

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: **FINANCE**

DATE: **AUGUST 7, 2013**

Committee Members Present:

Supervisors Conover
 Taylor
 Sokol
 Monroe
 Bentley
 Wood
 Kenny
 Merlino
 Frasier

Others Present:

Kevin Geraghty, Chairman of the Board
Paul Dusek, County Administrator
Martin Auffredou, County Attorney
Joan Sady, Clerk of the Board
Frank Thomas, Budget Officer
Supervisors Girard
 Mason
 Montesi
 Strainer
Jeffery Tennyson, Superintendent of Public
 Works
Bud York, Sheriff
Karen Putney, Administrator, Fire Prevention &
 Building Codes
Robert Blais, Mayor, Village of Lake George
Dave Decker, Director, Lake George Watershed
 Coalition
Dave Wick, Executive Director, Lake George
 Park Commission
Walt Lender, Executive Director, Lake George
 Association
Don Lehman, *The Post Star*
Nicole Livingston, Second Deputy Clerk

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

Motion was made by Mr. Sokol, seconded by Mr. Kenny and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the July 10, 2013 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. Conover 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. Kenny, seconded by Mr. Bentley and carried unanimously to approve Item 1 as outlined above. The necessary resolution was authorized for the next Board meeting.

Mr. Conover advised Items 2A through E were referrals from the Public Safety Committee, Sheriff & Communications, and he listed them as follows:

- A) Amending the 2013 County budget to increase estimated revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$20,500 to reflect receipt of Motorcycle Safety grant funds;
- B) Amending the 2013 County budget to increase estimated revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$11,970 to reflect receipt of STEP (Selective Traffic Enforcement Program) grant funds;
- C) Amending the 2013 County budget to increase estimated revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$3,240 to reflect receipt of BUNY (Buckle Up New York) grant funds;
- D) Amending the 2013 County budget to increase estimated revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$1,500 to reflect receipt of Child Passenger Safety grant funds; and
- E) Amending the 2013 County budget to increase estimated revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$425,000 to reflect receipt of PSAP (Public Safety Answering Points) grant funds for the 911 Center.

Motion was made by Mr. Kenny, seconded by Mr. Sokol and carried unanimously to approve Items 2A through E as outlined above. The necessary resolution was authorized for the next Board meeting.

Mr. Conover stated Items 3A through C were referrals from the Public Works Committee, DPW. Item 3A, he said, was a request to sell a Fruehauf Box Trailer to the Warrensburg Volunteer Fire Company for an amount of \$1,000.

Motion was made by Mr. Bentley, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously to approve Item 3A as outlined above. The necessary resolution was authorized for the next Board meeting.

Mr. Conover expounded Item 3B was a request to increase Capital Project No. H320.9550 280 Crane Mountain Road over Mill Creek Bridge in the amount of \$114,750 to adjust the capital project due to the availability of State Marchiselli funds and decrease in Engineer's estimate; with the source of funding to be as follows: 80% Federal Share reduction of \$31,200 due to a decrease in construction estimate; and 15% State Marchiselli Share for an amount of \$145,950. He noted the 5% Local Share was not needed at this time.

Motion was made by Mr. Bentley and seconded by Mr. Merlino to approve the request as presented.

Mr. Taylor questioned why there was a decrease in the Federal share of the funding and Jeffery Tennyson, Superintendent of Public Works, explained that the State Marchiselli funding kicked in when they prepared to go to construction, which until that time, the local share had covered that portion of funding.

Mr. Conover called the question and the motion was carried unanimously to approve Item 3B as outlined above, and the necessary resolution was authorized for the next Board meeting.

Mr. Conover added Item 3C was a request to amend the 2013 County budget to increase estimated revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$135,176.10 to reflect an increase in Consolidated Highway Aid Revenue 2013 and to create 3 new road projects.

Motion was made by Mrs. Wood, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously to approve Item 3C as outlined above, and the necessary resolution was authorized for the next Board meeting.

Mr. Conover stated Items 4A through E were referrals from the County Administrator. The first, he said, was a request to close Capital Project No. H284.9550 280 Gaslight Village Purchase and transfer remaining funds in the estimated amount of \$4,004.95 to the Debt Service Fund.

Motion was made by Mr. Sokol, seconded by Mr. Monroe and carried unanimously to approve Item 4A as outlined above, and the necessary resolution was authorized for the next Board meeting.

Mr. Conover apprised Item 4B concerned the Blue Shield EPO December 1, 2012 to November 30, 2013 Contract.

