

Law & Finance Transcript

4-13-2022

SPEAKERS

Jean Raymond, Steve Bulger, Karen Heggen, Tara Gaston, Phil Barrett, Matt Veitch, Daniel Kuhles, Kevin Tollisen, Several Supervisors, Therese Connolly, John Lant

Phil Barrett

All right. Good afternoon. Welcome to the April 13th Law and Finance Committee for Saratoga County. I want to remind all of the folks in the room here that to be heard on the live stream, you do need to turn on your microphone. So please don't forget to do that. This is our first meeting in this room with our new system. And I know it'll take some getting used to but it doesn't seem terribly difficult. So hopefully, we won't have too many hiccups along the way. Thank you to Therese and Bridget for the work that they've done to get it all set up and they're all trained up and ready to go right. Is it working now?

Therese Connolly

It sure is.

Phil Barrett

It is working. That's good.

Therese Connolly

All right. I'm sorry.

Phil Barrett

She just can't turn her phone off.

Therese Connolly

I'm watching the live feed.

Phil Barrett

Alright, let's get right to it here. enough jocularly. Legislate legislative Oh, I do want to say Chairman Schopf is delayed that's why I'm chairing the meeting. Legislative gaming. Oh, I'm sorry. So we'll go to and I'll entertain a motion to approve the minutes of March 9th.

Matt Veitch

So moved.

Phil Barrett

Moved by Mr. Veitch. I'll second. Discussion. All in favor?

Several Supervisors

Aye.

Phil Barrett

Opposed? Motion carries. Alright, Steve, now we'll go to legislative and gaming.

Steve Bulger

Thank you, Chairman. Good afternoon, everybody. First item, requesting that New York State enact legislation related to snowmobile registration fees. Budget impact, no budget impact. This resolution supports proposed legislation dealing with snowmobile registrations in New York State and is also supported by the Saratoga County Association of snowmobile clubs, and New York State snowmobile Association. This proposed fee increase is estimated to generate an additional \$2 million in revenue to the snowmobile trail and Development Fund for the state including a portion of these funds coming back to clubs in Saratoga County.

Phil Barrett

Very good. I'll entertain a motion on that resolution. Don't everybody jump up at once. I'll move it.

Kevin Tollisen

So moved.

Phil Barrett

Seconded by Mr. Tollisen discussion. Questions. Mr. Veitch.

Matt Veitch

Oh, no, I'm just waiting to vote.

Phil Barrett

Oh, see, when when you turn on your microphone, it comes up on the screen here.

Matt Veitch

And my picture too right?

Phil Barrett

Yes, it's a very nice picture by the way. I like that.

Matt Veitch

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Phil Barrett

That blue tie you have on it's very nice.

Matt Veitch

Striking.

Phil Barrett

Yes, I would say. Okay. All in favor,

Several Supervisors

Aye.

Phil Barrett

We better start bringing coffee to these law and finance meetings. Okay, motion carries buildings and grounds.

Steve Bulger

Okay, first item authorizing a renewal enterprise enrollment agreement with Microsoft through Dell marketing LP. For email hosting services. Budget impact, no budget impact, funds for the renewal agreement are included into 2022 budget. The current agreement is set to expire on June 30 2022. This renewal agreement will extend the term for three more years at a cost of \$106,388.10 per year. Next item authorizing an amended agreement with McFarland Johnson Inc. for engineering services associated with the design and construction of a six unit T hangar at the Saratoga County Airport. Budget impact, no budget impact, funds for the amended agreement are included into 2022 budgets. The current project and the amount of \$90,959 was originally put out to bid in 2017 but was put on pause due to bid prices exceeding the 531,000 New York State D O T grant amount for the project. This project was included in the two 2022 capital projects in order to utilize these grant funds before they expire next item authorizing an amended agreement with McFarland Johnson Inc. for engineering services related to the construction of an airport snow removal equipment building. budget impact, no budget impact funds for the amended agreement are included in the 2022. Budget. This project in the amount of \$29,858 was also put on pause due to bid prices exceeding engineer estimates in 2020. The remaining clause to 436,000 has been included into 2022 capital projects in budget. Next item, authorizing an agreement with Clark Patterson Lee to perform a facilities assessment study and amending the 2022 county budget in relation thereto. Budget impact, funding for this agreement in the amount of \$100,000 was appropriated in the 2022 budget. The remaining cost will require an appropriation of \$47,000 from fund balance, Saratoga County received six bids relating to this study with CPL being chosen to perform these services. CPL will execute the facilities assessment study, which includes all owned and leased space of the county, in an effort to determine spatial needs of the county for the next 20 years.

