

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: FINANCE

DATE: AUGUST 30, 2018

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<b>COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	<b>OTHERS PRESENT:</b>
SUPERVISORS SOKOL	MIKE SWAN, COUNTY TREASURER
SIMPSON	RONALD CONOVER, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
DICKINSON	RYAN MOORE, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
STROUGH	MARY ELIZABETH KISSANE, COUNTY ATTORNEY
BEATY	AMANDA ALLEN, CLERK OF THE BOARD
FRASIER	FRANK THOMAS, BUDGET OFFICER
MCDEVITT	SUPERVISORS HOGAN
GERAGHTY	LEGETT
BRAYMER	LOEB
HYDE	MAGOWAN
	WILD
<b>COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:</b>	KEVIN HAJOS, SUPERINTENDENT, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
SUPERVISOR MERLINO	TRAVIS WHITEHEAD, TOWN OF QUEENSBURY RESIDENT
	DON LEHMAN, <i>THE POST STAR</i>
	THOM RANDALL, <i>ADIRONDACK JOURNAL</i>
	SARAH MCLENITHAN, DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD

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Please note, the following contains a summarization of the August 30, 2018 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/2018/finance/>

Mr. Sokol called the meeting of the Finance Committee to order at 10:49 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Geraghty, seconded by Mr. Beaty 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 transfer of funds as attached for Committee approval.

Motion was made by Mr. Geraghty, seconded by Mr. Beaty and carried unanimously to approve the request and the necessary resolution was authorized for the September 21<sup>st</sup> Board Meeting.

Mr. Sokol moved along to Agenda Items 2A-B which pertained to the following referrals from the Criminal Justice & Public Safety Committee, *Sheriff*:

- 2A) Request to amend the County Budget in the amount of \$350 to reflect receipt of compensation for a loss.

Motion was made by Mr. Simpson, seconded by Mr. Geraghty and carried unanimously to approve the request as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the September 21<sup>st</sup> Board

Meeting.

- 2B) Request to amend the County Budget in the amount of \$24,560.50 to reflect receipt of funds from Hadley Luzerne Central School District for SRO (*Safety Resource Officer Services*) within the School District.

Mr. Sokol asked whether this was a partial payment and the remainder would be paid at a later date and Mr. Geraghty replied he believed that was the case. Ms. Braymer apprised it was her understanding these funds were intended to provide reimbursement for the equipment required for the SRO and not for the SRO services. She added she believed the Hadley-Luzerne Central School District was the only one providing funds for the supplies. Mr. Sokol pointed out a breakdown of the reimbursement was provided in the Agenda.

Motion was made by Mr. Geraghty, seconded by Mr. Dickinson and carried unanimously to approve the request as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the September 21<sup>st</sup> Board Meeting.

Mr. Sokol advised Agenda Item 3 concerned a referral from Economic Growth & Development Committee regarding a request to authorize payment in the amount of \$7,000 to the Lake Champlain-Lake George Regional Planning Board.

Mr. Beaty voiced that he was comfortable moving forward with the payment since all of the issues had been addressed and he had confidence in Dave O'Brien, *Chairman, Lake Champlain-Lake George Regional Planning Board*; however, he noted, it was important that they be mindful of past mistakes to ensure they did not reoccur going forward. He added he was pleased the interim Executive Director had attended this month's Economic Growth & Development Committee meeting. Ms. Braymer added that she hoped action had been taken to ensure this individual would attend the Economic Growth & Development Committee meetings on a regular basis to provide updates on their organization. Ryan Moore, *County Administrator*, advised they had been added to the distribution list for the meeting calendar to ensure they were aware of when the meetings were scheduled.

Motion was made by Mr. Simpson, seconded by Mr. McDevitt and carried by majority vote, with Mr. Sokol abstaining, to approve the request as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the September 21<sup>st</sup> Board Meeting.

Proceeding with the Agenda review, Mr. Sokol apprised Agenda Item 4 concerned a referral from the Health, Human & Social Services Committee, *Mental Health*, regarding a request to amend the County Budget in the amount of \$4,482 to reflect the receipt of funding from the New York State Office of Mental Health for 2018 direct care wage enhancements.

Motion was made by Mr. Strough, seconded by Mr. Beaty and carried unanimously to approve the request as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the September 21<sup>st</sup> Board Meeting.

Mr. Sokol informed Agenda Items 5A-C pertained to the following referrals from the Public Works Committee, *DPW*:

- 5A) Request to decrease Capital Project No. H351, *CR 44 Over Hudson River Bridge Painting Project*,

in the amount of \$83,873.55 to reconcile capital project funding shares to close the capital project.

5B) Request to amend the County Budget in the amount of \$13,729.58 to increase Budget Code D.9950 910, *County Road, Transfers-Capital Projects*, in accordance with transfers of surplus local match funds from various capital projects back to the funding source.

5C) To increase Capital Project H353, *County Bridge Asbestos Abatement and Painting Project*, in the amount of \$67,437.01 to increase funding shares in accordance with NYSDOT State-Local Supplemental Agreement No. 2 and Change Order No. 1.

Motion was made by Mr. Geraghty, seconded by Ms. Braymer and carried unanimously to approve the requests as outlined above and the necessary resolutions were authorized for the September 21<sup>st</sup> Board Meeting.

