

COUNTY GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

February 26, 2013

PRESENT:

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

ALSO PRESENT:

Rebecca Vinchiarello, Deputy Clerk
Ken Flood
Patrice Perry
Rick Juliano
Chris Watz
Arnold Schneider
Suzette Booy
Holly Tanner
Rob Fitzsimmons
Ann Cooper

Public: 3

Press: 1

Chairman McDonald called the meeting to order at 5:02 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 \$2,500.00.

Resolution Request: Authorization to correct the 2013 Town & County Tax Roll for the Towns of Austerlitz & Chatham by removing school re-levies from one parcel in each Town which resulted in changes to the Town & County tax bills for these parcels of more than \$2,500. Motion to approve by R. Staats, seconded by J. DeGrootd, motion carried. Refer to Budget and Salary Review Committee, if approved, Refer to Finance.

Resolution Request: Authorization to correct the 2012-2013 Unpaid School Tax for the Taconic Hills School District by removing the unpaid school tax for parcel 113.10-1-9.110 in the town of Claverack. Motion to approve by R. Staats, seconded by J. DeGrootd, motion carried. Refer to Finance.

STAR: A hand out was passed around regarding the Removal of Star Exemptions for property owners with State tax liabilities. The NYS Dept of Tax & Finance sent notices out mid February and final notices are scheduled to go out mid April. Assessors will then receive notification from Tax & Finance regarding who will have to be removed. S. Booy does not believe this will have a large impact on the Towns. Next month she will report on updates to the Star Exemption based on the Governor's budget.

Weights & Measures – A. Schneider

Motion to accept monthly report by R. Staats, seconded by M. Murell, motion carried.

Highlights of report:

One mid grade failure was reported.

Annual report has been submitted to NYS Agriculture and Markets.

Weights and Measures website is now linked to County's webpage.

County Clerk – H. Tanner

Resolution Request – Authorization to abolish an Index Clerk GR10C, base salary \$34,584.00 and to create and fill a Senior Index Clerk GR11, base salary \$35,394.00. The purpose of this change is to provide more assistance to the Pistol Permit Department. Motion to approve by R. Staats, seconded by M. Murell, motion carried. Refer to Budget and Salary Review Committee, if approved, Refer to Finance.

There will be an information only seminar on the Safe Act at the Columbia Greene Community College to discuss the facts of the law. Discussion ensued on how the Clerk's office is handling inquiries on this new law. The Opt Out Form will be discussed at the Seminar. She added that the Collage is a gun free zone.

The County Clerk's office along with K. Floods office will be holding a Small business Workshop which will take place tomorrow. A flyer and agenda were provided to Supervisors.

2012 Inactive Records Center Reports – 1,328 boxes were reported to move in and out of the center in 2012.

Planning, Tourism , Transportation - Ken Flood

NYPF 2013 Planning & Zoning Conference Schedule- April 21st-23rd 2013 was reviewed.

Columbia County Planning Board (CCPB) Activities Update was passed around.

Resolution Request - Local Government Efficiency Grant Application – CEDC is bearing the cost of this. The County and each municipality will need to pass a resolution. There is a ten percent matching cost which would be divided over five municipalities. It would be a part of the 2014 budget request. Motion to approve by R. Staats, seconded by E. Thurston, motion carried. **Refer to Finance. Conference Request** – NY Planning Federation Conference, April 21-23rd in Saratoga Springs, NY. Total cost is \$685.00 with six attendees. Motion to approve by T. Garrick, seconded by K. McDonald, motion carried.

Tourism:

Resolution Request - Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign contracts with : Berkshire Brochure Display, Brochures Unlimited CTM Media Group, Forest and Sons Brochure, Getaways on Display and Travel Plaza Information Centers for a total cost of \$8,816.50 which will be taken from their promotion line. Motion to approve by J. DeGroodt, seconded by M. Murell, motion carried. **Refer to Budget and Salary Review Committee, if approved, Refer to Finance.**

Conference Request – Gay Lesbian Tourism Conference on 3/27/13 in Poughkeepsie, NY. One person attending at a total cost of \$99.00. Motion to approve by M. Murell, seconded by R. Knott, motion carried.

K. Flood announced that a tourism marketing seminar will be held on March 19th with CEDC.

MIS Department - Richard Juliano

Resolution Request: Authorization to purchase Google Apps for Government to replace the current email and calendaring system for the price of \$60,450. This includes a one-time migration fee of \$15,000 to move all current email information to the new system. There isn't a department that would not benefit from this. It was questioned if Google had issues with security in the past. R. Juliano explained that there were in the past but Google has now met and exceeded every requirement from the Federal Government. There are 46 states that have agencies within that state that use these Google Applications. This purchase would include bringing the Sheriff's office under the County blanket of coverage. Training would be phased in all as one. This is budget neutral as he is redirecting funds to pay for it. It is on a federal version of state contract – GSA. R. Juliano was advised to have Dave Ames verify if it is okay to work with an GSA contract. Annual maintenance would be 91 cents per user per year for 500 users. To maintain and operate the current system costs \$30K and this does not include the labor, hardware, etc.

Resolution Request: Budget transfers: Authorization to make the following budget transfers to support the purchase of Google Apps for Government. These transfers are dependent on the acceptance of the purchase resolution above.

