

**COUNTY GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE  
OCTOBER 22, 2013**

**PRESENT:**

Kevin McDonald, Chairman  
Ronald Knott  
Jesse DeGroot  
Thomas Garrick  
Raymond Staats  
Ellen Thruston

**ABSENT:**

Edward Cross

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Gail DiCosmo, Clerk  
Christopher Watz ACA  
Arnold Schneider  
Reginald Crowley  
Chairman Grattan  
Peter Bujanow  
1-Public

**PRESS: 1**

Chairman McDonald called the meeting to order at 5:03 PM.

**Weights & Measures: A. Schneider**

Arnie's monthly report was submitted and reviewed.

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

Arnold informed the committee he was being audited by the NYS Comptroller's Office.

This audit is daily and he was informed it will take 30 days.

**County Attorney's Office: C. Watz**

Conference Objective Form: One (1) ACA attending in Albany, NY on November 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>, at a cost of \$60.00, motion by M. Murell, seconded by J. DeGroot, carried.

**Resolution Request:** Authorizing the County of Columbia to sell a parcel of land located at 9 Beach Avenue, Kinderhook NY at an amount of \$12,000.00, motion by M. Murell, seconded by R. Staats, motion carried. Refer to Finance.

Distributed to the Committee member was an Update on Tax Sales:

The bid opening was on October 17, 2013, distributed was a report of the bids and the properties sold. The same brought in \$909,781.00 for the County. After all of the bids were read there are still 11 properties that did not receive a minimum bid. C. Watz recommends to reduce the minimum bid on the remaining properties, which a list was distributed. Motion by the Committee to reduce the remaining properties' minimum bids.

C. Watz also updated on the back log of the 2009 & 2010 Title Searchers. 2009 is just amount done. 2010 & 2011 title searches have been ordered. The County may be looking to hire a PT of our own title searchers to quicken the process.

Distributed to the Committee was a packet with appraisals for the Ockawamick School & Martin Van Buren Nature Area. If any one would like to inspect the appraisals or wish to have a complete copy, please contact Lisa Brightly as the county Attorney's Office.

The appraisal of the property at 341 Claverack (OCKAWAMICK SCHOOL) and the market value as of August 23, 2013 is \$700,000. The Martin Van Buren Nature Area in Kinderhook, NY as of September 23, 2013 the appraisal is \$215,000. The Friends of Lindenwald have been waiting for 30 yrs to acquire

this property. Giving this property to the Friends of Lindenwald there is language which needs to be subject to this property. i.e. cannot charge visitors, cannot sell the property, if plans change they will give the property back to the County. This will be incorporated into resolution /contract. A motion by J. DeGroot, seconded by T. Garrick to move forward with this plan. There was another motion to

accept the appraisal on the Ockawamick School @ \$700,000. By M. Murell, seconded by R. Knott, motion carried. T. Garrick opposed.

Supervisor Knott spoke on rumors about the basement work for the Board of Elections. Supervisor Knott did not put any installations in and did not purchase products to get paid from. Also he stated he had nothing to do with the changing of the locks. This work was done by Facilities Dept. Supervisor Knott offered opinions only when asked.

With no further business, a motion to adjourn at 6:53 PM by J. DeGroot, seconded by R.Staats, motion carried.