

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: **FINANCE**

DATE: **SEPTEMBER 7, 2011**

Committee Members Present:

Supervisors Thomas
Taylor
Belden
Monroe
VanNess
Merlino
Conover

Others Present:

Daniel G. Stec, Chairman of the Board
Paul Dusek, County Attorney/Administrator
Joan Sady, Clerk of the Board
Kevin Geraghty, Budget Officer
Supervisor Bentley
Supervisor Champagne
Supervisor Sokol
Supervisor Strainer
Supervisor Wood
Frank O'Keefe, Treasurer
Julie Pacyna, Purchasing Agent
Jeff Tennyson, Superintendent of Public Works
Chris Hunsinger, Director, Employment &
Training Administration
Don Lehman, *The Post Star*
Thom Randall, *Adirondack Journal*
Nicole Livingston, Deputy Clerk

Committee Members Absent:

Supervisors Goodspeed
Kenny

Mr. Thomas called the meeting of the Finance Committee to order at 10:00 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. VanNess, seconded by Mr. Belden and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the August 10, 2011 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. Thomas 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.

Paul Dusek, County Attorney/Administrator, pointed out that he had submitted a transfer of funds in the amount of \$700, which was included in the group of transfers, to purchase a new laptop computer for the new County Attorney.

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

Mr. Thomas advised Item 2 was a referral from the County Facilities Committee, requesting a source of funding to implement the suggestions derived from the Energy

Audits performed by National Grid for an estimated amount of \$42,114.43; however, he said, the actual amount due was \$18,460.31.

Motion was made by Mr. Conover and seconded by Mr. VanNess to approve the request as presented.

Mr. Conover questioned the estimated annual savings projected by National Grid and Mr. Thomas replied the amount to be saved annually would be \$9,252.21; or a two year savings of \$18,504.42. Mr. Taylor suggested that the source of funding be a transfer from the Contingent Fund. Mr. Thomas noted that there was an approximate balance of \$160,776 in the Contingent Fund.

Following discussions, Mr. Thomas called the question and the motion was carried unanimously to approve Item 2 as outlined above, with the source of funding to be transferred from the Contingent Fund in the amount of \$18,460.31. The necessary resolution was authorized for the next board meeting.

Mr. Thomas asserted Item 3 was a referral from the Health Services Committee, Health Services, requesting to amend the 2011 County budget to increase estimated revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$14,250 to reflect receipt of Office of Homeland Security grant funds.

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

Mr. Thomas stated Items 4A and B were referrals from the Public Works Committee, DPW. Item 4A, he said, was a request to establish Capital Project No. H327.9550 280 Tropical Storm Irene for the recovery, repair, reconstruction of storm damage on County infrastructure and property resulting from Tropical Storm Irene, in the amount of \$400,000 with the source of funding to be Interfund Transfers based on anticipated reimbursement through FEMA Disaster Relief Funds.

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

Mr. Monroe questioned if the \$2.5 million for the flooding that occurred in the spring had been borrowed yet and Frank O'Keefe, Treasurer, replied in the negative. Jeff Tennyson, Superintendent of Public Works, expounded that the \$400,000 was an early estimate; however, he added, the total damage in Warren County was approximately \$1.2 million and the preliminary damage assessments with FEMA had not been conducted yet. He further explained that the intent with establishing this Capital Project was to provide a funding source in order to commence repair work. Mr. VanNess asked if that amount included the damage that occurred at the Sheriff's Office

and Mr. Tennyson responded in the negative. Mr. Tennyson said the figures provided were for DPW roads, highways and facilities. Mr. Dusek advised that the damage at the Sheriff's Office should be kept separate from this Capital Project because he was in the process of reviewing whether or not the County's insurance would cover such damage.

Following discussion, Mr. Thomas called the question and the motion was carried unanimously to approve Item 4A as outlined above, and the necessary resolution was authorized for the next board meeting.

Mr. Thomas added Item 4B was request to appropriate funds in the amount of \$160,000 from the Road Machinery Fund balance (DM.909.00) to DM.5130 Road Machinery, Machinery Automotive-Gas & Oil to cover a shortage in Automotive Gas & Oil.

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

Mr. Thomas referred to Item IV. Topics to be reported on/discussions/updates and noted Item 1, was the response to the Budget Analysis Report from the County Treasurer as prepared by JoAnn McKinstry, Assistant to the County Administrator, which would be emailed to the Committee members next week.

