

LAW & FINANCE Transcript 9/8/2021

SPEAKERS

Tara Gaston, Phil Barrett, Jonathan Schopf, Michael Hartnett, Matt Veitch, Joe Grasso, Kevin Tollisen, Ridge Harris, Carl Zeilman, Tom Wood

Jonathan Schopf

Alright, since we have a full committee here, we'll get started. Call to order the September 8, 2021. Four o'clock Law & Finance meeting to order. We've got some Supervisors present in the room and some calling in. At this point, I'd ask for a motion to approve the minutes from the August 11, 2021 meeting.

Tom Wood

Supervisor Wood, I'll make that motion

Jonathan Schopf

A motion by Supervisor Wood and I think a second by Supervisor Veitch.

Matt Veitch

Yeah, I'll second it.

Jonathan Schopf

Thank you. Discussion on the motion? All in favor?

Several Supervisors

Aye.

Jonathan Schopf

Any opposed? Passes. Start off, we have a fairly hefty the agenda today. So we'll start off with Government Review and Efficiency.

Ridge Harris

Thank you Chairman. First item from Government Review and Efficiency introducing a Local Law adopting a Capital Plan and setting a public hearing. Budget impact none. This Local Law formally opts the County into the provisions of the county law pertaining to Capital plans.

Jonathan Schopf

Okay, is there any questions on this item? Do we have a motion?

Matt Veitch

So moved

Jonathan Schopf

Supervisor Veitch. Second?

Joe Grasso

I'll second.

Jonathan Schopf

Supervisor Grasso, thank you. Discussion on the motion? All in favor.

Several Supervisors

Aye.

Jonathan Schopf

Any opposed? Passes. Thank you. Health and Human Services.

Ridge Harris

First item authorizing an amendment to the agreement with Rejha Group, LLC for transportation services for preschool children with special needs. Budget impact none, funds are available in the 2021 budget. This will extend the amendment previously approved for last school year into the 2021-2022 school year for transportation of preschool students in special education and early intervention programs to account for COVID-19 impacts including busing restrictions uncertain school attendance figures and fluctuating transportation costs. Next item, authorizing the acceptance of 2021 State Aid allocation from the New York State Office of Children and Family Services for youth development and runaway homeless youth programs and services. Budget impact none, 100% State Aid. The 2021 budget will be amended to accept these funds and authorize related expenses. The Youth Development Program is a supplemental funding stream that assists agencies and municipalities throughout the County in providing positive youth development in Juvenile Delinquency Prevention programs. The Runaway Homeless Youth Act services are provided through Captain Community Human Services. Next item, authorizing reappropriation of Youth Development Program funds from the State Office of Children and Family Services. Budget impact none. 100% State Aid. This resolution authorizes an increase in funding for the Lively Library Learning Program of the Southern Adirondack Library System. This increase will be paid for by unspent funds from other agencies within the program.

Jonathan Schopf

Any questions on those items?

Kevin Tollisen

Move them to approve.

Tom Wood

Second, Supervisor Wood.

Jonathan Schopf

Thank you. Motion by Supervisor Tollisen, second by Wood. Any discussion on the motion? All in favor?

Several Supervisors

Aye.

Jonathan Schopf

Any opposed? Carries. Thank you. Public Safety's up next.

Ridge Harris

First item authorizing agreement with the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services to accept a \$138,956 Public Safety Answering Points Grant. Budget impact none. 100% State Aid. This grant funding offsets Saratoga County's call taking and dispatching expenses. The performance period of this grant commenced January 1, 2021, and will conclude on December 31, 2021. These funds were included in the 2021 budget. Next item authorizing an agreement with New York State Office for Indigent Legal Services to accept a \$257,269 Indigent Legal Services grant budget impact none. 100% State aid. This grant will replace the 2nd Upstate Quality grant that was awarded from July 2017 through June of 2020. This new grant will cover a significant portion of an Assistant Public Defender salary over three years. Next item authorizing the acceptance of additional State aid in in the amount of \$5,000 from New York State's STOP-DWI Foundation for DWI crackdown, program patrols and activities and amending the 2021 budget in relation thereto. Budget impact none, 100% State aid. The 2021 budget will be amended to accept these funds and authorize related expenses. The New York State STOP-DWI Foundation has awarded Saratoga County additional allocation of \$5,000 for this grant cycle. These additional funds will be appropriated to the County STOP-DWI program budget. And the last item proclaiming October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Saratoga County. Budget impact none. This resolution will raise awareness of issues related to domestic violence and resources designed to support victims and reduce instances of domestic violence.

