



# Law & Finance Committee

Wednesday, August 14, 2024 4PM  
40 McMaster Street, Ballston Spa, NY

## Minutes

Present: Chairman Matthew Veitch; Committee members Diana Edwards, Joe Grasso, John Lant, Scott Ostrander, Kevin Tollisen.

Absent: Kevin Veitch

Supervisors C. Eric Butler, Michele Madigan, Cynthia Young; Chairman of the Board Philip Barrett; Steve Bulger, Ridge Harris, Stephanie Hodgson, Renee Law, Christine Rush, Anne Van Vorst, County Administrator; George Conway, County Attorney; Michael Zurlo, Sheriff; Karen Heggen, District Attorney; Craig Hayner, County Clerk; Dan Rourke, Sewer District; Jason Kemper, Planning and Economic Development; Scot Chamberlain, Katie Bottger, Human Resources; André Delvaux, Emergency Services; Chad Cooke, Public Works; JoAnne Kupferman, Treasurer; Daniel Kuhles, Public Health; Michael Prezioso, Mental Health & Addiction; Cassandra Bagramian, Board of Elections; Anna Stanko, Real Property Tax; Donna Miter, CSEA. Duane Vaughn, Stephanie Romeo, Shelters of Saratoga; Press.

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

**On a motion made by Mr. Grasso, seconded by Mrs. Edwards, the minutes of the July 10, 2024 meeting were approved unanimously.**

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

### HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Amending Resolution 296 – 2021 to authorize amendments to health contracts to include state-funded cost-of-living increases and amending the 2024 County Budget in relation thereto.

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

This item will accept an additional \$23,579 in state aid.

Amending an agreement with the Alcohol and Substance Abuse Prevention Council of Saratoga, Inc. to include state-funded cost-of-living increases for the Certified Recovery Peer Advocate.

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

This funding is provided by the NYS Office of Addiction Services & Supports. The increase will be in the amount of \$1,769.

Accepting a Health Insurance Information Counseling and Assistance Program Grant from the New York State Office for the Aging and amending the 2024 County Budget in relation thereto.

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

This \$2,000 in state funding aims to assist the volunteers of this program with training and certification costs. These volunteers assist Medicare beneficiaries through counseling, training, and outreach efforts.

Accepting additional Community Services for the Elderly Program and Wellness in Nutrition program grant funding from the New York State Office for the Aging, and amending the 2024 County budget in relation thereto.

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

This additional state funding in the amount of \$41,552 will be applied to related expenses of the program.

Authorizing an agreement with the Town of Halfmoon to provide funding for the purchase of a transportation vehicle for Seniors and amending the 2024 County budget in relation thereto.

BUDGET IMPACT STATEMENT: The budget will be amended to increase expenses and decrease fund balance by \$23,750.

This funding will assist the Town of Halfmoon to secure a vehicle which will provide needed transportation services to senior residents.

Authorizing an agreement with the Town of Clifton Park to provide funding for the purchase of a transportation vehicle for Seniors and amending the 2024 County budget in relation thereto.

BUDGET IMPACT STATEMENT: The budget will be amended to increase expenses and decrease fund balance by \$23,750.

This funding will assist the Town of Clifton Park to secure a vehicle which will provide needed transportation services to senior residents.

Authorizing an agreement with Rebuilding Together Saratoga, Inc. to provide accessibility modifications to homes and amending the 2024 County Budget in relation thereto.

BUDGET IMPACT STATEMENT: The budget will be amended to increase expenses and decrease fund balance by \$59,000.

This agreement will allow for accessibility modifications to homes of eligible seniors such as wheelchair accessible ramps, grab bars, etc.

Accepting a Community Optional Preventive Services Program Grant from the New York State Office of Children and Family Services.

BUDGET IMPACT STATEMENT: No budget impact. Funds are included in the department budget.

This program aims to provide preventative services to youth and their families in hopes that it will avert foster care placement and family crises. This funding from OCFS will total \$72,239.

Accepting Public Health Emergency Preparedness grant funds from the New York State Department of Health and Health Research Inc. for Public Health Emergency Preparedness.

BUDGET IMPACT STATEMENT: No budget impact. Funds are included in the department budget.

This funding is in the amount of \$231,894.