Mr. Thomas apprised Items 2A through C were requests from Mr. Dusek to address the Committee. Item IV. 2A concerned amending Resolution No. 508, which introduced Local Law No. 9 of 2011, to amend Section 7 regarding approval by the County Administrator to be changed to County Attorney.

Mr. Dusek asserted that this matter should be brought before the full Board at the September meeting. He further stated that this was regarding the Local Law for invasive species and there was wording that pertained to who would approve certain forms which should be the County Attorney and not the Administrator. He recommended that this discussion occur following the Public Hearing which would be held at the September 16th Board meeting.

Mr. Monroe wondered if this Local Law would be broad enough to cover the situation with the giant hogweed. Mr. Dusek answered that the Local Law focused on things coming in and out of the water, whereas the giant hogweed was located on land. He stated that issue would require a separate Local Law.

Mr. Thomas referred to Item IV. 2B, which was the Aeon Nexus Spend Assessment Services Proposal to be discussed.

Mr. Dusek informed that representatives from Aeon Nexus were at the meeting to provide a presentation for the Committee members consideration. He recalled that Aeon Nexus offered a number of services, one being the concept of reverse auctions, whereby they achieved significant savings for various clients. He noted that in New York State the bidding laws were so antiquated and restrictive, it did not appear that Warren County could pursue this. He expounded that Aeon Nexus had advised of another program that they offered in which they would review all purchases made by the County and determine if there was a less expensive means of purchasing such items.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Marc Cerro, Managing Director of Aeon Nexus. Mr. Cerro distributed two handouts to the Committee members relative to the projected Spend Assessment Savings Proposal and Services, copies of which are on file with the minutes.

Mr. Cerro apprised that their goal was to work with municipalities and counties to assist them in saving money. Josh Coons, with Aeon Nexus, added that they had reviewed eight years of the County's spend data, as well as descriptive data; thereby providing a granular look of what the spend was for the County. Mr. Coons remarked that their proposal today was to narrow the scope and review the past three years of spend for the County to determine cost savings more quickly. Mr. Belden asked if the County entered into an agreement with Aeon Nexus, would the same services be available to the towns and Mr. Cerro explained that the concepts could be utilized by the towns; however, he continued, Aeon Nexus would not be analyzing the towns spend. He clarified that the contract would be specifically with the County.

In response to an inquiry regarding restrictive bidding laws, Mr. Cerro announced that their organization had been effective in changing the law in Connecticut and they did all of the sourcing for Connecticut public schools, resulting in tremendous savings. Mr. Cerro and Mr. Coons proceeded to review the handouts in detail with the Committee members.

Mr. Conover recommended that the County Administrator conduct the proper research on the cases mentioned by Aeon Nexus and report back with his findings. Mr. Dusek agreed that it was important that there was a comfort level and that all questions had been answered prior to entering into an agreement.

Mr. Geraghty interjected that the bid for fuel oil was upcoming and that was a very important commodity for not only the County, but also all of the towns and if there was a possibility of saving a certain amount of money per gallon of fuel oil, he opined that the agreement should move forward as soon as possible. Mr. Monroe added that the sooner the contract with Aeon Nexus commenced, the sooner the savings could be realized.

Motion was made by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Mr. Conover and carried unanimously to authorize an agreement with Aeon Nexus, for a total amount of \$16,000 with the source of funding to be transferred from the Contingent Fund. The necessary resolution was authorized for the next board meeting.

Mr. Thomas returned to the Agenda review with Item IV.2C, a request for a resolution in honor of the 50th Anniversary of SUNY Adirondack attached for review.

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

Prior to adjourning, Mr. Thomas advised there was an additional matter to come before the Committee that was not included on the Agenda. He stated Chris Hunsinger, Director of Employment & Training Administration, had requested to address the Committee. Privilege of the floor was extended to Mr. Hunsinger, who announced there was an opportunity for a National Emergency grant as a result of Tropical Storm Irene. He noted that the Federal government had the funds available to assist with the clean-up necessary as a result from the storm, as well as to provide job opportunities for those that were out of work. He requested the Supervisors contact him if there were additional projects in their towns that may be appropriate for this grant. He said the purpose of the grant was to assist in the clean-up of public property that was damaged as a result of the storm.

Mr. O'Keefe reported that the Novatime Time Keeping System had been implemented on schedule and the last department to go live on the new system was the Sheriff's Office, which was currently in training.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, on motion made by Mr. Monroe and seconded by Mr. Belden, Mr. Thomas adjourned the meeting at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Livingston, Deputy Clerk