

SENECA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

REGULAR MEETING

January 8, 2008

7:00 p.m.

Call to Order

Chairman Lafler called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call of Members by the Clerk

All members of the Board of Supervisors were present.

Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

Following a moment of silence, Mr. Reynolds made a motion to suspend the rules of order. Mr. Same seconded the motion. Mrs. Amidon made a motion to appoint Suzanne Sinclair as Seneca County Manager. Dr. Dresser seconded the motion. The motion carried.

RESOLUTION APPOINTING SUZANNE SINCLAIR

COUNTY MANAGER FOR SENECA COUNTY

RESOLUTION NO. 02-08, moved by Mrs. Amidon, seconded by Dr. Dresser and unanimously adopted by 750 ayes.

WHEREAS, the Seneca County Board of Supervisors has offered employment to Suzanne Sinclair as County Manager; and

WHEREAS, Suzanne Sinclair has accepted said offer and agreed to begin work for the County of Seneca effective January 01, 2008 for a four-year term as outlined under Local Law No. 9, Year 2007 and public referendum; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Seneca County Board of Supervisors appoints Suzanne Sinclair, Seneca County Manager effective January 01, 2008 in accordance with Local Law No. 9, Year 2007 and the employment offer letter signed by Chairman Edward Barto dated November 14, 2007.

Chairman Lafler called a recess of the County Clerk to administer the oath of office to Ms. Sinclair. After the oath of office was administered, the Board reconvened.

Petitioner

Michael Lambert, Seneca County resident, appealed to the Board of Supervisors to take a pro-active role in the future development of the former depot property.

Submission of Claims for Audit

Motion to approve vouchers for payment made by Mr. Mooney. Second by Mr. Smith. All present voted in favor.

Supervisors vouchers	#1- 187	totaling	\$278,726.72
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OFA vouchers	#1 - 47	totaling	\$61,679.33
Workforce Development vouchers	#1 - 13	totaling	\$23,079.09
Insurance vouchers	#1 - 4	totaling	\$29,418.38
Jail Capital Project vouchers	#1 - 3	totaling	\$49,703.50
Sheriff vouchers	#627 – 679	totaling	\$110,214.31
Highway Transportation vouchers			
Maintenance & State Snow	#1 - 23	totaling	\$92,787.01
Highway Machinery	#1 - 30	totaling	\$60,017.35

Reports of Standing Committees

Public Safety & Jail Construction Committee: Mr. Shipley, Chairperson, reported that the committee recommended a board resolution authorizing to fill the vacant 3rd Assistant Public Defender position. The committee also recommended a board resolution authorizing a grant application sponsored by NYS Office of Homeland Security for the UHF data Radio Network.

Indian Affairs Committee, Dr. Dresser, Chairman, reported that Secretary of the Interior Kempthorne denied proposals from the St. Regis Mohawks and the Stockbridge Muncie tribe to build casinos in the Catskills on grounds that they were too far from their reservations. Dr Dresser stated, “This decision is of considerable significance to the Cayuga Indian Nation, which is seeking a casino in the Catskills. It may incline the Nation to seek a Class III casino in or near Seneca County or Cayuga County. Both counties are on records as supporting a Catskill casino for the Cayugas if the tribe will forever relinquish claim to sovereign land in the counties, but that leverage appears last with the recent Kempthorne decision.”

Dr Dresser also reported that Assemblyman Townsend wrote to State Attorney General Cuomo asking him to join sixteen other states by submitting an amicus curiae brief to the U.S. Supreme Court in support of the State of Rhode Island in its appeal of a decision by Secretary Kempthorne to grant trust status to land owned by the Narraganset Indian Tribe. “This is of significance to us because it is the first such appeal from a state which, like New York, was one of the thirteen original colonies.” A copy of Dr Dresser’s report was filed with the Office of the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors.

Presentation

Wildlife Watch, Inc., Peter Muller, Committee to Abolish Sport Hunting. A slideshow was presented supporting the preservation of wildlife at the former army depot and in opposition to a proposal for a canned hunting program.

Chairman’s Remarks

Chairman Lafler recognized Aaron Teichner, son of former supervisor for the Town of Varick, Joan Teichner. Mr. Teichner, who is on active duty in Iraq, was home for a brief period before returning

to Iraq. Mr. Teichner thanked the Board of Supervisors, citizens of Seneca County and county employees for the support shown to him and to all the men and women on active duty.

County Manager's remarks

Ms. Sinclair thanked the Board of Supervisors for entrusting the position of county manager to her, and especially thanked Chairman Barto. She also thanked Patsy Amidon and David Dresser, as they were members of the search committee that recommended her.

Communications

1. From NYS Office for the Aging, a copy of the revised Notification of Grant Award (NGA) for the Health Insurance Information, Counseling and Assistance Program (HIICAP) for the period April 1, 2007 through March 31, 2008.