Phil Barrett

All right, I'll entertain a motion to approve those items as a group.

Jean Raymond

So moved.

Matt Veitch

Second.

Phil Barrett

Thank you, Jean. Second by Mr. Veitch. Any discussion on any of those items? Yes,

Matt Veitch

Mr. Chair, just wanted to say that we had a great set of meetings with our vendors for this Clark Patterson Lee facility study. We appointed a subcommittee which consisted of supervisor Grasso, myself and supervisor Smith to evaluate all those proposals. And we unanimously agreed on Clark Patterson Lee and I appreciate the committee's following up with that and putting it forward for this agenda. So I think they'll do a great job and we're looking forward to working with them. If we can get it through at the board meeting to do this study, it's going to be really important for the county for the next 20 years at least. It's a big, it's a big project. So looking forward to working on it. Thank you.

Phil Barrett

It's great. Thank you for your leadership on that item. Any questions for Mr. Veitch on that item. With that, all in favor.

Several Supervisors

Aye.

Phil Barrett

Opposed, motion carries. We'll move on to public safety.

Steve Bulger

Okay, first item authorizing a renewal tower license agreement with Capital District Transportation Authority for the placement, operation and maintenance of communications equipment on the county's radio communications tower at Mount McGregor into town of Moreau. Budget impact, no budget impact, anticipated revenue from this agreement is included in the 2022 budget. This agreement will be for a term of five years at \$22,500 per year. Next item, authorizing an agreement with Trittech software systems for the purchase of hardware and software related to the county's computer aided dispatch Mobile e 911. System budget impact no budget impact funds for this agreement are included in 2022 budget. This contract will be for a total of \$1,284,583.83. These improvements will ensure interoperability between emergency service partners and mitigate against cyber intrusions. Next item, authorizing an agreement with Lightspeed Technologies Inc. for the installation of 911 communications equipment at remote towered locations. Budget impact, no budget impact, funds for this agreement are included into 2022 budget. Total amount of this agreement will be \$834,825.59 and ensure the effective operation of the county's 800 megahertz emergency radio communication system. Next item, amending resolution 279 of 2021 and authorizing an amended agreement with Pittsfield Communication Systems Inc. for additional services related to the removal installation, programming and maintenance of the county's public safety radio equipment. Budget impact, no budget impact, funds for the agreement are included in the 2022 budget. Work performed by Pittsfield Communications has exceeded the amount of the 2021 agreement as a result, the total cost of the contract will be increased from 35,000 to \$46,950.90. Next item, proclaiming April 10 to 16 2022 as Public Safety Telecommunicators week

budget impact, no budget impact. Every year during the second week of April, the telecommunications personnel in the public safety community are honored. We honor these men and women of the Saratoga County Sheriff's Office Communications Division, whose diligence and professionalism keep our residents safe. Next item, authorizing an agreement with Black Creek integrated systems core for maintenance, service and support of the Black Creek security system at the Saratoga County Correctional Facility. Budget impact, no budget impact, funds for the agreement are included in the 2022 budget. This agreement will be in the amount of \$50,836. Next item proclaiming April 24 to 30th 2022 as crime victims rights week. Budget impact, no budget impact. Saratoga County is committed to assisting all victims of crime during Crime Victims Rights week and throughout the year. The county expresses its sincere gratitude and appreciation for those community members, victims service providers and criminal justice professionals who are committed to responding to all victims of crime so that they may find relevant assistance support, justice and peace. Next item, authorize participation in 2022 state stop DWI program and contract with local agency participants. Budget impact, no budget impact, 100% state aid. Estimated grant funding to be received from the New York State stop DWI program will total \$253,000. This will be applied towards administrative costs, a high visibility engagement campaign dispersed to local agencies and county departments and dispersed to local informational agencies.

Phil Barrett

Very good. Great things in public safety this month. I'll entertain a motion to approve those items.

John Lant

I'll make that motion, Chairman.

Phil Barrett

Mr. Lant. Thank you.

Kevin Tollisen

Second.

Phil Barrett

Second by Mr. Tollisen. I just had one question, DA Hagen how are you? The Crime Victims Rights week? Is there an event to go along with that this year?

Karen Heggen

Unfortunately, no, the sense of a gathering, which we used to do pre COVID, the planning of this needs to happen far enough prior to the submission to the board for the request for the proclamation. And things were still in certain state at that point in time. And so, I mean, tending with the board's assistance to recognize the victims of crimes through the proclamation, as well as some things that we'll be doing based on the internet and submitting things out to the public in a generic sense, but no gathering, unfortunately, we hope next year will afford us the opportunity to do the planning we need to do to once again gather and recognize victims of crime.

