

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: FINANCE

DATE: JANUARY 31, 2019

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS SOKOL  
SIMPSON  
MERLINO  
DICKINSON  
STROUGH  
BEATY  
FRASIER  
MCDEVITT  
BRAYMER  
HYDE

OTHERS PRESENT:

MIKE SWAN, COUNTY TREASURER  
RONALD CONOVER, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD  
RYAN MOORE, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR  
MARY ELIZABETH KISSANE, COUNTY ATTORNEY  
AMANDA ALLEN, CLERK OF THE BOARD  
FRANK THOMAS, BUDGET OFFICER

SUPERVISORS DRISCOLL  
HOGAN  
LEGGETT  
LOEB  
MAGOWAN  
WILD

COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:

SUPERVISOR GERAGHTY

TAMMIE DELORENZO, ASSISTANT TO THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR  
KEVIN HAJOS, SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
AMY LAVINE, FIRST ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY  
BRIAN LAFLURE, DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES/FIRE COORDINATOR  
WAYNE LAMOTHE, COUNTY PLANNER  
DON LEHMAN, *THE POST STAR*  
SARAH MCLENITHAN, DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD

*Please note, the following contains a summarization of the January 31, 2019 meeting of the Finance Committee; the meeting in its entirety can be viewed on the Warren County website using the following link: <http://www.warrencountyny.gov/gov/comm/Archive/2019/finance/>*

Mr. Sokol called the meeting of the Finance Committee to order at 10:51 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Simpson, seconded by Mr. Strough and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the previous Committee meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Copies of the meeting Agenda were distributed to the Committee members and a copy of same is on file with the meeting minutes

Commencing with the Action Agenda, Mr. Sokol requested approval of Item 1 which consisted of a request for transfers of funds as attached for Committee approval.

Motion was made by Mr. McDevitt, seconded by Ms. Braymer and carried unanimously to approve the request and the necessary resolution was authorized for the February 15<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting.

Mr. Sokol advised Agenda Items 2A-E concerned the following Items/Requests to be Discussed by the County Treasurer:

- 2A) Request to amend the Table of Organization and Salary Schedule to create the new position of Principal Account Clerk/Typist-Temp, *Grade 11, Annual Salary \$23.70/ hour*, effective February 18, 2019 and terminating August 15, 2019.

- 2B) Request to amend the Table of Organization and Salary Schedule to create the new position of Principal Account Clerk # 4, *Grade 10, Annual Base Salary \$37,633*, and delete the position of Principal Account Clerk/Typist, *Grade 11, Current Annual Salary \$49,286*, effective February 18, 2019.

Motion was made by Ms. Braymer, seconded by Mr. Simpson and carried unanimously to approve the requests as outlined above and the necessary resolutions were authorized for the February 15<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting.

- 2C) Request to amend the County's Investment Policy to allow investment in the New York Cooperative Liquid Asset Securities System (*NYCLASS*).

Mr. Swan advised this was a secure fund recommended by the New York State Comptroller's Office as an option to invest money and he distributed a copy of a brochure detailing the fund, a copy of which is on file with the minutes. He informed as of last week the fund was paying 2.24% on a daily basis; he added the Town of Queensbury and Washington County invested funding in this plan and a resolution was required in order for the County to participate. He pointed out one of the benefits of this plan was that it incorporated a daily rate allowing him access to the funds the next day which differed from a CD (*Certificate of Deposit*) which held funds over a specific duration. He said another benefit was that they could have multiple accounts, meaning he could invest portions of the Reserve Funds, such as the Highway Reserve, etc., in this fund and be paid out a daily interest rate while still being able to access these funds the any time if deemed necessary without penalty.

Motion was made by Mr. McDevitt, seconded by Mr. Merlino and carried unanimously to approve the request and the necessary resolution was authorized for the February 15<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting.

- 2D) Request to authorize the County Treasurer to join NYCLASS to invest County funds.

- 2E) Request for new contract with Airbnb, Inc. to allow the Treasurer's Office to collect occupancy tax from Airbnb.

With regards to Item 2E, Mr. Swan stated the County had been working on an agreement with Airbnb which would allow the County to collect occupancy tax for short-term rentals and he asked Amy Lavine, *First Assistant County Attorney*, to elaborate more. Ms. Lavine informed that Airbnb had submitted a copy of the form contract they held with other counties and she had obtained copies of the contracts they had with Clinton and Essex Counties, as well. She stated upon her review she discovered a few items the County may want to change, the most notable of which pertained to the fact that the contract did not elaborate on which municipality the occupancy tax was originating from, as this information was required in order to distribute the funds accordingly. She said she was seeking guidance as to whether the Committee would like to accept the contract as is or request that Airbnb make changes before the contract was signed.