**On a motion made by Mr. Ostrander, seconded by Mrs. Edwards, the following resolutions were approved unanimously.**

### BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

Authorizing National Grid Utility Easements on county property related to improvements associated with county capital projects.

BUDGET IMPACT STATEMENT: No budget impact.

This item will allow the Chair of the Board to execute current and future easements with National Grid.

Authorizing a sublease with the New York State Unified Court System for shared Judicial chambers.

BUDGET IMPACT STATEMENT: No budget impact. Funds are included in the department budget.

This agreement will be in effect until the end of 2025. The monthly cost of this sublease will be \$2,000.

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

### HUMAN RESOURCES & INSURANCE

Accepting New York State Healthcare and Mental Hygiene Worker Bonus Program Funds, disbursing program funds to eligible County employees, and amending the 2024 County Budget in relation thereto.

BUDGET IMPACT STATEMENT: No budget impact. Funds are included in the department budget.

The funding amount totals \$6,459 for the fifth and final vesting period of the Healthcare Worker Bonus program.

Amending the Policies and Procedures Manual by revising the current Vacation Carryover Policy.

BUDGET IMPACT STATEMENT: No budget impact.

This resolution brings the policy in line with changes as negotiated between Saratoga County and the CSEA. This resolution will also extend the new vacation carryover rules to all full-time employees who are not part of a bargaining unit.

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

#### PUBLIC SAFETY

Authorizing an agreement with the United States Department of the Navy for the lease of night vision goggles.

BUDGET IMPACT STATEMENT: No budget impact. Funds are included in the department budget.

This is an annual housekeeping item. This one-year agreement will total \$4,500.

Accepting an Alternatives to Incarceration Grant from the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services and approving the Alternatives to Incarceration Service Plan.

BUDGET IMPACT STATEMENT: No budget impact. Funds are included in the department budget.

The grant funds total \$26,224.

Accepting a Pretrial Services Grant from the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services.

BUDGET IMPACT STATEMENT: No budget impact. Funds are included in the department budget.

The grant funds total \$417,344.

Authorizing an agreement with Bishop House Consulting, Inc. for Probation Department training services.

BUDGET IMPACT STATEMENT: No budget impact. Funds are included in the department budget.

This item will allow Bishop House to provide training at a cost not to exceed \$17,980.

Accepting an Aid to Defense Supplemental Grant from the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services and amending the 2024 County budget in relation thereto.

BUDGET IMPACT STATEMENT: The budget will be amended to accept these funds and increase fund balance by \$461,481

This funding will help offset the cost of public defense services.

Authorizing an agreement with Patriot Towers Inc. for the installation of a 20-foot monopole extension to the Saratoga County Emergency Radio Communications Tower in the Town of Clifton Park.

BUDGET IMPACT STATEMENT: No budget impact. Funds are included in the department budget.

This agreement will be capped at \$39,766.

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

### TRAILS & OPEN SPACE

Authorizing the transfer of funds from the Trails Development Reserve Fund and amending the 2024 County Budget in relation thereto.

BUDGET IMPACT STATEMENT: The budget will be amended to increase appropriations and reduce the Trail Reserve Fund by \$10,000.

This item will allow for the payment to the Town of Malta for its 2023 grant project.

Awarding 2024 Trails Grants.

BUDGET IMPACT STATEMENT: No budget impact.

The 2024 Municipal Trails Grant applications have been received from 15 different municipalities totaling \$148,000.00 fulfilling the County's match and fully funding all applications. These requests have a total project cost of \$347,387.52.

Authorizing the necessary agreements to apply for, accept, and administer a New York State Snowmobile Trail Grant-in-Aid Program Grant.

BUDGET IMPACT STATEMENT: No budget impact. Funds are included in the department budget.

These are pass through funds that go directly to the clubs of the Saratoga County Association of Snowmobile Clubs.

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

### LAW & FINANCE

Adopting a Local Law to provide salary increases for certain county officials and amending the 2024 Compensation Schedule.

BUDGET IMPACT STATEMENT: No budget impact. Funds are included in the 2024 County budget.

A public hearing on this item will be held at 4:35pm following this Law & Finance meeting.

Amending an agreement with Hugh G. Burke, Esq. for legal services pertaining to the Freedom of Information Law requests for the District Attorney's office.

