

COUNTY GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE
April 23, 2013

PRESENT:

Kevin McDonald, Chairman
Matt Murell
Ronald Knott
Ellen Thurston
Raymond Staats
Thomas Garrick
Edward Cross

ABSENT:

Jesse DeGroot

ALSO PRESENT:

Angela Rothermel, Asst. Dep. Clerk
Pat Grattan, Chairman
Ronald Caponera
Holly Tanner
Richard Juliano
Michael Benson
Rob Fitzsimmons
Christopher Watz
Suzette Booy
Sarah Sterling
Kenneth Flood
David Robinson
Kevin Young

Chairman McDonald called the meeting to order at 3:32 P.M.

Chairman McDonald asked for a motion to accept A. Schneider's, Weights and Measures, March monthly report. Motion to approve by R. Staats, seconded by E. Cross, motion carried.

Real Property- S. Booy

Training Request: to send our Valuation Specialist, Royce Noblin, to a one day seminar on Manufactured Home Park Valuation on May 8, 2013 in Fishkill. The cost is \$120, plus the county car and gas. Motion to approve by M. Murell, seconded by E. Cross, motion carried.

Training Request: To send our Valuation Specialist, Royce Noblin, to a four day Commercial Data Collection training at Cornell University. The conference is through the NYS Assessor Association's Summer Program July 15-18. The cost is estimated at \$1,250, which includes the use of the county car and gas. Motion to approve by R. Knott, seconded by E. Thurston, motion carried.

Tentative Assessment Rolls: are being prepared now and will be filed on May 1st. PDF's of the Assessment Rolls should be available on the County Website by May 3rd. Grievance dates and applications will be on the website as well on May 1st. Board of Assessment Review Training will be conducted by S. Booy for new and/or reappointed BAR members on May 7th at the Greenport Town Hall from 6pm-9pm. Notices have been mailed to those members required to attend.

Elections- V. Martin

Resolution Request- Authorization to adopt the schedule of election worker payments for primary and general elections in 2013. Motion to approve by R. Knott, seconded by T. Garrick, motion carried. **Refer to Finance.** V. Martin spoke about the current contract for the voter/elections database, which is up for renewal in 2014, and that Schoharie County has created their own software database and has offered to let the county use it for free. She hopes to get it up and running this year. It will be a savings of about \$30,000 a year for the Board. H. Hillman spoke to the members Police week, May 12th-18th. May 15th is National Honor a Police Officer Day in the United States. She asks that the Board of Supervisors does a proclamation at the next Full Board, recognizing Columbia County Law Agencies.

A resolution was approved by T. Garrick, and seconded by M. Murell to lower the flag to half mass on May 15th to recognize how the law agencies protect us, and to recognize fallen police officers, the motion was carried.

County Clerk- H. Tanner

Resolution Request- Authorization to distribute Mortgage Tax monies collected in the office of the Columbia County Clerk for the six month period of October 2012 - March 2013, totaling \$751,896.93. Motion to approve by R. Staats, seconded by M. Murell, motion carried. **Refer to Budget and Salary, if approved refer to Finance.**

Resolution Request- Authorization for the County Clerk to do an RFP for records management software in conjunction with the Central Services office. Motion to approve by R. Knott, seconded by E. Cross, motion carried. **Refer to Finance.**

Resolution Request- Authorization for the Columbia County Clerk to enter into a 60 month lease agreement with Konica to lease a copier for the public search space at \$201.90 per month. Motion to approve by M. Murell, seconded by T. Garrick, R. Staats voted no, the motion was carried. **Refer to Finance.**

H. Tanner spoke to the Committee Members about the Favor Program that is now regional. It is a program for honorable discharge for Veterans. You get a regional favor card that now works in Columbia County. She also spoke about inviting seniors to utilize County Shredding Day. She explained how many seniors worry about identity theft, which is becoming a huge issue, and how to get rid of confidential information safely. H. Tanner explains that she wants Town Clerks and Supervisors to speak with their towns, and to publicize within their towns so they can get all the interested seniors together for Shred Day. R. Knott voiced his opinion about opening Shred Day up to the town fire companies as well. H. Tanner also gave an update on the Records Management. She wants to expand on the software program so that finding active records will be easier. She wants all supervisors to be able to look up active records such as minutes and resolutions while they are on site. She also updated the Committee Members on the Safe Act. Assault Weapon Registry Cards are now available with the State Police as well as online.