Proceeding with the Agenda review, Mr. Sokol apprised Agenda Item 6A-C pertained to the following referrals from the Support Services Committee:

6A) *County Auditor*- Request for a transfer of funds in the amount of \$500 from the Contingent Account to cover the cost of supplies for the remainder of the year.

Motion was made by Ms. Braymer, seconded by Mr. Strough and carried unanimously to approve the request as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the September 21<sup>st</sup> Board Meeting.

6B) *Information Technology*-Request to appropriate funds in the amount of \$700 from the Computer Reserve Fund, *Budget Code A.895*, to Budget Code A.1355 220.1, *Real Property Tax Service Agency, Office Equipment-Reserve*, for the purchase of a computer and related equipment/software.

Motion was made by Mr. Geraghty, seconded by Mr. Dickinson and carried unanimously to approve the request as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the September 21<sup>st</sup> Board Meeting.

Mr. Sokol advised that Agenda Item 7 pertained to a Request/Item to be Discussed by the County Administrator regarding the Journal Reports of transfers approved by the County Administrator staff during July of 2018.

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

Mr. Moore mentioned he would like to discuss an item that had not been included on the agenda concerning a freezer at Countryside Adult Home that had malfunctioned on Monday resulting in a food order being cancelled. He advised this qualified as an emergency under the County's Purchasing Policy because it impacted the health and safety of the residents of Countryside Adult Home. He said according to the Purchasing Policy in this situation the Department was required to solicit competitive quotes rather than obtain bids following which they must attain approval of the Chairman on the Board and the County Attorney. He informed that Edward Corcoran, *Director, Countryside Adult Home*, had first contacted Buildings and Grounds to inquire whether they could handle the repairs and when they

advised him they could not be moved forward with obtaining quotes from four different companies to carry out the repair. He advised LaPan's Precision was the company who could respond the quickest at a reasonable rate. He mentioned the bill for the work they completed on Tuesday would be for around \$700, adding that they determined the condenser and evaporator in that freezer needed to be replaced which they were working on a quote for, but had estimated it would cost around \$6,000. He mentioned the actual cost for these repairs would be reported at a future Health, Human & Social Services Committee meeting once they had a solid figure available. Mr. Sokol inquired whether any action was required by the Committee and Mr. Moore replied in the negative.

Concluding the Agenda review, Mr. Sokol advised Item 8 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, 4 and 5A-D.

Motion was made by Mr. Simpson, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously to approve the request as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the September 21<sup>st</sup> Board Meeting.

Mr. Sokol advised prior to entering into an executive session to discuss potential settlement and ongoing litigation he would like to offer privilege of the floor to anyone present wishing to address the Committee on any matter.

Mike Swan, *County Treasurer*, stated two days ago it had been brought to his attention that SNCR (*Saratoga & North Creek Railway*) had not paid the taxes on the County Railroad property located in the Town of Hadley (Saratoga County) which meant Saratoga County would commence foreclosure procedures next week. He urged the Committee members to pay the past due taxes, as well as school taxes that would be due this September. He informed typically an expense such as this would be paid out of the Parks, Recreation & Railroad or DPW Budgets, but he surmised neither of these budgets had \$30,000 available to pay the back taxes on the property.

A discussion ensued during which Mr. Swan informed the Town of Hadley had indicated to him they had no interest in taking ownership of the property.

A motion was made by Mr. Dickinson and seconded by Mr. Strough to authorize a transfer of funds up to an amount not to exceed \$35,000 from the Contingent Account to pay the back taxes and upcoming September School taxes for the County Railroad property located in the Town of Hadley.

Ms. Braymer remarked while she was not opposed to paying the taxes she questioned why they would if they were to decide to move forward with selling the County Railroad, noting this would be a topic for discussion at the Public Works Committee meeting which was scheduled to commence immediately following the conclusion of this meeting. She pointed out they were unsure of the size and value of the property. Mr. Geraghty interjected that since a neighboring County was involved he felt the appropriate action would be to pay the back taxes on the property. He added they had the option to attempt to recoup the funds from SNCR in small claims court.

Mr. Sokol called the question and the motion to authorize a transfer of funds up to an amount not to exceed \$35,000 from the Contingent Account to pay the back taxes and upcoming September School taxes for the County Railroad property located in the Town of Hadley (Saratoga County) was carried

unanimously and the necessary resolution was authorized for the September 21<sup>st</sup> Board Meeting.

Mr. Sokol called for a motion to enter into an executive session to discuss potential settlement and on-going litigation. The necessary motion was made by Mr. Strough, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously to enter into executive session pursuant to Section 105(d) of the Public Officers Law.

Executive session was held from 11:03 a.m. until 11:13 a.m.

Upon reconvening Supervisor Sokol announced no action was taken during the executive session.

Mary Elizabeth Kissane, *County Attorney*, apprised if the Committee approved the settlement, a motion was required to deed 30 River Street back to Cynthia Commarto. Ms. Braymer asked whether this individual was the previous owner who had filed the deed after the County and had been paying the property taxes and Ms. Kissane replied in the affirmative.

A motion was made by Mr. Geraghty, seconded by Mr. Dickinson and carried unanimously to approve the settlement as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the September 21<sup>st</sup> Board meeting.

There being no further business to come before the Finance Committee, on motion made by Mr. Geraghty and seconded by Mr. Strough, Mr. Sokol adjourned the meeting a 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sarah McLenithan, Deputy Clerk of the Board