

PRESENT: Chair Zambito, Legislators Grasso, Hancock and Leadley. County Manager Gsell. Also Present: IT Director Zimmer, County Treasurer German, County Attorney Rizzo, Legislature Clerk Pratt, Sheriff Maha, Undersheriff Sheron, Buildings & Grounds Supervisor Ross, Assistant County Manager Ciaccia, Batavian Reporter Owens, Genesee Justice Director Minardo, Mental Health Director Reaves, Probation Supervisor Wright, Daily News Reporter Mruzak, District Attorney Friedman, GCEDC Director Hyde.

Chair Zambito called the meeting to order at 4:00PM in the Legislature Conference Room. The minutes of the June 17, 2009 meeting were approved unanimously upon motion of Legislator Leadley seconded by Legislator Hancock.

County Treasurer German and County Attorney Rizzo were present to discuss a policy question which has come up about an in rem property which was withdrawn from the Auction. Mr. German noted that the County began foreclosure on the property in question in October. Several parties were involved and the claim was presented that notice was never received. A party to ownership showed up the day of the auction and threatened a lawsuit if the property was included in the auction. The decision was made not to sell the property at that time. The owner's Attorney send a letter explaining the situation and it does seem to have some credibility. The property is now in Genesee County's name as apart of the in rem procedure. The property owner has requested because of the special circumstances that the property be reconveyed to him. The Legislature does have the legal authority to do this. The County Attorney noted that the property, if reconveyed, would not be taxable this year for town or school taxes. He suggested that these costs be figured into the transaction. The Treasurer was instructed to calculate the total amount due for past and current taxes and foreclosure costs, and offer the property owner the opportunity to buy back the property with a final date of August 31, 2009. If accepted and the date met, the property will be reconveyed. This was approved upon motion of Legislator Hancock seconded by Legislator Grasso.

Mr. German reported that sales tax collections are down year to date \$446,000.

He was pleased to be able to announce that Genesee County Bond underlying rating was elevated two notches to AA minus by Standard and Poor on June 26, 2009 based on the county's historically strong financial position coupled with a low debt burden.

Legislature Chair Hancock had inquired about the possibility of funding being available for bonding and interest costs to be covered as part of the stimulus package. Mr. German did speak with Bond Counsel but they do not recommend pursuing at this time. The funding appears to be related to taxable bonds.

Sheriff Maha requested a budget transfer to cover costs for a warranty extension for the Emergency Communications Network Servers in the amount of \$7663 from E911 Wireless Deferred. This was approved for placement on the next Legislature Agenda upon motion of Legislator Grasso seconded by Legislator Hancock.

A budget transfer in the amount of \$113,850 from Contingency was recommended to cover the cost of implementing the consolidation of the Village of LeRoy dispatch services with the County's system. A NYS Local Government Efficiency Grant has been submitted but the decision is pending State Legislative action. Should the grant be approved, the monies will be returned to the contingency fund. This was approved for placement on the next Legislature Agenda upon motion of Legislator Grasso seconded by Legislator Leadley. It was noted that the Village of LeRoy has no funding available for dispatch services after October. Chair Zambito commented that the consolidation of dispatching was a policy decision of the Legislature and is a project well worth doing. Everyone has worked very hard to make this a reality.

The Director of Emergency Communications has requested the addition of one part-time Emergency Services Dispatcher position to handle increased demands which will result from the consolidation of dispatch services between Genesee County and the Village of LeRoy. This position will be part time, non-benefited, and effective July 18, 2009. In addition, a budget transfer in the amount of \$13,144 from contingency was recommended to cover this position through the end of the year. This was approved for placement on the next Legislature Agenda upon motion of Legislator Leadley seconded by Legislator Grasso. The Sheriff indicated that they will be reviewing call volumes to determine if future adjustments are required. The Ambulance service transfer will take place effective September 1, and the LeRoy transition will become effective October 1, 2009.

A prisoner housing agreement with Ontario County effective for 2009 at the rate of \$85.00 per day to be automatically renewed on a year-to-year basis if neither party requests renegotiation was approved for placement on the next Legislature Agenda upon motion of Legislator Grasso seconded by Legislator Leadley. We also agreement with Wyoming and Monroe County is place which have shorter transport times. It is the hope that space will be ready in Orleans County again in two weeks.

