

**COMMITTEE DAY  
LAKE PLEASANT, NY  
MONDAY  
JULY 23, 2012**

**CENTRAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE  
10:00 AM**

Present: Ermina Pincombe, Rick Wilt, and Bob Edwards

Also present: Bill Farber, Brian Wells, Clark Seaman, Neil McGovern, Brian Towers, Sheriff Abrams and Pete Klein, Press

The Sheriff reported to the committee that in the beginning of July the Office of the NYS Commissioner of Corrections came to evaluate the jail. We received high regards and they were very impressed with it.

There will be an issue for next year that he was warned about; there is a need for a dietician for the jail meals. A dietician will have to sign off on the menu at the end of each month after the food has been served and then the dietician can make the necessary changes or recommendations to them.

The Office of the Commissioner of Corrections is willing to work with us because of our situation, some months we have inmates and sometimes we don't have anyone.

The Sheriff reported that he has already discussed this with Bill and they could draw up a contract as they do with other individuals for these types of situations. The Sheriff would like to start this January of 2013.

The Sheriff stated that he has someone who is interested in doing this and is a Registered Licensed Dietician. She is a former resident with strong ties to the area still and is willing to do this for a small stipend.

Staffing is another issue that the Sheriff wanted to discuss. One of the weekend individuals did not pass the test. There is an active list and he will have to hire from that and will be doing interviews this month. He will be able to keep the individual who did not pass on until September 21, 2012.

The Sheriff wanted to let the Committee know that New York State Court Security is cutting his funding from \$39,000 to \$33,000. Their logic is putting a door up by the Court Room and when the Judge is here on days when there isn't any court the Judge won't need security due to the new door. The Judge and the Sheriff's Office are not happy about this. Phone calls have been made and they are hoping for a meeting.

Bill explained the contract with the State.

Brian asked if we still want to take the \$25,000 for the door. Bill stated that maybe they need to have a conversation with Tracy regarding buildings and the pros and cons of putting that door in place.

The Office of Court Administration has pushed some building changes here and in Indian Lake over the years that have changed the buildings and we as a County have been pretty much hands off and accepted their plans. Perhaps the Building Committee should be looking at some of these changes before they get made to offices.

Through Emergency Management and the Sheriff's Office they decided to buy a new ID machine for credentialing, especially with Fire and EMS. With the system they purchased they are able to design four different cards. There is a resident card, an official card, a Fire card and an EMS card. They would like to charge \$5.00 for resident cards.

The Sheriff praised Don Purdy for all the time and effort he has put into the new grant. We didn't receive any money for the first round but are hoping to capitalize on the second round. They are hoping to do a microwave link with this money. Also to create a real 911 system, running it through the jail. The Sheriff would like to upgrade to enhanced 911, most counties are going to the next generation upgrade.

Disposal of property, the Sheriff has four KR10 radar units which still work even though they are very outdated. He is looking for permission to see if he could send out a message through the Association to see if anyone was interested in them.

The Sheriff also has some overtime issues. The jailers have been doing a lot of back filling at the jail. He has been using jail staff for overtime instead of taking a Deputy off the road. He feels that he will probably be asking for money in the fall because his budget may be short.

Their arrests are up 26 compared to this time last year.

The Sheriff reported that his Sergeant is at training now for bath salts. Bath salts are in the area and EMS will encounter this. Inlet had a situation this past weekend with an individual on bath salts.

The Sheriff stated that he has two military vehicles here and they are at any town's disposal. He is putting a request in for this Saturday for another vehicle.

**PUBLIC WORKS/SOILD WASTE  
AND BUILDINGS COMMITTEE  
10:30 AM**

Present: Brian Towers, Clark Seaman, Bob Edwards, Brian Wells, Ermina Pincombe, Rick Wilt,

Also present: John Frey, Bill Farber, Neil McGovern Tracy Eldridge, Pete Klein, Press and two bidders

Bid Opening

Spec. 10-2012 One New and Unused Tandem Truck Tractor 2013 Model

1. Mohawk Valley Freightliner	\$119,632.00
2. Novistar, Inc.	\$118,368.00
3. Kenworth of Buffalo	\$119,632.00
4. Tracey Road Equipment	\$115,689.00

A motion was made to accept the bids and refer them to committee per Mr. Towers, seconded by Mr. Wilt. Carried.

