

Office of the Onondaga County Legislature

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMITTEE MINUTES

AUGUST 8, 2006

JAMES CORBETT, CHAIRMAN

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Rhinehart, Ms. Chaplin, Mr. Kraft

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Meyer, *see attached list*

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

A motion was made by Mr. Corbett, seconded by Mr. Rhinehart to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the proceedings of the previous committee. MOTION CARRIED.

1. LAKE IMPROVEMENT: Ms. Sue Miller

a. ACJ Update

- 57% of construction of 4 prime contracts is completed at Midland
- 78% of concrete has been placed
- first section of 144" has been installed, started July 18th; each section is 12' diameter, weighs 65,000 lbs.
- Sewer separation - almost done with sewer installation on South Ave., Bissell will be next
- Biosolids construction continues at Metro

Ms. Miller followed up to a request from Mr. Farrell and Mr. Whelan regarding the skimmer boat. This has been a bigger year for tonnage due to all the storms, which brought down a lot of debris. As of May, after going out 3 times 4.6 tons; last May there was 1.14 tons. The majority is trees, logs, shrubs, which gets packed in heavy and deep. Last year's annual cost was \$55,955 for 42 days of hauling and disposal. The litter is Styrofoam, plastic bottles, beer cans, fraction from combined sewers, some tires; unique items: car seat, DPW cones, and barriers. Mr. Rhinehart asked about computer equipment; Ms. Miller said that they have not had any.

2. WATER ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION: Dave Coburn, Director, Office of the Environment

a. Amending the 2006 County Budget to accept funds in relation to a project to develop a Mechanistic Water Quality Model of Onondaga Lake and authorizing the County Executive to enter into agreements to implement the project (\$145,700).

This is accepting a grant for \$145,000 from Army Corp of Engineers, which will supplement the existing grant funds for the water quality model being developed. In 2004 the Legislature accepted the first part of grant. No local funds required, as the County's match (30%) will come from Pepsi settlement money. The largest portion will be for data acquisition, analysis, and integration. A small portion will allow the model developer to formally respond to questions or requests at the end of the project by the regulatory community. The last small portion is for administration and overhead costs of project delays that were unanticipated.

A motion was made by Mr. Rhinehart, seconded by Chairman Corbett to approve this item.

Mr. Coburn said that the model is lake wide; it will be integrated with the river model and a surface water model being done by USGS. The integration should give a more comprehensive picture. From April-Dec. 2005, there were no federal dollars available; did what they could with local funds. The model is expected to be complete in 2008. In 2009 State and EPA are required to issue TMDLS for the lake.

A vote was taken on the motion to approve. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

b. Adopting a determination and findings pursuant to Article 2 of the New York Eminent Domain Procedure Law and authorizing the acquisition of property for the Midland Avenue Sewer Improvement Project - Mr. Richard Elander, Commissioner

Mr. Elander expanded on Ms. Miller's earlier ACJ report: In April of 2006 the clock started on phosphorus removal at Metro. In April 2007, there will be 12 numbers that will go into the average. At that point, there is supposed to be an average of 0.12 for phase 2. So far, the 4 mos. numbers are .11, .11, .08, .10. The phase 3 expected average is .02; which is very difficult to obtain. Mr. Kraft said it is important that there be discussion about the .02. He asked that the legislature be kept informed.

This is similar to what was done for Clinton. These properties are south of Brighton Ave. The resolution was submitted prior to the discussion last month. The properties total \$5,100 and the resolution asks that the amount not exceed \$8,000. He understands the position of the committee and concurs if it needs to be changed to \$5,100.

A motion was made by Mr. Kraft to amend the resolution to a total \$5,100 and approve as amended; seconded by Mr. Corbett.

Mr. Rhinehart said that he didn't necessarily agree with the change last month, but if it is being changed, then the 2nd RESOLVED clause should be changed to removed the words ...*as the County Executive deems appropriate*. Mrs. Tarolli, Law Department, indicated the language could be changed or removed. Mr. Kraft said that he agrees with Mr. Rhinehart and feels that any additional should come back here as a matter of principle; feels the words should be removed.

Mr. Kraft amended his motion to add that the 2nd RESOLVED clause be changed to read: RESOLVED, that he county executive is hereby authorized to enter into agreements to purchase the aforementioned properties at the above listed amounts. Mr. Corbett seconded the motion.