Assistant County Attorney- C. Watz

C. Watz updated the Committee Members on the progress and future steps necessary to take Meadowgreens property by Eminent Domain. M. Murell Recused himself. The county made an offer and sent a letter of plan and goal to the owner of Meadowgreens and did not hear back. The next step is a Public Hearing Process that will get the county closer to taking the land. The Public Hearing should take place next month. C. Watz says if all goes well, the county should have the property by August. He explained that the county is just looking for the 16.1 acres and the 90.7 acres of land, they are not looking to take over the golf course. Two of the holes on the golf course will have to be moved, but as for the rest of the golf course the county does not want it.

County Attorney- R. Fitzsimmons

Resolution Request- Authorization to provide for certain exemptions to the Columbia County Workplace Violence Prevention Policy and Incident Reporting Program for certain County Officials. Motion to approve by R. Staats, seconded by R. Knott, E. Cross voted no, the motion was carried. Refer to Finance.

R. Fitzsimmons updated the Committee Members on the Sales Tax and Transfer Tax. The County Attorney's Office is now getting back on track, and taking some of the weight off them as the Human Resources Department is coming back together.

MIS- R. Juliano

R. Juliano talked to the Committee Members about the benefits of Paperless Meetings. He handed out a printed copy of a presentation for all the supervisors to look over. He explained that the information has to go off to so many different departments and supervisors, that the amount of copies gets out of hand. Not only are we making numerous copies, but if there is something misprinted in the copies then we fix it and print and copy that many copies all over again. It is a big waste of paper and money. R. Juliano printed up a spread sheet showing that the county wastes over \$950 a year just on copies for the 9 monthly meetings held every month, that doesn't even count special meetings or any other meetings supervisors are attending throughout the month. He explains that we could save so much more money if every supervisor had a Chrome Book laptop, or some sort of tablet to find all their information on. R. Juliano wants to create a secure county website for all the department heads and supervisors to save information so that all the supervisors could locate that information from their tablets or laptops, instead of wasting paper by making numerous copies. R. Juliano would like to set up a time to hold a consultative workshop so that everyone has the knowledge of this idea. P. Grattan is going to check and see if R. Juliano can make an appearance at all the Caucus meetings to go over his plans with all the members.

New Lebanon Landfill- M. Benson, R. Fitzsimmons, K. Young.

A copy of the proposed Inter-Municipal Agreement by and Between County of Columbia and Town of New Lebanon was passed out to all the supervisors to look over. The proposal is to provide financial assistance to close the New Lebanon Landfill. There have been numerous discussions, on the landfill, back and forth between the town, the property owner, and the county. The terms, costs and conditions of the assistance were discussed by the supervisors. To close the landfill there will be a lot of upkeep needed. A fence will need to be put up and a cap put on top of the landfill. The property around the landfill will need to be kept up on, wells monitored, and gas collection and treatment if there is in fact gas coming up from the landfill. It will cost \$22,000 a year for the upkeep, \$660,000 to do the O&M, and \$50,000-\$75,000 for the investigation. The total construction cost for implementing the landfill closure, including land acquisition, legal and engineering does not exceed \$2,000,000. The DEC does a grant program that will reimburse 90%. Motion to authorize and enter into an inter-municipal agreement with the Town of New Lebanon for financial closure assistance for the New Lebanon Landfill was made by R. Knott, seconded by M. Murell, motion carried.

With no further business there was a motion to adjourn at 5:15 P.M. by T. Garrick, seconded by R. Knott, motion carried.

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