Ms. Braymer indicated she felt they should support whatever the County Attorney's Office felt was appropriate, but she would like to review the contract before it was voted on. Mary Elizabeth Kissane, *County Attorney*, advised the reason for the request related to Mr. Swan's desire for authorization to enter into an agreement with Airbnb; however, she noted, she could bring the revised contract back to the Committee for approval to address the concerns mentioned. She said the authority of the Board was

required in order to enter in the contract and she would like this action to be taken before she utilized staff time to work on the changes. She reiterated she would bring the final draft of the contract back to the Committee before it was signed, but maintained a policy decision needed to be made as to whether the Board would like to enter into this contract first.

Mr. Strough voiced his support for entering into a contract with Airbnb due to his understanding that other counties who had done so were acquiring a substantial amount of revenue as a result of their contracts; however, he said, he was also in favor of working out the details to ensure the County was notified which municipality the funds were originating from. Mr. Sokol asked Ms. Kissane if Committee action was required to enter into the contract and Ms. Kissane replied affirmatively. Ms. Braymer requested confirmation that the Chairman would not sign the contract until it was brought back before the Committee, and Ms. Kissane replied this would be the procedure used.

Motion was made by Mr. Strough, seconded by Mr. Merlino and carried unanimously to approve the request and the necessary resolution was authorized for the February 15<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting.

Mr. Dickinson entered the meeting at 11:01 a.m.

Mr. Sokol apprised action was required on Agenda Item 2D which they had inadvertently skipped over, pertaining to a request to authorize the County Treasurer to join NYCLASS to invest County funds.

Following some discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Braymer, seconded by Mr. Beaty to approve the request for a new contract with NYCLASS as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the February 15<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting.

Mr. Simpson inquired how much money would be invested with NYCLASS and Mr. Swan responded they planned on commencing with investing a minimal amount of money, but over time several millions could be invested in the Fund. Mr. Simpson communicated his concern that the County could be put into a position where its funds were locked in. Mr. Swan apprised one of the advantages of this fund was that the interest was paid on a daily basis and there was no penalty for withdrawing funds. He explained if a need arose for funds from the Highway Bridge Reserve, but the money was invested in this fund, he could put in a request for the money and the funds would be made available the next business day. Mr. Simpson questioned whether this would increase the balance of the Unassigned Fund Balance and Mr. Swan replied in the negative.

Continuing with the Agenda review, Mr. Sokol apprised Agenda Items 3A-K concerned the following referrals from the Criminal Justice & Public Safety Committee:

*Office of Emergency Services-*

- 3A) Request to amend the County Budget in the amount of \$18,270.33 to allow for carryover of unused FY16 State Homeland Security Program grant funds.
  
- 3B) Request to amend the County Budget in the amount of \$112,701.82 to allow for carryover of unused FY16 Hazmat Program grant funds.

Motion was made by Ms. Braymer, seconded by Mr. Strough and carried unanimously to approve the requests as outlined above and the necessary resolutions were authorized for the February 15<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting.

Mr. Sokol stated that Agenda Item 3C, pertaining to a request to increase Capital Project H254, was being pulled from the Agenda and returned to the Criminal Justice & Public Safety Committee. Mr. Moore advised the Director of the Office of Emergency Services had requested that the request be pulled to allow for additional work to be done.

*Sheriff-*

3D) ~~Request to amend the County Budget in the amount of \$17,550 to reflect receipt of grant funding from the New York State Governor's Traffic Safety Committee. Request withdrawn - County Treasurer's Office has advised amendment is not necessary as the funds are already accounted for in the 2019 Budget.~~

3E) Request to appropriate funds in the amount of \$159,200 from the General Fund Unappropriated Surplus to the Sheriff's Law Enforcement budget to cover the cost of the PBA Settlement.

Motion was made by Mr. Simpson and seconded by Ms. Braymer to approve the request as outlined above.

Mr. Strough questioned whether this request, as well as Agenda Items 3F-H had been overlooked during the budgeting process and Mr. Thomas responded that during the budgeting process he had removed these items from the 2019 County Budget and proposed using the General Fund Unappropriated Surplus to pay for these one-time expenses in 2019 to keep the County Budget down and to not have to raise taxes.

Mr. Sokol inquired whether the desire of the Committee was to address these requests for appropriations on an individual basis or to group them all together.

