

Warren County Board of Supervisors

Committee: **FINANCE**

Date: **MAY 3, 2006**

Committee Members Present:

Supervisors Monroe
Belden
Stec
O'Connor
Bentley
Tessier
Champagne
Kenny

Committee Member Absent:

Supervisor VanNess

Others Present:

William Thomas, Chairman
Joan Parsons, Commissioner of Administrative
& Fiscal Services
Joan Sady, Clerk of the Board
Supervisor Gabriels
Supervisor F. Thomas
Supervisor Caimano
Supervisor Girard
Supervisor Barody
Supervisor Geraghty
Paul Dusek, County Attorney
Frank O'Keefe, County Treasurer
Richard Murphy, Deputy Commissioner
of Fiscal Services
Larry Cleveland, Sheriff
Patricia Tatich, Director, Planning &
Community Development
Nicole Livingston, Second Deputy Clerk

Mr. Monroe called the meeting to order at 11:15 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Stec, seconded by Mr. Bentley and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the April 5, 2006 meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk.

Copies of the Finance Agenda were provided to the committee members, and a copy of same is on file with the minutes.

Mr. Monroe referred to Item 1 on the Agenda, Request for Transfer of Funds. Motion was made by Mr. O'Connor, seconded by Mr. Stec, and carried unanimously, approving same and authorizing the necessary resolution for the next board meeting.

Mr. Monroe apprised Item 2 on the Agenda was a referral from the Criminal Justice Committee to amend the 2006 County budget to decrease estimated revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$11,805 to reflect actual grant funding received from the Care Center grant extension.

A motion was made by Mr. Belden, seconded by Mr. Stec, and carried unanimously to approve the request to amend the 2006 County budget as outlined above. The necessary resolution was authorized for the next board meeting.

Mr. Monroe stated Items 3a & b on the Agenda were referrals from the Real Property Tax Services Committee. The first, he said, was a request to transfer funds in the amount of \$20,000 from Contingent Fund (A.1990 439) to Law Consulting Fees (A.1420 437) for abstracting charges for 2007 foreclosure action.

A motion was made by Mr. Belden, seconded by Mr. Bentley, and carried unanimously to authorize the request as outlined above. The necessary resolution was authorized for the next board meeting.

Mr. Monroe expounded the next referral from the Real Property Tax Services Committee was a request to authorize the County Treasurer to advertise for the sale of County owned property, Queensbury parcel 303.20-1-12, retail building located at 27 Boulevard, by sealed bid, with a minimum bid of \$65,000 required.

A motion was made by Mr. Belden and seconded by Mr. Bentley to approve Item 3b as outlined above.

Mr. Monroe questioned if this involved a building in which only 1/3 of the property had been sold. Mr. Kenny explained the building appeared to be one building but it was not, it included two or three buildings and the County owned 1/3 of that property. He stated the potential buyer wanted the entire property.

Following the discussion the question was called and the motion was carried unanimously to approve the request as outlined above. The necessary resolution was authorized for the next board meeting.

Continuing, Mr. Monroe apprised Item 4 was a referral from the Westmount Health Facility & Countryside Adult Home Committee to amend the 2006 County budget to increase estimated revenues and appropriations not originally budgeted in the amount of \$3,500 to accept HCRA (Health Care Reform Act) Recruitment and Retention Grant funds.

A motion was made by Mr. Kenny, seconded by Mr. Champagne, and carried unanimously to approve the request to amend the 2006 County budget as outlined above. The necessary resolution was authorized for the next board meeting.

Mr. Monroe stated Item 5 was a referral from the Planning & Community Development Committee authorizing preparation of a RFP (Request for Proposal) for the design of the outdoor drama to be located in Lake George and to authorize the Institute for Outdoor Drama to update the feasibility study; Warren County will provide a minimum of \$50,000 in funding or up to 50% of the total cost associated with these activities. He acknowledged a source of funding needed to be determined.

A motion was made by Mr. Stec and seconded by Mr. Belden to approve the request as outlined above.

Mr. Stec questioned if a source of funding needed to be determined at this time and if so he would suggest the funding should come from the Occupancy Tax Budget. Mrs. Parsons replied they had tried that but the County Attorney had advised that it could not be done.