Phil Barrett

Yeah, it's a tough time of year to put events together when you're not sure what the where we would be at this point in time. So but thank you for your leadership on this as always.

Karen Heggen

Thank you very much.

Phil Barrett

Thank you. Okay, any further discussion? Okay. All in favor.

Several Supervisors

Aye.

Phil Barrett

Opposed? Motion carries. Health and Human Services.

Steve Bulger

Okay, first item, authorizing an agreement with Captain Community Human Services to provide runaway homeless youth programs and services. Budget impact, no budget impact, funds for the agreement are included in the 2022 budget. This agreement will total \$25,015. Saratoga County will function as a pass through and reimburse all expenses related to the program with funds from the New York State Office of Children and Family Services. Next item, authorizing an agreement with Cornell Cooperative Extension for youth development programs and services. Budget impact, no budget impact, funds for this agreement are included in the 2022 budget. The total amount of this agreement will be for \$28,160. Next item, authorizing an agreement with key to independent growth Inc for the provision of social adult daycare services. Budget impact, no budget impact funds, for this agreement are included in the 2022 budget. Adult daycare has now resumed since the pandemic. This agreement will be in the amount of \$15,000 with new journeys structured day program, which is a division of key to independent growth. New journeys will use this funding to provide respite for caregivers. Next item, proclaiming April 2022 as youth month. Budget impact, no budget impact. The county will celebrate youth through a variety of month long activities aimed at recognizing engaging and empowering youth. Next item, proclaiming may 2022 as Older Americans Month. Budget impact, no budget impact. This year's theme will be "age my way". This will focus on aging in place and how older adults can plan to stay in their homes and live independently in their communities for as long as possible. Next item, proclaiming April 2022 as child abuse prevention month. Budget impact, no budget impact. Child Abuse Prevention Month is an annual observance in the United States dedicated to raising awareness and preventing child abuse since 1983. During this month, the Saratoga County Department of Social Services will maintain their focus on keeping children safe and maintain each family unity. Next item, authorizing the acceptance of grant funds from the New York State Office of addiction services and supports for the treatment of inmates suffering from opiate use disorders and amending the 2022 county budget in relation thereto. Budget impact, no budget impact, 100% state aid. The Saratoga County Correctional Facility is expanding its medication assisted treatment program. The New York State Office of addiction services and supports approved the rollover of unspent 2021 prescription drug funding to supplement the 2022 treatment expansion. Next item, authorizing the acceptance of federal Medicaid fee enhancements for Saratoga County Mental Health and Addiction Services. And amending

the 2022 county budget in relation thereto. Budget impact, no budget impact, 100% federal aid. Saratoga County's outpatient Addiction Services clinic is set to receive a 10% base rate increase as a result of additional federal funding.

Phil Barrett

Very good. I'll entertain a motion to approve those items.

John Lant

So moved.

Phil Barrett

Mr. Lant.

Matt Veitch

Second.

Phil Barrett

Second by Mr. Veitch. I just want to make one point that was a point of discussion at the Health Committee meeting earlier this month, and that is I had asked Dr. Prezioso to work out a couple of options and ideas, I don't think he's here today, but a couple of options and ideas for the funding that we'll be receiving through the settlement of the opioid lawsuits and a couple of possibilities that we've talked about is incorporating drug counseling into our peer to peer programs for veterans. We all have seen how successful the peer to peer programs are and they have a terrific return with marvelous results, particularly when you consider the amount of money that's invested. It's it's an incredible return on the taxpayers money and incredibly helpful to the Veterans first and foremost. But incorporating a drug counseling facet to the program, we believe will be a very important step in the future. We've talked about that and I know that's already being coordinated with the Sheriff's department and Frank McClement in the veteran's service agencies. I want to thank those two departments as well. And we're also looking to incorporate the same into the Sheriff's Second Chance program. So we'll have many more ideas and initiatives, I'm sure regarding that settlement money that will be coming to the county. But I think it's important to get a jump start it with two very exciting opportunities, basically taking what are very successful programs and making them more comprehensive and helpful to veterans and other folks that are in need. So, so that's it just wanted to update the Committee on that more to come in the next month or two. But that's coming down the pike. Any discussion on any of these items? Mr. Lant, did you? Yes, Miss Gaston.