2. From the NYS Sheriffs' Association, a copy of its 2007 Annual report.

3. A copy of the minutes from the Seneca County Agriculture Enhancement Board November 7, 2007 meeting.

4. A copy of the minutes from the Finger Lakes Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc's. November 4, 2007 meeting.

5. A copy of minutes from the InterCounty Association of Western New York November 16, 2007 meeting.

6. A copy of minutes from the Seneca County Board of Health's December 19, 2007 meeting.

7. A copy of minutes from the Western Finger Lakes Solid Waste Management Authority's October 15, 2007 meeting.

The following communications were received and referred to the committee indicated:

8. From the NYS Sheriffs' Association, a letter dated December 14, 2007 regarding the current contract with AT&T (now Global Tel*Link), due to expire on July 29, 2008. Referred to the Public Safety Committee.

9. From NYS Office for Small Cities, a letter dated December 28, 2007 regarding request for Federal Assistance Expenditure Form. Referred to the Planning, Development, Agriculture & Tourism Committee.

10. From the NYS Sheriffs' Association, a letter dated December 14, 2007 regarding the current contract with Government Payment Services (GPS) due to expire on October 14, 2008. Referred to the Public Safety Committee.

Resolutions and Motions

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENT FOR FORENSIC SERVICES BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF MONROE AND COUNTY OF SENECA FOR PERIOD JANUARY 1 2008 THROUGH DECEMBER 31 2008

RESOLUTION NO. 03-08, moved by Mr. Shipley, seconded by Mrs. Amidon and unanimously adopted by 750 ayes.

WHEREAS, the County of Monroe Public Safety Laboratory operates a regional crime laboratory (hereinafter referred to as laboratory) that provides forensic laboratory services to counties within the Genesee/Finger Lakes region; and

WHEREAS, the County of Seneca is desirous of receiving continued services from the laboratory; and

WHEREAS, the County of Monroe has notified the Sheriff of Seneca County that the contract fee for 2008 will be \$12,600.00; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Chair of the Board of Supervisors is hereby authorized and directed to execute the contract documents consistent with the terms hereof.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN TO APPLY FOR PUBLIC SAFETY INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS GRANT

RESOLUTION NO. 04-08, moved by Mr. Shipley, seconded by Mr. Hayssen and unanimously adopted by 750 ayes.

WHEREAS, the New York State Office of Homeland Security has released the competitive Public Safety Interoperable Communications Grant program intended to improve multi-jurisdictional and multi-disciplinary communications; and

WHEREAS, if awarded, this program would provide up to \$1.3 Million towards purchasing a county-wide 800 MHz radio system that would combine Seneca County law enforcement, fire, emergency response, emergency medical and State agencies into a county-wide secure public safety data network, improving emergency response and dispatch, all-hazards mitigation, and improving public safety; and

WHEREAS, this radio system has a cost of \$1.62 million dollars, of which Seneca County and the local municipal departments share would be \$320,000 over two years; and

WHEREAS, if awarded, the grant will provide a far more cost effective data network system than other, comparable technologies, and has been endorsed by the Seneca County Emergency 911 Advisory Committee at their December 11, 2007 meeting; and

WHEREAS, this Office of Homeland Security grant application must be submitted no later than January 15th, 2008; and

WHEREAS, this resolution has been reviewed and approved by the Public Safety Committee on January 8, 2008; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors be authorized and directed to sign all necessary documentation to submit this application for the New York State Office of Homeland Security Public Safety Interoperable Communications Grant program.

**SUPERVISORS AUTHORIZE FILLING THE POSITION OF
3rd ASSISTANT PUBLIC DEFENDER**

RESOLUTION NO. 05-08, moved by Mr. Shipley, seconded by Mr. Mooney and unanimously adopted by 750 ayes.

WHEREAS, the 3rd Assistant Public Defender position in the Public Defender's Office has remained vacant for several years; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors approved funding for this position in the 2008 Budget; and

WHEREAS, the Public Defender has requested that the position be filled immediately to assist with the caseload within the department; and

WHEREAS, the filling of this position has been recommended by the oversight committee for Public Safety on January 8, 2008; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors authorizes the vacant position of 3rd Assistant Public Defender be filled immediately.

New Business

A discussion was held regarding the enforcement of the collection of taxes on sales of fuel and cigarettes made by non-Indian consumers from Indian owned enterprises. Mr. Barto stated that he understood that without the collection of the taxes there would be a \$200 million dollar shortfall in the state budget by April. Dr. Dresser said that the NYSAC Native American Affairs Committee was in the process of scheduling a meeting with the Governor during the NYSAC Winter Conference later in the month. The discussion resulted in a decision for Chairman Lafler to write a letter urging the Governor to enforce the law by collecting sales taxes. Another purpose of the letter was to continue to send a message to the Governor that Seneca County Board of Supervisors continue to stand firm on said issue.

Special Order of the Day

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.