

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE
May 16, 2007

NOT APPROVED

Members Present: B. Reynolds, W. Dibble, D. Fanton, W. Hall, T. Hopkins, M. McCormick, C. Crandall (*Absent: Russo, Truax*)

Others Present: A. Finnemore, L. Gridley, K. Kruger, J. Margeson, D. Roeske, E. Ruckle, W. Tompkins, **Media:** K. Doyle, Olean Times Herald; P. Jannace, Wellsville Daily Reporter

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 2:30 p.m. by Committee Chairman Brent Reynolds.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Dibble, seconded by Fanton and carried to approve the minutes of the May 7, 2007 meeting.

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING COMMITTEE FUNDING REQUEST:

The Allegany County Comprehensive Planning Committee requested an appropriation from the County Board of Legislators in the amount of \$35,000 to be utilized to fund all administrative expenses associated with the preparation of an Allegany County Comprehensive Plan, and that the funds be appropriated to the operating budget of the Allegany County Office of Development. Funds should be transferred from A1990.4 (Contingent) to A6430.4 (Development). Mr. Reynolds stated that a time frame has been worked up, and it is hoped that the plan may be done by the end of the year. Mr. Hopkins noted that if the plan is completed for the requested \$35,000, it will be very economical. A motion was made by McCormick, seconded by Dibble and carried to approve the County Comprehensive Planning Committee's request. **PREPARE RESOLUTION.**

CANEADEA WATER EXTENSION PROJECT:

Legislative Board Chairman Curtis W. Crandall requested approval to sign a petition on behalf of Allegany County relative to the Caneadea Water Extension Project. The Town of Caneadea is working on a water system extension from the existing district on the south side of Houghton, to run along State Route 19 through Caneadea and Oramel, to the Belfast town line; said extension would be roughly five miles. The process they are using is a petition process, prior to moving on to a vote, provided for within the General Municipal Law. Support will be needed from more than 50 percent of the assessed value and 50 percent of the residential properties located within the proposed water district extension. Allegany County has property along State Route 19 within this area (Solid Waste Transfer Station #1) with an assessed value of \$72,100, and therefore would have a say in whether or not this project moves forward. The basis for Mr. Crandall's request is that he feels the intention of the Board of Legislators is to promote this type of infrastructure expansion. Mr. Dibble noted that this is a good opportunity, as there are currently funding sources available. Mr. Crandall's signing of the petition will require Board approval. A motion was made by Hopkins, seconded by Fanton and carried to approve Mr. Crandall's request. **PREPARE RESOLUTION.**

CLARIFICATION OF SHERIFF'S REQUEST FOR FILLING THREE CORRECTION OFFICER POSITIONS (Approved at May 14 Ways & Means Committee Meeting)

Sheriff William Tompkins presented clarification of the rationale behind his request for filling three Correction Officer positions, which was approved at the May 14 Ways and Means Committee meeting. The Sheriff is filling three vacancies, the longest of which was open since last November due to a retirement. Although these positions may not be required by the state Commission of Correction, the Sheriff needs a certain number of people to fill shifts. Due to the Deputy Sheriff's Union contract, overtime has to be covered with full-time people. Mr. Fanton asked if figures were available to indicate true savings with hiring more full-time people when the cost of fringe benefits is considered. Sheriff Tompkins state that at this point, there is no question that we are saving money by having extra full-time people, but concurred that there is a line there where it is more costly and will ask his accountant to put together actual numbers.

Mr. Kruger questioned the status of the Unified Court System's issue with security staff numbers. Sheriff Tompkins responded that the state won't just come in and take over court security without the County giving its blessing, and he is unsure that would be the best choice. He's heard it may cost more.

Mr. Reynolds asked if the former transition team staff is working now in the Jail. The Sheriff noted the reason for much of the overtime savings is the extra people. Also discussed were the savings incurred from not transporting inmates to other counties and the extra expense involved with moving inmates from the Jail to Court.

Mr. Reynolds asked if there was a possibility of a mutual aid type of arrangement with other municipalities with holding areas within the County. Sheriff Tompkins stated the law indicates it's the County's legal responsibility once a person is committed in whatever court, they are brought here and have to be arraigned within 24 hours. Mr. Reynolds pointed out that we have to pay deputies at night to go to other localities, such as Wellsville, to pick inmates up and bring them here, and requested that the Sheriff investigate to find out if there is legally anything we can do. **SHERIFF WILL CONFER WITH COUNTY ATTORNEY.**

SALES TAX INTERCEPT IN LIEU OF MEDICAID PAYMENTS:

County Administrator John Margeson reported that, at the Budget Sub-Committee meeting earlier today, he distributed information on the concept of the state intercepting County sales tax to pay Medicaid weekly shares. The Budget Sub-Committee is going to review the information and make a recommendation at a later time. Mr. Margeson stated that NYSAC is willing to speak with legislators about the sales tax intercept, and there are pros and cons. Mr. Margeson stated he is leery of the idea at this point. The downside is that if a County wants to allow the state to intercept sales tax in lieu of their Medicaid payment, they have to pass a resolution by September 30, and once they opt in, the decision can't be reversed. Mr. Dibble expressed concern about participation in a sales tax intercept that we would be stuck with forever, regardless of whether current efforts toward legislation for state take-over of Medicaid is successful.