3F) Request to appropriate funds in the amount of \$106,776 from the General Fund Unappropriated Surplus to cover a portion of the cost of 2019 fleet purchases and the associated upfitting costs. *Note: there is a request under the County Administrator's items to move the remaining monies for the Sheriff's 2019 vehicle purchases from the Vehicle Reserve Fund.*

3G) Request to appropriate \$34,600 from the General Fund Unappropriated Surplus to cover the cost of 2019 Law Enforcement equipment purchases.

3H) Request to appropriate \$32,050 from the General Fund Unappropriated Surplus to cover the cost of 2019 Correction Division purchases of furniture, technical and other equipment.

Mr. Simpson amended his motion and Ms. Braymer amended her second to include approving Agenda Items 3E-H.

A discussion ensued during which Mr. Moore explained Agenda Item 3E differed from the other requests because it referred to last years appropriation for the unsettled PBA contract. He said the funds were not expended because they still did not have the interest arbitration award resulting in these funds being returned to the General Fund Unappropriated Surplus at the end of 2018 and if this request was approved the funds would be appropriated back out of the General Fund Unappropriated Surplus. He mentioned this meant the item was budget neutral because it would have been paid last year if there had been a settlement. He stated the other requests had been left out of the 2019 County

Budget with the idea that the department heads would present them to their Committee to decide rather than include them in the 2019 Budget to be funded by the tax levy. Ms. Braymer asked for clarification that the PBA contract had not been settled and Ms. Moore replied affirmatively.

Mr. Wild conveyed while working for a large business he had learned in situations such as this that the leaders would be required to make the required cuts to the budget in order to be able to pay expenses. He opined Department Heads should be required to try and locate the funds within their budgets before coming to the Committee to request the funds. Ms. Braymer interjected that the Sheriff had brought the aforementioned requests before the Committee.

Mr. Sokol called the question and the motion to approve the appropriations from the General Fund Unappropriated Surplus outlined in Agenda Items 3E-H was carried unanimously and the necessary resolutions were authorized for the February 15<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting.

- 3I) Request to amend the County Budget in the amount of \$71,448.56 to carryover unused 2016 Statewide Interoperability Communications Program grant funds.
- 3J) Request to amend the County Budget in the amount of \$58,551.53 to carryover unused 2017 Statewide Interoperability Communications Program grant funds.
- 3K) Request to amend the County Budget in the amount of \$19,994 to carryover unused FY18 State Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program grant funds.

Motion was made by Mr. Simpson, seconded by Mr. Dickinson and carried unanimously to approve the requests as outlined above and the necessary resolutions were authorized for the February 15<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting.

Mr. Sokol advised Agenda Item 4 pertained to a referral from the Economic Growth & Development Committee, *Planning*, involving a request to establish Capital Project H382, *Lake George Invasive Species Eradication*, in the amount of \$800,000.

Mr. Loeb asked what was being created and how it was being funded and Mr. Sokol responded the County had been awarded \$600,000 from NYS DOS (*New York State Department of State*) to undertake a program to eradicate all dense and moderately-dense beds of watermilfoil, which was an aquatic invasive species, from Lake George. He mentioned the \$200,000 in matching funds required would be provided by contributions to the Lake George Vessel Inspection and Decontamination Program. Mr. Loeb asked whether the County had to provide the matching funds and Mr. Thomas replied in the negative.

Motion was made by Mr. Strough, seconded by Mr. Dickinson and carried unanimously to approve the request and the necessary resolution was authorized for the February 15<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting.

Moving along. Mr. Sokol apprised Agenda Items 5A-B pertained to the following referrals from the Health, Human & Social Services Committee:

- 5A) *Department of Social Services*- Request to amend the County Budget in the amount of \$50,000 to reflect the receipt of grant funding from the CAPTA/CARA Program.

Motion was made by Mrs. Frasier, seconded by Mr. Simpson and carried unanimously to approve the request and the necessary resolution was authorized for the February 15<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting.

- 5B) *Office for the Aging*- Request to amend contract with The Clements Firm to allow for payment of fees in the amount of \$1,070 incurred for services provided to four Office for the Aging clients after their annual limit for services was reached - source of funds to be determined by the Finance Committee.

Mr. Sokol suggested the funds be transferred from the Contingent Account to cover this expense.

