

LAW & FINANCE TRANSCRIPT

1-12-2022

SPEAKERS

Jean Raymond, Phil Barrett, John Lant, Steve Bulger, Jonathan Schopf, Matt Veitch, Joe Grasso, Daniel Kuhles, Kevin Tollisen, Therese Connolly, Michael Hartnett, Theodore Kusnierz, Dan Rourke

Jonathan Schopf

Afternoon, everybody we're gonna call to order the first Law and Finance Committee Meeting of the New Year. Welcome everyone. Therese, could you take attendance, please? We have a mix of folks in the room and on the phone today.

Therese Connolly

Supervisor Barrett.

Phil Barrett

Here.

Therese Connolly

Supervisor Grasso.

Joe Grasso

Here.

Therese Connolly

Lant.

John Lant

Yeah.

Therese Connolly

Raymond

Jean Raymond

Here.

Therese Connolly

Tollisen.

Kevin Tollisen

Here.

Therese Connolly

Veitch.

Matt Veitch

Here.

Therese Connolly

And Chairman Schopf. We have a full quorum.

Jonathan Schopf

At this point, is there a motion for approval of the minutes of the December 8 meeting.

Matt Veitch

So moved

Jonathan Schopf

Supervisor Veitch. Thank you. Second

Kevin Tollisen

Second.

Jonathan Schopf

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

Several Supervisors

Aye.

Jonathan Schopf

Any opposed? Carries. Alright. Next on the agenda is the appointment of a vice chair. I appoint Phil Barrett Supervisor from Clifton Park if he will accept that appointment.

Phil Barrett

I accept.

Jonathan Schopf

Thank you, sir. So the format's a little bit different with this meeting since we did not have regular committee meetings this month due to the schedule, all of the resolutions will fall under Law and Finance from all the various committees. As such Administrator Bulger is going to go through all of the resolutions., and since we're not breaking them out by individual committee, at the end of this I will do a request for separate votes, if there's any separate votes or discussions on any of those. It's probably the most efficient way to do it. So with that, Administrator Bulger.

Steve Bulger

Thank you, Chairman. Good afternoon, everybody. Okay, first item under Law and Finance, authorizing the acceptance of a 2020 statewide interoperable communications grant from the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services and amending the 2022 county budget in relation there to. Budget impact none, 100% state aid. The 2022 budget will be amended to accept these funds and authorize the related expenses. This grant program helps improve our emergency services communications. Next item, authorizing a renewal agreement with Mission Critical Partners LLC for maintenance of the Capital District computer aided dispatch system. Budget impact, no budget impact. This resolution allows mission critical partners to continue providing monitoring, technical support, on site computer aided dispatch and records management support for the period ending June 30, 2022. Next item, authorizing an amended agreement with Saratoga Hospital for the use of laboratory and moored facilities. Budget impact none, funds are included in the 2021 and 22 budget. The current agreement with Saratoga Hospital for these facilities is limited to a total cost of \$40,000 annually. This amendment will increase the not to exceed limit to \$65,000 for 2021 and 2022. Next item, appointing Eugene Ladue as Deputy Coroner. Budget impact, no budget impact. Next item, renewing and amending an agreement with Tim Godlewski for morgue assistance services. Budget impact none, funds are included in the 2022 budget. Mr. Godlewski is the main provider of morgue assistant services for our County Coroner. This new agreement increases the rate per case from \$125 to \$150. Next item, authorizing the acceptance and disbursement of New York State Septic System Replacement Program Grant Funds and amending the 2021 County budget. Budget impact none, 100%. State aid. The 2021 budget will be amended to accept these funds and authorize the related expenses. The Saratoga County Soil and Water Conservation District administers this state program on behalf of the County. A \$10,000 project was completed in 2021 and requires an amendment to the 21 budget. These funds have already been received by the County. Next item, authorizing major contracts for contact tracing services with Meredith Locke in an amount not to exceed \$45,500 Tiffany Foley in an amount not to exceed \$45,500 and Carolyn Hinchliffe 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. Next item, authorizing an agreement with Maxim Healthcare Services to provide nursing services for preschool students. Budget impact, no budget impact. This agreement will provide for mandated nursing services to students with disabilities while on their way to school and throughout the school day. Next item, setting a public hearing for amendment of consolidated agricultural districts one and two budget impact, no budget impact. The agricultural and Farmland Protection Board has approved petitions from three landowners for inclusion into existing agricultural districts in the towns of Wilton, Stillwater and Clifton Park. The County has held the required 30 day review and this resolution will set the public hearing for the proposed amendments to Ag Districts 1 and 2. Next item, authorizing an amendment to resolution 96-2021 for design, construction administration and construction inspection services related to a 1.2 mile section of the Champlain Canalway Trail in the Town and Village of Waterford. Budget impact none, 100% state aid. Resolution 96 of 2021 authorized CHA consulting to provide these services in an amount not to exceed \$35,000. CHA is requesting a contract amendment in the amount of \$5,000 to cover additional work related to the construction project. Next item, authorizing the County Auditor to approve tax refunds, corrections and credits in amount not to exceed \$2,500. Budget impact, no budget impact. This is an annual housekeeping item and a joint recommendation made by the Director of Real Property and the County Treasurer. The auditor will

