

**COUNTY GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE**  
**January 24, 2012**

**PRESENT:**  
Kevin McDonald  
Clerk  
Ronald Knott  
Ellen Thruston  
Ed Cross  
Matt Murrell  
Tommas Garrick  
Ray Staats

**ABSENT:**  
Jesse DeGrootd -notified

**ALSO PRESENT:**  
Rebecca Vinchiarello, Deputy  
  
Rob Fitzsimmons  
Holly Tanner  
Patrice Perry  
Anne Cooper  
Arnold Schneider  
Suzzette Booy  
Ken Flood  
John Rutkey  
Tim Stalker

**PRESS: 1**  
**PUBLIC: 1**

Chairman McDonald called the meeting to order at 6: 00 PM.

The Committee decided that the County Government Committee meeting should be moved to 5:00P.M.

It was asked that agendas be sent to Supervisors prior to the Committee meetings but that Department Heads also bring printed copies of their agendas to meetings for Supervisors. There was also a request from Chairman Grattan that if any Department has an advisory committee that terms, officers, and vacancies of this committee be submitted to the Clerk of the Board.

A copy of reports or certifications that need to be sent to agencies outside of the county should be forwarded to the County Attorney's office.

A listing of any Departments/Employees subject to a compliance orders or arbitration should also be sent to the County Attorney.

Day to day contact Supervisors for Department Heads should be chosen by the next meeting.

County Clerk- H. Tanner

H. Tanner questioned if Department Heads are expected to report to committee meetings if they have nothing to present, and if they are allowed to leave after they present.

A monthly report was submitted. The Clerk also provided a report for the year of 2011. Revenue numbers were discussed. The importance of keeping the DMV business within the county was explained. It was noted that they budget conservatively with the mortgage tax. Motion to except the report by R. Knott seconded by E. Cross, motion carried.

Resolution Request - Authorization to fill one vacant budgeted Sr. Index Clerk position GR11 base \$35,031.00 inclusive of the 2.75% and any applicable longevity, effective 1/2/12 and to fill any vacant Index Clerk position created there from. Motion to approve by R. Staats, second by T. Garrick, motion carried. Refer to Budget and Salary Review Committee, if approved, Refer to Finance.

Resolution Request – Authorization to fill one vacant budgeted index clerk position GR10 base \$34,240 effective immediately on a temporary basis until the position can be filled from the new civil service list which will not be effective until June. Motion to approve by M. Murrell, seconded by R. Staats, motion carried. Refer to Budget and Salary Review Committee, if approved, Refer to Finance.

Records Management issues update – H. Tanner plans to discuss staffing issues regarding the records management system next month. She would like to have a committee meeting over at 325 Columbia Street so every can see the new system which is up and running. The voting machines that are being stored there are in the way and this issue needs to be resolved.

Update of NYSACC President issues – If the Governors budget passes than counties will be receiving 4 % of online DMV transactions. As president of the NYSACC, this was one of H. Tanner’s goals.

**Weights & Measures: A. Schneider**

**Monthly Report: November and December were handed out.**

A. Schneider gave a synopsis of what he does. He performs annual inspections of devices for measurement, and pricing accuracy. He gave an overview of the steps he takes when he finds regulations have been broken. The fine money he collects goes to the County. He follows NYS Agriculture and Markets regulations. In the past few months he did levy a couple of penalties. From this point forward A. Schneider plans to email reports to the Deputy Clerk who will copy them and place them in the Supervisors mail boxes.

**County Attorney – R. Fitzsimmons**

The Stockport Fire Department has approached the Columbia County Attorney’s Office seeking advice about a 1952 fire truck that was leased to the Stockport in 1978. The fire department is considering selling the truck to raise money. If it is no longer useful to the county then a resolution can be done allowing them to sell it. It was questioned if this would set a precedent of the County giving things for charitable reasons. After brief discussion there was a motion by T. Garrick to transport the fire truck to Stockport for Stockport to sell as it is “beyond its usable life and no longer effective or necessary for the Counties use”, seconded by M. Murrell, motion carried. **Refer to Finance.**

**Conference Objective Form - January 31<sup>st</sup> - County Attorneys’ Association of the State of New York – Mid-Winter Meeting. January 31, 2012 in Albany, NY. Two people attending at a total cost of \$160.00. Motion to approve by R. Staats, seconded by E. Cross, motion carried.**

Update on tax property foreclosures - no major changes in status – There is one property in Ghent that the previous Board has authorized to go to private sale. There is a particular property in Chatham that the town is asking the County to relinquish a tax debt for the one tenth of an acre that the town needs to take ownership of to fix a bridge. Motion to approve by R. Knott, seconded by K. McDonald, motion carried.

