

COUNTY GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

September 24, 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
Suzette Booy
Michael Williams-Riordon
Chris Watz
Peter Bujanow

Press: 1

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

County Attorney – C. Watz

Resolution Request – Authorizing the sale of land in Stuyvesant to the Glencadia Rod and Gun Club who has offered \$65,000.00, which is a higher amount than the minimum bid would be set at if the property goes to auction. It was explained that this is an opportunity to add more distance between the club and neighboring properties. Supervisor Knott supports the offer. Motion to approve by T. Garrick who added he supported the potential clean up of the area, seconded by R. Staats, motion carried. **Refer to Finance.**

C. Watz reported that \$516,823.00 as been collected in back property taxes this past month. Searches are returning at a fast pace. It was reported that they are having an issue finding businesses to perform title searches and may eventually have to hire an employee to handle this.

Human Resources- M. Williams-Reardon

Resolution Request – Authorization to transfer \$ 67,326.60 from Human Resources (1435) .1 budget to various county department .1 budgets for the Summer Youth Laborer salaries for the 2013 season. Discussion ensued regarding spending any extra funds on hiring students to come back to work on their winter break. Motion to approve the transfer by J. DeGroot, seconded by R. Staats, motion carried. **Refer to Finance.**

Resolution Request – Authorization to transfer \$ 2,695.00 from the Youth Department (7310) .1 budget to the Public Works Administration-Facilities (1490) .1 budget for the reassignment of a part-time Clerk/Typist to responsibilities in the Facilities Department. Motion to approve by R. Knott, seconded by J. DeGroot, motion carried. **Refer to Finance.**

Discussion ensued on the New York State Smoke-Free Policy for Nursing Home Grounds. The Governor passed a law that smoking is not permitted within fifteen feet from the grounds of a nursing home. This will take effect in November. Pine Haven employees are not permitted to leave the grounds while working. This may be an issue with the Union in the future.

Resolution Request – Authorization for the Director of Human Resources to abolish the budgeted position of Benefits Manager, salary of \$55,000.00 and requesting to Create & Fill (1) One position of Human Resources Assistant \$48,259.00 waiving 15/10/5% reduction and waving the six month period in Health Insurance benefits, and to create and fill One (1) position of Account Clerk GR 10B Step 4 Salary of \$33,777.00. An explanation of these requests was given. With these positions, more time will be spent on trainings and benefit management, thus saving the County money. A savings of \$17,413.00 dollars will be realized with these adjustments in the .1 budget. Motion to approve by R. Staats, seconded by J. DeGroot, motion carried. **Refer to .1 Committee, if approved, Refer to Finance.**

The Human Resources budget has a 5% decrease for the 2014 budget year.

Affordable care act – The County will now have to offer insurance on the employee's 91st day of employment .

K. McDonald commended M. Williams-Reardon on doing a great job with the Human Resources Department.

Real Property – S. Booy

Conference Request – Authorization for one employee to attend the NYS Real Property Directors’ Conference October 21 – 23 in Syracuse, NY at a cost of \$290. She expects that the County will be reimbursed the cost of the conference from the State as she will receive twelve continuing education credits. Motion to approve by K. McDonald, seconded by T. Garrick, motion carried.

Conference Request – Authorization for two employees to attend the Conservation Easements Conference at the Columbia-Greene Community College on November 8th at a total cost of \$220.00. Motion to approve by E. Cross, seconded by J. DeGrootd, motion carried.

Weights and Measures

A. Schneider was not able to attend the meeting but his monthly report was submitted. Motion to accept the report by J. DeGrootd, seconded by R. Staats, motion carried.

Planning, Tourism and Transportation

Resolution Request - Authorization to appoint a member to the Environmental Management Council for the Town of Clermont.

Motion to approve by R. Knott seconded by R. Staats, motion carried. Refer to Finance.

It was announced that the Committee’s 2014 Budget Meetings would take place Wednesday October 2nd at 9:30am.

A representative from the Friends of Lindenwald, Peter Bujanow, addressed the Committee. A proposal had been made to the County regarding a transfer of land property which would be used for additional programming and trails. A value of the land must first be determined and the appraisal of the property should be in by the end of the week. At that point Chairman Grattan, the County Attorney and Mr. Bujanow can have a discussion on this. A clause should be added to any contract entered into that if at any time the Friends of Lindenwald cease to exist, the property will revert back to the County.

With no further business there was a motion to adjourn at 5:56 PM by T. Garrick, seconded by J. DeGrootd, motion carried.

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