

Law and Finance Committee Minutes
April 12, 2023 – 4:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Jonathan Schopf; Committee members Phil Barrett, Joe Grasso, John Lant, Kevin Tollisen, Matthew Veitch.

Absent: Diana Edwards

Supervisor Mark Hammond and Chairman of the Board Theodore Kusnierz; Steve Bulger, Ridge Harris, Stephanie Hodgson, Matt Rose, County Administrator; Michelle Granger, County Attorney; Kim Lambert, Planning; Michael Prezioso, Mental Health; Sue Costanzo, Probation; Karen Heggen, District Attorney; Andre DelVaux, Ed Tremblay, Emergency Services; Craig Hayner, County Clerk; Andrew Blumenberg, Public Defender; George Conway, Samantha Kupferman, Conflict Defender; Andrew Jarosh, Treasurer; Scot Chamberlain, Human Resources; Michael Zurlo, Sheriff; Chad Cooke, Public Works; Sandi Cross, Aging; Daniel Kuhles, Department of Health; Dan Rourke, Sewer District; Jenniffer McCloskey, Workforce Development; Anna Stanko, Real Property; Donna Miter, CSEA; Dominic Gallo, Jane Sexton, Cool Insuring; Ken Grey, Marshall Sterling.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Grasso, seconded by Mr. Barrett, the minutes of the March 15, 2023 meeting were approved unanimously.

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

REAL PROPERTY TAX

- Authorizing the conveyance of a tax-acquired parcel in the Town of Galway.
BUDGET IMPACT: No Budget Impact.
- Approving and confirming the auction sale of County-owned lands acquired for unpaid taxes.
BUDGET IMPACT: No Budget Impact. Funds are included in the Department Budget.

Auction sales totaled \$1,390,360 with nineteen parcels sold.

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

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

- Authorizing a renewal agreement with James McGuiness & Associates Inc. for the provision of software system and support services for the processing of reimbursement claims to the State for pre-school education costs.

BUDGET IMPACT: No Budget Impact. Funds are included in the Department Budget. This agreement will be for a one-year term at a cost not to exceed \$29,000.

- Authorizing an agreement with Wladis Law Firm, PLLC for the provision of professional legal services.

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

- Authorizing mileage reimbursement for parents/guardians who provide transportation for children attending preschool and early intervention center-based programs.

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

These proposed rates will encourage participation among parents and decrease costs to the county.

- Amending resolution 296-2021, authorizing amendments to Mental Health contracts to include a state-funded full market rate stipend for supported housing beds, and amending the 2023 County budget in relation thereto.

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

This resolution will authorize the passthrough of state funding in the amount of \$45,144 for stipends to the county's partners who provide supported housing services.

- Proclaiming May 2023 as "Older Americans Month" in Saratoga County.

BUDGET IMPACT: No Budget Impact.

This year's theme will be "Aging Unbound."

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

PUBLIC WORKS

- Amending Resolution 324-2022 and authorizing an amended agreement with County Waste and Recycling Service, Inc.

BUDGET IMPACT: No Budget Impact.

This item will amend the resolution to the corrected date of December 31, 2024, with three one-year renewal options.

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

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

- Authorizing an amended agreement with CPL Architects, Engineers, Landscape Architect and Surveyor, DPC for the performance of a facilities assessment study and amending the 2023 County budget in relation thereto.

BUDGET IMPACT: The budget will be amended to increase appropriations and decrease fund balance by \$55,000.

This item will amend the contract in the amount of \$55,000 for additional services related to the facilities assessment study.

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

PUBLIC SAFETY

- Authorizing participation in the 2023 State Stop-DWI Program and contracts with local agency participants.

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

This item will allow for the purchase of equipment and services to assist with the program's goal of reducing drug and alcohol related traffic injuries and fatalities.

- Authorizing participation in the 2023 Stop-DWI High Visibility Engagement Campaign and Drug Recognition Expert Call Out Plan.

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

This grant funding in the amount of \$28,000 will reimburse expenses related to the program's implementation.

- Authorizing the acceptance of a \$250,000 grant from the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (DASNY) for the purchase of body-worn and in-car cameras for the Sheriff's Department.

BUDGET IMPACT: The budget will be amended to accept these funds and increase fund balance by \$250,000.

These grant funds will help reimburse purchases for this program which were previously made in 2022.

- Authorizing a contract for specialized law enforcement services with the Town of Malta, amending the 2023 Compensation Schedule under the Sheriff's Department, and amending the 2023 County budget in relation thereto.

BUDGET IMPACT: The budget will be amended to accept these funds and increase Fund Balance by \$185,169.71

This item will authorize the acceptance of funds from the Town of Malta in the amount of \$185,169.71. These funds will cover costs associated with the creation of three new deputy positions through December 31, 2023.

- Proclaiming May 7-13, 2023 as "National Correctional Officers and Employees Week" in Saratoga County.

BUDGET IMPACT: No Budget Impact.

The County encourages all residents to join in honoring our Correctional Officers and employees who, by their faithful and loyal devotion to their responsibilities, have rendered dedicated service to the community.

- Authorizing an agreement with Office Data Systems, Inc. to update, install, maintain, and provide training for digital video/audio recording system to record and prepare statements in criminal cases.

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

This agreement for \$134,450 will allow for the updating of iRecord digital recording equipment in nine locations, as well as the installation, maintenance, and training services for the equipment.

- Authorizing an agreement with Axon Enterprise, Inc. to provide Evidence.com professional licenses.

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

The total cost of this agreement will be \$287,640 over a six month period.

- Proclaiming April 23-29, 2023, as “Crime Victims' Rights Week in Saratoga County, this year’s theme: “Survivor Voices: Elevate. Engage. Effect. Change”.

