

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: **FINANCE**

DATE: **APRIL 8, 2009**

Committee Members Present:

Supervisors Stec
 Belden
 O'Connor
 Bentley
 Tessier
 Taylor
 VanNess
 Kenny
 Merlino

Others Present:

Fred Monroe, Chairman
Hal Payne, Commissioner of
Administrative & Fiscal Services
Joan Sady, Clerk of the Board
Paul Dusek, County Attorney
JoAnn McKinstry, Deputy Commissioner of
Administrative & Fiscal Services
Kevin Geraghty, Budget Officer
Supervisor Champagne
Supervisor Pitkin
Supervisor Sheehan
Supervisor Sokol
Supervisor Strainer
Supervisor Thomas
Richard Murphy, Deputy Commissioner of
Fiscal Services
Todd Lunt, Director, Human Resources
William Lamy, Superintendent, DPW
Shane Ross, Chief Deputy
Pat Tatich, Director, Planning & Community
Development
Wayne LaMothe, Assistant Director, Planning &
Community Development
Alyson Martin, *The Post Star*
Thom Randall, *The Adirondack Journal*
Nicole Livingston, Deputy Clerk

Mr. Stec called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. VanNess, seconded by Mr. Belden and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2009 Committee meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Copies of the Finance Agenda were provided to the Committee members, and a copy of same is on file with the minutes.

Commencing the Agenda review, Mr. Stec apprised Item 1 were the requests for Transfer of Funds which were attached for Committee approval. He noted that Supervisory Committee approval had been obtained as necessary.

Motion was made by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Bentley and carried unanimously to approve Item 1 as outlined above, and the necessary resolution was authorized for the next board meeting.

Mr. Stec announced Items 2A through C were referrals from the Health Services Committee. Item 2A, he said, was referred from the Health Services, requesting to re-establish a petty cash fund for Health Services in the amount of \$200.

Motion was made by Mr. O'Connor, seconded by Mr. Belden and carried unanimously to approve Item 2A as outlined above, and the necessary resolution was authorized for the next board meeting.

Mr. Stec expounded Items 2B and C were referred from the Westmount Health Facility. He noted Item 2B was a request to amend the 2009 County budget to increase estimated revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$2,285 to reflect receipt of an insurance recovery check for repair of parking lot light pole that was damaged on January 1, 2009.

Motion was made by Mr. O'Connor, seconded by Mr. Kenny and carried unanimously to approve Item 2B as outlined above, and the necessary resolution was authorized for the next board meeting.

Mr. Stec added that Item 2C was a request to close Capital Project No. H225.9550 280 Multi-Modal Day Care and adjusting expenditure to Abandoned Project Cost EF.84700.6950 280.

Motion was made by Mr. Bentley, seconded by Mr. VanNess and carried unanimously to approve Item 2C as outlined above, and the necessary resolution was authorized for the next board meeting. *Please note: Subsequent to the meeting, it was determined that the aforementioned Capital Project had been closed by Resolution No. 176 of 2007; therefore no action was necessary.*

Mr. Stec advised Item 3 was a referral from the Human Services Committee, Employment & Training, requesting to amend the 2009 County budget to increase estimated revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$207,236, to reflect receipt of Federal grant funds.

Motion was made by Mr. VanNess, seconded by Mr. Belden and carried unanimously to approve Item 3 as outlined above, and the necessary resolution was authorized for the next board meeting.

Mr. Stec stated Items 4A and B were referrals from the Public Safety Committee, Sheriff & Communications. Item 4A, he said, was a request to authorize a transfer of

funds in the amount of \$1,970 from the Contingent Fund (A.1990 469) to Sheriff's Law Enforcement - Misc. Fees & Expenses (A.3110 439) to settle a claim.

Motion was made by Mr. O'Connor, seconded by Mr. Taylor and carried unanimously to approve Item 4A as outlined above, and the necessary resolution was authorized for the next board meeting.

Mr. Stec noted Item 4B was a request to authorize a contract with New England Police Vehicle Leasing Corporation for the lease of two patrol motorcycles, for a term commencing May 1, 2009 and terminating April 30, 2010, for a one time payment of total lease in the amount of \$7,800, said funds to be expended from A.3110 421 Sheriff's Law Enforcement- Equipment Rental.

Motion was made by Mr. VanNess, seconded by Mr. O'Connor and carried unanimously to approve Item 4B as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the next board meeting.

Mr. Stec apprised Items 5A through C were referrals from the Public Works Committee, DPW. He stated that Item 5A was a request to establish Capital Project No. H299.9550 280 - Bridge Rehabilitation Projects, in the amount of \$250,000, with the source of funding to be a serial bond, for the rehabilitation of various County bridges to include Heath Road Bridge, Dillon Hill Road Bridge, Padanarum Road Bridge, Hudson Street Bridge and Chatiemac Road Bridge.

Rick Murphy, Deputy Commissioner of Fiscal Services, reported that additional funding would be required next year for other bridge projects. He added that they would be issuing debt later this year; therefore, he recommended that two years worth of bridge work be included in the requested bond. He noted that it would be \$250,000 for 2009 and \$250,000 for 2010; thereby authorizing a \$500,000 serial bond for bridge work. William Lamy, Superintendent of DPW, commented that he was in the process of preparing the list of bridges for 2010 to be included for the aforementioned bond. The Committee agreed to the amended request.

Mr. Stec remarked Item 5B was a request to amend the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) grant for the Padanarum Road Bridge, to include Supplemental Master Agreement #4, for a total amount not to exceed \$3,770. He added that Item 5C was a request to increase Capital Project No. H257.9550 280 Padanarum Road Bridge in the amount of \$3,770, to reflect receipt of Federal and State funding as a result of Supplemental Master Agreement #4.