Joe Grasso

I'll move it.

Jonathan Schopf

Supervisor Grasso. Second?

Matt Veitch

Second.

Jonathan Schopf

Supervisor Veitch. Thank you. Discussion on the motion? All in favor?

Several Supervisors

Aye.

Jonathan Schopf

Any opposed? Passes. Thank you. HR and insurance up next.

Ridge Harris

First item approving the restructuring of certain departments. Budget impact none. One vote was taken in committee on this proposal however, two resolutions will be needed. The first resolution authorizes the restructuring of the County department organizational chart. The County Historian will move from the Office of the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors to the County Clerk. The Office of Emergency Services will move under the Sheriff's Office and the Youth Bureau will be dissolved and responsibilities split between Public Health and Office for the Aging. The second resolution authorizes the amendment of the 2021 compensation schedule to create temporary positions for the COVID-19 School testing program. These positions will be funded through the Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity Reopening Schools grant accepted via Resolution 224 of 2021. Next item, approving a transfer of funds to cover 18B Attorneys' fees. Budget impact, a transfer from fund balance and the amount of \$160,000 will be required to cover current and anticipated expenses under 18 B. The purpose of the 18B program is to provide representation to those County residents who are unable to afford their own representation in criminal proceedings and certain Family Court actions. In 2020, the budget and amount for the division was sufficient due to the COVID-19 pandemic closing courts and driving down costs. However in 2021, the backlog of cases has increased expenses in attorneys' fees. These are mandated expense requiring County expenditures for indigent defense costs.

Jonathan Schopf

Thank you and just a note, it was on the agenda. The first two resolutions were on there as one continuous resolution that's how it came out of committee. But it was necessitated to split them into two separate resolutions as one deals with compensation the others for restructurings, just a technical note. Any questions or a motion on those?

Matt Veitch

I'll move it. Do we move them both or one at a time?

Michael Hartnett

You can collectively move them.

Matt Veitch

Collectively move them, ok I'll collectively move them.

Jonathan Schopf

Thank you.

Matt Veitch

For discussion.

Jonathan Schopf

Second?

Several Supervisors

Second.

Jonathan Schopf

Seconded by everybody. I'm sorry. All in favor?

Matt Veitch

I had discussion, Mr. Chairman.

Jonathan Schopf

Yes, Supervisor Veitch. I'm sorry.

Matt Veitch

I didn't vote yet. So I don't know if we'll take the vote a second time.

Jonathan Schopf

To discussion.

Matt Veitch

Yeah. So I just I had some questions on this back in the HR committee, regarding the restructuring of the Office of Emergency Services under the Sheriff's Department. Since that time, the Office has communicated with myself, including I believe all the members of Law and Finance, with some really great explanation as to how this will work going forward. I believe there's even, from what I understand, a potential renaming of the Department to the Office of Emergency Management, which would mirror what I've seen, after the last meeting, doing research, looking at Albany County and looking at Columbia County, which were both brought up as examples of other counties that are doing it this way. So from what I saw, and what I got from the information that was provided to me, I think this should be okay, in terms of, you know, functioning, and I think it does add some efficiency to the Department. So at the end of the day, I'll vote in favor of this going forward. But I do appreciate everybody being open and honest and letting us know what they see going forward in this Department. So I'm satisfied with the answers I've been given.

Jonathan Schopf

Great, glad to hear. Any other discussion?

Tara Gaston

Chairman?

Jonathan Schopf

Yes, Supervisor Gaston.

Tara Gaston

Sorry, the information that was received, will that be available to other Supervisors and or the public prior to the full vote? I also asked questions in HR, which I don't sit on, nor Law and Finance, but I haven't received any of that information. And it may be beneficial. Prior to the final vote.

