

COUNTY GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

January 22, 2013

PRESENT:

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

ALSO PRESENT:

Rebecca Vinchiarello, Deputy Clerk
Chris Watz
Jason Nastke
Suzette Booy
Patrice Perry
Virginia Martin
Rich Washburn

Press: 1

Chairman McDonald called the meeting to order at 6:07 P.M.

Tourism- A. Cooper & K. Flood

Resolution Request – Approving the 2013 Marketing Pool. Motion to approved by R. Knott, seconded by E. Thurston, motion carried. **Refer to Finance.**

Resolution Request – Authorization to release the 2013 Visitor's & Dining Guide RFP.

The target date to have it prepared and delivered is the end of April. Motion to approve by R. Staats, seconded by J. DeGrootd, motion carried. **Refer to Finance.**

Planning

303b Additions to Agricultural Districts:

Eight parcels were submitted for recommendation. Only one parcel was not recommended by the Farm Land Protection Board.

Resolution Request – Authorization to approve the addition of NYS Agriculture and Market Law Article 25-AA Agricultural Districts Section 303-b properties to Columbia County Agricultural District Nos. 3,4,9 and 10. Motion to approve by T. Garrick, seconded by J. DeGrootd, motion carried. **Refer to Finance.**

Resolution Request – Determining that the addition of NYS Agriculture and Markets Law Article 25-AA Agricultural Districts Section 303-b properties to Columbia County Agricultural District Nos. 3,4,9 and 10 will not have a significant environmental impact. Motion to approve by R. Knott, seconded by T. Garrick, motion carried. **Refer to Finance.**

Geographical Information System (GIS) -

\$17K has been secured for equipment and software through NYS DOT. They are keeping R. Lopez and S. Booy informed.

Transportation:

Chairman McDonald turned this portion of the meeting over to Deputy Knott and recused himself from the meeting.

K. Flood requested approval to send out the Invitation for Bids (IFB) for Bus Operator. He explained that they will be required by law to accept the lowest responsible bidder. The IFB has been circulated to the County Attorney, the Controller and the Director of Purchasing. The Coxsackie contract was extended for one year, but the County does have the ability to terminate with a 30 day notice. DOT has approved the format of the bids. Under this bid, all three previous bidders would be able to bid on this project again. Motion to approve releasing the IFB by R. Staats, seconded by J. DeGrootd, motion carried. M. Murell and K. McDonald abstained. T. Garrick opposed and expressed his opinion that the County should not be in the transportation business.

Ethics - Richard Washburn

A proposed local law which would amend the financial disclosure affidavits was presented to the committee. The Ethics Committee had issued an advisory opinion in the past, to assist people with completing and submitting the form. As it still was not filled out correctly on the majority of the forms submitted, they are now requesting to amend the disclosure form. The committee had received a copy of the updated form last month and suggested that this form should go to a public hearing. Members of the Ethics Board would be available to help assist anyone with this new form.

Resolution Request – Authorization to hold a Public Hearing on the approval of the updated financial disclosure affidavit. Motion to approve by R. Knott, seconded by M. Murell, motion carried. **Refer to Finance.** It was noted that this new form may take a year to come into effect.

R. Property

Conference Request - "Exemptions", February 1, 2013 at the Columbia-Greene Community College. The total cost is \$100.00 with one person attending. Motion to approve by M. Murell, seconded by E. Cross, motion carried.

Resolution Request: Authorization to designate the County Treasurer and Deputy County Treasurer as the officials for 2013 to approve correcting the tax roll and tax bill and to authorize the payment of refunds less than \$2,500 for correction of errors appearing on assessment and tax rolls. Motion to approve by R. Staats, seconded by J. DeGroot, motion carried. **Refer to Finance.**

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 for the remainder of 2012 was passed around.

Resolution Request: To reappoint Suzette M. Booy to the position of Director of the Real Property Tax Service Agency for a six year term commencing 10/1/13 through 9/30/19 pursuant to RPTL 1530. Current term expires 9/30/13. An opinion of council said this could go to Full Board for a vote at this time, as long as the same Board exists when her term would commence. A copy of S. Booy's education transcript was attached to give the Committee an idea of continuing education classes she had attended over the years. R. Staats announced that Suzette does an excellent job and made a motion to reappoint her, seconded by J. DeGroot, motion carried. **Refer to Budget and Salary, if approved, Refer to Finance.**

Sole Assessor Reappointments Update: the terms for all of the sole assessors across the State will be expiring on 9/30/13. There are 14 sole assessors in Columbia County which cover 17 towns. The new six year term would commence on 10/1/13 and run through 9/30/19. S. Booy will be sending correspondence out to all of the sole assessor towns this week about the reappointments.

A new exemption is available, at local option, on parcels where new or reconstructed buildings meet one of three certification standards for "green buildings" as authorized under RPTL 470. The exemption benefit for each of the three categories is measured as a percentage of the increase in assessed value attributable to the green building project. Construction of improvements must be initiated on or after 1/1/2013 (or later date as specified by local law) and the value of the construction must exceed \$10,000 to qualify. A copy of the law was passed out and will be provided to all towns.

Resolution Request – Authorization to purchase an Auto Cad Map Program. This was budgeted for. It will be installed on their computers and they will all have access to support for three years. She is exempt from bidding this as it will be purchased from a sole source. The balance in this account is around \$18K. Motion to approve by R. Staats, seconded by M. Murell, motion carried. **Refer to Budget and Salary, if approved, Refer to Finance.**

Board Of Elections – V. Martin & J. Nastke

Resolution Request – Authorization to transfer \$135,000.00 from the contingency fund to various accounts within the Board of Elections Office. These funds are needed to bring their budget in balance as a result of the extra elections that took place in 2012. Motion to approve by R. Staats, seconded by E. Cross, motion carried. **Refer to Budget and Salary, if approved, Refer to Finance.** J. Nastke passed around an editorial from the Daily News regarding the margin of error with the new voting machines. There was a brief discussion on the topic of early voting of which J. Nastke is opposed.

Weights and Measures

Monthly Reports – November and December monthly reports were provided to the Committee. Motion to approve by R. Staats, seconded by M. Murell, motion carried.

Chairman Grattan addressed the Committee and explained that Meg Robertson, previous Supervisor of New Lebanon, had put together a proposal for the County to close the New Lebanon landfill. He will provide the committee with copies of what was given to him. He would like them to consider addressing this issue in the future. He suggested assisting with the closure once existing bonds are paid off.

R. Staats requested the committee consider purchasing tablets for the Supervisors in order to save on paper and printing costs.

With no further business there was a motion to adjourn at 7: 09 PM by R. Staats, seconded by J. DeGroot, motion carried.

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