report all refunds, corrections or credits to the Real Property Committee. Next item, setting a public hearing on proposed amendment and extensions of the east and west facilities airport leases with North American flight Services Inc through December 31, 2061. Budget impact, no budget impact. The public hearing for the North American flight services lease extension was originally scheduled in December of 21. This is a request to reschedule the hearing in February 22 on a date and time that is convenient for the Board of Supervisors. Next item, authorizing the extension of a cybersecurity Grant eligibility period from the New York State Board of Elections. Budget impact, no budget impact. The original resolution authorized the acceptance of grant funds to reimburse expenses related to security improvements that have been incurred up until December 31 of 2021. The state has now extended the eligibility period of this grant to December 31 of 2023 and this resolution will authorize the acceptance of the change of eligibility period end date. There is no change to the previous grant amount of \$128,891.50. Next item, authorizing acceptance of a grant from the William G. Pomeroy foundation and amending the 2022 County budget in relation thereto. Budget impact none, 100% local aid. The County Historian secured a grant to erect two historic markers, both of which are in the Village of Ballston Spa. The first acknowledging the long history of the Saratoga County Fairgrounds on Fairground Avenue, and the second being a legends and lore marker, covering the story of Franklin Spring located on Malta Avenue. Next item, introducing a local law to amend local law 2 of 1968 to increase the population threshold for an additional County Supervisor and scheduling a public hearing. Budget impact none. Local law 2 have 1968 provides for weighted voting system and number of Supervisors on the board based on census numbers for town and city populations. Local law 2 of 68 has been amended each decade to raise the population threshold for an additional Supervisor. Most recently in 2011, the population threshold for an additional Supervisor was raised to 25,000. As a result of the 2020 county wide federal census, and amendment is necessary to maintain the existing number of Supervisors. The proposed local law would raise the population threshold for an additional Supervisor to 27,500. This resolution will set a public hearing in February 2022 on a date and time that is convenient for the Board of Supervisors. Next item, adopting a local law to provide salary and cost of living increase for certain county officials. Budget impact none, funds are included in the 2022 budget. This local law adopts the salary and cost of living increase for certain elected or appointed county officials previously approved by the Board of Supervisors. A public hearing was held earlier today at 3:45pm and no comments were received. Next item, authorizing an agreement with Gill Technical, Inc. for cabling for the Public Safety Building. Budget impact none, funds are included in the Public Safety Building Capital Fund. Gill Technical will provide an install communication equipment for the total cost of \$22,773.27. Next item, amending an agreement with Twinstare for the public address system and intercoms at the Public Safety Building. Budget impact, no budget impact. This resolution will amend the not to exceed amount with Twinstare from \$20,454.47 to \$34,100.43. The next three items were all approved at the most recent Sewer Commission meeting held on January 6, 2021. The first is rescinding resolution 291-2021 and authorizing an agreement with MidState Technologies Limited for the replacement of a roof at building two of the Saratoga County Sewer District's Wastewater Treatment Plant. Budget impact, no budget impact. Funds are included in the 2022 budget. Resolution 291-2021 awarded this contract to VAD Contracting Inc, who withdrew from the bid award before a contract was executed. This resolution would award the contract to the second lowest bidder MidState industries for \$352,811. Next item, authorizing an agreement with Adirondack Environmental Services Inc. to conduct continuing lab testing and wastewater analysis. Budget impact, no budget impact. Funds are included in the 2022 budget. The resolution will authorize the Chairman to execute a renewal