Jonathan Schopf

It was a memo, we can we can distribute around. Carl, could you shoot that around? I think send to everybody.

Carl Zeilman

Will do.

Jonathan Schopf

Thank you. Any other discussion? All right. Let's revote on that. That was a little bit of a disasters there first.

Matt Veitch

I moved it.

Jonathan Schopf

One second.

Phil Barrett

Second.

Jonathan Schopf

Supervisor Barrett. Thank you. All in favor?

Several Supervisors

Aye.

Jonathan Schopf

Any opposed? That passes Thank you very much. And Law and Finance.

Ridge Harris

First item, authorizing a contract for the Senior Nutrition Program. Budget impact none, funds are included in the 2021 budget. The Senior Nutrition Program provides home delivered and congregate meals to seniors 60 and older in Saratoga County. Office for the Aging is recommending that the bid be awarded to Mazzone Hospitality. The contract for the Nutrition Program will commence October 1, 2021 and extend through December 31, 2026. Next item, authorizing the Chair of the Board to execute and submit a four year Workforce Development Area Local Plan for the Saratoga Warren Washington Workforce Development Board. Budget impact none. This local plan will establish priorities for the four year period of July 2021 until June 2025, and has already been approved by the Workforce Development Board and New York State Department of Labor. These next three items are regarding

the Sewer District and have been approved by the Sewer Commission. Authorizing the Chairman to enter an agreement with MJ Engineering and Land Surveying in the amount not to exceed \$24,700 for architectural, structural, mechanical, electrical, plumbing and environmental site assessment of a property in the City of Mechanicville. Budget impact none. The Sewer District is currently evaluating the feasibility of acquiring a storage building in the City of Mechanicville. The facility would provide more than 30,000 square feet of space for Sewer District to house equipment. Next item, authorizing an amendment to the agreement with Adirondack Environmental Services for a total not to exceed the amount of \$130,058 to cover costs associated with sample analysis required by the US EPA for Saratoga County Sewer District's technical determination of local limits. Budget impact none. The United States EPA regulations require the Sewer District to conduct a thorough analysis of pollutants that are discharged to the wastewater treatment plant. This analysis is used to calculate the local limits that always water discharge must adhere to. There are sufficient funds for this contract in the Sewer Districts 2021 budget. Next item, authorizing the agreement with J.W. Danforth in the amount not to exceed \$750,000 for the replacement of supply and return hot water piping for building heat at the wastewater treatment plant. This item was pulled from the agenda at the request of the Department Head. Next item, adopting a Local Law to provide for a cost of living increase for certain County Officials. Budget impact none. Approvals of this item will result in the previously proposed resolution that was tabled in January being added to the agenda under Unfinished Business for the regular meeting of the full Board of Supervisors.

Jonathan Schopf

Any discussion or questions on that motion? Supervisor Gaston.

Tara Gaston

Chairman, the local law presumably will be amended. Because there's at least, no?

Jonathan Schopf

There's at least what?

Tara Gaston

Despite the fact that one person on there is no longer employed by the County.

Jonathan Schopf

I think we're moving this, this was previously proposed in January we tabled it based on.

Tara Gaston

That was my question. Does it need to be amended? Does it need to be removed? Or does there need to be another public hearing? Because there will be a change?

Jonathan Schopf

That's it's my understanding, we're just advancing the resolution for discussion purposes at the meeting. And if it's generally favorable, that will address the resolution at a later time. Is that accurate Mike?

Michael Hartnett

Thank you, Chairman. Because a Public Hearing was already held on the proposed Local Law, any amendment to the Local Law would have to restart that that process. So it's being put under Unfinished Business with the anticipation that there may be a motion to take it off the table and consider it. But it would have to be moved as it was previously proposed as a Local Law and for the Board to consider at this meeting. So it wouldn't be amended in this iteration.

Tara Gaston

Okay. All right.

Michael Hartnett

In other words, any amendment to it would require it to come through a new proposal and publication be proposed for a public hearing and then be done that way? If the Board doesn't adopt it as is it would require it to be forwarded in some other form. If that makes sense.