Motion was made by Mr. Strough, seconded by Mr. McDevitt and carried unanimously to approve the request to amend the contract with the Clements Firm as outlined above and to authorize a transfer of funds in the amount of \$1,070 from the Contingent Account to cover the cost of these fee and the necessary resolution was authorized for the February 15<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting. *Note: Following the meeting, the Director for the Office for the Aging notified Mrs. Allen a transfer from the Contingent Account was no longer required due to the fact that the funds were available within the departments existing budget.*

Mr. Sokol stated Agenda Item 6 pertained to a referral from the Occupancy Tax Coordination Committee concerning a request to appropriate \$5,960 from Budget Code A.881, *Reserve -Occupancy Tax*, to Budget Code A.1325 470 - \$1,000, and A.6417.0001 470 - \$4,960, to provide funding for two separate agreements with AlltheRooms, Inc. to provide internet search analysis of short term rentals through contracts with the Treasurer's Office and the Tourism Department.

Ms. Braymer asked Mr. Swan if he could provide an estimate as to how much revenue the contract with Airbnb would result in and Mr. Swan responded he felt they would receive approximately \$180,000 on an annual basis. Mr. Swan indicated the contract with AlltheRooms, Inc. would allow him to perform audits on the short-term rentals to ensure the funding they received from Airbnb, as well as the other short-term rental agencies, was the appropriate amount.

Motion was made by Mr. McDevitt, seconded by Mr. Simpson and carried unanimously to approve the request and the necessary resolution was authorized for the February 15<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting.

Proceeding with the Agenda review, Mr. Sokol advised Agenda Items 7A-B concerned the following referrals from the Public Works Committee:

- 7A) *Parks, Recreation and Railroad*- Request to amend the County Budget in the amount of \$4,000 to reflect receipt of grant funding from the Glens Falls Foundation for Up Yonda Farm.

Motion was made by Ms. Braymer, seconded by Mr. McDevitt and carried unanimously to approve the request and the necessary resolution was authorized for the February 15<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting.

- 7B) *DPW*- Request to authorize transfer of all funds collected in 2018 and going forward at the County-owned West Brook Parking Lot during special events held at Wood Park, or for parking lot rentals for special events, to the Wood Park budget for the purpose of paying invoices incurred for maintenance of the Park, and authorizing the County Treasurer to create a separate account for same.

Kevin Hajos, *Superintendent of Public Works*, advised the purpose of the revenues received through

rental of the Festival Space and parking on the Wood Park property was to pay for maintenance and operations of the Festival Space, as well as the South Parcel. He noted over the past few years the revenues raised had been not be sufficient to cover the maintenance costs of the Wood Park, and this had led the Public Works Committee to consider allowing funds raised at the County-owned West Brook Parking Lot, which was not associated with the Wood Park, during special events held at the Wood Park, or for associated rental of the parking lot, to be placed in a special account where they could be accessed to assist with the Wood Park maintenance costs. He listed the expenses incurred as being for attendants who worked during events, as well as grounds maintenance for the environmental portion of the Park. Mr. Hajos apprised in 2018 there had been a deficit of \$9,000, while the West Brook Parking Lot had raised about \$24,000; he added that he had already been notified by the Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District that the cost for work on the environmental portion of the park was anticipated to be about \$20,000 for 2019. He indicated that although the Public Works Committee had approved the requested action for 2018 revenues, he would request that this be amended to indicate the authorization was retroactive to January 1, 2018 and would continue indefinitely; he noted that the Committee could decide to withdraw this authorization at any point in the future if it was determined too much funding was being transferred to the Wood Park from the West Brook Parking Lot revenues.

Motion was made by Mr. Dickinson, seconded by Ms. Braymer and carried unanimously to approve the request as presented, retroactive to January 1, 2018 and continuing indefinitely, and the necessary resolution was authorized for the February 15<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting.

Mr. Sokol stated Agenda Items 8A-B pertained to the following referrals from the Support Services Committee:

- 8A) *Information Technology*- Request to appropriate funds in the amount of \$135,100 from the Computer Reserve Fund to various Departmental budgets for the purchase of computers and related equipment and software.

Motion was made by Mrs. Frasier, seconded by Mr. Simpson and carried unanimously to approve the request and the necessary resolution was authorized for the February 15<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting.

- 8B) *County Administrator*- Request to appropriate funds in the amount of \$37,599.94 from the Westmount Legacy Reserve to pay miscellaneous fees and expenses and to authorize payment to Today's Options due to overpayment of claims.