agreement in an amount not to exceed \$70,000 for lab testing. Next item, authorizing an amendment to an agreement with Arcadis of New York Inc. Budget impact, no budget impact. Funds are included in the 2022 budget. The Executive Director of the Sewer District has recommended that the testing of chemical parameters be increased across different aeration basins in different seasons to assist the Sewer District in assessing the effects of certain chemicals discharge to the wastewater treatment plant. This amendment will change the not to exceed amount from \$24,500 to \$68,500. Next item, authorizing an agreement with a former employee for the Department of Motor Vehicles. Budget impact, none. Funds are included in the 2022 budget. This agreement will allow the former Director of Motor Vehicles to provide consulting services to assist the County Clerk. Next item, authorizing the establishment and application process for the Saratoga County nonprofit COVID Relief grant fund. Budget impact, no budget impact. The Board of Supervisors will be offering the opportunity to nonprofit groups across the County, who were negatively impacted by the pandemic to apply for funding to support programs and projects that are beneficial to the residents of our County. A total of \$2 million will be made available for grants ranging in size from \$500 to \$50,000. The Law and Finance Committee will review all applications and make recommendations to the full Board for final approval. Applications will be made available online following approval of this program by the board.

Jonathan Schopf

Thank you, sir. Any questions on any of those resolutions?

Kevin Tollisen

I have one question.

Jonathan Schopf

Yes. Supervisor Tollisen.

Kevin Tollisen

So just on the resolution regarding contact tracing? I don't expect an answer today. But obviously, the governor just announced that contract tracing is something optional. So at some point, I don't know if there's an exit strategy for the county or what the county is doing. And I'm not asking for a response today. But I noticed that's on there for continued contact tracing. So because she just announced it, it's obviously something that we need to discuss internally and through the Health Committees, but I'm fine with the resolution the way it exists, but I think we should just at some point, just talk about that, later on.

Jonathan Schopf

Is Doctor Kuhles on the phone?

Daniel Kuhles

Yes, can you hear me?

Jonathan Schopf

Yes. Hi, can you speak to that question?

Daniel Kuhles

Yeah, certainly, you know, this is, you know, the efficacy of contact tracing, at times of high transmission for you know, for many months, we've been, you know, trying to educate folks in the public and the State Health Department that its efficacy is significantly less, as people can plainly see. And so we were happy to hear the Health Commissioner acknowledged that yesterday. Certainly, we are working, our local health departments are working with the State Health Department to come up with a plan, an approach to deal with COVID in ways other than an emergency response. And, you know, we will continue to make good use of the resources that the Board provides. I would say, you know, the one thing that I've learned over two years, both with the State Health Department and here, my time in Saratoga is, you know, don't try to predict COVID. And so, you know, this would keep a resource open, but not necessarily compel us to use it.

Jonathan Schopf

Thank you. Answer your question, Kevin?

Kevin Tollisen

Yeah, like I said, I was not looking for a response today. I'm perfectly fine with it. I'm just looking, you know, down the road. I think it's something that health committee and obviously, in consultation with Dr. Kuhles, who's our leader there, makes a decision on.

Jonathan Schopf

Thank you. Any other questions?

Jonathan Schopf

Mr. Chairman, just on the on the resolution for Maximum Health Care Services, just a note, I don't have any problem with moving forward with that organization, but there's just by the time this gets in front of the board, if we could just get what the there's no financial information in the agenda request, and there's no draft resolution along with it. So if those could just get included by the time it gets in front of full board so we can review that. And then on the resolution for CHA and the work on the Champlain Canal Trail, I've gotta recuse myself from that action. So if you need a special vote, go ahead. If not, I'm gonna recuse myself.

Jonathan Schopf

Yeah, just note your recusal at the time of the vote.

Joe Grasso

Okay, thanks. All set.

Jonathan Schopf

Thank you.

Steve Bulger

Mr. Chairman.

Jonathan Schopf

Yes.

Steve Bulger

Just in respond quickly to Supervisor Grasso, and we will get this information out in writing to all the Board, that Maximum agreement, the hourly rates for nurse staff is school LPN \$52 per hour and school RN \$57 an hour as per the recommendation of an individual education plan or IEP. The county will work with the school districts to oversee and monitor the nurses from Maximum HealthCare Services. But we'll give you more information more detail.