CROSSROADS AREA SEWER AND WATER PROJECT UPDATE:

Mr. Margeson updated the committee on the Crossroads area sewer and water project. The archeological investigation was approximately 80 percent finished late last fall prior to frost; and following a three to four month hiatus, the investigation is back on track. The system is designed to include a large storage tank, for which property has been found and a meeting is being arranged with the property owner and LaBella. An archeological investigation will need to be completed on that property also and the line to it. Mr. Margeson expects that the map, plan, and report by LaBella will be ready shortly. There was a problem with the DEC on the SEQR process, which LaBella's Mark Terrian worked out with them. Mr. Margeson stated he is comfortable with the process, but not the speed.

Once the map, plan, and report are received, there will be a public hearing. After the hearing, the entire project information will be sent to the State Comptroller to sign off on. This step could take anywhere from 90 to 270 days. Mr. Margeson would like to get through the local "machinery" as quickly as possible. The water contract with the Town of Friendship is 90 percent complete. Mr. Margeson and County Attorney Daniel Guiney met with the Town's attorney and agree in principle on oversight. Mr. Margeson noted that it's been a pleasure working with Friendship on putting together this agreement.

Mr. Margeson requested the committee's permission to negotiate on a tentative basis with Stewart Brown and Associates for grant writing assistance. There are two or three grant applications we can apply for related to the Crossroads area project, and he would like to get them on board as soon as possible. He has already made a presentation to the Budget Sub-Committee. Stewart Brown's reputation is stellar and they have an excellent track record. A motion was made by Fanton, seconded by Dibble and carried to approve the request. **COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR JOHN MARGESON AUTHORIZED TO NEGOTIATE ON A TENTATIVE BASIS WITH STEWART BROWN AND ASSOCIATES.**

REFERRALS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES:

BUDGET COMMITTEE:

The Budget Committee requests the Ways and Means Committee to investigate and discuss the possibility of overnight parking of additional County cars and report back to the Budget Committee by the end of this quarter. Discussion included that this issue has already been investigated twice, with the last time just last year when department heads were asked to justify any County vehicles being driven home at night by employees. Public Works Superintendent David Roeske pointed out that since the vehicles aren't going home at night, they are not being kept cleaned and maintained which leaves more responsibility to Public Works. Mr. Fanton asked for current figures on savings realized by parking nurses' cars. Mr. Kruger noted the last figure was \$6,000, and asserted that if anyone says parking cars doesn't save money, they're a fool. Mr. Roeske stated that several supervisors drive vehicles home because they are on 24-hour call. They do get called out quite often and Mr. Roeske is concerned he would have a hard time getting them to come out without the vehicles. One lawsuit would cost a lot more than any savings attained by parking the vehicles. Mr. Kruger agreed with Mr. Roeske on the lawsuit issue, but if a supervisor goes out at night and starts working without proper work site equipment, he still needs to wait for assistance or be open for a lawsuit. Utility companies don't take vehicles home to respond to emergencies. Mr. Roeske noted that supervisors' vehicles are equipped with emergency flares, have radio communication with the 911 center, and can contact help if needed. Quick response to accidents helps with claims. A motion was made by McCormick to park all County cars; the motion failed to receive support. Mr. Reynolds stated that if he was convinced we'd save thousands of dollars, he'd want to look at the issue again but there is not enough support to do anything more than we're presently doing. **NO FURTHER ACTION WILL BE TAKEN AT THIS TIME.**

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE:

The Public Works Department requests a resolution establishing and financing a capital account in the amount of \$41,412.40 to finance the cost of installing a 12" sanitary sewer line under the bridge on State Route 19 in Belvidere (PIN 6014.40.121, VanCampen Creek and WNY & PA RR). The funds to finance the account will come from A1990.4 (Contingent) and the capital account will be designated by the County Treasurer. It was noted that if this project is undertaken now, it will be a cost savings; if done after the bridge is completed, it could cost two to three times more. A motion was made by Fanton, seconded by Dibble and carried to approve the request. **PREPARE RESOLUTION.**

The Public Works Department requests approval to fill a Road Maintenance Supervisor (Non-Unit, Grade 5) position that will become vacant when an employee retires, as well as any subsequent positions which may become vacant as a result of promoting from within. The position is mainly responsible for the maintenance of county and town bridges. A motion was made by Dibble, seconded by McCormick and carried to approve the request. **NOTIFY HUMAN RESOURCES.**

The Public Works Department requests a resolution accepting and appropriating \$143,663 which represents an increase in the SFY 07-08 County Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) funds. The funds should be appropriated to D5112.223 (County Road - CHIPS Paving) with a like sum placed in revenue account D10.3501.00 (State Aid CHIPS). A motion was made by Fanton, seconded by Hall and carried to approve the request. **PREPARE RESOLUTION.**

ACCEPTANCE OF INSURANCE RECOVERY CHECK:

The Clerk of the Board's Office requests a resolution accepting a check in the amount of \$205 from NYMIR (New York Municipal Insurance Reciprocal) representing the cost to replace a broken windshield (cause unknown) on a Health Department 2001 Chevrolet Cavalier. The repairs were made on or around April 30, 2007. The funds should be appropriated to CS1931.429 (Risk Retention – Uninsured Property Loss) with a like sum placed in revenue account CS07.2680.00 (Insurance Recovery). A motion was made by Dibble, seconded by Hall and carried to approve the acceptance and appropriation of the above-mentioned insurance recovery check. **PREPARE RESOLUTION.**

LEGISLATIVE EXPENSES:

Vouchers for legislators' mileage and conference expenses for the period of February 27 through March 26, 2007 were reviewed. A motion was made by McCormick, seconded by Hall and carried to authorize payment of those expenses.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m. following a motion made by Fanton, seconded by Hall and carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Adele Finnemore, Journal Clerk