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, victim 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. District Attorney Heggen would also like to invite all residents to an event being held Sunday April 23rd at 2pm at the Quick Response location on Route 9 in Round Lake to help honor victims of crime and all who support them.

- Authorizing the acceptance of the Second Upstate Family Defense (Child Welfare) Quality Improvement and Caseload Reduction Grant, amending the 2023 Compensation Schedule, and amending the 2023 County budget in relation thereto.

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

This three-year grant funding totaling \$750,000 will be used to create two new Assistant Attorney positions, one under the Public Defender and one under the Conflict Defender’s offices. This funding will also help cover other legal services such as drug testing, expert witness fees, and service fees.

- Authorizing an agreement with the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services to accept a 2022 Homeland Security Program Grant and amending the 2023 County budget in relation thereto.

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

This grant funding of \$148,535 will be applied towards program costs such as communications equipment, prescription drug supplies, maintenance, and related professional services.

- Approving the Alternatives to Incarceration (ATI) Performance based services plan and authorizing the acceptance of a NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services Grant.

BUDGET IMPACT: Transfer of associated budget between departments.

This grant funding of \$26,224 will help cover costs related to the Pre-Trial services program.

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

HUMAN RESOURCES & INSURANCE

- Authorizing the County's Insurance coverages through May 8, 2024, and amending the 2023 County budget in relation thereto.

BUDGET IMPACT: The budget will be amended to adjust appropriations and decrease fund balance by \$59,087.

The total cost of the premiums related to these insurance policy renewals will be \$1,179,076 which represents a 13% increase compared to last year's policies.

- Amending the Policies and Procedures manual to revise the Administrative Benefits policy and process.

BUDGET IMPACT: No Budget Impact.

This resolution modifies the policy to allow flexibility to attract candidates for difficult to fill positions by increasing accruals in limited circumstances.

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

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Authorizing the transfer of funds from the Economic Development Reserve Fund and amending the 2023 County budget in relation thereto.

BUDGET IMPACT: The budget will be amended to increase appropriations and decrease the Economic Development Grant Reserve Fund by \$49,700.

The transfer of previously approved funds from the Reserve Account to the 2023 Budget will allow for the payment of outstanding awarded grants.

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

TRAILS & OPEN SPACE

- Authorizing the transfer of funds from the County Trails Development Reserve and amending the 2023 County budget in relation thereto.

BUDGET IMPACT: The budget will be amended to increase appropriations and decrease the Trails Grant Reserve Fund by \$67,651.80

The transfer of previously approved funds from the Reserve Account to the 2023 Budget will allow for payment of outstanding awarded grants.

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

LAW & FINANCE

- Setting a public hearing for input regarding increasing bonding capacity and project costs for the Saratoga County Sewer District No.1's Biosolids Digester Facility.

BUDGET IMPACT: No Budget Impact.

This public hearing will be held on May 10, 2023, at 4:30pm.

- Authorizing agreements with Jersen Construction Group LLC and Stilsing Electric Inc. for work related to the rehabilitation and replacement of secondary clarifiers and electrical equipment at the Saratoga County Sewer District No.1's Wastewater Treatment Plant and amending the 2023 County budget in relation thereto.

BUDGET IMPACT: The budget will be amended to increase appropriations and decrease Sewer fund balance by \$1,890,517.

Jersen Construction will provide construction services at a cost of \$8,346,000 and Stilsing Electric will provide electrical services at a cost of \$3,044,517.

- Authorizing an amendment to the agreement with S&L Roofing & Sheetmetal, Inc. for the replacement of the roof at Saratoga County Sewer District No. 1's Maintenance Facility.

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

The additional costs will total \$22,107.

- Authorizing an agreement with WMJ Keller & Sons Construction Corporation, Spring Electric and John W Danforth for work associated with upgrading Saratoga County Sewer District No.1's D & R pump station located in the Town of Halfmoon.

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

The current equipment at the facility has reached the end of its useful life. The total cost to replace the equipment will be \$628,979.

- Authorizing the commencement of legal action as necessary to ensure completion of the Saratoga County Airport upgrades in accordance with the New York State and Federal Funding Grant deadlines and authorizing the retention of special counsel.

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

The airport upgrades must be completed by February 23, 2025 to avoid jeopardizing grant funding. This resolution will allow for the timely commencement of litigation, should it become necessary, to avoid any negative impact on the airport completion schedule.

- Requesting the Governor and Legislature of New York State to remove from the 2024 budget any executive budget reference or bill that would amend New York State Real Property Law that fundamentally alters the foreclosure process and auction of tax delinquent properties.

BUDGET IMPACT: No Budget Impact.

At the request of the County Treasurer, and joining many other counties across New York State, we request the Board of Supervisors to call on Governor Hochul to remove from the 2024

executive budget the proposed changes to the in-rem foreclosure process until further study and review can be completed. This resolution authorizes the Clerk of the Board to forward this resolution to the Governor of New York State and other appropriate state officials and representatives.

- Authorizing an amendment to the County's Investment Policy to add authorized cooperative investment agreements and to update maximum bank deposit limits.

BUDGET IMPACT: No Budget Impact.

This recommendation from the County Treasurer will allow the County to increase investments in short-term highly liquid investment funds designed specifically for the public sector. These funds are carefully selected to maximize safety and liquidity while generating a competitive yield, thereby reducing the County's deposits at banking institutions.

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

CHAIRMAN'S ITEM

- Appointing a Commissioner of Saratoga County Sewer District No. 1.

BUDGET IMPACT: No Budget Impact.

On a motion made by Mr. Grasso, seconded by Mr. Lant, the Board Meeting Agenda for April 18, 2023 was approved unanimously.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Bridget Rider
Deputy Clerk of the Board