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

Mrs. Wood asked what this contract was for and Paul Dusek, County Administrator, replied this was the health insurance coverage that was currently in place, but the contract had not been approved previously. Mr. Montesi questioned what the increase in the contract was this year and Mr. Dusek advised he would need to go back and look at what the exact percentage was, although they had usually assumed a 10% increase. In response to an inquiry, Mr. Dusek informed that every year the County's Broker checked the market place to research if there was a less expensive company to do business with based on the County's experience and claims and what was available on the market place. He added the Broker provided a report in early September. Mr. Bentley wondered if the Broker checked with NYSAC (New York State Association of Counties) now that they had a self-insurance fund for health insurance and Mr. Dusek responded they could be included when the Broker performed the research.

Mr. Conover called the question and the motion was carried unanimously to approve Item 4B outlined above, and the necessary resolution was authorized for the next Board meeting.

Mr. Conover pointed out Item 4C was a proposal for Warren County to sponsor, on behalf of the Lake George Watershed Coalition (LGWC) members, a Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) for funding to mitigate and prevent invasive species. He added the proposed application would be for \$1.2 million for a 2 year period with a 50/50 match and the LGWC would work with the County on securing the match. He noted Dave Decker, Director of the LGWC, would take the lead on the application which was due August 14, 2013.

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

Mr. Decker distributed a handout to the Committee members that outlined the details of the CFA that would be submitted, a copy of which is on file with the minutes. Mr. Decker apprised this application was one of three that the LGWC would be submitting and was particular to invasive species management and control. In terms of the match, he said, the existence of the activity put forth by the not-for-profit organizations served as the qualifying match and he clarified there would be no cash match requested from the County. In response to an inquiry, Mr. Decker asserted this contract would be between the State of New York and the County and the application would be specific to Lake George, which was on the qualifying list of waterbodies developed by the New York State Department of State (NYS DOS). Mr. Conover wondered if the language in the application could be broader to include other waterbodies that are part of the watershed in the County and Mr. Decker replied he would research that matter further.

Mr. Monroe asked how a waterbody could be included on the NYS DOS qualifying list and Mr. Decker explained an application could be submitted to the NYS DOS through one of the Legislators and he noted that the list was expanded all the time to include other waterbodies.

Chairman Geraghty expressed his hesitation in supporting this request due to the fact that the LGWC still owed the County money for the work done on Valley Woods Road and he felt the County should be made whole prior to partnering in another funding application. He further expressed his concern that other waterbodies located in the County were not included in this application to receive assistance. Mr. Decker recognized the County was owed money for the Valley Woods Road project and explained that once the project close-out package was approved by the State, the funds would be released and the County would be reimbursed.

Mr. Dusek requested clarification as to the total amount of the grant being applied for and Mr. Decker said the application was being submitted for \$2,450,000 and the amount being requested would be \$1,225,000 per year for two years.

Following discussions, Mr. Conover called the question and the motion was carried by a majority vote, with Mrs. Wood voting in opposition, to approve Item 4C as outlined above, and the necessary resolution was authorized for the next Board meeting.

Mr. Conover asserted Item 4D was a request to appropriate funds from the Computer Reserve Fund (A.895.00) to departmental budgets to purchase computers and related equipment and software in the amount of \$23,794.

Motion was made by Mr. Sokol, seconded by Mr. Monroe and carried unanimously to approve Item 4D as outlined above, and the necessary resolution was authorized for the next Board meeting.

Mr. Conover added Item 4E was a request to amend the 2013 County budget to increase estimated revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$276 to allocate funds for the purchase of computer upgrades with the Computer Replacement Program funds.

Motion was made by Mrs. Wood, seconded by Mr. Kenny and carried unanimously to approve Item 4E as outlined above, and the necessary resolution was authorized for the next Board meeting.

Mr. Conover announced Item 5 was for Finance Committee action which was required on the following items as approved by the Personnel Committee: Item Nos. 2, 3A, 3C, 3D, 3E, 3F and 5C.

Motion was made by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Kenny and carried unanimously to approve Item 5 as outlined above.

Mr. Conover 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 the County Administrator, which would be emailed when completed.

Mr. Conover mentioned Item V. Pending Items, concerned accepting credit payments County-wide pending review of State contract and other vendors. He advised that the County Treasurer was not at the meeting and therefore the item should be carried forward to next month.

Mr. Conover pointed out an Addendum to the Agenda and noted the first Item was a referral from Sheriff & Communications, requesting to amend the 2013 County budget to increase estimated revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$2,798 to reflect monies received from McKeeson Governmental Entities for overpayment of prescriptions for inmates.

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

Mr. Conover reported Item 2 on the Addendum was referred from the County Administrator, requesting to ratifying the agreement with SNCR to move equipment.

Motion was made by Mr. Bentley and seconded by Mrs. Frasier to approve the request as presented.