Probation Supervisor Wright was present to request approval of a contract renewal with NYS for the Probation Eligible Diversion Program with funding in the amount of \$25,192 through December 31, 2009. This was approved for placement on the next Legislature Agenda upon motion of Legislator Hancock seconded by Legislator Leadley.

District Attorney Friedman requested a grant acceptance and budget amendment in the amount of \$15,000 from the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services Byrne Jag Grant for Video Recordings of Statements Equipment. The County originally included the State Police in its application and this was not allowed under the grant terms. The amount received was much less than applied for and he will be meeting with involved agencies to come up with an alternate plan for action. This was approved for placement on the next Legislature Agenda upon motion of Legislator Grasso seconded by Legislator Leadley.

Mr. Friedman requested permission to apply for the annual Aid to Prosecution Grant which is used in his Department to offset county expenses. Permission was approved upon motion of Legislator Leadley seconded by Legislator Grasso.

Genesee Justice Coordinator Minardo requested a budget transfer to expend funds on two grants which expire in September of this year. This was approved for placement on the next Legislature Agenda upon motion of Legislator Grasso seconded by Legislator Leadley.

Assistant County Manager Ciaccia and Facilities Management Supervisor Ross were present for a Department Review. Mr. Ciaccia reported that Facilities Management is responsible for maintaining 15 buildings with square footage of over 244,000 square feet on a daily basis. They make sure the spaces are clean and safe for the county employees and the public. He believes they are doing an excellent job. The Department budget is \$1.8 million and they do bring revenue into the County with the Court Facilities contract with the City and State, and the Old Courthouse Bankruptcy Court contract. They also receive revenue from Job Development. They do a good job of keeping costs down and a preventative maintenance program has been implemented and is being followed. The Department has been able to cut down on past overtime costs. The Sheriff's Building Roof Replacement Project will begin the last week in August and is expected to take 5 weeks. Mr. Ciaccia foresees the need for more efficient energy and a study has been initiated. Energy costs are \$1.3 million for gas and electric and have been increasing about 5% annually. Wendall Energies of Buffalo will be conducting the energy study and NYSERTA has been contacted about possible grant funds to implement recommended changes. Legislator Leadley inquired about the status of the Records Management shelving projects. Mr. Ciaccia reported that they have been working in two buildings and the area in CB#2 has been gutted. County Records Management Officer Conklin has pricing for the shelving.

The following referrals from the Human Service Committee were approved for placement on the next Legislature Agenda:

Budget Amendment-MH/Equipment in the amount of \$1875 with no increase in County cost was approved upon motion of Legislator Leadley seconded by Legislator Hancock.

Salary Schedule Amendment-MH/Clinical Social Worker upon motion of Legislator Leadley seconded by Legislator Grasso.

Grant Acceptance/Budget amendment-Youth Bureau/USTA Eastern Grant for Tennis in the amount of \$700 was approved upon motion of Legislator Leadley seconded by Legislator Hancock.

Amendment to Genesee County Youth Board by-laws was approved upon motion of Legislator Leadley seconded by Legislator Hancock.

Legislator Leadley reported that the Libraries made their Agency Review and will be requesting level funding for 2010.

County Manager Gsell reported that the Senate has not been able to take action on the additional 1% sales tax legislation due to their continuing power struggle. There is pending legislation which would make the additional 1% extension requests a local option. Departments are being consulted about their 2010 budget requests.

The reappointment of Social Services Commissioner Kirkpatrick through July 30, 2014 was approved for placement on the next Legislature Agenda upon motion of Legislator Hancock seconded by Legislator Leadley. The Committee commended Mrs. Kirkpatrick for her excellent job.

At 5:15PM the Committee adjourned to Executive Session upon motion of Legislator Hancock seconded by Legislator Grasso for an update from the GCEDC Executive Director. No action was taken and the Committee returned to Regular Session at 6:00PM and adjourned.

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Charles Zambito, Chair  
Ways & Means Committee

Submitted 07/09/09 cpp