Mr. Moore informed that this was a Medicare Managed Care company who paid for services to four individuals who resided at the former Westmount Health Facility. He said they determined they had overpaid the County for the services provided and were due a refund in the amount of \$37,599.94. He mentioned the County had exhausted the appeal process and the funds were due back to Today's Options. Mr. Sokol questioned what the balance remaining in the Westmount Legacy Reserve was and Mr. Moore replied the balance was slightly more than \$5 million. Mr. Swan advised this was the reason he had pushed for the reserve to be established, as it provided a funding source to pay any expenses associated with the facility following the sale. Mr. Moore apprised transactions such as this one were routine in the nursing home industry and if the County still owned the facility there would be doing business with Today's Options.

Motion was made by Mr. Merlino, seconded by Mr. Strough and carried unanimously to approve the request and the necessary resolution was authorized for the February 15<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting.

Mr. Sokol advised Agenda Items 9A-B pertained to the following Request/Items to be Discussed by the County Administrator:

- 9A) Journal Reports of transfers approved by the County Administrator staff during November and December of 2018.

Mr. Moore stated a Journal Report of transfers that had been made was included within the Agenda.

In regards to the issues discussed at the Health, Human & Social Services Committee meeting regarding the NYS DOH and the transfer of ownership of the former Westmount Health Facility back to Mr. Rosenberg, Mr. Moore stated Chairman Conover had requested that he provide an update on the status. He said he had distributed an email to the full Board regarding the status of the sale which initially required the approval from the NYS DOH staff and then it was forwarded on to the Health Planning Council, appointed by the State to make the final decision. He mentioned that this particular transaction had passed staff review and their sub-Committees and was on the agenda for the Health Planning Council meeting scheduled for February 14<sup>th</sup>. He advised in his experience it was rare that something would not be approved by the Council when it had been approved by the NYS DOH staff and the Sub-Committees. He informed Travis Whitehead, *Town of Queensbury Resident*, had provided the Council with information as part of their review. He said an individual Supervisor could provide information to be included as part of the review, or if it was the will of a Committee to do so, their approval would be required; headed that if it was the will to send such a letter coming from the Board of Supervisors, Board approval was required.

Mr. Moore advised the second issue pertained the salaries of the Assistant District Attorneys, who carried heavy caseloads and were either leaving for jobs that paid higher salaries or were actively seeking employment elsewhere. He informed of the seven Assistant District Attorneys, one had resigned and three more were interviewing elsewhere. He mentioned he was working with Messrs. Thomas and Geraghty, as well as the four County Departments who employed attorneys to develop an equitable solution to address this problem. He stated the majority of salaries for positions within the County were assigned a grade based upon the qualifications required for the position, as well as the difficulty of the workload and incorporating longevity increments assigned to essentially award employees for staying with the County. He apprised those principles were being applied to the attorneys in an attempt to determine the appropriate grade and longevity increments. He stated this was a work in progress and was part of the debate involving all of the departments were impacted. He advised nothing would go before a Committee that had not been approved by the Budget Officer. He added one of the concepts they were also considering was to include an element of merit which meant the longevity increments would not be automatic as they were with most County employees represented by a union. He explained the Department Head would have the ability to determine whether an employee would earn their longevity increment. He stated they would continue to work on this and he reiterated that nothing would go before a Committee that had not been approved by the Budget Officer.

Mr. Beaty stated he would like to discuss the transfer of the former Westmount Health Facility from an employee of Mr. Rosenberg to Mr. Rosenberg, whom he felt had fooled many of the many of the Board members regarding the care provided to the residents of the Facility. Mr. Beaty pointed out since the Facility was sold, its rating had decreased from four stars to one. He stated a resident had died in an

accident which occurred because the person was not properly strapped in to a van they were riding in, and noted numerous complaints had been received from residents and their families about the service and care provided there. He said he had witnessed first hand how poor the services was at one of Centers facilities in the County last week. He opined they were obligated as a Committee, and as the full Board, to send a letter voicing vehement opposition to the sale of the former Westmount Health Facility to officially be under the name of Mr. Rosenberg, as he found this to be offensive and insulting. He said he was aware that many Board members would like this to disappear, but it was necessary for them to deal with it and take responsibility for their bad decisions and correct them. He requested that the Committee, as well as the full Board, authorize a letter to NYS DOH condemning and vehemently opposing Mr. Rosenberg taking over ownership of the former Westmount Health Facility.

Mr. Dickinson asked whether the County had any title interest in Centers and Mr. Moore replied at this point it was determined by the regulators how to handle a transfer of ownership, as the County had no responsibility to participate in that. Mr. Dickinson pointed out this was out Warren County's hands since they no longer owned the facility and the owners had the right to sell it if that was their desire.

