

FINANCE COMMITTEE

September 6, 2011

PRESENT:

Lynda Scheer, Chairwoman
Lawrence Andrews
Arthur Baer
Arthur Bassin
Richard Keaveney
Jesse DeGroot
Elizabeth Young
Raymond Staats
Roy Brown

ABSENT:

Bart Delaney, Jr., notified

ALSO PRESENT:

Gail DiCosmo, Clerk
Paul Mossman
Lynn Kutski
Michaele Williams-Riordon
Attorney Chris Muller, DSS
Tal Rappleyea
Suzette Booy

PRESS: 1

Chairwoman Scheer called the meeting to order at 5:05 PM.

Real Property: S. Booy

School Tax Bill Error: This year we had to switch to a new program to print tax bills because our existing AS400 program was no longer going to be supported by the MIS department. We are using a program (TCS) which was developed by Systems East. It appears there was a problem within their tax bill program pertaining to parcel acreage on the 2011-2012 school tax bills. The program rounded the acreage for each of the tax bills that we printed (about 20,000). For example, if a parcel has 2.04 acres, the tax bill reflects just 2.0 acres. This error in the program by NO MEANS impacted the total amount of taxes due to the School Districts. I have contacted Systems East and they are working to correct the problem within their program. This WILL BE corrected before we run 2012 Town/County Taxes in December. Suzette has notified all of the School Districts that we print bills for as well as sent Press Releases to the local Newspapers.

STAR Savings Cap: School Taxes have been impacted this year by the STAR Savings Cap. The amount of STAR savings that a taxpayer receives on his/her tax bill this year could not be increased by more than 2% from the amount of their STAR savings last year. Impact of this Countywide was: \$382,539.28

Conference Request: The 2011 Fall Conference of the NYS Assoc. of County Directors of RPTS will be held 10/3/11-10/5/11 in Syracuse. Conference agenda includes topics such as: Tax Cap; Legislative Update; Meeting with ORPTS management; Formation of new Special Districts; Agricultural Districts. Suzette is the Secretary of this Statewide Association and therefore requests to attend. Eleven Continuing Education Credits will be obtained. Total Cost: \$186.00 which is budgeted. Motion by R. Brown, seconded by E. Young, carried.

Resolution Request: Update to Fees (see attached). We receive many requests for Tax Map "Shape Files" so we needed to create fees for those files as well as update other fees for services, motion by A. Baer, seconded by E. Young, carried. Refer to Finance.

County Attorney's Office: Tal Rappleyea

2005 TAX FORECLOSURE (Sir William Road, Hillsdale) [no change from last month]

Previously, the owner/Debtor had not made payments as required under her Plan, nor had she listed the property with a realtor. The Trustee made motion to dismiss the bankruptcy petition, which the Court granted the motion to dismiss, but gave the owner 30 days to make payment and list the property. As I predicted, the owner made a payment and listed the property with the

Kinderhook Group just a couple of days before the deadline. Thus, we will have to continue monitoring the bankruptcy and the realtor's progress.

2006 and 2007 TAX FORECLOSURE [no change from last month]

The CA office has again contacted the adjoining landowners to try to sell the two remaining leftover parcels but have not received any offers. If we are unsuccessful with the neighbors, we will put these properties in the next sale with the 2008 parcels.

2008 TAX FORECLOSURE [no change from last month]

We have several months before the Petition may be filed and served, but the ordering and receipt of the title reports is the first step in this new round.

McDOWELL PROPERTY (Route 66 & Water Street, Ghent)

Earlier this year the full BOS approved the commencement of a supplementary foreclosure proceeding so that we may ultimately sell this property to an individual who has offered to purchase it, rehabilitate the parcel as a tax producing lot and clean up the eyesore that currently exists.

Attached is the AG's proposed Stipulation which was received today. It releases the County from any liability for the clean-up. The Supplemental Foreclosure Petition will now be filed and served. After 90 days, assuming the owner does not file an answer, we will immediately file the Judgment and proceed with the sale to the new buyer.

UPPER HOLLOW ROAD BRIDGE (off Rte 22, Austerlitz)

The County must secure a temporary detour over a private road while construction on this bridge takes place. The full BOS and this Committee previously authorized an appraisal for the detour over the property owned by Henry Meininger. Receipt of the appraisal is expected in about 3 weeks.