Tracy stated that he will review all the bids to make sure they meet the specs before a recommendation is made.

Tracy reported the DEC grant for Flood Mitigation for the Irene and Lee storms was awarded at \$324,379 for our six projects. Tracy reviewed the six projects.

Tracy will meet with Soil & Water, the Town of Wells and Lake Pleasant to discuss permits and money for the projects that are town specific.

Tracy reported they are moving out of Inlet, the bridge is almost done except for a one day paving job that will be done in September.

Solid Waste – Tracy discussed his wish list that he would like to purchase through the recycling grant. 6 containers for mix paper to be placed around the different towns at \$42,000. Replace the roll-off trailer at \$30,000 and replace the bailer that smashes tin cans for \$15,000. He is also looking into paying 50% of the Road Tractor we just opened bids on; in real dollars it would be 25% of the total purchase amount. The recycling building in Indian Lake at \$25,000, similar to the one we have in Lake Pleasant, same design and then 5 misc. roll-off containers for recycling and/or transport for an approximate total amount of \$204,500 and our award would be \$102,250 at 50%.

Tracy then introduced Irene and John Hutchins from Ambit Energy. After Irene finished reading a letter to them, she asks if the County Supervisors would be open to them submitting a bid.

Irene read an Ambit Energy update to the Committee. After a short discussion Irene asked if the County would be open for them to submit a bid. Tracy stated they would need to look at the current supplier, and also look at Ambit. The County needs to decide if they would want to bid this out.

Bill stated it is really a process, the County first needs to make a decision to go to bid, and then we need to develop the bid, advertise, open to any eligible bidders, and open the seal bids as we do for other bids.

Bill would like MEGA to come in this year and answer questions that our Board has. And then they can decide in the early fall if this is something we want to go out to bid.

Brian T. asked Irene from the first presentation how they compared apples to apples. What we are really bidding here is a fix price and is that what you are really going to do? John stated that he doesn't think it would be a fixed price. They just guarantee being 1% lower than the incumbent, the current provider. Discussion continued.

Rick stated that they previously spoke about bidding out heating oil in August due to prices being lower and at a fixed price. Bill would like a round table discussion on this. Wells and Lake Pleasant Central Schools have bid large drop deliveries and received a significantly lower price than what the County received. Their thought was maybe we want to bring them all in or separate differently. Historically we have avoided opening this up to the towns because vendors wanted to drop large volumes, maybe we want to look at two bids. One bid for large drops and one for small drops.

Brian T. asked what the difference is between large volume drops and the small volume drops. Tracy stated typically a large drop is where they would come in with a transport.

Tracy stated that September won't be too late to put out the bids and the Committee agreed.

Tracy will reach out to Indian Lake, Long Lake and Wells schools for bidding. Rick volunteered to speak with Wells and Lake Pleasant Schools for Tracy.

**PUBLICITY, TOURISM, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
AND PLANNING COMMITTEE  
11:35 AM**

Present: Clark Seaman, Brian Wells, Ermina Pincombe, and Neil McGovern

Also present: Brian Towers, Bob Edwards, Rick Wilt, John Frey, Bill Farber Ann Melious and Pete Klein, Press

Neil stated that Ann is here to speak to the Committee on our declining population issue, lack of growth etc.

Ann handed out information and wanted to discuss economic development planning ideas for the County.

Ann stated that we have twice as many people dying than we do in births. Bill stated they use the 2010 numbers as a foundation and if that number is flawed all of the numbers will be flawed until the 2020 census. Some formulas are used in areas where there is a high transit population, second homes and he feels they do not provide accurate estimates.

Neil stated our situation is very unique, just like Lions, Nebraska who has a population of 851 which is very close to Lake Pleasant, but these places are rarely tourist places or second homeowners. So we need services for way more than the usual places.

Neil spoke about being an aging community and we are not adding enough young families to sustain schools.

Ann stated we are talking about the demographics of our communities, the median age is 51.

Ann stated there are great things about living in Hamilton County; we just need more people to know about them. We are also going to be promoting broadband, work at home jobs and the ability to have the quality of life you can find in the Adirondacks if you wanted to build a web-based business.

We have also thought about providing incentives for younger entrepreneurs, we would like people who have a family or are going to have a family. We want them to stay in our communities for a long time, enroll in the schools, join the fire departments etc. The thought was to take a piece from the proposed legislation and offer things such as incentives to business owners who live in the County and if they make a profit after three years, they can get some of their college debt erased.