Joe Grasso

Okay, great. Thank you.

Jonathan Schopf

Anybody else have anything?

Kevin Tollisen

I'll make a motion to approve those resolutions.

Jonathan Schopf

Thank you. I just have one question for Dan, for the Adirondack Environmental Services, the 70k, is that the COVID wastewater testing rearing its head again or is that something else?

Dan Rourke

No, just typical SPDES testing.

Jonathan Schopf

Thank you. He just referenced it's for SPDES testing. Thanks. So at this time, is there any request for any separate votes? All right, hearing none, Supervisor Tollisen, I believe you move the entirety the resolutions. Is there a second?

John Lant

Second.

Jonathan Schopf

Okay. Supervisor Lant. Any discussion on the motion? All in favor?

Several Supervisors

Aye.

Jonathan Schopf

Aye. Any opposed?

Joe Grasso

I'm gonna recuse myself on that one that I noted.

Jonathan Schopf

Thank you. We have several Chairman's items for appointments to the Water Authority, Sewer District and Community Services Board. And before we set the agenda, we do have to have an Executive Session to discuss certain proposed pending your current litigation.

Therese Connolly

Take a vote on the Chairman's items for those three resolutions.

Jonathan Schopf

Sorry. Before we go into the Executive Session we'll vote on the Chairman's items. Steve, will you just go through those real quickly?

Steve Bulger

Yes, the appointment to the Sewer District is the Saratoga Springs representative will be Joseph O'Neill. The appointment to the water authority, I didn't have that written down here. We have that?

Michael Hartnett

We do.

Steve Bulger

You do.

Michael Hartnett

Mike Hartnett here. The appointment to the water authority is for Supervisor Hammond to replace Darren O'Connor, Sewer District is Kyle Fillion, Town of Wilton, Mr. O'Neil from the City of Saratoga Springs and Mr., and

Steve Bulger

Community Services Board.

Michael Hartnett

Oh, Community Services Board is Mr. Marcone, Mr. Paul Marcone representing the mental health community.

Joe Grasso

Yeah, Dick Doyle Town of Ballston.

Michael Hartnett

Thank you, Supervisor Grasso, for reminding me it's Commissioner Doyle, from the Town of Ballston to be reappointed. Thank you.

Jonathan Schopf

Thank you, Mike. Any questions on that resolution, those Chairman's items rather. Is there a motion to move them?

Matt Veitch

So moved.

Jonathan Schopf

Supervisor Veitch. Second?

Jean Raymond

Second.

Jonathan Schopf

Supervisor Raymond. Discussion on the motion? All in favor?

Several Supervisors

Aye.

Jonathan Schopf

Opposed? Passes. At this point, we'll need to enter into an Executive Session for discussing proposed pending or current litigation. I'd also invite our County Treasurer Drew Jarosh shall be necessary to the discussion, County Attorney Mike Hartnett, Administrator Bulger and is Chad Cooke here in the room? He's on he's calling on the phone, so if we could keep him on the line for the discussion as well it'd be that'd be great.

Therese Connolly

You need a motion to enter into it.

Jonathan Schopf

Is there a motion to enter in?

Matt Veitch

So moved.

Jonathan Schopf

Supervisor Veitch. Second?

Kevin Tollisen

Second.

Jonathan Schopf

Supervisor Tollisen. All in favor?

Several Supervisors

Aye.

Jonathan Schopf

Any opposed? We're now in Executive Session. So I ask everybody that was not invited to clear the room until we're concluded.

Jonathan Schopf

And back on the record, back in from Executive Session. We exited executive session on motion by Supervisor Raymond, seconded by Supervisor Barrett. Unanimous vote, no decision was made during the executive session time. So at this point, I would entertain a motion to set the agenda items for this month's board meeting.

Kevin Tollisen

So moved.

Jonathan Schopf

Supervisor Tollisen. Second?

Matt Veitch

Second.

Jonathan Schopf

Supervisor Veitch. Discussion? All in favor.

Several Supervisors

Aye.

Jonathan Schopf

Opposed? Motion carries. Motion to, any other business for the board? Hearing none motion to adjourn.

Joe Grasso

So moved.

Phil Barrett

Second.

Jonathan Schopf

Supervisor Grasso, a second by Supervisor Barrett. All in favor?

Several Supervisors

Aye.

Jonathan Schopf

Any opposed? We're out.