I'm happy to answer any questions.

**Jonathan Schopf**

Yeah, Mr. Chairman?

**Jonathan Schopf**

Yes, Supervisor Pemrick from Town of Greenfield.

**Dan Pemrick**

The information that the committee members received, that'll be made available to everyone else at some point in the future?

**Jonathan Schopf**

Therese just indicated she's going to scan it, and going to email it around to the whole board. So we'll all have it.

**Dan Pemrick**

Thank you.

**Sandra Winney**

Is there a certain date? This is Supervisor Winney, that we have to do this? Opt in to this?

**Lindsey Connors**

So if we were going to qualify for the 2022 program year, we would need to kind of start this process now. I know you're on the line, so perhaps can't see the timeline that I've provided. We'll make sure to follow up with an email on that. HUD has indicated that we'd be somewhat flexible with due dates for each of the qualification steps if we have a clear path forward. They are around the same time each year. So if we do not make it for this year's qualification process, it is something that we can continue to plan and pursue next year.

**Sandra Winney**

Okay.

**Jonathan Schopf**

Anybody else?

**Steve Bulger**

Yeah, this is Administrator Bulger, I just want to thank Lindsey for a lot of work putting all this together. And we've been discussing this. I think it would behoove the County to create some type of advisory board to really prepare for this, because I think the timeframes this year are very tight, I don't think will be able, my personal feeling is, there is so much going on right now, it's gonna be really tight to meet. However, this is an annual program, I think it does make sense for a lot of reasons, for at least some municipalities to consider this, and so we're already talking about creating an Advisory Board later this year, so that when next year comes, we can really work closely to get this done, or at least give the option to the municipalities if they would like to participate. But I want to thank you, Lindsay, for all your hard work.

**Lindsey Connors**

Absolutely. And it's also worth noting that for those municipalities who would choose to opt in, you're only locked in for a period of three years. So it's not a not a forever sign on.

**Tom Richardson**

Mr. Chairman? Yes, I'd like to see the Mechanical Area Community Center added to this list that you've got on second page.

**Lindsey Connors**

You know what, that's funny, actually, they were supposed to be on there. So this must have been my first version of it. I spoke with Megan Coleman over there yesterday and she let me know that they



were very interested in this particular funding source to utilize with the empty schoolhouse that they're looking at for a co-location of services.

**Tom Richardson**

That's correct. Yes.

**Tara Gaston**

Chairman?

**Jonathan Schopf**

Supervisor Gaston.

**Tara Gaston**

Thank you. To be clear, I think the list of agencies on there is a potential list of individual organizations that may be able to access the funding. So for any Supervisor who is reading it, it is certainly not exclusive. And I think any agency would be able to apply for that, that meets the qualifications. Although I do know that they would be happy to join, but I just wanted to make sure if there was any other Supervisor with an agency in their area that might be interested, this is not an exclusive list. It's possible.

**Lindsey Connors**

Thank you for that clarification Supervisor Gaston, it's 100% true.

**Tom Richardson**

One last question. Does the City of Mechanical have to opt into this? Or is it just because the entire County's opting into it they automatically are involved.

**Lindsey Connors**

So each municipality would need to opt in or opt out individually.

**Tom Richardson**

Okay. I'll see that the City does that. Thank you.

**Jonathan Schopf**

Anybody else? Anybody on the line? Thank you, Lindsay.

**Lindsey Connors**

Thanks so much.

**Jonathan Schopf**

All right. At this time, I'd like a motion to enter into Executive Session for discussions regarding proposed, pending, or current litigation. Do I have a motion on that?

**Tara Gaston**

I'll move that.

**Jonathan Schopf**

Supervisor Gaston, second?

**Matt Veitch**

I'll second.

**Jonathan Schopf**

Supervisor Veitch. All in favor?

**Several Supervisors**

Aye.

**Jonathan Schopf**

Anybody opposed? All right. Thank you.

**Michael Hartnett**

Mr. Chairman. Just if I could just have Therese, I just want to make sure that Deputy Clerk Connolly to just shut down the public line, we're going to shut that down and just confirm who's present under Public Officers Law 105 sub two, that only members of the this public body should be participating and no other parties and no minutes or recordings.

**Tara Gaston**

To that end, are we also going to pull the cameras? Thank you.

**Jonathan Schopf**

Yes. Thank you.

**Jonathan Schopf**

Thank you Attorney Hartnett.

**Michael Hartnett**

So once Therese does that we'll be in Executive.

**Jonathan Schopf**

We will just stand a recess while we clear the room and then we'll resume in Executive Session. Thank you.

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**Jonathan Schopf**

We're back on, public line is back on. We're out of executive session. Now the Law and Finance committee did vote.

**Therese Connolly**

I just need to know who voted to come out of Executive Session?

**Jonathan Schopf**

Oh, I'm sorry. It was Supervisor Barrett made a motion, Supervisor Veitch seconded. All voted unanimously to come out.

**Therese Connolly**

Thank you.

**Jonathan Schopf**

And while in Executive Session, we did discuss potential and pending litigation, as well as a certain notice of claim which has been filed against Saratoga County and others. And the Law and Finance committee unanimously passed by a motion made by Supervisor Gaston and seconded by Supervisor Barrett, I believe, to move a resolution onto the agenda for this month's Board meeting, which was entitled authorizing certain members of the Board of Supervisors to retain private Counsel of their own choosing in relation to a notice of claim filed by Spencer Hellwig, which essentially provides that pursuant to Saratoga County's local law 4 of 1984, that defense and indemnification is provided for employees, including elected officials, by Saratoga County, to be able to retain their own counsel should a conflict of interest potentially exist in litigation. And upon the recommendation of the County Attorney, this resolution was passed and we will add it to the agenda. Attorney Hartnett is there anything else I should add to that?

**Michael Hartnett**

I think that completely encapsulates the discussion and action taken.

**Jonathan Schopf**

Okay, and we will add this resolution to the agenda for the full Board meeting. Is there any other business, questions, discussion? Hearing none, motion to adjourn.

**Matt Veitch**

Do we do we have to set the agenda?

**Jonathan Schopf**

Oh, I'm sorry. We're back. I closed that one up already. Thank you. So at this time I'd entertain a motion to set the agenda of all of the items, including the Chairman's item and our Executive Session matter on to the Board meeting, which is scheduled for April 20 2021.

**Matt Veitch**

I'll make the motion Supervisor Veitch.

**Jonathan Schopf**

Supervisor Veitch, second?

**Tara Gaston**

I'll second.

**Jonathan Schopf**

Supervisor Gaston. Any discussion on the motion? Hearing none, all in favor?

**Several Supervisors**

Aye.

**Jonathan Schopf**

Any opposed? Motion passes. Motion to adjourn? Supervisor Gaston, Supervisor Veitch. All in favor?

**Several Supervisors**

Aye.

**Jonathan Schopf**

Any opposed? Thank you, everyone. We will see you at the Board meeting.