

COUNTY GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

November 27, 2012

PRESENT:

Kevin McDonald, Chairman
Jesse DeGroot
Ronald Knott
Ellen Thurston
Ray Staats
Thomas Garrick

NOTIFIED:

Matt Murrell, notified
Edward Cross, notified

ALSO PRESENT:

Rebecca Vinchiarello, Deputy Clerk
William Hughes, Jr.
Arnold Schneider
Ken Flood
Richard Scalera
Jeffrey Nayer
Ronald Caponera
Andy Howard
Holly Tanner
Sara Sterling
Suzette Booy
Roy Brown
Patrick Grattan
Mr. Pulcher
Mr. Sacco
Mr. Parks
Virginia Martin
Jason Nastke

Public: 19

Press: 1

Chairman McDonald called the meeting to order at 5:03 P.M.

Planning, Tourism, Transportation

Chairman McDonald excused himself from this portion of the meeting due to a conflict of interest. He turned the meeting over to Supervisor Knott and left the room.

Bus Operator Selection - Material was sent under separate cover with the exclusion of Supervisor McDonald.

Resolution Request – Requesting approval to submit the application to secure 5311 Financial Assistance for subsidizing the operation of the County busses. Motion to approve by R. Knott, seconded by J. DeGroot, motion carried. **Refer to Budget and Salary Review Committee, if approved, Refer to Finance.**

Resolution Request – Authorization to award the bid of the Bus Operator. Three companies, Johnston & Pulcher, Cocksackie Transport and First Transit Inc., answered the RFP. Johnston & Pulcher and Cocksackie Transportation, the lowest bidders, were subsequently interviewed.

K. Flood explained the process and final ratings which resulted. They were both highly rated but one company has a lower cost. The low bidder, Johnston & Pulcher would save the County around \$23,000.00. K. Flood has kept the State informed on the process and they in turn have approved the process and selection. T. Garrick then made a motion to accept the lowest bidder, Johnston & Pulcher.

E. Thurston said that both companies seemed very capable of carrying out the contract and the County is already familiar with the good service Cocksackie Transport presently provides.

R. Staats then seconded the motion to accept the low bid.

J. Nayer said that he has received phone calls from his constituents saying they like Cocksackie Transport. They want the county to renew their contract with them. He questioned the length of the contract. The county has the right to cancel the contract with 30 day notice if the company doesn't perform well.

R. Scalera said he understands there is a cost savings and benefit to hiring Johnston & Pulcher as they are the low bidder and are located in the County. He asked that comparison sheets of the two companies be provided to the entire Board of Supervisors.

W. Hughes said the equipment and busses that are used should still be the same or of the same quality of the ones currently used. It was stated that it would be illegal to use school busses, as many people had voiced their concerns of this. Wayne Parks, owner of Cocksackie Transport, said that their company does have handicapped busses of the same quality. Johnston Pulcher has promised to purchase busses of the same quality.

Users of the service gave comments of their positive experience with the current company. W. Parks announced that the Bid Bond and Performance Bond were part of the RFP requirements and that Coxsackie Transport answered to these while Johnston & Pulcher did not. Chairman Grattan said that the candidates are welcome to come in before the December Full Board meeting to give a more in depth presentation to all Supervisors. K. Flood will send the comparison information out to all Supervisors. E. Thurston is opposed to the motion made to accept the lowest bidder, Johnston & Pulcher. The motion carried. Refer to Budget and Salary Review Committee, if approved, Refer to Finance.

Sealer of Weights and Measures – A. Schneider

A monthly report was submitted. It was explained that A. Schneider only inspects Columbia County trucks. He is not responsible for inspecting trucks from other Counties that are traveling through Columbia County. A brief discussion on the Getty Station located on Fairview Avenue ensued. Motion to accept the monthly report by R. Staats, seconded by J. DeGrootd, motion carried.

County Clerk – H. Tanner

Resolution Request – Authorization to approve the Policies and Procedures set forth for the Columbia County Inactive Records Center. Motion to approve by J. DeGrootd, seconded by R. Knott, motion carried. Refer to Finance.

BOE – J. Nastke and V. Martin

Conference Request – Election Commissioners Association Winter Conference, January 14-17 in Albany NY. \$240,000 plus travel total cost with eight people attending. They have \$500.00 budgeted to cover this conference. Motion to approve by J. DeGrootd, seconded by T. Garrick, motion carried.

A woman read a letter regarding her friends support for Coxsackie Transport.

MIS – Richard Juliano

Kevin introduced Rick Juliano as the new MIS Director.

Resolution Request : Authorization to create and fill a position of Computer Programmer (Grade 15A) in the Managed Information Systems Department. This position has been included in next year's budget. Filling this position would help the MIS Department manage and maintain County technology, as well as centralize support services and support the county workforce. \$50,000.00 is budgeted in the 2013 Budget for this position. Motion to approve by R. Staats, seconded by J. DeGrootd, motion carried. Refer to Budget and Salary Review Committee, if approved, Refer to Finance.

Discussions:

R. Juliano reported that things are going very well in the MIS Department. He has been meeting with department heads to discuss their technological needs. He said that a lot of work has been done on the foundation, but attention needs to be given to how Departments can use and benefit from technology on a daily basis. He is looking at the current email system as well as Cloud services for the County at this time. He plans to provide the Committee with the start of an action plan at the next meeting.

2013 Budgets – R. Caponera

All Collective Bargaining Unit members will receive raises. Non-bargaining unit raises are currently being discussed.

Real Property – 2013 budget has an increase of \$31K (9.6 percent). Increase is due to a raise for the Deputy which is under review, and the purchase of computer software. All other line items have remained the same.

County Clerk – 2.2% increase due primarily to raises within the Department. Revenue continues to grow. Revenue over expenses is 33%. All other line items have remained the same. A raise for the Deputy of this department is also under review. Chairman Grattan thanked H. Tanner for her hard work as the revenue generated by the Clerk's Department pays bills for many other smaller County Departments. There is also a vacant position in the department that H. Tanner is not seeking to fill.

County Attorney – \$60K+ increase due to Assigned Council fees. They will work on the management of Assigned Council in hopes that it will help to lower numbers. Revenues remained the same.

Human Resources – 23K+ increase. J. Rutkey has eliminated his benefit manager position. He has increased his line item for summer help employees.

BOE – \$12K (2.3%) decrease. The printer that was purchased this year will reduce printer costs significantly. They are also hopeful there will be fewer elections in 2013. Part of the expense in their 2013 budget can be contributed to the one time purchase of the lift for the voting machines. Redistricting can also be attributed to the department’s savings. They will be looking into less costly software next year.

It was noted that the basement of 401 State Street is set to have the voting machines moved into it, which is scheduled to take place on Thursday.

Managed Information Systems –2.9% decrease due to salaries.

Weights and Measures–2.5% increase due to salary.

Tourism – 1.8% increase due to salary increase. Revenue is up \$13K.

Planning – 3.7 % increase – 2.5% is due to salaries and the rest is contractual increases. Transportation has remained flat.

Chairman McDonald thanked R. Caponera for his efforts in keeping Supervisors up to date on the 2013 budget and Department Heads for submitting low budgets.

With no further business there was a motion to adjourn at 6:06 PM by R. Staats, seconded by T. Garrick, motion carried.

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