Amount From account: To account:

\$20,000 4026 Maint. agreements 4424 Prof. Services

\$10,000 4060 Software/Supplies 4424 Prof. Services

\$20,000 2030 Computer Equipment 4424 Prof. Services

Motion to approve both resolutions by J. DeGroodt, contingent upon approval of using a Federal contract, seconded by R. Staats, motion carried. **Refer to Budget and Salary Review Committee, if approved, Refer to Finance.**

County Attorney – R. Fitzsimmons

Indigent Legal Services Fund annual report – The County Attorney's Office is compiling figures from the Public Defender, assigned counsel and Conflict Defenders for their annual report to the New York State Comptroller, Office of Indigent Legal Services. The deadline to file the Indigent Legal Services Fund (ILSF) 2012 Annual Report is March 1, 2013. The County is expecting a disbursement of \$101,163.00.

Workplace Violence Prevention Policy & Incident Reporting- Harassment/Discrimination Policy & Complaint Procedure. R. Fitzsimmons reported that training needs to take place as well as minor updates on the existing policy. The definition of a dangerous weapon was discussed. The updated policies were provided to the Supervisors. The changes made were recommendations from council who specialize on this topic. Carrying firearms on County property was discussed. Staats questioned

what one would have to go through to be able to carry a concealed weapon. R. Fitzsimmons answered that could be looked into as there are different avenues that could be approached. Currently, Board approval must be received. This issue of concealed weapons on County property will be brought back to the committee next month. Motion to approve the policies by R. Knott, seconded by J. DeGroot, motion carried.

Resolution Request – AWP Litigation (Par and Actavis II) – Authorization to accept net settlement proceeds in the amount of \$19,739.41. Motion to approve by R. Staats, seconded by T. Garrick, motion carried. Refer to Budget and Salary Review Committee, if approved, Refer to Finance.

New Lebanon Landfill closure as proposed by the Town of New Lebanon – A grant program is available that would allow the State to assist with the closure. New Lebanon is on the list. They want the County to assist with this as well. It would be a million dollar plus closure. If they are successful at receiving funding, the town will pay 10 percent of this. The County will have various bonds paid off in the next couple of years. This will free up revenue and allow the County to assist with the closure. The towns attorney has send the County an agreement. R. Fitzsimmons would prefer to have an inter-municipal agreement. He would like to pledge a certain amount of funds from the County assuming the Town receives funding.

Chairman Grattan has a packet of the history of this landfill that he will disperse to Supervisors. He proposes the County give a total of \$600K with payments beginning after 2016 when the County has paid off their debt. This total would be reached by paying \$200K for three consecutive years. The landfills history was discussed in further detail. R. Staats expressed his displeasure that the County should have to pay such a large amount of money because the Town did not wish to comply with the closure regulations when it would have been much cheaper.

Resolution Request –Opposing the process of enactment of and certain provisions contained within the New York Safe Act. The resolution was passed out to the Committee. T. Garrick announced that he liked the way it is written, and that the second amendment is mentioned. Motion to approve by R. Knott, seconded by T. Garrick, motion carried. E. Thurston and E. Cross voted No. Refer to Finance. J. DeGroot questioned the portion of the resolution that states “Act increases the stigma to the mental health.” E. Thurston said she does agree to move it forward it. Cross suggested both County Government Committee and Public Safety come together and meet regarding this request. It was proposed that M. Cole and the Sheriff attend the Full Board meeting.

A gentleman from the public, Jerry Couse , expressed his thoughts that it’s not so much what was in the Safe Act as it’s the process in which the Governor passed it that he is against.

Chairman Grattan expressed his view that the focus should not be on guns but on the criminals. He is opposed to turning people into criminals because they failed to fill out a form. This law should be used to make strong criminal penalties for people who violate the laws.

Tax Foreclosures

C. Watz would like to schedule a tour of foreclosed properties in the County. Supervisors Garrick, Staats and Knott would like to attend. A tentative date of Wednesday March 20th was chosen. C. Watz will rent a minivan from Central Garage.

Resolution Request – BOS to reject the imposition of legislation that will establish a system of early voting prior to primary and general elections throughout the State. This is projected to be \$150K a year of unfunded mandates. Motion to approve by M. Murell, seconded by T. Garrick, motion carried. Refer to Finance.

T. Garrick announced that although the census was updated in 2010, the County roll call vote doesn’t reflect it due to city of Hudson. E. Thurston said the city just recently made a decision on this.

Jerry Couse of the Elizaville Fire House Company, which is a polling place in the area, announced that he had been having issues with the Board of Elections. He explained that any polling place the County uses is required by law to pay for any expenses incurred. Nothing had been paid. He filled in the invoice and submitted it a month ago, and has received nothing. He questioned why the BOE is allowed to operate a certain way and the Board of Supervisors seems to have no idea what they are doing. He also questioned why a meeting wasn’t held in the town before a prior polling places was closed down.

P. Grattan offered to sit down with him and the Election Commissioners to discuss this. Mr. Couse replied that he would prefer not to at this time. He just wished to receive the money that was billed to the BOE.

With no further business there was a motion to adjourn at 7:09 PM by T. Garrick , seconded by M. Murell, motion carried.

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