BUDGET IMPACT STATEMENT: No budget impact. Funds are included in the department budget.

This item will increase the limit on the agreement from \$35,000 to \$50,000.

Approving the proposed increase in the maximum estimated cost of proposed upgrades to the Saratoga County Sewer District's No. 1 Wastewater Treatment Plant to properly treat ammonia and meet new limits proposed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

BUDGET IMPACT STATEMENT: No budget impact.

This item will increase the allowable bond amount for the ammonia removal project to \$52,628,450. A public hearing on this item will be held at 4:30pm following this Law & Finance Meeting.

Bond resolution authorizing an increase in the estimated maximum cost of upgrades to Saratoga County Sewer District No. 1 ammonia treatment facilities.

BUDGET IMPACT STATEMENT: No budget impact.

As required by County Law, this bond resolution will increase the maximum cost of the project.

Authorizing an agreement with WM. J. Keller & Sons Construction Corporation for the Installation of a Sewer Forcemain Extension in the Town of Malta.

BUDGET IMPACT STATEMENT: No budget impact. Funds are included in the department budget.

This agreement will be in the amount of \$130,581.

Amending an agreement with Ramboll Americas Engineering Solutions, Inc. for engineering services related to the repair of aeration tanks 5 – 8 at the Saratoga County Sewer District's No.1 Wastewater Treatment Plant.

BUDGET IMPACT STATEMENT: No budget impact. Funds are included in the department budget.

This item will add an additional \$47,800 to the contracted amount. This will bring the total contract amount to \$330,800.

Authorizing an agreement with the Law Office of Robert King, PLLC and Stag Liuzza, PLLC for legal services related to PFAS Litigation services.

BUDGET IMPACT STATEMENT: No budget impact.

This item will allow the law firm to provide legal services to the Sewer District on an "as needed" basis. It is anticipated this firm will be needed soon due to recent regulatory announcements.

Authorizing an agreement with SageSmith to provide election results reporting software.

BUDGET IMPACT STATEMENT: No budget impact. Funds are included in the department budget.

With this agreement, SageSmith will be able to aggregate election results, produce public reports, and certify upcoming election results. The first-year cost of this agreement will be \$30,148.

Authorizing an agreement with Nationwide Court Services, Inc. for the service of legal papers in court proceedings for various county departments.

BUDGET IMPACT STATEMENT: No budget impact. Funds are included in the department budget.

This agreement includes an \$85 per service rate for a two-year term and two additional one-year renewals.

Appointing a Director of Weights & Measures (A) and Consumer Affairs.

BUDGET IMPACT STATEMENT: No budget impact.

This item will appoint Christopher Stark, current the Deputy Director of Weights and Measures, as the Director of Weights & Measures A & Consumer Affairs.

**A motion was made by Mr. Grasso, seconded by Mrs. Edwards, to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion regarding the proposed acquisition, sale or lease of real property. Unanimous.**

**Chairman Veitch reported that a motion was made by Mr. Grasso, seconded by Mrs. Edwards, to return to regular session. Unanimous.**

Chairman Veitch reported that no action was taken in Executive Session.

**A motion was made by Mr. Grasso, seconded by Mr. Ostrander, to add the following resolutions to the agenda. Unanimous.**

Authorizing the purchase of property at 96-116 Ballston Avenue in the City of Saratoga Springs for the purpose of a permanent Code Blue Shelter location.

BUDGET IMPACT STATEMENT: The budget will be amended to increase expenses and decrease capital facilities reserve fund by an amount not to exceed \$3M.

Authorizing a Memorandum of Understanding with Shelters of Saratoga.

BUDGET IMPACT STATEMENT: No budget impact.

Both items relate to the potential purchase of properties to build a Code Blue Shelter operated by the Shelters of Saratoga. A long term lease with Shelters of Saratoga would allow them to construct and operate the building while the County would maintain control of the property.

**A motion was made by Mr. Grasso, seconded by Mrs. Edwards, to approve the aforementioned agenda items. Unanimous.**

**On a motion made by Mr. Grasso, seconded by Mr. Ostrander, the Board Meeting Agenda for August 20, 2024 was approved unanimously after discussion.**

**On a motion made by Mr. Grasso, seconded by Mrs. Edwards, the meeting was adjourned unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Therese M. Connolly, Clerk of the Board