Mr. Dusek explained there had recently been a derailment of a locomotive on the railroad track and as part of the repair process, SNCR required assistance moving an excavator down the tracks. He advised that in reviewing the agreement with the operator, he could not find anything that technically allowed the County to move any equipment; therefore, it was necessary to ratify the agreement with SNCR. He pointed out the County owned the tracks and it was in the County's best interest to have them repaired as quickly as possible.

Mr. Conover called the question and the motion was carried unanimously to approve Addendum Item 2 as outlined above, and the necessary resolution was authorized for the next Board meeting.

Mr. Conover recognized Dave Wick, Executive Director of the Lake George Park Commission, was present to discuss the invasive species efforts, as well as funding sources. Mr. Wick acknowledged they had planned to present a request to the Invasive Species Sub-Committee but that meeting had been cancelled. He provided a brief history of the Asian Clam, where it was originally found in Lake George, where it had spread to in the Lake and the efforts to eradicate it. He acknowledged that the County was a tremendous partner last year with its' funding contribution of \$500,000. He stated he was at the meeting today to request that the County continue partnering in the efforts to eradicate the Asian Clam and to commit another funding contribution. Mr. Wick apprised they were requesting between \$250,000 to \$300,000 for the planned fall and winter treatments.

Robert Blais, Mayor of the Village of Lake George, announced he was representing not only the Village but also the Town of Lake George, and the Towns of Queensbury and Bolton, to announce their combined commitment of \$50,000 towards the eradication of the Asian Clam efforts for this fall and winter. He added that he would contact the other communities around the Lake, including those in Washington and Essex Counties, to request that they join in pledging a financial contribution in order to reduce the cost to Warren County.

Walt Lender, Executive Director of the Lake George Association (LGA), informed the LGA would be included in these efforts again this year and they had \$50,000 available

which they intended to use to do a dollar for dollar challenge match to appeal to property owners around the Lake.

Mr. Thomas questioned if the CFA discussed earlier by Mr. Decker would be applied towards this effort and Mr. Wick responded those funds would not be available for this upcoming treatment season.

With regard to Federal funding, Mr. Lender advised the Lake George efforts were beginning to get more attention at the Federal level and they did have support at the Legislative level from Senator Gillibrand, who had introduced invasive species legislation. He added the only Federal funding that he was aware of that had been awarded was for the purchase of the boat wash station.

Referring back to the pledge of \$50,000 announced by the Mayor, Mr. Conover asked if that would reduce the amount requested from the County to \$250,000 and Mr. Wick replied affirmatively. Mr. Wick expounded if the County were to allocate a portion of the \$250,000 towards this treatment cycle, then perhaps the remainder could come out of next years' budget cycle for the spring treatment; thereby reducing the allocation and the impact to this years' budget.

In response to an inquiry as to who would be managing the funds, Mr. Wick apprised the Village of Lake George had previously managed the funds and the contracts and they would request the Village to be the lead agency again.

Mrs. Wood expressed her opinion that a determination as to a source of funding needed to be made prior to agreeing to commit any funds.

Motion was made by Mr. Bentley and seconded by Mr. Taylor to appropriate \$150,000 towards the invasive species efforts this fall from the Occupancy Tax Reserve.

Mr. Kenny reminded the Committee members of the Treasurer's recommendation that the balance of the Occupancy Tax Reserve should not be less than \$500,000 and he pointed out the balance was currently \$500,000. He stated he was opposed to utilizing occupancy tax funds towards these efforts. Mr. Monroe asserted the \$300,000 that would be appropriated to the Invasive Species budget line next year would be coming out of the General Fund and Mr. Thomas countered that he thought the \$300,000 was proposed to be split between the General Fund and the Occupancy Tax Reserve. Mr. Merlino opined the \$150,000 should be appropriated from the General Fund. Mr. Conover suggested the \$150,000 could be split between the General Fund and the Occupancy Tax Reserve. Discussion ensued regarding possible funding sources to assist in the invasive species efforts.

Chairman Geraghty noted that he supported the contribution towards the eradication of invasive species; however, he said, the amount of sales tax and occupancy tax

collected by the Village and Town of Lake George and the Towns of Bolton, Hague and Queensbury was \$16.5 million and a large portion of that was returned to those municipalities. He acknowledged the Towns of Lake Luzerne, Chester and Horicon that contributed significant amounts from their Town budgets towards the invasive species efforts and they did not receive nearly as much back as the five municipalities he previously mentioned. He opined those municipalities that received more funding from sales tax and occupancy tax collections than other towns should contribute more towards this effort.

Following discussions, Mr. Conover called the question and the motion was carried by a majority vote, with Messrs. Sokol, Kenny, Merlino and Mrs. Wood voting in opposition, to approve the request to appropriate \$150,000 from the Occupancy Tax Reserve towards the 2013 Fall Invasive Species Effort.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Livingston, Second Deputy Clerk