

COUNTY GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 26, 2013

PRESENT:

Kevin McDonald, Chairman
Ronald Knott
Jesse DeGroot
Thomas Garrick
Ray Staats
Ellen Thurston
Matthew Murell

ALSO PRESENT:

Barbara Fischer, Asst, Dpty Clerk
Christopher Watz
Virginia Martin, BOE
Arnold Schneider
Kenneth Flood
Michele Williams-Riordon
Ann Cooper
Patrice Whitbeck
Suzette Booy
Patrick Grattan
Roy Brown

Chairman McDonald called the meeting to order at 5:00PM.

Human Resources- M. Williams-Riordon

Resolution Request – Authorization for the Director of Human Services to transfer \$50,000.00 from the Human Resources 2013 annual budget .1 Personnel Services line item to the Human Resources 2013 annual budget line item AO-1E-1435-4426-E4000 (Professional Services Legal) for legal expenses incurred during the vacancy period of the Human Resources Director position and in 2013. Motion to approve the transfer by M. Murell, seconded by R. Staats, motion carried. Refer to Finance

Resolution Request- Authorization to create the Winter Youth Employment Program and to hire a Winter Youth Laborer at an hourly rate of \$10.00 for the period of December 16, 2013 through January 31, 2014. Monies not to exceed the remaining balance of the appropriated budget line for the Summer Youth Employment Program from the 2011 Human Resources annual budget. This person may also help in the Controller's Department and the Payroll Department as well if needed. This position has no benefits and is not a civil service position. Motion to approve by R. Staats, seconded by J. DeGroot, motion carried. A 2013 Youth Employment Expenditures list was also presented. Refer to Finance

Weights & Measures- A. Schneider

A monthly report was submitted and reviewed. Motion to accept the report by R. Staats, seconded by J. DeGroot, motion carried.

Real Property- S. Booy

A monthly report was presented. A press release has been sent to the newspapers reminding Columbia County homeowners who received the basic Star exemption on their 2013-2014 school tax bill that they need to reapply. S. Booy and J. Bender attended the Golden Gathering at Columbia Green Community College to answer questions regarding STAR. The annual BAS user meeting for Town Clerk/Tax Collectors

for current and incoming Tax Collectors will take place December 5th. A listing of correction of errors was presented to the committee.

Resolution Request-Correcting the Real Property Tax amount for a certain Property in the Town of Austerlitz for the 2013-2014 Chatham School Tax roll. Motion to approve by K. McDonald, seconded by R. Staats, motion carried.

S. Booy attended the NYS Association of County Directors of RPTS conference from October 21, 2013- October 23, 2013 in Syracuse, NY. She was nominated and sworn in as the 2nd Vice President of the NYS Association of County Directors of Real Property Tax Services. She will become 1st Vice President in October of 2014 and President in October of 2015.

Planning and Tourism- A. Cooper, K. Flood, P. Whitbeck

Resolution Request- Designating the Columbia County Tourism Department as the Tourism Promotion Agency for the "I Love NY" matching funds program year 2014. Motion to approve by J. DeGroot, seconded by E. Thurston, motion carried.

Resolution Request-Authorization to accept grant of funds pursuant to Section 53 Federal Programs, Title 49, United States Code, for a project described as Columbia County Public Transit System and authorizing the Chairman to take required steps to implement the grant. Motion to approve by R. Staats, seconded by J. DeGroot, M. Murell abstained, motion carried.

Resolution Request- Authorizing the chairman of the board of supervisors to enter into agreement to purchase one 30 passenger bus listed on New York State OGS contract using federal, state and county funds. Motion to approve by R. Staats, seconded by R. Knott, motion carried.

Resolution Request- Authorize the purchase of geographic information system software and associated printer on New York State OGS contract using Federal, State and County funds. Motion to approve by R. Knott, seconded by J. DeGroot, M. Murell abstained, motion carried.

Resolution Request- Authorizing the issuance of a Request for Qualifications for Consultant Services related to the grant received from the Department of State 2012-2013 Local Government Efficiency Grant Program to implement the Phase I Planning Study for the functional consolidation of water district services among the County, Towns of Greenport, Stockport, Claverack and the Village of Valatie. Motion to approve by K. McDonald, seconded by M. Murell, motion carried.

Planning and Economic Development

Resolution Request- Authorization to Appoint Leonard Behr as a member of the Environmental Management Council. Motion to appoint by R. Staats, seconded by R. Knott, motion carried.

Resolution Request-Authorization to re-appoint George Super the At-Large member to the Columbia County Planning Board for the remainder of a three (3) year term which began January1, 2013 and ends December 31, 2015. Motion to appoint by R. Staats, seconded by J. DeGroot, motion carried.

Resolution Request-Authorization to appoint Lawrence Saulpaugh to the Columbia County Planning Board representing Region #5 consisting of the Towns of Clermont, Germantown

and Livingston for a three year term which begins January 1, 2014 and ends December 31, 2016.

Resolution Request- Authorization to appoint Alice Platt to be appointed a member of the Columbia County Planning Board representing Region #7 consisting of the Towns of Gallatin and Taghkanic. Motion to appoint by R. Staats, seconded by J. DeGroot, motion carried.

Board of Elections- V. Martin

Conference Request- Authorization for eight (8) people to attend one day of the NYS Board of Elections/Election Commissioner's Association Winter Conference from January 13-16, 2014. The total cost is \$240.00 plus the use of County vehicles. Motion to approve by J. DeGroot, seconded by T. Garrick, motion carried.

County Attorney's Office- C. Watz

A year-to-date budget report was presented.

The committee discussed the expansion of the existing 115-kv power lines. C. Watz asked that it be written in the resolution requesting that eminent domain be carefully reviewed and to look at alternatives. The committee asked that the word "opposed" be taken out of the resolution.

Resolution Request –Resolution regarding the process of expanding the existing 115-V power lines and accessing additional land by eminent domain. Motion to approve by K. McDonald, seconded by M. Murell, R. Staats abstained, motion carried.

MIS-

Resolution Request-Authorization for the Department of Human Services to upgrade 38 PC's in the department which run on Microsoft Windows XP as that operating system will become obsolete. These purchases will be made at a cost not to exceed \$20,000.00. Motion to approve by J. DeGroot, seconded by R. Staats, motion carried.

With no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn at 6:15 PM was made by R. Staats, seconded by E. Thurston, motion carried

COUNTY GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE:

Kevin McDonald, Chairman

Ronald Knott

Jesse DeGroot

Thomas Garrick

Raymond Staats

Matt Murell

Edward Cross

Ellen Thurston