Tara Gaston

Thank you. I wasn't sure. I would also like to suggest that we put or consider putting some of that towards youth and prevention services. I know that vaping and drug use particularly in youth has increased over the course of the pandemic. Not that it was super low levels before. So I think that'd be a great option, in addition, might take a little bit longer and put together some programs are already there, but I just wanted to throw that out there. I thank you.

Phil Barrett

No, we have talked about doing something like like that through the SRO program. So, so yeah, we can possibly look to incorporated into a program that's already successful, that the county is working with. There's also the issue of it's not an opioid, but it is being used to lace other drugs, and that is fentanyl, which is coming over our southern border, in incredible volume and we hear almost daily, about instances around the country, the ones that make the news where people are dying, because they're taking a drug or using a drug that they believe to be safe that is laced with with fentanyl, and it's fatal. And those stories have been both locally, like I said, across the country, they just had the largest reported such incidents of death. There were five or six young folks. I can't remember exactly where that was. Do you remember where that was Dr. Kuhles? Was it Westchester, I believe? Yeah.

Daniel Kuhles

Sorry. You may be, unfortunately, there are so many of them these days, but there was certainly recently coverage of West Point cadets who were.

Phil Barrett

Oh, yeah, that was down in Florida. Yeah. But there was. There was another way there were several deaths in one small party that was occurring in somebody's apartment and it was reported as a largest instance of death due to fentanyl that they have found to this point in the country. So it's increasingly concerning, and doesn't appear that the supply is going to stop anytime soon. So, so yeah, so there will be more ideas, and we appreciate those ideas. Anybody that has them, bring them forward. Any further discussion on those items? Okay, all in favor.

Several Supervisors

Aye.

Phil Barrett

Opposed. Motion carries. Human resources and insurance.

Steve Bulger

Okay, first item, authorizing the county insurance coverages through May 8, 2023 and amending the 2022 county budget in relation thereto. Budget impact, the transfer from fund balance in the amount of \$1,728 will be required to cover the total insurance premium costs. The total cost of the premiums related to these insurance renewals will be \$1,037,026 and represents approximately an 8% increase compared to last year's policies. Next item, Amending the 2022 compensation scheduled to reclassify a position under public health services. Budget impact, no budget impact. This resolution will remove one public health nurse and replace that position with one public health representative. The salaries for both positions are identical creating a budget neutral change for the department. Next item, authorizing an amendment to the 2022 compensation schedule under human resources. Budget impact, no budget impact. This resolution will create the title of Human Resources Analyst within the human resources department. This position will assist the director and Deputy with the fiscal operations of the department and will be a budget neutral change.

Phil Barrett

Very good. I'll entertain a motion for those to approve those items.

Matt Veitch

So moved.

Kevin Tollisen

Second.

Phil Barrett

Mr. Matt, Mr. Veitch and Mr. Tollisen. The the third item, no budget impact, but that's a change of a classification.

Steve Bulger

Yes, we had a employee leave HR and we are, so we have the funding in there and they're changing the description of that position. Good.

Phil Barrett

Okay. Any discussion on these items? All in favor?

Several Supervisors

Aye.

Phil Barrett

Opposed? Motion carries trails and open space.

Steve Bulger

Okay, first item authorizing a logging revenue agreement with 3B Timber Company, Inc. for a timber harvest on a County owned parcel in the Town of Wilton and amending the 2022 county budget in relation thereto. Budget impact, the 2022 county budget will be amended to reflect the increased costs and revenues associated with this timber harvest. The lump sum bid of \$190,923 is significantly higher than the 2022 budgeted revenue. In addition, the expense line will need to be increased as the fee paid to the county Forester is 10% of the total harvest revenue. Next item, amending resolution 258 of 2019 to reduce the total project cost for the preservation of the Bolesh Farm project in the Town of Northumberland. Budget impact, no budget impact. The original projected cost of this project was \$261,107. The appraised value of the development rights for bullish farms was determined to be less than anticipated, creating a cost savings of \$43,097 and the new estimated project cost of \$280,010. The county contribution remains the same.

Phil Barrett

Very good. Entertain a motion to approve those items.

Jean Raymond

So moved.

Phil Barrett

Thank you, Mrs., Raymond. I'll second it. Discussion. All in favor?

Several Supervisors

Aye.

Phil Barrett

Opposed? Motion carries. Law and finance. We should probably do these individually. They're very different from one another.

Steve Bulger

Yeah. You want to do the five from the sewer?

Phil Barrett

Yeah. Why don't we do those together? Yes, thank you.

