

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: **FINANCE**

DATE: **NOVEMBER 10, 2009**

Committee Members Present:

Supervisors Stec
 Belden
 O'Connor
 Bentley
 Taylor
 Kenny

Committee Members Absent:

Supervisors Tessier
 VanNess
 Merlino

Others Present:

Fred Monroe, Chairman of the Board
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 Simmes
Supervisor Sokol
Supervisor Thomas
Richard Murphy, Deputy Commissioner of
 Fiscal Services
Rob Lynch, Deputy Treasurer
Todd Lunt, Director, Human Resources
Sheila Weaver, Commissioner, Department of
 Social Services
Bud York, Sheriff
Shane Ross, Chief Deputy
Michael Gates, Captain of Corrections Facility
John Weber, President, Capital Financial Group
Don Lehman, *The Post Star*
Nicole Livingston, Deputy Clerk

Mr. Stec called the meeting of the Finance Committee to order at 11:20 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Belden, seconded by Mr. Taylor and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the October 7, 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 stated 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. Belden, seconded by Mr. Kenny and carried unanimously to approve Item 1 as outlined above. The necessary resolution was authorized for the next board meeting.

Mr. Stec announced that Item 2 was a referral from the Criminal Justice Committee, District Attorney, requesting to amend the 2009 County budget to increase estimated revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$4,420 to reflect receipt of 2009/2010 Crime Victims Board grant funds.

Motion was made by Mr. Bentley, seconded by Mr. Taylor and carried unanimously to approve Item 2 as outlined above. The necessary resolution was authorized for the next board meeting.

Mr. Stec apprised Item 3 was a referral from the Health Services Committee, Westmount Health Facility, requesting to amend the 2009 County budget to increase estimated revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$5,924 to reflect receipt of HCRA (Health Care Reform Act) Recruitment & Retention grant funds.

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

Mr. Stec remarked Item 4 was a referral from the Human Services Committee, Employment & Training Administration, requesting to amend the 2009 County budget to increase estimated revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$9,000 to reflect receipt of Federal funds.

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

Mr. Stec expounded Item 5 was a referral from the Public Safety Committee, Sheriff & Communications, requesting a new contract with Capital Digitronics, Inc. to service and repair two way radio and communications equipment, commencing January 1, 2010 and terminating December 31, 2010 for an annual amount of \$50,598.

Motion was made by Mr. Bentley, seconded by Mr. Belden and carried unanimously to approve Item 5 as outlined above, and the necessary resolution was authorized for the next board meeting.

Mr. Stec stated Item 6 was a referral from the Real Property Tax Services Committee requesting authorization for the conveyance of County-owned property, Tax Map Parcel No. 188.-1-95 located in the Town of Johnsbury, to Muriel Lapoint and Randy Hitchcock, for an amount not to exceed \$500.

Motion was made by Mr. Taylor, 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.

Mr. Stec reported that Item 7 was a referral from the Social Services Committee, requesting to amend the 2009 County budget to increase estimated revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$350,000 due to a lack of funds.

Motion was made by Mr. Belden, seconded by Mr. Bentley and carried unanimously to approve Item 7 as outlined above, and the necessary resolution was authorized for the next board meeting.

Mr. Stec noted Item 8 was a referral from the Mental Health Committee, requesting to amend the 2009 County budget to increase estimated revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$1,849 to allow the pass-through of State Aid from NYS Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities to United Cerebral Palsy, Inc.

Motion was made by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Kenny and carried unanimously to approve Item 8 as outlined above, and the necessary resolution was authorized for the next board meeting.

Mr. Stec said Item 9 was a request to amend the County Travel Policy to allow unpaid interns working in the Department of Social Services to operate County-owned vehicles, providing they have a valid New York State driver's license.

Motion was made by Mr. Belden and seconded by Mr. Taylor to approve the request as presented.

Mr. Taylor questioned if the County should require proof of insurance and Paul Dusek, County Attorney, replied in the negative, explaining that an individual would be covered by the County's insurance when driving a County vehicle.

Mr. Stec called the question and the motion was carried unanimously to approve Item 9 as outlined above, and the necessary resolution was authorized for the next board meeting.

Mr. Stec advised Item 10 was a request from Saratoga County that Warren County adopt a policy that favors the purchase of personal computers that are powered by AMD Chips.

Mr. Dusek recommended that the Committee not take any action on this item until he did additional research on the matter.

Mr. Stec referred to Item 6 on the Personnel Agenda, which was a request to authorize the agreements for health insurance effective December 1, 2009, as well as January 1, 2010, and establishing rates for coverage. He stated that it had been determined that this item would be discussed at the Finance Committee meeting because it related to Item 11 on the Finance Agenda and John Weber, President of Capital Financial Group, was present to discuss the matter.

