

COUNTY GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

June 26, 2012

PRESENT:

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

NOTIFIED:

Jesse DeGrootd – notified

ALSO PRESENT:

Rebecca Vinchiarello, Deputy Clerk
Arnold Schneider
John Rutkey
Andy HOWard
Arthur Bassin
Ronald Caponera
Suzette Booy
Barbara Blanchard
Gene Salerni

Press: 2

Public: 3

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

Planning - K. Flood

MEGA Presentation:

MEGA is a non-profit, community-based local development corporation, established in 1998, comprised of 29 New York State counties (including Greene County) who have banded together to negotiate electricity and gas contracts for its members. They bid the contract and determine the best prices offered. The County can then decide to contract with the company suggested.

Barbara Blanchard, Founding member of MEGA representing Tompkins County headed the presentation. She has served as the Executive Director for most of MEGA's existence. She served on the City of Ithaca Common Council for 4 years and on the Tompkins County Legislature for 12 years. She currently serves as the Customer Relations Manager for the Alliance. Gene Salerni from EnergyNext, Inc. in Saratoga Springs also attended the meeting. EnergyNext has worked closely with MEGA since its inception developing bid documents and energy market analysis to MEGA and its members.

A history of the program was given. They tailored it to meeting public bidder requirements and have been endorsed by NYSAC. They signed their 31st county into the program last week. They are governed by an elected board of Directions. Each entity that joins is asked to designate someone on their behalf to appoint the board members.

Reasons to join: savings in electric and natural gas costs, stability for the budgeting process, participation is free, access to EnergyNext is available.

It was suggested that the Chairman appoints a committee consisting of Supervisors and Department Heads to work with MEGA on this. The County Attorney should be involved as well.

The Controller questioned the relationship between the P-Card and MEGA, specifically regarding rebate incentives. The Controller was asked to head up this project.

County Public Transportation Service Bid Request

RFP for bus operator would be issued through the Purchasing Department.

The Evaluation process was discussed. K. flood hopes that all is in place January 1, 2013.

Friends of Lindenwald - Peter Bujanow, Richard Anderson, two other members

A piece of Columbia County owned property that Lindenwald leases for a dollar a year was discussed. They have an opportunity to increase their land through grants.

A back ground of the trails and property was given. A hand out was given of leases and actions from past legislative bodies. The group is requesting that the County gift them the land that they are leasing. It was decided that the County Attorney's office should look into this.

Real Property – S. Booy

Conference Objective Form: Authorization to send a Valuation Specialist to a 4 day course on Cost & Modeling Using Excel & RPSv4 at the Cornell Campus, Ithaca NY July 16th-19th.

Total Estimated Cost: \$950.00 (includes hotel, conference, county car, meals)

Suzette gave a background of what a valuation specialist does. Motion to approve by R. Staats, seconded by M. Murell, motion carried.

Final Assessment Rolls must be filed in all municipalities on or before July 1. Pursuant to RPTL, the Final Assessment Roll must be available on the Town/County website within 10 days of it being filed. The Real Property office, in cooperation with MIS, will have 2012 Final Assessment Rolls on the County Web on or about July 2nd (the first is a Sunday).

Online Tax Bills/Payments: The Town of Kinderhook has recently approved to have their tax bills & payments online with the BAS Internet Tax Tier II program. This will bring the total number of Towns in Columbia County using this application up to 15. Suzette will be in contact with the 3 Towns that are not using this program which are Clermont, Ghent & Livingston.

Refunds/Credits/Corrections: A listing of correction of errors that have been processed by the Real Property Office and the County Treasurer’s Office which resulted in errors less than \$2,500 was submitted.

Weights and Measures – A. Schneider

Monthly Report – There were a of couple of penalties listed.

Motion to accept the report by R. Staats, seconded by M. Murrell, motion carried.

Human Resources – J. Rutkey

An update on the vacant Director of MIS Position was discussed. J. Rutkey stressed the importance of the position and the need to fill it quickly. The deadline for application is July 2nd and Supervisors are welcomed to review the resumes submitted in the HR Department. The names of applicants must be kept private. Three or four Supervisor, J. Rutkey, and R. Capoenra will sit on the selecting Committee. He explained the interviewing process.

County Clerk – K. McDonald presented for H. Tanner

Resolution Request – Authorization to abolish two PT Clerk Typist positions totaling \$40,023.00 and to create and fill one FT Index Clerk GR10C \$29,482. This salary will be confirmed at the Budget and Salary meeting. Motion to approve by R. Staats, seconded by E. Cross, motion carried. Refer to Budget and Salary Review Committee if approved, Refer to Finance.

With no further business there was a motion to adjourn by T. Garrick, seconded by M. Murell, motion carried.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

Kevin McDonald, Chairman

Ronald Knott

Edward Cross

Jesse DeGroodt

Thomas Garrick

Ray Staats

Matt Murell

Ellen Thurston