Steve Bulger

Okay, great. First item. Now, let me state the following five items were approved at the most recent Saratoga County Sewer Commission meeting held on April 7 2022. The first one of those five authorizing an amended agreement with Arcadis of New York Inc. for performance of additional testing and technical determination of local limits study and evaluation for the Saratoga County Sewer District number one industrial pretreatment program. Budget impact, no budget impact, funds for this amended agreement are included in 2022 budget. This testing is essential to understanding possible capacity limitations at the plant. With this amendment, the total contract amount will increase to \$192,500. Next item, authorizing a renewal agreement with advanced Enterprise Systems Corporation DBA utility cloud for an asset management program for Saratoga County Sewer District number one. Budget impact, no budget impact, funds for this renewal agreement are included into 2022 budget. This new agreement will be for a total of three years at \$40,000 per year. This program will help the Sewer District better understand any equipment failure data replacement costs and capital project planning. Next item, authorizing an agreement with Delaware engineering DPC for strategic infrastructure and financial financing planning for Saratoga County Sewer District number one. Budget impact, no budget impact, funds for this agreement are included in the 2022 budget. This agreement will allow Delaware engineering to assist the Sewer District secure possible funding opportunities and anticipate potential changes in regulations. Delaware engineering will perform the duties associated with this contract in an amount not to exceed \$90,000. Next item, authorizing an agreement with precision trenchless LLC for construction services relating to sewer infrastructure rehabilitation in the town of halfmoon. Budget impact, no budget impact, funds for this agreement are included in the 2022 budget. This agreement will be in the amount of \$84,792 and will piggyback off an existing Onondaga County contract. Next item, amending resolution 151 of 2015 as amended by resolution 97 of 2017 authorizing an amended agreement with Ramboll America's engineering solutions, Inc. for engineering services related to the repair of aeration tanks five through eight at the Saratoga County Sewer District number one Wastewater Treatment Plant. Budget impact, no budget impact, funds for this amended agreement are included in the 2022 budget. Rambo will provide engineering services related to structural upgrades of the existing South Side aeration basins and providing a permanent groundwater depression system. The new total cost of this agreement will be \$283,000.

Phil Barrett

Good. I'll entertain a motion on those items. I'll move it, do we have a second?

Kevin Tollisen

Second.

Phil Barrett

Second by Mr. Tollisen. Discussion. Okay, all in favor,

Several Supervisors

Aye.

Phil Barrett

Opposed? Motion carries. We'll take the next two individually.

Steve Bulger

Very good. First item, authorizing cooperative agreements with local school districts to implement and utilize federal epidemiology and lab capacity reopening schools grant funds. Budget impact, no budget impact. These MOUs will allow for the purchase or reimbursement of eligible costs, as outlined in federal guidance based on a per pupil basis. All expenses or requests for reimbursement will be pre approved by the New York State Department of Health.

Matt Veitch

So moved.

Phil Barrett

Mr. Veitch.

John Lant

Second.

Phil Barrett

Second by Mr. Lant. So this is an extension of time for this grant program and happy to to move it forward so our schools can access additional funds under this program. Any discussion? All in favor?

Several Supervisors

Aye.

Phil Barrett

Opposed? Motion carries.

Steve Bulger

Okay, last item on the agenda proclaiming April 2022 as county government month in Saratoga County. Budget impact, no budget impact. Counties across the nation, including Saratoga County continually provide services to create healthy, safe and vibrant communities to millions of Americans. The success of Saratoga County is a testament to the leadership of the board of supervisors and all the hard working employees that take pride in serving our residents every day.

Phil Barrett

Well, it's hard not to support that one.

Matt Veitch

I'll make that motion then, Mr. Chair.

Jean Raymond

I'll be happy to second.

Phil Barrett

Thank you. Thank you, Mrs. Raymond. Discussion. Anybody have anything else positive to say about the county. Okay. All right. All in favor?

Several Supervisors

Aye.

Phil Barrett

Opposed? Motion carries. All right. So we do need to establish a vote to establish this as the agenda for the board meeting, which is scheduled for April 19. I'll entertain a motion to do that.

John Lant

I'll make that motion, Mr. Chairman.

Phil Barrett

Thank you, Mr. Lant.

Matt Veitch

I'll second.

Phil Barrett

Second by Mr. Veitch. All in favor.

Several Supervisors

Aye.

Phil Barrett

Okay, motion carries. And any other business to come before the committee today? Okay, with that I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

Jean Raymond
Move to adjourn.

Matt Veitch
Second.

Phil Barrett
Mrs. Raymond, Mr. Veitch. All in favor.

Several Supervisors
Aye.

Phil Barrett
Opposed? Motion carries. Thanks everybody.