

Seneca County Board of Supervisors

Regular Meeting

January 10, 2012

8:00 p.m.

Call to Order

Acting Chairman Shipley called the meeting to order at 8:05 p.m.

Roll Call of Members by the Clerk

Thirteen members of the Board answered roll call. Chairman Hayssen was absent.

Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

Petitioner

Lucille Povero, a resident of Seneca Falls, came to the podium to comment regarding Atheists in the Office of the Aging. A copy of her statement was filed as a Board Communication.

Submission of Claims for Audit

WHEREAS, the following vouchers having gone through the proper auditing process;
now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that said bills be approved for payment.

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|---------------------------------|---------------|----------|---------------|
| Supervisors vouchers | # 1 - 89 | totaling | \$ 140,612.65 |
| Workforce Development vouchers | # 1 - 16 | totaling | \$ 20,452.98 |
| OFA vouchers | # 1 -58 | totaling | \$ 58,695.31 |
| Self Insurance vouchers | # 1 | totaling | \$ 146.30 |
| County Airport vouchers | # 1 | totaling | \$ 291.68 |
| Sheriff | #1 - 47 | totaling | \$ 155,833.82 |
| Highway Transportation vouchers | | | |
| Maintenance & State Snow | # 1 - 20 | totaling | \$ 69,457.62 |
| Highway Machinery | # 1 - 30 | totaling | \$ 13,100.23 |
| | Highway Total | | \$ 82,557.85 |
| Water & Sewer | # 1 - 15 | totaling | \$ 20,107.69 |
| Veterans Capital vouchers | # 1 - 2 | totaling | \$ 4,270.00 |

Reports of Standing Committees:

Planning, Development, Agriculture & Tourism Committee – Mrs. Amidon, Chair. The Committee approved a MICRO loan to Chad Phenés for \$25,000 at 5% for seven years. This financing will help the business with equipment purchases. This project will create three (3) full-time jobs.

Collateral will be a lien on business assets and personal guarantee. The business is located at 93 Auburn Road, Seneca Falls, New York.

Public Safety Committee – Mr. Reynolds, Chairman. The Committee discussed the options for a location for the 911 Back Up Center, currently located at 44 W. Williams Street and in poor condition. It would be beneficial to the county citizens if the back up center were located in a separate water/sewer district and phone exchange from the primary 911 Center. There may be space available at 60 State Street, Seneca Falls, when the Village offices close and Fayette Fire Department has offered space at the Fayette Fire House. Finger Lakes Communications and Verizon have provided the below estimates to move their equipment and install any needed new equipment to a new site. Verizon = \$17,249 and Finger Lakes Communications = \$886,000.

The County Engineer will meet with Popli Design Group, the contractors for the renovation project of the courthouse, to see what the cost would be to renovate the current back-up site. The Committee will continue the discussion at its next meeting.

Indian Affairs Committee – Mr. Shipley, Chairman. The Committee approved a resolution authorizing Seneca County representatives attending the NYSAC meeting to meet with our legislators and remind them of the pressing need for action on the issue of the collection of sales and excise taxes on sales by Indian tribes to non-Indians of gasoline, Indian-produced tobacco products and other commodities,

Public Health Services Committee – Mr. Earle, Chairman. The Committee approved a contract, not to exceed \$5,000 with Barton and Loguidice, P.C. for engineering services for the Public Health Department. The Public Health Department is required to have the availability of a Professional Engineer for the review and approval of plans for mobile home parks, reality subdivisions, new campgrounds, temporary residences, water systems and septic systems. The County Engineer will be providing these services for most of the Departmental needs. However, it will be necessary to continue to have a contract with Barton and Loguidice, P.C. for any activities that the County Engineer may be unable to perform.

Public Works Committee – Mr. Kaiser, Chairman. The Committee discussed establishing a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), which identifies capital projects and equipment purchases, provides a planning schedule and identifies options for financing the plan. It was agreed that the County Manager would review information that Mr. Kubasik obtained from the NYS Comptroller's office on creating a CIP step-by-step and return to the Committee with his findings.

Government Operations Committee – Mr. Westfall, Chairman. The Committee approved the following: (1) create a new Technology Committee under §154(1) New York State County Law; (2) to declare property in the Seneca County Sheriff's Office, Board of Elections, and Highway departments as surplus.

The Committee held a discussion regarding the current process for board meetings and committee meetings and how they can be more efficient and time managed so issues will be given enough time for consideration by the committees. The County Manager will work with the Clerk of the Board, the County Attorney and department heads and present to the Committee options for the supervisors to hold their committee meetings and board meetings. The issue will be addressed by the Committee at its next meeting.