Ms. Chaplin questioned if the easement would have been needed if sewer separation and complete underground storage were done. Mr. Elander said that they are from Brighton to Newall and it is most cost effective to pipe Newall Street flow down to where it was going to leave off. When they added the piece of pipe, they need these permanent easements. Regarding item 2c, the easements still would be needed if underground storage was done. All property owners were contacted and notified of the public hearing.

A vote was taken on the motion to amend the resolution and approve as amended. AYES: 3 (Mr. Kraft, Mr. Rhinehart, Mr. Corbett); NOES: 0; ABSTAINING: 1 (Ms. Chaplin). MOTION CARRIED.

c. Authorizing the acquisition of real property to enable the County of Onondaga to comply with requirements set forth in the Onondaga Lake Amended Consent Judgment (ACJ) for the construction, operation, and maintenance of Midland Avenue Sewer Improvement Project (\$218,100)

These are easements for the phase 3 pipeline from the end of phase 2 to Brighton Avenue. They have individual appraisals totaling \$218,000; there is no leeway.

A motion was made by Mr. Corbett, seconded by Mr. Rhinehart to approve this item. Voting AYE: 3 (Mr. Corbett, Mr. Kraft, Mr. Rhinehart); NOES: 0; ABSTAINING: 1 (Ms. Chaplin). MOTION CARRIED.

d. Approving the 2005 Industrial Waste Surcharge

Industrial Waste Surcharge is going down, as industry goes down every year. It is a function of pre-treatment installations--a very positive environmental aspect. Regarding impact, there has been no indication that they need any fewer people; there is a positive impact on the amount of chemicals purchased.

A motion was made by Mr. Rhinehart, seconded by Mr. Corbett to approve this item.

Mr. Kraft asked if there are any other areas where the county is charging long after the delivery of service. Mr. Elander said that the flow control group, has about \$1.2 million worth of O&M of contracts with 19-29 municipalities. With the computerized system, billing is easier, quicker, more accurate than it used to be. They are in the process of evaluating the fee structures that flow control does. The municipalities don't know the amount to budget until they get the bill; so the budget in the following year. The County goes unpaid up to 2 years after service performed. The only way to catch up would be to double bill, which

would be a financial hardship for the municipalities. Mr. Kraft suggested that there be a transition time; it is not equitable and fair to get payments 2 years late. of equity and fairness. Mr. Elander said that he will look at staging it in.

A vote was taken on the motion to approve; Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

e. Authorizing the County Executive to enter into a contract with the United States of America, Department of the Interior, for the operation and maintenance of stream gauging stations in the County of Onondaga (\$71,000)

There are 12 USGS gauging stations; County shares in O&M costs. This year's cost is below 58%; USGS pays 42%. This is a housekeeping item done every year. The information is used; is very valuable to them.

A motion was made by Mr. Corbett, seconded by Mr. Rhinehart to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

Chairman Corbett reminded the committee members that there will be two eminent domain hearings just prior to the start of the September 5th session: one for Harbor Brook, one for Midland. All of the substantive documents that will be entered into the record for those hearings have been previously provided and are available for your further review in the Office of the Clerk of this Legislature, should they wish to review the documents.

The meeting was adjourned at 10 30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

DEBORAH L. FICHERA, Clerk

Onondaga County Legislature

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EDUCATION AND LIBRARIES COMMITTEE

JANUARY 9, 2006

JAMES DIBLASI, CHAIRMAN

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. Corbett, Mr. Holmquist, Ms. Mulroy, Mr. Kinne, Mrs. Chaplin, Mrs. Winslow

ALSO PRESENT: See attached list (attachment 1)

Chairman DiBlasi called the meeting to order at 11:20 a.m.

1. OCPL:

a. Amending the 2006 County Budget to accept State Construction Funds for the Onondaga County Public Library and authorizing the County Executive to enter into contracts to implement this resolution (\$4,146)

A motion was made by Ms. Mulroy, seconded by Mr. Corbett to approve this item.

Ms. McCaffrey said this is a State construction grant to add air conditioning to the literacy lab on the fourth floor of the Central Library. The room was not designed for all the computers, and is uncomfortable for trainees and detrimental to the equipment.

A vote was taken on this item and passed unanimously. MOTION CARRIED.

b. Transfer of funds from Regular Employee Salaries Account 101 to All Other Expenses Account 410 (\$20,000)

A motion was made by Ms. Mulroy, seconded by Mr. Corbett to approve this item.