Motion was made by Mr. Belden, seconded by Mr. Tessier and carried unanimously to approve Items 5A through C as outlined above. The necessary resolutions were authorized for the next board meeting.

Mr. Stec commented that Item 6 was a referral from the Tourism Committee, requesting to amend the 2009 County budget to decrease estimated revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$44,264 to reflect a reduction in Matching Funds received from New York State.

Motion was made by Mr. Tessier, seconded by Mr. Belden and carried unanimously to approve Item 6 as outlined above, and the necessary resolution was authorized for the next board meeting.

Concluding the Agenda review, Mr. Stec advised Item 7 was for Finance Committee action which was required on the following items as approved by the Personnel Committee: Items 1A, 2, 3A, and 3C. He noted that Item 5 on the Personnel Agenda, which was a request to increase the base salary of the Director of Tourism, had failed and therefore required no action.

Motion was made by Mr. Belden, seconded by Mr. Bentley and carried unanimously to approve Item 7 as outlined above.

Prior to adjournment, Chairman Monroe requested to address the Committee. He reported that he attended a meeting in Lake Placid regarding broadband services in the Adirondacks. He stated that CBN Connect was very interested in working with Warren County, as well as Hamilton and Washington Counties and Senator Little was supportive of such, in order to move forward with broadband services. He noted that he had been advised that Warren County could be included as a Phase 2 of the ongoing project in Clinton, Franklin and Essex Counties. Chairman Monroe explained that three rounds of funding would be awarded under the Federal Stimulus Program; the first phase which was occurring now; the next would be awarded in September 2009; and the third would be awarded in March 2010. He said that it had been recommended that Warren County prepare to be shovel ready by March of 2010, and in order to accomplish such, a Needs Analysis was necessary. He added that the funds for the Analysis were included in the 2009 Budget. CBN Connect, he said, would like to contract with Warren, Hamilton and Washington Counties to perform the Needs Analysis. He apprised that the County's Purchasing Policy would require an RFP (Request for Proposal) for such services.

Pat Tatich, Director of Planning & Community Development, further explained that she and Wayne LaMothe, Assistant Director of Planning & Community Development, had attended a workshop in Albany sponsored by the New York State Office for Technology, much of which was dedicated to the rural broadband grant program. She announced that nationally, \$2.5 billion would be appropriated to expand high speed broadband in rural areas. She stated that CBN Connect had a relationship with the broadband services that were being conducted by the Development Authority of the North Country in the western portion of the Adirondack Park. Ms. Tatich asserted that Warren County

needed to determine that what was implemented here would be compatible with what adjoining counties were using. She further stated the plan was to create a cost savings scenario for the Needs Analysis by partnering with Hamilton and Washington Counties.

Concerning the RFP process for the Needs Analysis, Paul Dusek, County Attorney, expounded he had spoken with the County Attorney's from both Washington and Hamilton Counties; however, he said, neither was very familiar with the broadband project. He explained the need to comply with State law and said that under that law, counties were required to have policies in place to avoid what the State law considered to be extravagances, favoritism, fraud, etc.; thereby necessitating a policy that provided how services would be acquired that were not required to be bid. He added that was why Warren County used the RFP approach.

Mr. Dusek said the issue was that CBN Connect was a not-for-profit group that was in the business of providing internet access, which could be considered similar to Adelphia. The problem, he explained, was that CBN Connect relied on grants to perform their work and in order to obtain those grants, a definitive project that was shovel ready, was needed. He stated that in order to achieve that point, a Needs Analysis had to be performed to provide the information necessary to do the project. He advised that it was his legal opinion that it would be a lawful County expense to pay for the Analysis. He recommended that a resolution be prepared that would authorize an inter-municipal agreement with the other counties that would state that the counties had agreed to work together and hire the same consultant, each county covering their share of the cost. Following the adoption of that resolution at the April 17, 2009 Board of Supervisors meeting, he continued, an RFP would be issued with a reasonable turn around period, which should be ten days, thereby commencing the study by the beginning of May. He concluded that this was the approach that he recommended following, in order to be in compliance with State law and the County's Purchasing Policy.

Discussion ensued. Following discussions, motion was made by Mr. VanNess and seconded by Mr. Belden to authorize an inter-municipal agreement with Hamilton and Washington Counties for a Needs Analysis relative to broadband services and to authorize the issuance of an RFP for such services.

Hal Payne, Commissioner of Administrative & Fiscal Services, questioned what would happen if Washington County determined that they were not interested in partnering with Warren County and he suggested that the inter-municipal agreement state that any county interested in partnering with Warren County. Chairman Monroe interjected that he had been informed that Hamilton County had already passed a resolution authorizing this agreement and to also contract with CBN Connect for the services.

Mr. Pitkin asked what would happen if the other two Counties did not agree with Warren County's selection for the RFP. Mr. Dusek said the three Counties would mutually agree to the selection and all three would be involved with the RFP. He further clarified that the Needs Analysis would be unique to each County.

Following discussions, Mr. Stec called the question and the motion was carried unanimously to authorize an inter-municipal agreement with Hamilton and Washington Counties for a Needs Analysis relative to broadband services and to authorize the issuance of an RFP for such services. The necessary resolution was authorized for the next board meeting.

Chairman Monroe announced that a \$2.5 million grant had been awarded to the Village of Lake George for the Gaslight Village property for infrastructure on the site. He added that the Mayor of the Village of Lake George had informed him that the \$1.2 million grant for the demolition of the buildings and other site work should be signed by the State this week.

Mr. Stec questioned the status of the payment of real property taxes by the State and Mr. Murphy replied that the payment had been received.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, on motion made by Mr. VanNess and seconded by Mr. Taylor, Mr. Stec adjourned the meeting at 11:03 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Livingston, Deputy Clerk