Finance, Assessment & Insurance – Mr. Prouty, Chairman. The Committee approved the following: (1) a contract between County and Beverly Animal Shelter to provide an annual amount of \$28,500 to aide in the sheltering and spay/neuter services; (2) contracts to provide funding for the Finger Lakes Library System (\$5,670) and for each of the five libraries in Seneca County (\$8,181 for the Ovid, Interlaken and Lodi libraries; \$10,650 for the Seneca Falls and Waterloo libraries).

The Committee discussed a contract to fund Options for Independence for \$5,000 for 2012. The motion was made by Mr. Shipley, seconded by Mr. Serven and failed by 3 nays (Davidson, Kubasik, and Prouty) and 2 ayes (Shipley, Serven).

Chairman's Remarks

Acting Chairman Shipley read the following statement on behalf of Chairman Hayssen:

“First of all, I would like to apologize for my absence. As politicians say, I had a prior commitment, that being said, thank you for your support.

You have your committee assignments and the individual appointments will be made at the next meeting as well as the appointments by resolution.

I hope you have noticed that the Personnel, Technology and Public Health Committees are like a block with all of the same five members. The Committees of Mental Health and Human Services are also set up the same way. The Public Works and Public Safety Committees are a modified block.

Hopefully, these blocks will help to improve the Committee Meeting process. The Committee meetings need changing for the better. I'm asking the BOS, Mitch and the department heads to give this some brain storming so we can develop a better and a more productive meeting process.

We need time for the department heads to give us information and five minutes is not enough time. I look at it this way. The department heads put in a lot of time and effort throughout the year. I'm sure they would like to have the opportunity to tell their story from time to time and keep us updated on what is going on in their departments.

The most important thing I did last week was to have an almost three hour lunch on Wednesday with Mitch. We discussed everything and I can tell you, Mitch is excited about

starting his job as our County Manager. I left excited knowing this and knowing Mitch is ready and already up to speed.

To me, it was fun and rewarding, watching our first agenda come together. Margaret was also excited and enthusiastic working with Mitch, Frank Sinicropi and Frank Fisher.

I think we are on to something here. It's only going to get better and the 14 of us working together, with our staff will see great successes on behalf of the people of Seneca County.

Lastly, our department heads. During the selection process for our new County Manager, they supported Mitch, not only as a friend, but they knew he was the right person for the job and the right person for Seneca County. So, Department Heads, thank you, for helping to steer us in the right direction."

Communications

1. A copy of the Seneca County Planning Board meeting minutes for December 8, 2011.
2. A copy of the Seneca County IDA Board meeting minutes for December 1, 2011.
3. A copy of the Genesee / Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council meeting minutes for December 8, 2011.
4. A letter from John S. Makai, resident, Ovid, NY, dated December 27, 2011, commending the Board of Supervisors on its achievements for the betterment of Seneca County and its citizens.
5. A letter from Lucille Povero, resident, Seneca Falls, NY, dated December 29, 2011, expressing her concerns about the staff of the Senior Center operated by the Office of the Aging and her right to free speech.

Resolutions and Motions

SUPERVISORS INCREASE RISK MANAGER'S SALARY FOR 2012 (Laid on the Table)

Mrs. Garlick Lorenzetti made a motion to increase the Risk Manager's salary for 2012 by \$3,545.

Mr. Churchill made a motion to Lay on the Table the motion made by Mrs. Garlick Lorenzetti.

Mr. Kubasik seconded the motion made by Mr. Churchill. The motion carried to lay the resolution on the table until additional information is obtained.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ESTABLISHES TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION NO. 03-12, moved by Mr. Westfall, seconded by Mrs. Garlick Lorenzetti and adopted by 632 ayes (Westfall, Garlick Lorenzetti, Reynolds, Serven, Davidson, Prouty, Kaiser, Earle, Lafler, Churchill, Shipley), 79 nays (Amidon, Kubasik) and 39 not present (Hayssen).