Resolution Request:

Resolution to hold a Public Hearing on October 12, 2011 at 7:25 PM on the enactment of a Local Law to continue and renew the imposition of an additional mortgage tax in accordance with Section 253-I of the Tax Law, motion by A. Bassin, seconded by E. Young carried.

Resolution to hold a Public Hearing on October 12, 2011 at 7:20 PM on the enactment of a Local Law to continue and renew the imposition of an additional transfer tax on the conveyance of real property within the County of Columbia, motion by A. Baer, seconded by E. Young, carried.

DSS: P. Mossman & C. Muller

Motion to move into EXECUTIVE SESSION at 5:22 PM by L. Andrews, seconded by R. Brown, carried.

REASON: Litigation

Motion to return to REGULAR SESSION at 5:59 PM by E. Young, seconded by L. Andrews, carried.

RESOLUTION REQUESTS:

HEALTH & MEDICAL SERVICES:

Authorization to accept a onetime funding grant in the amount of \$5,100.00 from the Mental Health Association of NYS to enter into a contract with a consultant to carry out suicide prevention activities for Columbia County, motion by A. Baer, seconded by E. Young, carried.

Authorization to create and fill a PT Clerk/Typist for one calendar year to support the Dept. of Human Services/Behavioral Health Center 10 to 15 hours per week as a PT Clerk/Typist, GR 10, with a 15% Step 1 reduction, not to exceed \$10,000 per year, under Federal Salary Share, motion by J. DeGroot, seconded by A. Baer, carried.

Authorization to purchase incontinent briefs, pads and washcloths from Gremlin Medical Supply in the amount of \$71,656.54 the lowest cost provider , motion by J. DeGrootd, seconded by E. Young, carried.

HUMAN SERVICES:

Authorizing the Office for the Aging to amend the 2011 Budget and to Enter into a Contract with the Columbia County Healthcare Consortium for services related to the NY Connects Program which will be fully funded by the State, motion by A. Baer, seconded by E. Young, carried. L. Scheer abstained.

Authorizing permission for the Office for the Aging to contract with the Columbia County Healthcare Consortium for a One (1) year period beginning October 1, 2011 to provide information and assistance services to County residents for Long Term Care, motion by A. Baer, seconded by E. Young, carried. L. Scheer abstained.

Authorizing the Office for the Aging to contract with the Town of Canaan, Village of Valatie and St. Peter's Presbyterian Church to provide a location whereby congregate meals shall be served, motion by E. Young, seconded by J. DeGrootd, carried.

Authorizing the Commissioner of the Department of Social Services to fill the vacant, budgeted positions of One (1) Caseworker, FP 15, 2011 Step 1 salary of \$38,949.00; One (1) Transportation Aide, FT, GR 11, Step 1 salary of \$28,566.00, motion by A. Baer, seconded by L. Andrews, carried.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Authorization to Fill One (1) Vacant budgeted position of Full time Communication Officer, annual salary \$35,976.00 due to a resignation, motion by A. Baer, seconded by E. Young, carried.

Authorization to Fill One (1) Vacant budgeted position of PT (60 Hours) Physician at the Jail, motion by J. DeGrootd, seconded by E. Young, carried.

Authorization to Fill Three (3) vacant positions of Civil Service PT Communications Officers, per diem \$12.98-\$16.20, motion by A. Baer, seconded by L. Andrews, carried.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Authorization for the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors to execute an agreement with the United Court System for Court Cleaning and Minor Repairs for the State Fiscal Year 2011-2012, motion by A. Baer, seconded by J. DeGrootd, carried.

Authorization for the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors to award the construction contract in the amount of \$102,342.00 to Stephen Miller General Contractor of Mayfield NY (pending a formal bid check) for miscellaneous steel repairs at Bash Bish Bridge-Copake, Rossman Bridge-Stockport and Riders Mills Bridge-Chatham, motion by E. Young, seconded by A. Baer, carried.