Bill asked what the means for erasing college debt is. Ann stated they talked about up to \$10,000.00. Bill asked who erased it, who paid for it. Ann stated they were looking at Federal dollars. Bill thinks it's a great idea.

Also there could be tax credits for new businesses that renovate in specified areas or hire employees locally, they would receive renovation credit in year one and additional credits for several subsequent years.

Brian T. asked Ann how this differs from what we are trying to do with the IDA and some of the pilot programs. Ann state she feels we are looking at smaller amounts in investing. Bill and Brian T. discussed the pilot programs.

Neil stated that there are some goals that Ann and he would like to get some feedback and consensus on that are more localized and doable. Clearly any localized planning effort we are hoping to get into the Regional Council money. Neil continued to discuss localized planning.

Neil asked if every town in the County has programs for fire departments such as length of service awards and some members stated no. Neil then asked who does, Indian Lake, Lake Pleasant and Piseco are the only ones who do. In those who do, does LOSAP pertain at all to your EMS, and they answered yes. Neil feels these are some of the things that we can use to encourage younger people.

Brian T. stated in regards to the length of service his understanding is that all of their data indicates it does not attract new people, it just maintains what you already have.

Neil stated that everyone should check out Adirondack Good Life website; it has some personalized articles on individuals that have made the choice to relocate here.

Ann stated that we need more housing and that will be in the planning stage. In some areas they have aimed specifically at Artist and Artisans for incentives, they basically give them scholarships to create a loft space and live in a Community or renovate a building and that is an option for downtown areas. Artisans also do a lot of business over the internet selling their goods.

One other thing that they did with the Federal Legislation was create a Venture Capitalist Fund for communities to administer. The way a venture capitalist fund would differ from IDA low interest loans is it would not carry the restriction that 70% of the money goes too low to moderate income persons. It is higher interest return but it is now a loan, you don't get your return until a specified time, 5 to 7 years. So you basically become an investor in that business and it is usually higher risk businesses.

Neil would like everyone to get back to Ann and he as to what level do they see them aggressively going towards this. Addressing Cornell's dead County talk, he feels the numbers started skewed and they will continue to track that way.

Bill stated that the trends are headed in the wrong direction whether the numbers are correct or not. Bill feels housing affordability for some of those people is an issue in this County. We need to figure out how to get at the housing affordability piece because there are a finite number of jobs available in the County that offer the kinds of incomes that would allow someone to move here and take advantage of the housing stock that is here. If we don't get a work force we won't

get economic development, we will get entrepreneurs that can do business from here that can do business from anywhere, but you won't create economic development in terms of employers.

Neil stated keeping whom we have is job one and we build from there. Neil continued to discuss. This would be approximately a ten year project. He feels this will require some grand ideas that involves us making sacrifices including to get the State on board to commit money; we will have to be willing to meet on a couple of key issues. One is consolidation; we need to look at the school districts, and ourselves to see what we can consolidate, not just because it's the right thing to do but because this particular Governor is very fond of this notion. The other is we have not received a 1% increase in Sale Tax but perhaps we need to offer some pool of money ourselves if we are going out looking for these types of grants to the point that we may have to offer that ½ of 1% Sales Tax to be dedicated to this mission to keep and promote the growth of Hamilton County.

John stated he was hoping Neil was talking in the future pool of money, because he has been looking at the budget and he hasn't seen a pool.

Neil stated we will have to show good faith and pain if we are going to go to the State, whether it be the Regional Council Economic Development monies or not.

Rick stated that he agreed with Neil when he spoke about present industries and businesses, we need to try to keep them here, if we lose one, we have to hunt for a new one.

The committee went on to discuss the ½ percent of the Sales Tax and that they had plans to use it under the Highway Department for infrastructure such as roads and bridges, discussion continued.

Ann stated that without a plan we won't be able to move forward. The Regional Economic Development Council through the Tourism Committee are looking at ways to get funding to tourism; it will if it corresponds with a planning effort, it outlines where your tourism hubs are in various locations within the County. If there is a destination plan where you could develop lodging, where you have options for retail and restaurants etc. This would put us ahead for this process for funding. We need to plan for more than just tourism.

As there was no further business, the meeting ended.