WHEREAS, the Government Operations Committee recommends establishment of a standing committee separate from the existing Personnel and Technology Committee to have oversight of issues

related to computers and computer related equipment, AS400, electronic communications, telephones, cellular phones and the Information Technology Department; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that there is hereby established a standing committee of the Board of Supervisors which shall be called the Technology Committee; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the purpose of such committee shall be to oversee computers and computer related equipment, AS400, electronic communications, telephones, cellular phones and the Information Technology Department; and be it further

RESOLVED, that §25 of the Seneca County Board of Supervisors Rules of Order for 2012 is hereby amended to add the following after the description contained therein of the duties of Committee No. 12;

“COMMITTEE NO. 13 – TECHNOLOGY

Responsible for computers and computer related equipment, AS400, electronic communications; telephones, cellular phones and the Information Technology Department”; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the terms “computers and computer related equipment, AS400, electronic communications, telephones, cellular phones and the Information Technology Department” shall be removed from the description contained under Rule 25, Committee No. 2 – PERSONNEL and TECHNOLOGY, the title of which Standing Committee shall be amended to read: “PERSONNEL”; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors is authorized and directed to select five members of the Board of Supervisors as members of such standing committee and further to select from those five, one such member to act as Chairmen of such Committee and one such member to act as Vice-Chairman of such Committee pursuant to §25 of the Rules of Order.

During the discussion phase of this resolution, Mr. Kubasik stated that he would be voting against creating a Technology Committee. He stated that the committee meetings are rushed under the current schedule. He said that when the issue of the committee meetings schedule is revisited, is when the Board should consider creating a fourteenth committee if it is still needed.

Unfinished Business

Mr. Kaiser read the following statement from Larry Yehle, resident, Town of Romulus:

“I am here tonight as follow up to the December 13 public hearing and my comments on the 2012 budget. As you may recall, Chairman Lafler requested that I send a summary of my comments and questions to the board for follow up, which I did on Dec 15. Following is a brief summary of those comments and requests.

Based on the unsustainable \$3.4M increase in county employee salary and benefits over the last three budgets and the overall financial environment we are in, I requested that

the board prepare a work plan in 2012 to allow time for a total compensation benchmarking analysis (government AND the private sector) to be complete prior to the beginning of 2013 union contract negotiations. In addition, if the county needs professional negotiator assistance, as I understand the unions employ, then begin the search and put that in place as well. With a history of multi \$M increases in this area as noted earlier and representing nearly half of the entire county budget, it is a wise and necessary investment for 2013 and beyond. The work plan should also look at other cost reduction alternatives such as consolidation (as our school districts are analyzing), lower cost outsourcing options, etc. Inasmuch as the benchmarking (salary and benefits, union and non-union positions) should include data from surrounding counties and they are likely struggling with the same issues, it seems that there may be the same need and therefore willingness to share the consultant cost. There may also be surrounding county interest and cost sharing for professional contract negotiation services with the unions.

This total compensation benchmarking of all county positions would also provide data for the basis of the non-union compensation plans and improve the board's decision making in this area. The board discussed three different resolutions in this area last meeting and ultimately approved the final resolution based on a split vote of subjective opinion with no data. I would expect that none of you found this to be a satisfactory manner to handle such an important area and would agree to a fact based approach in the future.

Regarding the school district studies, I'd like to note that a preliminary feasibility study involving four districts has been completed at a net cost of roughly \$3000 per school and a follow up study on a recommendation for potential consolidation has been authorized for an additional \$40K, but only about \$2000 for each affected district after netting for NYS grant money. The Seneca county budget is 3X the S. Seneca school district budget and reinforces that money can be allocated and should be invested for this important work.

Lastly, I had requested an understanding of how the \$1.4M budget reduction in contracted services was accomplished, what's affected, etc.?....with no reply to date.

You may recall that Supervisor Same, prior chair of the Personnel sub committee, voiced his support on Dec 13 for an updated compensation benchmarking analysis as did some other supervisors. As an update since my email of Dec 15, I did receive a reply from Supervisor Kaiser who I believe is in general agreement with these actions. Supervisor Hayssen also replied with a request to Frank Sinicropi for his comments. Mr Sinicropi did not reply or if he did, I was not copied. I have received no other communication.

While a January start may seem like more than enough lead time to prepare for contract negotiations later in the year, I had been assured a year ago that work plans would be put in place at the beginning of 2011 to address compensation costs (including health insurance options, employee share, etc) and never were. Compensation increases of 3-4%, \$1+M annually, are not sustainable and unaffordable to the county and its taxpayers. The county has a new business manager now and this is business that needs to be done. So I am here again this evening to request the boards' discussion and action on these recommendations."

New Business:

A discussion ensued regarding a resident who lives on Colonel's Row and continues to remain without sewer hook-up. Drawings were sent to the DEC in November 2011, but to date, no response has been received. The County Manager was directed to follow-up.

Special Order of the Day

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m.