

COUNTY GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

April 24, 2012

**PRESENT:**

Kevin McDonald, Chairman  
Ronald Knott  
Ellen Thurston  
Ray Staats  
Matt Murrell  
Thomas Garrick  
Jesse DeGroot  
Edward Cross

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Rebecca Vinchiarello, Deputy Clerk  
Arnold Schneider  
Ron Caponera  
Ken Flood  
Chris Watz  
Pat Grattan  
Ann Cooper  
Holly Tanner

Press: 1

Chairman McDonald called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M.

County Attorney – C. Watz

Update on County Properties:

The tax foreclosure process was discussed. A majority of the 2008 tax searches are back and are being reviewed at this time. They have decided not to combine 2008 and 2009 as it would prove to be wasteful as far as the search work is concerned.

R. Staats questioned why the property tours had not been completed for 2008. C. Watz has been spending time on other projects in order to meet deadlines, such as bridge easements.

C. Watz would like to get through his first round of property tours before he commits to a timeline going forward. He said he would try to have the tour completed within 90 days.

County Clerk – H. Tanner

Resolution Request – Mortgage Tax Distribution – Authorization to distribute \$590K of mortgage tax money to the towns and villages of Columbia County. \$590K is also what was collected to go to the General Fund. R. Caponera added that this should be subject to a conversation with the County Attorney regarding the distribution of money to towns with villages in them due to the need to update the allocation percentage based upon the new 2010 census numbers. Motion to approve by R. Staats, seconded by J. DeGroot, motion carried. Refer to Budget and Salary Review Committee, if approved, Refer to Finance.

Records Management update -

H. Tanner would like all of the Supervisors to take a trip to the basement of the 325 Columbia Street building to see the records management system. Since its inception the records management system has cost \$111K. This is all Clerk expense money. It does not come out of the general fund (tax money). Grants have also been awarded to assist with the expense of the project. H. Tanner announced that this new system is taking off. The County needs to decide what direction they wish to move in.

Her office will be holding another County wide shredding day. This will be open to the towns as well and saves the County money.

Return the Favor – 1106 cards have been issued to veterans.

The County Attorney sent out an email regarding unclaimed funds from the State Comptroller's Office and H. Tanner was successful in obtaining some of these funds.

Resolution Request - Budget amendment. Authorization to increase appropriation account A0-1E 1410-4433-E4000 (records management) by \$74,518.24 and to off –set revenue account A0-8R-3089-0000-8R-3089. Motion to approve by R. Staats, seconded by M. Murell, motion carried. Refer to Budget and Salary Review Committee, if approved, Refer to Finance.

Tourism – A. Cooper, K. Flood

Conference Request - NY by Rail Day, New York, NY, May 16 & 17. One person attending at a cost not to exceed \$300.00. Motion to approve by J. DeGroot, seconded by E. Cross, motion carried.

**2012 Visitor & Dining Guide Update:**

Completed Guide should be delivered May 3<sup>rd</sup>. They generated \$16K in ad sales, of which the County received 60%.

**Planning –K. Flood**

**Resolution Request** – Columbia County Environmental Management Council Appointments- The Lebanon Town Board recommends the appointment of Bruce Shenker as the New Lebanon representative, the Town of Livingston recommends the appointment of Michael Hamilton and the Town of Taghkanic recommends the appointment of Scott Stackpole to the Columbia County Environmental Management Council for two year appointments. Motion to approve by J. DeGrootd, seconded by K. McDonald, motion carried. Refer to Finance.

**Resolution Request** -County Planning Board Appointment - Authorization to Appoint a member to the Columbia County Planning Board representing Region # 3 consisting of the Towns of Claverack and Ghent. The Supervisors of the Towns of Claverack and Ghent have nominated Deborah Shakoto to be appointed to the Columbia County Planning Board for the remainder of an unexpired three year term which began January 1, 2012 and ends December 31, 2014. Motion to approve R. Staats, seconded by R. Knott, motion carried. Refer to Finance.

**Conference Request** - Census Affiliate Meeting, Latham, NY on 5/30-31/2012. One person attending at a total cost of \$175.00. Motion to attend by R. Staats, seconded by J. DeGrootd, motion carried. Supervisors will be receiving an email regarding a class on May 10 at the college from 6-8PM, on how to complete the revised SEQURA Environmental Assessment Form.

**Sealer of Weights and Measures – A. Schneider**

A copy of the March report was sent out. There was one problem with a mechanical sample. He also reported a \$1,200.00 civil penalty in relation to finding ten scales with wire seals missing.

**Conference Request** – NYS Annual Training School and W&M Association meeting in Syracuse from 6/11-6/15. One person attending at a cost to exceed \$529.75. Motion to approve by J. DeGrootd, seconded by E. Cross, motion carried. Motion to accept the monthly report bt R. Staats, seconded by M. Murell, motion carried.

**Historian – K. McDonald**

**Resolution Request** – Authorization to fill one temporary PT Clerk Typist position in the Office of the Columbia County Historian effective June 25, 2012, not to exceed \$16,128.00. This position is authorized to work 40 hours bi-weekly for a period not to exceed ninety calendar days from the effective date. Motion to approve by R. Staats, seconded by R. Knott, motion carried. Refer to Budget and Salary Review Committee, if approved, Refer to Finance.

With no further business there was a motion to adjourn at 5:37 PM by R. Staats, seconded by R. Knott, motion carried.

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