

COUNTY GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

March 26, 2013

PRESENT:

Kevin McDonald, Chairman
Jesse DeGroot
Ronald Knott
Ellen Thurston
Raymond Staats
Thomas Garrick
Matt Murell

ABSENT: Edward Cross

ALSO PRESENT:

Rebecca Vinchiarello, Deputy Clerk
Angela Rothermel, Asst. Dep. Clerk
Richard Juliano
Suzette Booy
Brent Stack
Leo Pulcher
Kenneth Flood
Patrick Grattan
Virginia Martin

Press: 2

Chairman McDonald called the meeting to order at 5:02 P.M.

Planning, Tourism, Transportation -K. Flood.

Public Transit-

A packet, memo, and Financial Impact Analysis was passed around to the Supervisors for review.

Resolution Request: Authorization to award the contract for operation of Columbia County's Public Transit System to Johnston and Pulcher for a two year contract with the option of a two year renewal. Motion to approve by R. Staats, Seconded by J. DeGroot, motion carried. Supervisors K. McDonald and M. Murell abstained. **Refer to Budget and Salary, if approved, Refer to Finance.**

Written approval from New York State has been obtained and Coxsackie Transportation has requested that their current contract be terminated April 15th, this was referred to the County Attorney. Leo Pulcher discussed his thoughts about obtaining handicap assessable buses.

Columbia County Transportation Advisory Committee- K. Flood would like to assign oversight of the Advisory Committee to the Commissioner of Public Works. K. McDonald had no objections and he agreed that it would be more efficient this way. Motion to approve by T. Garrick, seconded by M. Murell, motion carried. A memo requesting this assignment change will be sent to Chairman Grattan.

Tourism:

Conference Request: NY by Rail Day at Penn Station May 16th 2013. Total cost of conference is \$300 with one attendee. Motion to approve by E. Thurston, seconded by J. DeGroot, motion carried.

Conference Request: 2013 Empire State Tourism Conference. May 1st-3rd in Niagara Falls, New York. Total cost of conference is \$550 with one attendee. Motion to approve by E. Thurston, seconded by J. DeGroot, motion carried.

Planning:

Resolution Request: Authorization to appoint Ed Simonsen(Kinderhook), Ellen Jouret-Epstein(Germantown), Harvey Weber(Copake), and Karen Mort(Ghent) as members of the Columbia County Environmental Management Council for a two(2) year term. Motion to approve by R. Staats, seconded by K. McDonald, motion carried. **Refer to Finance.**

Columbia County Weights & Measures A.Schneider

Motion to accept the February monthly report by R. Staats, seconded by J. DeGroot, motion carried.

Highlights of report:

5 gas stations were sampled, no failures.

Received 3rd Qtr quality petroleum reimbursement of \$1,075.99

28 gasoline pump meters were inspected and tested- new installation at Greenport Crossings.

48 scales were inspected and tested.

Investigated a gasoline shortage complaint, found no issues and notified the consumer.

1 package audit was conducted, 1 lot failed and a \$600 civil penalty was levied

3 pricing accuracy audits were conducted and there were no failures.
Attended the 2/26 Government committee meeting.

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.

Resolution Request: Authorization to correct the 2013 Town & County Tax Roll for the Town of Hillsdale and to refund taxes which resulted in a change to the Town & County Tax Bills of more than \$2,500. Motion to approve by M. Murell, seconded by R. Knott, motion carried. **Refer to Finance.**

Resolution Request: To authorize the Director of the Real Property Tax Service Agency to enter into a one year License Agreement with the Columbia Greene Northern Dutchess Multiple Listing Service at no cost to the County. This Agreement has been reviewed by the County Attorney's Office. Motion to approve by T. Garrick, seconded by J. DeGrootd, motion carried. **Refer to Finance.**

Agricultural Assessments: There are agricultural lands throughout the county which qualify for "agricultural value assessments" pursuant to section 305 or 306 of the Ag & Markets Law. Pursuant to section 176 of Town Law the Board of Fire Commissioners with each Fire District may adopt a resolution authorizing the application of the "agricultural value assessment" established pursuant to article twenty-five AA of the Ag & Markets Law to the special assessment or special ad valorem levy made on behalf of the district on land benefitting from the "agricultural value assessment" under article twenty-five AA of the Ag & Markets Law located within the district. There are currently 30-40 fire districts and 2 ambulance districts (special districts) within the county. Of those special districts, resolutions have been adopted for 7 fire districts and 1 ambulance district which authorize the "agricultural value assessments" to apply to their fire/ambulance district taxes. A copy of the law was passed around to the Supervisors. S. Booy also discussed how she will put together a press release on the Star Exemptions and will be meeting with the Commissioner in April.