Motion was made by Mr. Belden and seconded by Mr. Kenny to authorize the agreements for health insurance effective December 1, 2009, as well as January 1, 2010, and establishing rates for coverage.

Mr. Weber apprised that the renewal rates for HMO's were ranging from 15-18% for renewals and following the bids for an experienced rated plan, CDPHP provided a favorable experience rated quote which was lower than all of the HMO's. He added that because the County had established experienced rated status, only CDPHP would be offered. He noted that a 2% State tax had been added onto the premium which was mandated back in July. Mr. Weber summarized that the total health insurance budget for 2010 would be a 4.9% increase in the cost of health care coverage.

Following discussions, Mr. Stec called the question and the motion was carried unanimously to authorize the agreements for health insurance effective December 1, 2009, as well as January 1, 2010, and establishing rates for coverage. The necessary resolution was authorized for the next board meeting.

Returning to the Agenda review, Mr. Stec stated Item 11 was a request from Paul Dusek, County Attorney, to address the Committee concerning authorization for the Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) Plan agreement for reimbursement of employees for health insurance co-pays.

Mr. Dusek explained that this item pertained to the previous item discussed by Mr. Weber concerning health insurance plans. He asserted that the County needed to enter into a contract with EBS-RMSCO, Inc. which would provide the reimbursement to employees for health insurance co-pays. He added that an account would need to be established in the Treasurer's Office to provide the funds for reimbursement.

Rob Lynch, Deputy Treasurer, questioned if this would need to be a separate bank account or could the existing account be utilized. Mr. Dusek recommended that the account be secured from all other County accounts.

Motion was made by Mr. Belden, seconded by Mr. Taylor to authorize a contract with EBS-RMSCO, Inc. for the Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) Plan agreement for reimbursement of employees for health insurance co-pays and to authorize the County Treasurer to establish an account for such in the amount of \$140,000.

Mr. Dusek commended Mr. Weber for the amount of time and effort he had committed to the County with regard to securing the best health insurance plans.

Resuming the Agenda review, Mr. Stec asserted Item 12 was a referral from the County Clerk-Motor Vehicles Committee, requesting to amend the 2009 County budget to increase estimated revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$36,096 to reflect receipt of LGRMIF (Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund) Grant funds.

Motion was made by Mr. Kenny, seconded by Mr. Belden and carried unanimously to approve Item 12 as outlined above, and the necessary resolution was authorized for the next board meeting.

Mr. Stec noted Item 13 was a response to the Budget Analysis Report from the County Treasurer which was attached for review. He suggested that the Committee members peruse the response at their convenience.

Concluding the Agenda review, Mr. Stec apprised Item 14 was the request for Finance Committee action which was required on the following item that was approved by the Personnel Committee: Item 3E.

Motion was made by Mr. Kenny, seconded by Mr. Taylor and carried unanimously to approve Item 14 as outlined above. The necessary resolution was authorized for the next board meeting.

Prior to adjourning, Mr. Stec acknowledged Bud York, Sheriff, was present and would like to address the Committee. Sheriff York apprised he had contacted the New York State (NYS) Commission of Corrections and requested a meeting. He further stated he needed to provide the NYS Commission of Corrections with a date that the Supervisors would like to hold the meeting. Mr. Stec clarified that the Committee members wanted a response to the question of why Washington County could operate their Corrections Facility with 40% less staff and for \$2 million less than Warren County. Sheriff York acknowledged the Committee's request for an explanation and advised that the meeting with the NYS Commission of Corrections should provide the information. He cautioned that by not filling the vacant positions in the Corrections division which had resulted in the extreme use of overtime, employees could file grievances; thereby triggering the NYS Commission of Corrections to perform a staff analysis, which could result in the County being mandated to hire approximately eight to ten more employees. Sheriff York further added that if the Supervisors chose to not adhere to the mandate, the NYS Commission of Corrections could take away the County's revenues. He noted that this year, the Corrections Facility could realize approximately \$210,000 in unanticipated revenues.

Chairman Monroe remarked that the Committee would like to be able to fill those positions at the November 20th Board meeting; however, he said, prior to that, they were requesting an explanation in writing explaining the differences between Warren and Washington Counties Corrections Facilities. Sheriff York countered that those questions had been answered two months ago, the figures were reviewed for accuracy and re-submitted to the former Commissioner of Administrative & Fiscal Services.

Michael Gates, Captain of the Corrections Facility, said that in order to compare Warren and Washington Counties Facilities, the budgets for each would have to be reviewed code-by-code in order to make a proper analysis. Discussion ensued. Following discussions, the consensus of the Committee was that a joint Public Safety/Personnel Committee meeting would be scheduled with the NYS Commission of Corrections next week before the Board meeting.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, on motion made by Mr. Kenny and seconded by Mr. Bentley, Mr. Stec adjourned the meeting at 12:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Livingston, Deputy Clerk