

COUNTY GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

July 23, 2013

PRESENT:

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

ALSO PRESENT:

Rebecca Vinchiarello, Deputy Clerk
Ronald Caponera
Holly Tanner
Micheale Williams-Riordon
Chris Watz
Virginia Martin
Kenneth Flood
Arnold Schneider
Pat Grattan
Ed Simonsen

Press: 1

Public: 1

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

Weights and Measurers – A. Schneider

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

County Clerk – H. Tanner

Resolution Request - Authorization to enter into a 60 month agreement with IQS to provide an integrated county clerk records management imaging and cashiering software system per the provided response to bid #13-017. IQS was the only bidder and met all of the specifications. There will be funds in the Clerk's account from mortgage taxes for the remainder of the contract. Motion to approve by T. Garrick, seconded by E. Cross, motion carried. **Refer to Finance.** The rate of \$4,620.00/month is locked in for the next five years and includes maintenance and extra equipment.

Human Resources – M. Williams-Riordon

New Human Resources Department Administrative Assistant Hired-

Kerin O'Brian who is currently an employee in the Mental Health Department will be taking this position. She has knowledge of the Tyler system and has worked with training employees in the past.

County Orientation Program Implemented-

This started on Monday 7/8 and will be held every two weeks to train employees hired in the past year.

Workplace Violence Prevention Program-

Train the trainer programs will be conducted which will help save money in various departments. Workplace Violence Training should be conducted annually.

Summer Youth Program Update –

M. Williams-Riordon explained that this program is going great. The interns are getting great experience. This year she wants to conduct exit interviews. She explained that part of this project should be to show the participants of the program the benefits of working in Columbia County. Chairman McDonald suggested tracking the participants to see where they go after they graduate college.

County Attorney – C. Watz

A discussion ensued on Local Law # 3, imposing an additional transfer tax on the conveyance of real property within the County of Columbia as well as a **Resolution Request** – Authorization to increase the rate of taxes on sales and uses of the Tangible personal property and on certain services and on occupancy of hotel rooms and amusement charges pursuant to Article 29 of the tax law of the State of New York. Motion to approve by T. Garrick, seconded by E. Thurston, motion carried. **Refer to Finance.**

Delinquent Property Taxes - C. Watz explained that Judge Nicholas would not be available for an attorney conference until the second week of August. Meanwhile, the searches are coming in for the next rounds and letters are going out. Due to collection letters that went out, it was reported that around \$750,000.00 a month has been collected.

Tourism and Planning – K. Flood

Ed Simonsen - County Environmental Management Council

Memorandum Review - The council drafted a memo to the Board of Supervisors regarding hazardous substance processing. He suggested there be more of an opportunity for dialogue on this issue and many other environmental issues that exist. R. Knott was concerned about the fact that municipalities are being asked to duplicate processes of the Department of Environmental Conservation. The memo will be forwarded to the County Attorney and Emergency Management.

M. Murell recused himself from this section of the meeting (5:47pm)

Airport:

A few months ago there was discussion on the runway safety area project and needed land acquisition to comply with FAA increased safety for airports. K. Flood arranged for CNS engineers to come two weeks ago to answer questions regarding the project. He suggestions that the BOS take small deliberate steps to do its due diligence for the project. A copy of chapter five of the airport plan was distributed.

Resolution Request - Authorizing the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors to execute a professional services agreement at the recommendation of the County Attorney's office to engage a third party to provide legal services necessary for eminent domain procedures for the Columbia County Airport off-airport land/aviation easement acquisition runway 21 end runway safety area/object free area improvements and removal of obstructions to navigable airspace affected parcel tax id's #: 91-1-7.12; 91-1-7.111191-1-7.2; 91-1-85. It was mentioned that the majority of the attorney fees would be reimbursable. K. Flood suggested putting a ceiling on the amount the county could be responsible for. It has also been requested that the FFA provide an official letter as to why this is necessary. The specialty of the law that would be practiced for this issue was discussed. Motion to approve by J. DeGrootd, seconded by R. Knott, motion carried. Refer to Finance.

Resolution Request- Setting the date for a public hearing pursuant to eminent domain procedure law §201 to acquire a Columbia County Airport off-airport land/aviation easement acquisition runway 21 end runway safety area/object free area improvements and removal of obstructions to navigable airspace affected parcel tax id's #: 91-1-7.12; 91-1-7.111191-1-7.2; 91-1-85. K. Flood would like this Public Hearing set for August 14th at 7PM. Motion to approve by R. Knott, seconded by J. DeGrootd, motion carried. Both requests will be submitted to the July Public Works Committee.

K. flood reported that the new bus company is doing well. They are currently ironing out scheduling issues. He reported that Mike Johnston has been absolutely responsive to him regarding this transition.

Viridian Energy - Patrick Manning and George Dejesus —

Most people do not realize they have the power to choose energy. P. Manning gave a history of his experience with this green energy and how he thought the County could benefit. R. Caponera recommended that this be discussed with the County Attorney's office before the County goes forward with entering into an agreement or contract with the company. Variable vs. fixed rates were discussed.

With no further business there was a motion to adjourn at 6:29PM by J. DeGrootd, seconded by R. Staats, motion carried.

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