Tara Gaston

So is it for discussion? Or is it for potential vote at the full Board meeting? Or both?

Michael Hartnett

The purpose of adding it at Law and Finance was to add it to the agenda under Unfinished Business. So it wouldn't require necessarily a vote to be added to the agenda at that point. So it was eliminating one step in the process for the Board to consider it at the full board meeting,

Jonathan Schopf

Because it's still tabled.

Michael Hartnett

Because it's still tabled. So it would require two votes instead of three. So if that makes sense.

Tara Gaston

Okay, I would just say, again, not on this committee, but am on the Board, that my recommendation would be that it be amended. And I recognize that that would put a delay, but otherwise, it doesn't make a lot of sense to me to pass something that's no longer valid in some aspects. I just think it's cleaner that way. But thank you for clearing that up.

Jonathan Schopf

Any other questions? Motion?

Matt Veitch

I'll move it.

Jonathan Schopf

Moved Supervisor Veitch. Second?

Phil Barrett

Second.

Jonathan Schopf

Supervisor Barrett, thank you. Any discussion on the motion? Supervisor Veitch.

Matt Veitch

So just to clarify the technical part of this. So we're doing this because we do not need to then add it to the agenda for our meeting.

Michael Hartnett

Correct.

Matt Veitch

Okay.

Michael Hartnett

It would still require a motion to take off the table.

Matt Veitch

Right, the Board has tabled it.

Michael Hartnett

This would add it to the agenda, thereby eliminating the requirement of a vote to add it to the agenda.

Matt Veitch

Right. Okay. I think that makes sense. Yeah, and I agree with Supervisor Gaston. I mean, the Local Law is not valid as it stands, so we're going to have to amend it. Anyway, based on the listing that is on there, so thanks.

Jonathan Schopf

All favor?

Several Supervisors

Aye.

Jonathan Schopf

Opposed? Passes. Thank you. We have a couple Chairman's items.

Ridge Harris

First Chairman's item is appointing Scott Chamberlain as the Worker's Compensation Administrator. And second Chairman's item is appointing Mike Butler as a Commissioner for Saratoga County Sewer District Number One.

Jonathan Schopf

Questions or concerns on those? Motion?

Kevin Tollisen

I'll make that motion.

Jonathan Schopf

Supervisor Tollisen. Second?

Tom Wood

Supervisor Wood.

Jonathan Schopf

Supervisor Wood. Thank you. All in favor?

Several Supervisors

Aye.

Jonathan Schopf

Any opposed? Passes. Thank you. Just under Other Business here, I would like to recognize Supervisor Barrett, today's his birthday. Congratulations on attaining another year. Is there any other business before the committee today?

Tara Gaston

Chairman?

Jonathan Schopf

Supervisor Gaston.

Tara Gaston

I just I know that there was supposed to be some information forthcoming on ARPA proposals, etc. through the Law and Finance committee. Do we have any update on that or timeline?

Jonathan Schopf

I don't, I don't know if there's anything from the Administrator's Office on that Ridge?

Ridge Harris

So, we've been working closely with our vendor, the EFPR Group and Venesky Group to calculate lost revenue numbers, and have been working with department heads to identify potential projects at this point, in order to present those as options to the Committee of Law and Finance.

Tara Gaston

Do we have a timeline?

Ridge Harris

We do not. Planning on that next month.

Tara Gaston

Thank you.

Jonathan Schopf

Any other business? Alright, I will now accept a motion to set the Resolutions that were passed for the agenda for the Board meeting for September 21st of this year.

Tom Wood

Supervisor Wood.

Jonathan Schopf

Supervisor Wood. Thank you. Second?

Matt Veitch

Second.

Jonathan Schopf

Supervisor Veitch. Thank you. All in favor?

Several Supervisors

Aye.

Jonathan Schopf

Opposed? Passes. Thank you. How about a motion to adjourn? Make a jump on that?

Joe Grasso

I'll make the motion.

Jonathan Schopf

Supervisor Grasso. Second?

Matt Veitch

Second.

Jonathan Schopf

Supervisor Veitch. All in favor.

Several Supervisors

Aye.

Jonathan Schopf

Any opposed? See you next week everybody.