Ms. McCaffrey said this is a request to transfer money from the 101 Account to cover the increase in cost for the library security guards - last summer the New York State Labor Board increased the minimum wage for contracted security guards to \$11.00 an hour. This makes up the shortfall in their budget.

Chairman DiBlasi said he believes the increase in wages was taken into consideration for the 2006 Budget, and Ms. McCaffrey confirmed this.

Ms. Mulroy asked if they have a balance of \$51,000 in the 101 Account for 2005, and Ms. McCaffrey replied yes. Mr. Kinne asked why they have a balance, and Ms. McCaffrey replied that it is from unfilled positions and gaps when a position is vacant for a

couple of months when they need to fill it. Mr. Kinne asked about the unfilled positions. Ms. McCaffrey said they still have a vacant Development Director position and a vacant Librarian 3 position.

Mr. Corbett said one reason they have to do this transfer is because their budget was cut so short last year.

A vote was taken on this item and passed unanimously. MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Corbett said that Mr. Warner requested information on how many are currently enrolled at OCC.

Chairman DiBlasi stated that the committee meetings will remain on Mondays, and he will let the committee know as soon as possible if he changes the time to a half hour later.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Johanna H. Robb

Deputy Clerk

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WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE MINUTES

AUGUST 24, 2006

WILLIAM H. MEYER, CHAIRMAN

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Warner, Mr. Kraft, Mr. Corbett, Mr. Ryan, Mrs. Rapp, *Mr. Stanczyk, **Mrs. Baker, Mr. Farrell

ALSO PRESENT: Chairman Sweetland, *see also attached list*

Chairman Meyer called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

A motion was made by Mr. Meyer, seconded by Mr. Corbett to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the proceedings of the previous committee meeting. MOTION CARRIED.

1. OFFICE OF THE ENVIRONMENT: Mr. Dave Coburn, Director

a. Amending the 2006 County Budget to accept funds in relation to a project to develop a Mechanistic Water Quality Model of Onondaga Lake and authorizing the County Executive to enter into agreements (\$145,700).

Accept grant for \$145,700 through Army Corp of Engineers to supplement existing funds for water quality model; used to make future management decisions about the lake; matching program - 30% local, which will be coming from the Pepsi settlement money and therefore no local dollars; 70% is federal. The majority will be used for data acquisition. It is not mandated as part of the ACJ, but anticipated and expected to be developed.

A motion was made by Mr. Warner, seconded by Mr. Corbett to approve this item. Passed unanimously and MOTION CARRIED.

2. WATER ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION: Mr. Richard Elander, Commissioner

a. Adopting a determination and findings pursuant to Article 2 of the NY Eminent Domain Procedure Law and authorizing the acquisition of property for the Midland Avenue Sewer Improvement Project

A motion was made by Mr. Kraft, seconded by Mr. Farrell to approve this item.

There is a new regulation that there must be a public hearing held to establish right to eminent domain, if in fact, it is needed. It has not been needed at all on any private properties with the private properties with the Midland project to date; no reason to believe that the properties included today are will be a problem.

A vote was taken on the motion: Ayes: 7 (Kraft, Farrell, Corbett, Baker, Warner, Rapp, Meyer); Noes: 0; Abstaining: 2 (Ryan, Stanczyk). MOTION CARRIED.

b. Authorizing the acquisition of real property to enable the County of Onondaga to comply with requirements set forth in the Onondaga Lake Amended Consent Judgment (ACJ) for the construction, operation, and maintenance of Midland Avenue Sewer Improvement Project (\$218,000)

A motion was made by Mr. Kraft, seconded by Mr. Farrell to approve this item.

These are appraised values, no discussion has taken place with the owners until there has been authorization.

Chairman Meyer noted that for disclosure purposes, Mr. Dunham is a property owner included in the resolution and is a former colleague of the legislature.

A vote was taken on the motion: AYES: 7 (Kraft, Farrell, Corbett, Baker, Warner, Rapp, Meyer); NOES: 0; ABSTAINING: 2 (Ryan, Stanczyk). MOTION CARRIED.

c. Approving the 2005 Industrial Waste Surcharge

A motion was made by Mr. Stanczyk, seconded by Mr. Ryan to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

d. Authorizing the County Executive to enter into a contract with the United States of America, Department of the Interior, for the operation and maintenance of stream gauging stations in the County of Onondaga (\$71,000)

A motion was made by Mr. Ryan, seconded by Mrs. Baker to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

3. EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS: Mr. John Balloni, Acting Commissioner

a. Authorizing the County Executive to enter into an amendment to a lease agreement with SBA Properties, Inc.