Mr. Stec explained that there had been lengthy discussion regarding this at the Planning and Community Development Committee meeting. He said he wanted to thank Supervisor Merlino and the Lake Luzerne Town Board for the work that they had done on this project. He further explained that the preferred site was Lake George because the infrastructure was in place and Lake George had approximately a \$2 million head start on what was needed to be done. He apprised there was grant funding that was tied directly to Lake Luzerne that could not be forwarded to Lake George. He concluded that he felt the \$50,000 to update the feasibility study for Lake George was appropriate.

Mr. Monroe stated the original report had indicated that Lake George was the preferred site but it was encumbered by another use at the time. Mr. Stec agreed and said that was why the Planning and Community Development Committee had supported changing the location to Lake George because the previous encumbrances at that site were gone.

Mr. Kenny expounded he felt they needed to have discussions on the feasibility of this because if the County was going to invest \$50,000 they should know how much the project would cost in the end, where the funding would be coming from and how would the County support it.

Mr. Monroe clarified that the concept was that the County would own the facility and lease it to an operator. He added that these facilities had been successful elsewhere in the Country and the convincing part for him was that the story of the *Last of the Mohicans* was known all over the world.

Discussion ensued regarding the outdoor drama facility.

Following the discussion, the question was called and the motion was carried unanimously to approve the request, as outlined, with the source of funding to come from the Contingent Fund. The necessary resolution was authorized for the next board meeting.

Mr. Monroe returned to the Agenda review and stated Item 6 was a referral from the Youth Programs Committee to amend the 2006 County budget to increase estimated revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$3,903 to accept grant funding from the Association of New York State Youth Bureaus and U.S. Tennis Association.

A motion was made by Mr. Belden, seconded by Mr. Bentley and carried unanimously to approve the request to amend the 2006 County budget as outlined above. The necessary resolution was authorized for the next board meeting.

Mr. Monroe apprised Item 7 was a referral from the Parks, Recreation & Railroad Committee to amend the 2006 County budget to increase estimated revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$32,619.88 to accept State snowmobile grant funding.

A motion was made by Mr. Bentley, seconded by Mr. Champagne and carried unanimously to approve the request to amend the 2006 County budget as outlined above. The necessary resolution was authorized for the next board meeting.

Mr. Monroe expounded Item 8 was a referral from the Support Services Committee, County Treasurer to transfer funds in the amount of \$23,500 from Contingent Fund (A.1990 439) to County Treasurer - Salaries (A.1325 110) to fund the new position of Junior Accountant through 2006.

A motion was made by Mr. Belden and seconded by Mr. Champagne to approve Item 8 as outlined above.

Mr. Belden asked the County Treasurer, Frank O'Keefe, if the funds could come out of the Treasurers' Budget for the time being and they could address any shortfalls at a later date and Mr. O'Keefe responded yes.

Mr. Kenny stated that the Occupancy Tax Law allowed for up to 10% to be taken out for administrative expenses and currently the County Treasurer was not taking anything out. He said he felt in order to help relieve the pressure on the taxpayers of Warren County, at least 1% of the Occupancy Tax funds should be assigned to the County Treasurers' Budget to assist with the occupancy tax duties.

The question was called and the motion was carried unanimously to approve Item 8 as outlined above with the source of funding to come from the Treasurers' Budget and any shortfalls could be addressed at a later date. The necessary resolution was authorized for the next board meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Belden, seconded by Mr. Bentley and carried unanimously to forward the request to the Occupancy Tax Committee to consider taking a percentage of the Occupancy Tax funds and assigning that percentage to the County Treasurer's Budget to assist with the occupancy tax duties. Mr. O'Keefe was asked to submit a request for consideration at the next Occupancy Tax meeting.

Concluding the Agenda review, Mr. Monroe noted that items approved by the Personnel Committee that required Finance Committee action were Items 1, 2, 10, 11 and 12.

A motion was made by Mr. Stec, seconded by Mr. Belden and carried unanimously to approve the aforementioned Personnel Items 1, 2, 10, 11 and 12. (Please see the minutes of the May 3, 2006, Personnel Committee meeting for details.)

There being no further business before the committee, on motion by Mr. O'Connor and seconded by Mr. Stec, Mr. Monroe adjourned the meeting at 11:37 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Livingston, Second Deputy Clerk