

COUNTY GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

September 25, 2012

**PRESENT:**

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

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Rebecca Vinchiarello, Deputy Clerk  
Arnold Schneider  
John Rutkey  
Christopher Watz  
Holly Tanner  
Kathy Harter  
Rob Fitzsimmons  
Virginia Martin  
Arthur Baer  
Chairman Grattan  
Steve Acciani  
Sara Sterling  
Press: 1  
Public: 1

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

**Insurance** – S. Acciani

**Resolution Request** – Authorizing the Chairman of the Columbia County Board of Supervisors to enter into a contract with Benefit Consultants Insurance Group, LLC for a three year agreement to manage the health benefits of all Columbia County employees at no cost to the County.

J. Rutkey explained that this would take the place of previous personal requests in the Human Resources Department. Motion to approve by J. DeGrootd, seconded by R. Knott, motion carried.

**Refer to Finance.** R. Staats questioned why this service had not been taken advantage of in the past. The history of this decision was discussed.

**Human Resources** – J. Rutkey

**Resolution Request** – Authorization to transfer \$3,200.00 from his Professional Services Account to the Advertising Account to cover costs for the County's Public Health Director position. Motion to approve by R. Staats, seconded by E. Cross, motion carried. **Refer to Finance.**

**Resolution Request** – Authorization for the Office for the Aging to enter into a professional services contract with Rosen & Associates for the purpose of providing NYS mandated Right to Know training for all OFA employees at a cost not to exceed \$2,000.00. The motion would be subject to J. Rutkey having a discussion with the Controller to see what account the money will come from. They will be looking into the potential for cross training in other departments. Motion made by T. Garrick, contingent upon the account being designated by the Controller, seconded by E. Thurston, motion carried. R. Staats voted No. **Refer to Finance.**

**Weights and Measures** – A. Schneider

The monthly report was presented and reviewed by the committee. Motion to approve the report by R. Staats, seconded by J. DeGrootd, motion carried.

**Board of Elections** – K. Harter & V. Martin

**Resolution Request** – Authorization to fill two vacant positions of Election Worker for a term of 9/1-12/31. There is money in the budget to cover this expense. Motion to approve by T. Garrick, seconded by J. DeGrootd, motion carried. **Refer to Budget and Salary Review Committee, if approved, Refer to Finance.**

**Tourism** – K. McDonald for A. Cooper

**Resolution Request** – Authorization to transfer \$1,200.00 within the Tourism Department to cover phone expenses. Motion to approve by M. Murrell, seconded by R. Staats, motion carried. **Refer to Finance.**

**County Clerk** –H. Tanner

**Resolution Request** – Authorization for Phase IV of the County Centralized Inactive Records Center in 325 Columbia St. to be installed by Innerspace Systems Inc. This is state contract pricing of

\$65,992.40 and is budgeted in the Clerk Records management line. It would be the fourth and final phase of the project. Motion to approve by R. Staats, seconded by E. Cross, motion carried. Refer to Budget and Salary Review Committee, if approved, Refer to Finance.

H. Tanner passed around a copy of the Columbia County Records Management Program Policies and Procedures. The County Attorney is currently reviewing this document. She will formally present it to the committee next month after they have an opportunity to read it. The DMV is participating in the buy local program this Thursday.

A. Baer addressed the committee regarding Local Law 8 – 2010. He gave the history of this law and explained that he feels the law has no purpose as it is written. He described one paragraph in particular that prevents it from serving any purpose. It states that the law is valid everywhere in the County except for towns where building code enforcers already exist. It was recommended that the law be amended to apply only to County owned property. The County Attorney’s office will make this language change and circulate it to the committee.

County Attorney- R. Fitzsimmons

The Nursing home in Livingston has filed a tax grievance case. The Town is requesting that the County pay 40% on the freight, and the school district pay 50% . This could potentially cost the county \$5, 000.00 to \$10,000.00. He explained that it would be beneficial for the County to join the school district and town and defend the tax rolls. He will report on this issue monthly to the committee.

The Assigned Council report had been sent out to the committee.

They are down to 115 delinquent properties and around 50 of them have mortgages.

The employee incentive program that was founded was discussed. They plan to choose a winner in November, and two in December.

Human Resources – J. Rutkey

Request to move into EXECUTIVE SESSION at 6:20PM by R. Staats, seconded by M. Murell, motion carried.

REASON: Employment of a Particular Individual

Motion to return to REGULAR SESSION at 7:09PM by R. Staats, seconded by M. Murell, motion carried.

Resolution Request - Authorizing the Chairman of the Columbia County Board of Supervisors to appoint Richard Juliano to the position of Chief Technology Officer of the County of Columbia. Motion to approve by M. Murell, seconded by E. Cross, motion carried. Refer to Budget and Salary Review Committee, if approved, Refer to Finance.

Resolution Request – Authorization to create and fill a position of Clerk Typist in the MIS Department to support payroll, accounts payable, and general office support needs of that office. Motion to approve by M. Murell, contingent on J. Rutkey receiving written consent of no objections to this from the Union, seconded by J. DeGrootd, 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 7:15PM by M. Murell, seconded by E. Cross, motion carried.

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