A motion was made by Mr. Kraft, seconded by Mr. Warner to approve this item.

The cost is going from \$1,022 to \$1,425 per month. **Mr. Stanczyk asked for a one-page detail of the amount that the County pays and what is leased out.**

SBA is out of Boca Raton, Fl. and is publicly traded on NASDAQ; leases space on nearly 11,000 towers, 5,400 are owned by SBA. In preparation for new microwave, putting in a new generator and shelter for radio equipment at this location, requires a larger pad and building.

There was discussion about ownership vs. renting. Mr. Balloni explained that the radio tower consultants are looking at what the options are: potential to build an owned tower on another hill; potential to purchase an existing tower. SBA owns basically the top of this hill and property around the site. The department will report back in a month or two regarding options.

There is an existing clause in the contract that the building can be taken with them, it is being boomed in by crane. The county has police, fire, and EMS communications on this tower; there are a number of other renters on the tower including cell phone.

Mr. Ryan suggested that the renters on the tower be informed that the County is looking at options and hopes to take some customers along with them. Mr. Balloni said that they have been informed.

A vote was taken on the motion: AYES: 8 (Warner, Kraft, Meyer, Corbett, Baker, Rapp, Farrell, Rapp) NOES: 0; ABSTAINING: 1 (Stanczyk). MOTION CARRIED.

4. OCC: Dr. Sydow, President

a. Amending the 2006 County Budget to provide funding for Onondaga Community College's critical, maintenance, health and safety, and renovation and renewal projects and appropriating \$3,122,000 of the proceeds of the bonds authorized to be issued pursuant to bond resolution dated November 1, 2005 and authorizing the County Executive to enter into contracts

This is asking that the remainder of \$7.94 million, authorized in 2005, capital funding be released to continue

Phase 2 projects. In 2005 \$4.8 million as appropriated; today requesting the release of \$3.1 million.

Dr. Sydow provided a power point presentation (*copy on file with Clerk*).

2011 goals:

- 7,500 FTEs (currently 6,248) /10,000 head county (currently 8,300)
- All programs available via alternative delivery or combination
- No fewer than 10 baccalaureate and graduate degree programs; expanding evening, weekends, online

Highlights:

- Enrollment up 16% of this fall over last fall.
- College continues to track as one of the most efficient community colleges in the SUNY system, based on net cost per FTE.
- Total facilities Master Plan Phase II totals \$15,864,000
- 4/05 - Received \$7.9 million from State
- 11/05 - Co. Legislature authorized bonding (50% local match)
- Co Legislature appropriated \$4,860,000 in Nov. 2005
- \$3.122 million is needed to avoid construction delays

A list of project highlights was distributed (***attachment no. 1***).

- Children's Learning Center project (\$1.25 million) no longer included in Phase II; will likely emerge as a priority in the updated facilities Master Plan to be complete by 2007. Had expected to raise private dollars to match this project and capital campaign was delayed. Project will be held until future capital dollars are available.

Mr. Kraft made a motion to approve item 4a.

There was discussion regarding the purchase of the land. It was noted that the Board of Trustees supports the purchase. Mr. Kraft stated that he supports what the leadership and trustees want to do, but also would like to have facility available to the greater population of the county. It was noted that there 9 off-campus sites; renewed lease at Seneca Mall for another 4 years; efforts in distance education are with the sole purpose of making programs and services to local citizen - have a 2000% increase in on-line learning in the last 5 years. 90% or more are students from Central New York. Mr. Kraft asked for improvement of services and have satellites to reach out to the population

Mr. Ryan asked about identifying a program as a hallmark to give OCC more identity. Dr. Sydow said that as part of the strategic planning process, they are conducting a survey -- want to be sure that programming is aligned with community needs. They have identified Electronic Media Communication as a premier program; others may include: music, photography, art and graphic design; looking at cluster of programs that are the technical side of creative disciplines that they have not properly elevated and promoted.

Mr. Ryan seconded the motion.

