

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: **FINANCE**

DATE: **NOVEMBER 10, 2010**

Committee Members Present:

Supervisors Stec
 Goodspeed
 Belden
 Bentley
 Taylor
 VanNess
 Kenny
 Merlino
 Conover

Others Present:

Fred Monroe, Chairman of the Board
Paul Dusek, County Attorney/Administrator
Joan Sady, Clerk of the Board
Kevin Geraghty, Budget Officer
Supervisor Champagne
Supervisor Loeb
Supervisor McCoy
Supervisor Sokol
Supervisor Strainer
Supervisor Thomas
Frank O'Keefe, Treasurer
Rob Lynch, Deputy Treasurer
Rick Murphy, Fiscal Assistant to Administrator
Patricia Nenninger, Second Assistant County Attorney
Todd Lunt, Director, Human Resources
Pat Tatich, Director, Planning & Community Development
Sheila Weaver, Commissioner, Department of Social Services
Don Lehman, *The Post Star*
Nicole Livingston, Deputy Clerk

Mr. Stec called the meeting of the Finance Committee to order at 10:45 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Bentley, seconded by Mr. VanNess and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the October 6, 2010 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 Action 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. Taylor, 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 advised Items 2A and B were referrals from the County Treasurer. Item 2A, he said, was a request for a new contract with Systems East for the software maintenance agreement for the Tax Collection System, for a lump sum amount of \$14,808, commencing January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011.

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

Mr. Stec asserted Item 2B was a request to authorize the issuance of a Budget Note for the Waste Management Fund, in the amount of \$600,000, to cover the anticipated budget shortfall in the Waste Management Fund.

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

Mr. Stec reported Item 2C was for discussion of refinancing the Siemens Capital Leases. Frank O'Keefe, Treasurer, apprised he had been informed that two written quotes were required in order to enter into a contract in accordance with the Purchasing Policy. He further stated he had received the necessary quotes, which were estimates, and although Fiscal Advisors were not the lowest quote received, he was interested in contracting with them, due to their experience with working with the County. He noted that there was a potential for the County to save approximately \$350,000 by refinancing at a lower percentage rate of 3% or under.

Paul Dusek, County Attorney/Administrator, asserted he had reviewed the information provided and in order for the County to take advantage of refinancing these obligations at lower interest rates, it was necessary to hire a bond counsel and a fiscal advisor. He added that Tom Myers of Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe, LLP, the Bond Counsel utilized by the County in the past, was fully experienced with the County's businesses and he recommended continuing with Mr. Myers as Bond Counsel. With regard to a fiscal advisor, he continued, he suggested proceeding with Fiscal Advisors & Marketing, Inc. based on the fact that they had just completed the County's official statement.

Motion was made by Mr. VanNess, seconded by Mr. Belden and carried unanimously to authorize contracts with Fiscal Advisors & Marketing, Inc. and Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe, LLP for the refinancing of the Siemens Capital Leases, and the necessary resolutions were authorized for the next board meeting.

Mr. Stec advised Item 3 was a referral from the County Facilities Committee, requesting a Contingent Fund transfer in the amount of \$7,264 for the purchase of equipment to upgrade the public address system in the Municipal Center.

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

Mr. Stec expounded Item 4 was a referral from the Planning & Community Development Committee, requesting a Contingent Fund transfer in the amount of \$4,000 for the balance remaining on the Imagemate Online contract, said funds which were not included in the 2010 budget.

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

Mr. Stec advised Item 5 was a referral from the Social Services Committee, requesting to amend the 2010 County budget to increase estimated revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$70,000 to reflect a shortfall in Medicaid.

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

Mr. Stec apprised Item 6 was a request to authorize agreements with various insurance providers for health insurance for Warren County employees and retirees; and establishing rates for coverage effective December 1, 2010 and January 1, 2011.

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

Mr. Stec reported Item 7 was a request for a resolution urging New York State Public Service Commission to reject a proposal from National Grid to increase residential natural gas and electric rates. He noted that a similar resolution passed by Fulton County was attached for review.

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

Mr. Belden requested that the aforementioned resolution be forwarded to the Intercounty Legislative Committee of the Adirondacks and Joan Sady, Clerk of the Board, acknowledged the request.

Concluding the Action Agenda review, Mr. Stec informed Item 8 was a request for Finance Committee action which was required on the following item that was approved by the Personnel Committee: Item Nos. 3A and 3B.

Motion was made by Mr. Belden, 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 referred to Item IV. Topics to be reported on/discussions/updates and noted Item 1, was a request for Pat Tatich, Director of Planning & Community Development, to discuss the housing grant to be returned.

Ms. Tatich explained she had informed the representative at the Affordable Housing Corporation, as well as the Planning & Community Development Committee, that the County would not be able to utilize the funds. She said she had planned on pursuing alternative uses for the \$120,000 grant, such as assisting with the housing for the homeless project; however, she stated, the Affordable Housing Corporation had indicated that the funds could not be used for a different purpose and asked that the contract documents be returned, with an explanation as to why the grant could not be utilized. Ms. Tatich noted that a stipulation of the grant was that the individuals receiving the benefit of funds for housing could not assume any associated debt, and because funding was not received through the HOME Program to assist with this project, that was not possible and therefore she recommended that the grant funds be returned as soon as possible.

Motion was made by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Belden and carried unanimously to authorize Ms. Tatich to return the Affordable Housing grant funds. The necessary resolution was authorized for the next board meeting.

Mr. Stec announced Item 2 was the response to the Budget Analysis Report from the County Treasurer as prepared by JoAnn McKinstry, Assistant to the County Administrator, which was attached for review.

Prior to adjourning, Mr. Dusek requested an executive session to discuss matters of litigation. Motion was made by Mr. Belden, seconded by Mr. Bentley and carried unanimously that executive session be declared pursuant to Section 105 (d) of the Public Officers Law.

Executive session was declared from 11:08 a.m. to 11:23 a.m.

The Committee reconvened. Pursuant to the executive session, motion was made by Mr. VanNess, seconded by Mr. Goodspeed and carried unanimously to authorize the settlement regarding the sale of a parcel of property in the Town of Johnsburg and to

amend the resolution to amend the request approved by the Real Property Tax Services Committee to approve the October 16, 2010 bid results and remove the aforementioned parcel. The necessary resolution was authorized for the next board meeting.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, on motion made by Mr. Bentley and seconded by Mr. Conover, Mr. Stec adjourned the meeting at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Livingston, Deputy Clerk