Authorization for the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors to execute a Professional Services Agreement in the amount of \$173,601.00 with C&S Engineers, Inc. of Syracuse NY for the Provision of Land Acquisition Services (APPRAISALS, SURVEY MAPPING, ENVIRONMENTAL PHASE I, ETC) FOR THE Columbia County Airport R/W 21 end land acquisition and RSA Improvement Project, motion by L. Andrews, seconded by J. DeGrootd, carried.

Authorization for the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors to execute a Professional Services Agreement in the amount of \$5,900.00 with Ryan-Biggs Assoc. of Clifton Park NY for a structural engineering and structural analysis of the Bingham Mills Bridge which carries Bingham Mills Rd/Mill Road over Roeliff Jansen Kill in the Towns of Clermont and Livingston, motion by A. Baer, seconded by E. Young, carried.

Authorizing the Columbia County Board of Supervisors as SEQRA Lead Agent, to make a determination that the Historic Rehabilitation of Walkers Mill Bridge (BIN 3222780) Walkers Mill Road over Klein Kill in the Town of Livingston PIN 8780.15 will not have significant environmental impact, will not require an environmental impact statement and that a negative declaration be

issued by said Columbia County Board of Supervisors, motion by L. Andrews, seconded by J. DeGrootd, carried.

Authorization for the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors to execute a Professional Services Agreement in the amount of with McFarland-Johnson, Inc. of Binghamton NY in the amount of \$2,000.00, motion by E. Young, seconded by L. Andrews, carried.

Authorizing the Columbia County Board of Supervisors as SEQRA Lead Agent, to make a determination that the replacement of BIN 3342530-County Rte. 16 over the Hollowville Creek-PIN 8757.19 Town of Claverack will not require an environmental impact statement and that a negative declaration be issued by said Columbia County Board of Supervisors, motion by L. Andrews, seconded by A. Baer, carried.

Authorizing the Columbia County Board of Supervisors as SEQRA Lead Agent, to make a determination that the Columbia County Airport Runway 21 Safety Area Improvements and Obstruction Mitigation Project-Town of Ghent, will not have a significant environmental impact, will not require an environmental impact statement and that a negative declaration be issued by said Columbia County Board of Supervisors, motion by L. Andrews, seconded by E. Young, carried.

Authorization to award non-food products bid to Ginsberg's Inc., Hill & Markes, Inc., Bob Barker Co., Inc. E.A. Morse Co., Central Poly Corp., All-American Poly, Unipak Corp. and Interboro Packing Corp. for the period of October 1 , 2011 through March 31, 2012, motion by L. Andrews, seconded by J. DeGrootd, carried.

Awarding the bid for snow item #1 and Item #2 as per the attached appendix ("A") for the period from October 1, 2011 through September 30, 2012, motion by E. Young, seconded by L. Andrews, carried.

BUDGET & SALARY REVIEW:

Authorization to Install Phase III of the County Centralized Records Center in 325 Columbia Street to be installed by Innerspace Systems, Inc., motion by E. Young, seconded by J. DeGrootd, carried.

Authorization to enter into a contract with Bonadio & Co., LLP for 3rd Party Auditing services in relation to Corporate Compliance, motion by A. Baer, seconded by E. Young, carried.

FINANCE:

Authorization to give Columbia County Employees and their enrolled dependents access to order specifically listed brand name drugs from Canax on a Voluntary Basis, motion by A. Baer, seconded by J. DeGrootd, carried.

Authorization to extend the Agreement with Coxsackie Transport, motion by E. Young, seconded by J. DeGrootd, carried.

Authorizing an increase in fees for services effective October 1, 2011 in the Real Property Tax Service Agency, motion by L. Andrews, seconded by J. DeGrootd, carried.

Resolution to Hold a Public Hearing on October 12, 2011 @ 7:20 PM on the enactment of a Local Law to continue and renew the imposition of an additional transfer tax on the conveyance of real property with the County of Columbia, motion by A. Baer, seconded by E. Young, carried.

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A motion by L. Andrews, seconded by E. Young for the Chairman of the Board to contact our Bond Counsel in reference to purchasing amounts for different projects, i.e. Towne Plaza Bldg., carried.

With no further discussion a motion to adjourn at 6:11 PM by A. Baer, seconded by E. Young, motion carried.

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