

Law and Finance Committee Minutes
September 14, 2022 – 4:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Jonathan Schopf; Committee members Phil Barrett, Joe Grasso; John Lant, Jean Raymond, Kevin Tollisen and Matthew Veitch; Steve Bulger, Ridge Harris, Audra Hedden, Christine Rush, Stephanie Hodgson, County Administrator; Michael Hartnett, Michelle Granger, County Attorney; Rick Castle, Sheriff; Chad Cooke, Public Works; Dan Rourke, Sewer District; Anna Stanko, Real Property; Craig Hayner, County Clerk; Roger Schiera, Elections; Tina Potter, Social Services; Sandi Cross, Aging and Youth; Donna Miter, CSEA.

Chairman Schopf called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

On a motion made by Mr. Veitch, seconded by Mr. Tollisen, the minutes of the August 10, 2022 meeting were approved unanimously.

County Administrator Bulger presented the proposed resolutions.

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

REAL PROPERTY TAX

- Scheduling a Public Hearing to amend Local Law #1 of 1967, as last amended by Local Law #2 of 1995, to increase allowable income limits and grant partial real property tax exemptions to persons 65 years of age or over.

BUDGET IMPACT: No Budget Impact.

The senior income limits for county tax exemption purposes have not been raised since 1995. This item will set a public hearing to take public comment on the proposed increase to those limits.

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

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

- Authorizing the procurement of materials and services necessary for expansion of Family Court, and amending the 2022 County Budget in relation thereto.

BUDGET IMPACT: Funding for this project will require an appropriation of \$500,000 from fund balance.

On June 30th, the state enacted legislation adding an additional Family Court Judge in Saratoga County beginning January 1, 2023. The County has been coordinating with the Office of Court Administration on a two-phase proposed expansion plan which includes the installation of a temporary modular office space to be located adjacent to the existing Family Court facilities and renovations of existing courthouse space in County Building 2. The construction and redesign must be complete when the new Family Court Judge takes office on January 1, 2023.

On a motion made by Mr. Lant, seconded by Mr. Grasso, the following resolutions were approved unanimously.

PUBLIC SAFETY

- Authorizing acceptance of a 2021-2022 Statewide Interoperable Communications Grant from the NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services, and amending the 2022 County Budget in relation thereto.

BUDGET IMPACT: The budget will be amended to accept these funds and authorize the related expenses.

This grant award will total \$1,426,723. The funds will be used to enhance and maintain the County's 800 MHz Radio System.

- Authorizing a renewal agreement with RS Telecom, Inc. to perform repair and maintenance work on the County's Public Safety Microwave Radio System.

BUDGET IMPACT: No Budget Impact. Funds are included in the Department Budget.

This is a two year agreement at a total cost of \$92,500.

- Proclaiming October 2022 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Saratoga County.

BUDGET IMPACT: No Budget Impact.

- Amending Resolution 191-2022 to revise and restate the stated terms and amounts for a renewal agreement with Lexipol, LLC.

BUDGET IMPACT: No Budget Impact. Funds are included in the Department Budget.

This resolution will adjust the expiration, effective and renewal dates of the contract.

- Proclaiming September 18 through September 24, 2022 as Sheriffs' Week in Saratoga County.

BUDGET IMPACT: No Budget Impact.

- Authorizing a Memorandum of Understanding with Albany, Schenectady, and Warren Counties for Assigned Counsel Program collaboration in improving indigent defense services in the Capital Region.

BUDGET IMPACT: No Budget Impact.

This item will allow the Saratoga County Assigned Counsel Program to partner with programs in surrounding counties to provide training to participating attorneys.

- Authorizing a Memorandum of Agreement with the City of Saratoga Springs for the construction of a storage bay for the County HAZMAT vehicle.

BUDGET IMPACT: No Budget Impact. Funds are included in the Department Budget.

This agreement will provide funding in the amount of \$30,000 per year for ten years.

A motion was made by Mr. Veitch, seconded by Mr. Barrett, to amend the dollar amount of the Public Benefit Project resolution from \$500,000 to \$100,000. Unanimous.

Discussion took place regarding the details and cost of the project and after debate the committee amended the initial suggested amount from \$500,000 to \$100,000.

On a motion made by Mr. Veitch, seconded by Mr. Barrett, the following resolutions were approved unanimously.