**Planning – K. Flood**

**Tourism -**

**Resolution Request** – Authorization to establish a pool of marketing professionals to support 2012 tourism promotional efforts. Motion to approve by R. Staats, seconded by R. Knott, motion carried. **Refer to Finance.**

**Columbia County Council on the Arts - Maria Kolodziej-Zincio, Vice President/Board Member CCCA addressed the committee briefly. They passed out a summary of events for 2011. The Counties contribution to them is \$17K. They appreciate everything the County has done and ask for the Supervisors continued support.**

**NYU Graduate Class Marketing Study- This is an ongoing project and will be taken into consideration as they move forward with the Counties marketing plan.**

**It was also reported that the film industry in the County has been very successful.**

**Planning: Tim Stalker & Patrice Perry**

**County Planning Board Responsibilities and 2011 Activity Review – Vacant Seats. There are nine seats on the board. There are currently three openings. A packet was handed out and P. Perry went through it. It consisted of an annual report , an update on activities and membership.**

**T. Stalker announced that it has been a good year. There have been a few controversial items such as the Price Chopper project in Ghent.**

**Transportation:**

K. Flood explained that the county owns two busses. They will come in around \$100K under budget this year. A chart was handed out.

They have found that gas prices and state layoff of jobs correspond with ridership participation.

Shopping - There was a huge jump in 2011 which was when a single bus run was made for Greenport and Hudson area. It saves around 100k for the city of Hudson, and there is no cost to the County.

Participation has increased greatly on the Southern County run as well.

**Real Property – S. Booy**

Assessor Continuing Education: NYS Assessor Association class for Assessors at the College will be held on 3/2/2012 “Communications & Public Relations”. Cost: \$95. Budget for Education: \$1,300.

This will be formally requested at next month’s meeting.

The NYS Assessor Association will also be holding a class for Assessors in November on “Ethics & the Assessor”. Ethics is a required class for newly elected and appointed assessors as well as county directors. This class has to be taken within one year of their term starting (either before or after) so S. Booy is anticipating many Assessors attending the November class.

Board of Assessment Review Training: Will be conducted at the College this year and is being combined with Greene County. Training will be on May 3rd 6pm-9pm. All BAR members will be notified on or about March 1st.

**Resolution Request:** Authorization to correct the real property tax amount for a property in the town of Kinderhook for the 2012 Town/County tax roll and providing for an unpaid 11-12 Ichabod Crane School tax credit for the same parcel.

**Resolution Request:** Authorization to correct the real property tax amount for a property in the town of Livingston for the 2012 Town/County tax roll and providing for an unpaid 11-12 Germantown School Tax School tax credit for the same parcel.

**Resolution Request:** Providing for unpaid tax credits arising after erroneous assessments which have been corrected from the town of Greenport and city of Hudson for the 2011 town county tax rolls.

**Resolution Request:** Providing for a tax refund arising after an erroneous assessment in the city of Hudson which has been corrected from the city of Hudson for the 2009 city/County tax roll.

Motion to approve all requests by R. Staats, seconded by R. Knott, motion carried. **Refer to Finance.**

Website: Real Property’s website has been updated to include the 2012 Town & County Tax Rates as well as updated Assessor & Tax Collector information.

Sole Assessors: The Towns of Chatham and Taghkanic both adopted Local Laws in 2011 to go to a Sole Assessor. Chatham has hired Daniel Horst (formerly on their 3 person BOA) as their Assessor and Taghkanic has hired Craig Surprise. The only Towns left with 3 person Boards are Claverack and Stockport.

**Conference Objective Form:** NYS Association of County Directors of Real Property Tax Service’s Winter Workshop January 31st & February 1st in Albany. The cost for the Conference is a registration fee of \$25. One person attending. Motion to approve by M. Murell, seconded by T. Garrick, motion carried.

Chairman McDonald announced that Chairman Grattan would like to start videotaping County meetings. He wanted the County Government Committee’s permission to move forward with pursuing this. It would go on the community channels. No one on the committee objected to this.

**Chairman Grattan also announced that it would be at the Committees discretion if Department heads could leave after they presented, or if they would have to attend meetings if they had no agenda.**

**With no further business there was a motion to adjourn at 7:40 P.M. by T. Garrick, seconded by E. Cross, motion carried.**

**COUNTY GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE**

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**Kevin McDonald, Chairman**

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**Ronald Knott**

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**Edward Cross**

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**Jesse DeGroot**

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**Thomas Garrick**

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**Ray Staats**

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**Matt Murell**

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**Ellen Thurston**