A discussion ensued during which Mr. Simpson suggested a letter be sent to the Commissioner of the NYS DOH stating concerns with the quality of care at the Warren Center and imploring them to take action to ensure the level of care is improved for this and all nursing homes, rather than getting involved with the sale of the facility.

Mr. Loeb stated the issue regarding the quality of care for the elderly in Warren County would be discussed at the next Health, Human & Social Services Committee meeting.

Pema Reed, *Town of Queensbury Resident*, informed the seniors were a growing population in the County and she encouraged the Supervisors to work together like they had to ensure the Meals on Wheels Program in the Town of Queensbury was not taken over by Washington County. She pointed out the Supervisors were the representatives of the residents, meaning it was their job to ensure that as much action as possible was taken. With regards to the question of ownership for the facility, Ms. Reed remarked the individuals who managed Centers appeared to be criminals from her point of view and she questioned why it was ever sold. She advised some seniors she knew who were being discharged from the hospital refused to be transferred to any of the facilities owned by Centers in the region because the quality of care provided was abysmal and the residents were neglected. She commented that she believed the Board had a duty to take personal responsibility for this issue and address it with the same concern they did for the Meals on Wheels Program.

A motion was made by Mr. Simpson and seconded by Ms. Braymer to authorize a letter being sent to the Commissioner of the NYS DOH stating concerns with the quality of care at the Warren Center and imploring for them to take action to ensure the level of care is improved for this and all nursing homes rather than getting involved with the sale of the facility. Following some further discussion Mr. Sokol called the question and the aforementioned motion was carried unanimously and the necessary resolution was authorized for the February 15<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting.

Motion was made by Mr. Beaty and seconded by Mr. McDevitt to send a letter to the NYS DOH opposing the transfer and sale of Warren Center from Mr. Greenberg to Mr. Rosenberg.

Mr. McDevitt remarked a shell game was being played by Mr. Rosenberg with the NYS DOH by transferring ownership of the facility for \$10 from his employee to himself and he reminded them the reason the facility was in his employees name related to the fact that he had been deemed ineligible to purchase the facility when the County sold it because of the number of violations he had at the other facilities he owned in the State. He apprised Mr. Beaty's request would publicly put the NYS DOH on notice that this was an issue and should not occur.

A discussion ensued following which Mr. Sokol called the question and the motion and failed, with Messrs. Sokol, Simpson, Merlino, Dickinson Strough and Mrs. Frasier voting in opposition.

Mr. Moore asked for clarification that the letter the Committee had authorized to send to the Commissioner of the NYS DOH would go before the full Board for approval at the February 15<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting and Mr. Simpson replied in the affirmative. Mr. Sokol questioned whether this should be referred to the Health, Human & Social Services Committee prior to going before the full Board since they would be discussing the care provided at the facility at their next Committee meeting. Mrs. Frasier responded that they would be discussing how Mr. Loeb felt they should be more involved since he did not get any results when he discussed his concerns with the NYS DOH. Mr. Loeb elaborated that the discussion would concern how private citizens had minimal leverage when they spoke to the NYS DOH, but the County had more leverage. He said his proposal consisted of establishing an official hotline in the County to represent the citizens and to forward any complaints received by the hotline to the NYS DOH, Governor, Assemblyman Stec, Senator Little and the media to ensure the NYS DOH was doing a better job monitoring these facilities and holding their owners accountable to provide the appropriate care to their residents.

Resuming the agenda review, Mr. Sokol noted Item 9B consisted of a request to appropriate funds totaling \$249,600 from the Vehicle Reserve Fund to various Departmental budgets for the purchase of vehicles.

Motion was made by Mr. Strough, seconded by Mr. Dickinson and carried unanimously to approve the request and the necessary resolution was authorized for the February 15<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting.

Concluding the Agenda review, Mr. Sokol advised Item 10 pertained to Finance Committee action which was required on the following items as approved by the Personnel & Higher Education Committee: Personnel & Higher Education Agenda Items 3, 4A, 4B, 4F, 5, 6A and 6B.

Motion was made by Mr. Simpson, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously to approve the request and the necessary resolution was authorized for the February 15<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting.

Mr. Sokol offered privilege of the floor to anyone present wishing to address the Committee on any matter, but there was no one wishing to speak.

There being no further business to come before the Finance Committee, on motion made by Dickinson and seconded by Mr. Strough, Mr. Sokol adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sarah McLenithan, Deputy Clerk of the Board