PUBLIC WORKS

- Authorizing an agreement with James H. Maloy, Inc. for the repair of the County Route 7 Bridge over Daly Creek bridge in the Town of Day, and amending the 2022 County budget in relation thereto.

BUDGET IMPACT: Funding for this agreement will require an appropriation in the amount of \$37,000 from Fund Balance.

James H. Maloy, Inc. was the low bidder for this project at \$167,000. Public Works budgeted \$130,000, and a budget amendment for \$37,000 will satisfy the difference between the bid and budgeted amount for the project.

- Approving a Public Benefit Project to design and build a Veterans' Hall / County Government Building at the Saratoga County Fairgrounds, and amending the 2022 County budget in relation thereto.

BUDGET IMPACT: Funding for this project will require an appropriation in the amount of \$500,000-\$100,000 utilizing ARPA funds.

This resolution will authorize the assignment of ARPA funds to the Department of Public Works to begin planning and construction of a new Veterans' Hall/County Government Building at the County Fairgrounds.

On a motion made by Mr. Barrett, seconded by Mr. Grasso, the following resolutions were approved unanimously.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

- Authorizing a renewal agreement with Berkshire Farm Center and Services for Youth, Inc. for the operation of the Enhanced Stepping Stones Program (ESSP).

BUDGET IMPACT: No Budget Impact. Funds are included in the Department Budget.

This agreement will be in the amount of \$107,651, all of which is eligible for reimbursement through the State's Raise the Age funding.

- Amending Resolution 238-2022 and authorizing an agreement with Shelters of Saratoga, Inc. for reimbursement of costs associated with the short-term lease of a portion of 145 South Broadway in the City of Saratoga Springs, known as 4 Adelphi Street, for the provision of Code Blue Shelter services.

BUDGET IMPACT: No Budget Impact. Funds are included in the Department Budget.

This proposed amendment would allow the County to provide reimbursement to Shelters of Saratoga for the leased space at 4 Adelphi. This amendment will maximize the County's ability to obtain reimbursement through New York State funding for the Code Blue program. Mr. Barrett reported on minor maintenance issues to be fixed.

- Authorizing an agreement with the Town of Clifton Park to provide funding for the purchase of a transportation vehicle for seniors.

BUDGET IMPACT: No Budget Impact. Funds are included in the Department Budget. Funding in the amount of \$30,000, which is eligible for reimbursement, will assist the town with their purchase of a vehicle that is used to transport seniors for things such as medical appointments.

- Authorizing an agreement with the Town of Halfmoon to funding for the purchase of a transportation vehicle for seniors.

BUDGET IMPACT: No Budget Impact. Funds are included in the Department Budget. Funding in the amount of \$30,000, which is eligible for reimbursement, will assist the town with their purchase of a vehicle that is used to transport seniors for things such as medical appointments.

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

HUMAN RESOURCES & INSURANCE

- Authorizing a health insurance contract with Capital District Physicians' Health Plan, Inc. for 2023.

BUDGET IMPACT: No Budget Impact. Funds for this agreement will be included in the 2023 tentative budget.

This agreement for the provision of medical and prescription drug health insurance coverages will be in the amount of \$23,662,384.24 and represents a 2% increase from current rates.

- Authorizing an agreement with MVP Health Plan, Inc. for all Medicare eligible retirees for 2023.

BUDGET IMPACT: No Budget Impact. Funds for this agreement will be included in the 2023 tentative budget.

This agreement for the provision of medical and prescription drug health insurance for Medicare eligible retirees will be in the amount of \$3,816,471.98 and represents a 0% increase from current rates.

- Authorizing an agreement with Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, Inc. for dental health insurance for 2023.

BUDGET IMPACT: No Budget Impact. Funds for this agreement will be included in the 2023 tentative budget.

This agreement for dental health insurance will be in the amount of \$925,696.75 and represents a 0% increase from the current rates.

On a motion made by Mr. Lant, seconded by Mr. Grasso, the following resolutions were approved unanimously.

LAW & FINANCE

- Authorizing an agreement with Nationwide Court Services, Inc. for the provision of service of legal papers in court proceedings for various County Departments.

BUDGET IMPACT: No Budget Impact. Funds are included in the Department Budget.