MIS Department- R. Juliano

Resolution Request: Authorization to purchase Sophos Security Endpoint Protection at \$16,250 for a 3 year term, to be paid out of the Supplies and Software account. The winning quote came in at \$1950.00 under GSA contract pricing. Motion to approve by R. Knott, seconded by J. DeGrootd, motion carried. R. Juliano is going to work with R. Caponera on transferring funds within the department to cover the \$1,650 overage. **Refer to Budget and Salary, if approved, Refer to Finance.**

Updates: Google Apps- Google technicians are looking over our servers and file structures, and planning for the migration to the new system.

Authorization to implement changes in qualifications and salary grade for Jr. Network Administrator in the Managed Information Systems Department. This change has been included in this year's (2013) budget.

The qualifications would change as follows:

Current qualifications: Grade 15B: (\$48,656 annual). Requires Associate's degree from a nys registered college in a computer related field OR 6 months work experience involving responsibility for the maintenance, configuration, or installation of computer hardware & software in LAN and WAN environments.

New qualifications: Grade 18C: (\$58,853 annual). Requires Bachelor's degree from a NYS registered college in a computer related field with a minimum of 1 year work experience involving responsibility for the maintenance, configuration, or installation of computer hardware and software in LAN or WAN environment OR an Associate's degree with a minimum of 4 years work experience involving responsibility for the maintenance, configuration, or installation of computer hardware and Software in LAN and WAN environment.

R. Juliano will be putting together a presentation on paperless committee meetings for the Supervisors to attend.

County Attorney-B. Stack

Indigent Legal Services Fund annual report- On March 1, 2013, the County Attorney's office submitted their 2012 annual report to the New York State Comptroller Office of Indigent Legal Services. As a result of this combined effort between the County Attorney, Public Defender and all

three Conflict Defenders; the County has received a disbursement from the Indigent Legal Services Fund (ILSF) in the amount of \$101,163.

Home Rule Request- Letters have been mailed to Senator Marchione and Assembly Members Lopez, McLaughlin and Barrett seeking their continued support for Columbia County. Home Rule Authorization is required from the States Legislature for the following

-Columbia County’s current law imposing an additional 1% sales tax with the county will expire on November 30, 2013 unless duly extended. This yields an average annual revenue of \$8 million.

-Columbia County’s supplemental transfer tax imposes an additional tax on transfers of real property within the County. This tax generates approximately \$250,000 annual. The law will expire on December 31st, 2013 unless extended.

Resolution Request: Authorization to accept net settlement proceeds from the AWP litigation(Par and Actavis II) in the amount of \$19,739.41. Motion to approve by R. Staats, seconded by M. Murell, motion carried. Refer to Budget and Salary, if approved refer to Finance.

Conference Request: The County Attorney’s Association 2013 Annual Meeting. April 29th-30th in Cooperstown, New York. The total conference cost is \$762.00 with 3 attendees.

Motion to approve by M. Murell, seconded by J. DeGrootd, motion carried.

Reminder: Property Tour is schedule for April 4th, leaving 401 State Street at 8:30 Am. There are 49 properties to visit throughout the County. Veterans has offered to lend their van and a driver has volunteered to drive.

Stone Bridge Farm Foreclosure- The County Attorney’s Office has scheduled a closing on the Stone Bridge Farm property. Resolution No. 150-2012 authorized the transfer of the property located in the Town of Greenport to Columbia County Properties LLC. The closing is scheduled for April 2nd, pending any stays.

With no further business there was a motion to adjourn at 6:13 P.M. by T. Garrick, seconded by M. Murell, motion carried.

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