

COUNTY GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

October 23, 2012

PRESENT:

**Kevin McDonald, Chairman
Ronald Knott
Ellen Thurston
Ray Staats
Edward Cross**

NOTIFIED:

**Jesse DeGroodt- notified
Matt Murrell- notified
Thomas Garrick**

ALSO PRESENT:

**Rebecca Vinchiarello, Deputy Clerk
Arnold Schneider
Ken Flood
Christopher Watz
Brent Stack
Andrew Howard
Richard Washburn
Chairman Grattan
Arthur Baer
Ann Cooper
Ken Wilber
Roy Brown
Ron Caponera
Leo Pulcher
George Jahn
Robert Galluscio
Jim Keegan**

Press: 1

Public: 2

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

Real Property- S. Booy

Refunds/Credits/Corrections: S. Booy submitted 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. Motion to approve the correction of errors by R. Staats, seconded by R. Knott, motion carried.

S. Booy then made a 10-15 Minute Presentation on the information and data currently available on the Real Property Department's website. She explained that there seemed to be some confusion about data/assessment rolls that are available on the website. The site showed assessment and inventory data, not tax rolls. The assessment roll is the only thing mandated on the website. She pointed out where you can find delinquent taxes with a link that is listed on the County web page. This information is provided from the treasures office. She then showed the tax solution that she uses to create the bills for town and county taxes. It is the same solution that the Treasurer uses.

Board of Ethics – B. Stack & Richard Washburn

The members of the Board of Ethics addressed the Committee regarding their concerns with the financial disclosure affidavit form. They explained that the questions asked on the form were very vague and seemed to confuse employees. As a result many people were incorrectly filling out the forms.

An advisory opinion, from the Board, explaining questions on the form was provided to the Committee. The current law and form was also handed out as well as what they would like the form to be amended to read. They also expressed an interest in being able to email forms out to employees. Chairman McDonald would like the new proposed form forwarded to all the Supervisors, which the Ethic Committee responded they plan to do if it passes this Committee. Any changes made to this form would have to be made by local law. This committee would make a recommendation to the Full Board to amend the Local Law. The Committee plans to review the new document and will make a recommendation on it next month. At that time they would need to put forward a resolution to hold a Public Hearing.

County Attorney-A. Howard & A. Baer

Code Enforcement Officer /County Buildings – Local Law #8-2010

Follow up from last meeting. Paragraph number 17 in this law, as it is written, makes everything stated prior to it null and void. It states that all inspections are deferred to municipalities. The County Attorney drafted language that would allow the County to perform these inspections on their

own buildings that stand on their properties. R. Knot said that he would like to speak with the city of Hudson regarding these inspections. R. Staats questioned if this language change would give the County the choice of who performed the inspections. A. Howard explained this would not allow the County to choose, but would obligate the County to perform inspections themselves.

Chairman Grattan expressed his concern that towns will lose control over any County buildings that are built within their parameters.

Chairman McDonald expressed his concerns regarding having a county employee appointed to the position of County building inspector. He explained that the employee may make decisions in the County's favor over fear of losing their County position

The pros and cons of amending this law were debated, such as saving money, towns losing control, and the history of this law.

R. Staats made a motion to recommend the proposed amendment to the Local Law go to the Full Board for consideration. The Committee decided to hold the amendment in order to gather more information. The County Attorney will contact the city of Hudson for more information.

A. Baer stated that the County is not in compliance with NYS law, which is why he is putting this amendment forward.

Tourism – A. Cooper

Resolution Request – Authorization to designate the Columbia County Tourism Department as the Tourism Promotion Agency for the “I Love NY” Matching Funds Program Year 2013. Motion to approve by R. Staats, seconded by E. Cross, motion carried. Refer to Budget and Salary Review Committee, if approved, Refer to Finance.

Planning K. Flood

County Planning Board Appointments:

Resolution Request – Authorization to reappoint Timothy Stalker to the Columbia County Planning Board, Region #2, for a three year term. Motion to approve by R. Knott, seconded by E. Cross, motion carried. Refer to Finance.

Resolution Request – Authorization to reappoint Cheryl Gilbert to the Columbia County Planning Board, Region #1, for a three year term. Motion to approve by R. Staats, seconded by E. Cross, motion carried. Refer to Finance.

Transportation -

Resolution Request – Authorization to award the Bus Operator Service Contract. Chairman McDonlad excused himself from discussion and voting on this topic. He turned the meeting over to Deputy Knott and left the room.

A Rating of Proposals from Bus Operators had been emailed to the Committee (except Chairman McDonald).

K. Flood gave a brief history. In 2010 they put out a bid for shuttles to Albany and the Hudson Shopping Center. The past bid history was given. In 2012 three proposals were accepted. He presented the bids to the committee. K. Flood explained that the low bidder came in with an overall low score. R. Knott explained to the Committee that he was not able to open the document emailed to him on the low bidder. He requested that this resolution request be tabled for 30 days so the Committee has more time to look at the scoring criteria. K. Flood said it would be fine to take another month to look at the bids. He did warn that two of the bidders stated in their proposal that they would need to purchase replacement busses which could be time consuming. R. Staats expressed frustration in the fact that the low bidder is from the County and still was not the recommended bid. K. Flood explained that it is against the law to award based solely on locality. R. Knott made a motion to table the request, seconded by E. Thurston. Motion carried. R. Staats is opposed, motion carried.

Sealer of Weights and Measures – A. Schneider

A monthly report was submitted. An octane failure was reported. Motion to except the report by R. Staats, seconded by E. Cross, motion carried.

Chris Watz asked if there were any questions regarding the surplus goods changes to the Local Law. He plans to get E. Thurston the law as it stands now and the amended new law.

R. Staats questioned the foreclosure process. C. Watz explained that they are waiting on the Treasure at this point. Letters should be done before the next committee meeting.

With no further business there was a motion to adjourn at 6:28 PM by R. Knott, seconded by E. Thurston , motion carried.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

Kevin McDonald, Chairman

Ronald Knott

Edward Cross

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Matt Murell

Ellen Thurston