The term of this agreement will be for two years with an option of up to two one-year renewals at the provided rates.

- Authorizing the acceptance of a grant from the NYS Board of Elections for an Absentee Ballot Pre-Paid Postage Grant.

BUDGET IMPACT: The budget will be amended to accept these funds and authorize the related expenses.

Recent changes to the Election Law require the County Board of Elections to provide absentee ballots with pre-paid postage. This item is to accept \$56,377.69 to defray costs incurred from implementing the new changes between July 1, 2022 and December 31, 2022.

- Authorizing a renewal agreement with EFPR Group, CPA's, PLLC for professional services to provide single audit and general-purpose financial services for the County and its agencies.

BUDGET IMPACT: No Budget Impact. Funds are included in the Department Budget.

This agreement is for years 2022 through 2026 with initial 2022 costs not to exceed \$66,320.

- Authorizing an agreement with Alpine Environmental Services, Inc. for pre-renovation asbestos inspection and mold sampling, analysis, and reporting at Saratoga County Sewer District No. 1's Maintenance Facility in the Town of Halfmoon.

BUDGET IMPACT: No Budget Impact. Funds are included in the Department Budget.

This resolution will convert a minor contract to a major contract not to exceed \$25,450.

- Authorizing the conveyance of a sewer line easement over County Land in the Town of Malta.

BUDGET IMPACT: No Budget Impact.

The proposed easement is for a lateral connection to the sewer interceptor which runs alongside the Zim Smith Trail from a property at 203 S. Ruhle Road. The proposed easement has been reviewed and approved by the Executive Director of the Sewer District and the County Attorney's Office.

- Authorizing an agreement with James A Edgar Co., Inc. for work relating to the roof restoration at Building 4 of the Saratoga County Sewer District No.1's maintenance facility.

BUDGET IMPACT: No Budget Impact. Funds are included in the Department Budget.

James A. Edgar Co. submitted the lowest responsible bid for the contract and has proposed to provide the roof repair services at a cost of \$38,400.00.

- Authorizing an agreement with Titan Roofing, Inc. for the roof replacement of Building 1 of Saratoga County Sewer District No. 1's maintenance facility in the Town of Halfmoon.
BUDGET IMPACT: No Budget Impact. Funds are included in the Department Budget.

Titan was the low bidder and has proposed to complete the roof replacement at a cost not to exceed \$212,065.

On a motion made by Mr. Barrett, seconded by Mr. Veitch, the following resolutions were approved unanimously.

CHAIRMAN'S ITEM

- Appointing a Member of the Capital District Regional Planning Commission.
BUDGET IMPACT: No Budget Impact.

This item is to appoint Agatha D'Ambra as a member to the Capital District Planning Commission with a term expiration of December 31, 2023.

- Appointing a Director of the Saratoga County Capital Resource Corporation.
BUDGET IMPACT: No Budget Impact.

This item is to appoint Heidi Owen West as a director of the Capital Resource Corporation with a term expiration of December 31, 2024.

OTHER BUSINESS

On a motion made by Mrs. Raymond, seconded by Mr. Grasso, the committee approved the following unanimously.

- Committee approval of grant funds from Covid Non-Profit Grant for recruitment and retention of Volunteer Fire Department.
BUDGET IMPACT: No Budget Impact.

Resolution 215-2022 requires Law & Finance Committee approval for allocation of funds for Covid Non-Profit Grants. \$100,000 of Covid Non-Profit funding was allocated to assist Volunteer Fire Departments and EMS departments with recruiting efforts. To date, 32 applications have been received totaling \$72,704 through this program.

On a motion made by Mr. Barrett, seconded by Mrs. Raymond, the committee approved the following unanimously.

Mr. Bulger notified the committee regarding his recommendation of appointment of Department Head Tina Potter to continue as Commissioner of Social Services and asked that the committee add the re-appointment item to the agenda for the full board to consider at the September meeting.

Mr. Veitch reported to the committee that the County was awarded an Airport Grant of \$27,000,000 from New York State for a new terminal.

On a motion made by Mr. Barrett, seconded by Mr. Grasso, the Board Meeting Agenda for September 22, 2022 was approved unanimously.

On a motion made by Mr. Tollisen, seconded by Mr. Grasso, the meeting was adjourned unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Bridget Rider
Deputy Clerk of the Board

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