Mr. Ryan asked about the Dental Hygienist Program; Dr. Sydow said that they would be competing with SUNY Canton, who has partnered with Mohawk Valley to do it.

Regarding the Children's Center not being on the project list, Mrs. Baker asked where the money was reallocated. Dr. Sydow stated that it is a scope issue and is now in the Academic Building. Mr. Farrell questioned if the work is more difficult and expensive to accomplish than originally thought. Dr. Sydow said more of the building is being done that was planned originally. A year ago they planned to do a third of the building. They wanted to move forward with Children's Learning Center, and thought they would be able to bring in private dollars (approx. \$1.75 million); the capital campaign was delayed. Mr. Farrell asked if everything will be accomplished with the money allocated. Dr. Sydow was confident that the funds are appropriately allocated; projects are on budget.

**Mr. Stanczyk left the meeting.*

There was discussion about the food court; it was stated that there is an RFP ready to go; have worked with firm to help do analysis to provided best services and bring in the most revenues. There is discussion about having a "smart card" for food service, laundry, etc.

Vote was taken on the motion; passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

b. **Approving Onondaga Community College's acquisition of 14.36± acres of land immediately adjacent to the Onondaga Community College campus (\$350,000)**

A motion was made by Mr. Kraft, seconded by Mr. Warner to approve this item.

Regarding the ravine that separates the property; Dr. Sydow said that it could present an access issue.

Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

5. PROBATION: Mr. Al Giachi

a. **Amending the 2006 County Budget to provide for drug abuse enforcement and authorizing the County Executive to enter into contracts (\$6,300)**

A motion was made by Mr. Warner, seconded by Mr. Farrell to approve this item.

This is for overtime for Probation officers to do home visits, bar checks, and DWI checkpoints on the north side of the city. It not in the annual budget; it is a year-to-year item, but have received it for several years. This the last year for the north side. There is a proposal being submitted for the east side; had one on south side for several years but it ran out. Probation Dept. bills SPD for overtime detail and they create a voucher.

Mr. Ryan questioned why this is done on overtime. Mr. Giacchi said that probation officers are mandated to do 14 hours/month of non-traditional hours; hours in addition to their regular hours. **Mr. Ryan asked to be provided with highlight of the program that states that the money should be spent on overtime.**

A vote was taken on the motion; Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

6. WAYS AND MEANS MISCELLANEOUS:

a. **Call for a public hearing on the 2007 County Budget**

A motion was made by Mr. Kraft, seconded by Mrs. Baker to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

b. **Amending the 2006 County Budget to account and budget for shared sales tax revenues to other municipalities (\$144,528,000) - Mr. Donald Colon, Comptroller**

Payment to other municipalities does not show in budget presently; is treated as intergovernmental transfer and shown as sales tax revenue in the other municipalities' budgets. The State Comptroller has interpreted GASB 33, amended by Statement 36, that we must account for all sales tax as a revenue and expense for the monies given to other municipalities. The taxpayer will now see that the County gives away \$149 million of revenue to municipalities. This does not change the budget, or the county's financial situation.

A motion was made by Mr. Kraft, seconded by Mr. Farrell to approve this item; passed unanimously. MOTION CARRIED.

Chairman Sweetland asked if it can be subject to action as to how it affects the sales tax agreement. Mr. Colon explained that the sales tax agreement is a legal contract with the City; it does not impact it at all. Mr. Sweetland said that the sales tax agreement can bind every legislature; Mr. Colon said that it can until it expires. The agreement runs through 2010; a new agreement takes effect January 1, 2011.

A vote was taken on the motion; passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

c. **Amending the 2006 County Budget to accept funds from the NYS Department of Mental Health and authorizing the County Executive to enter into contracts (\$70,128)-Mr. David Brownell, Commissioner**

Mr. Brownell said that this is not budgeted and cannot be dependant on. It will be used for technology - hardware and software. There is an unfunded mandated from the State; must have proper technology in order to report the way required. This will be used for the department and agencies that have the same burden. Mental Health Dept. - \$20,000 for 9 desktops and 2 laptops; contract agencies - \$50,000 based on request.

A motion was made by Mrs. Baker, seconded by Mrs. Rapp to approve this item.

There was discussion about the method of purchase; Mr. Mareane said that if it is not on State bid, it would still have to be competitively bid.

A vote was taken on the motion; passed unanimously. MOTION CARRIED.

d. Amend 2006 County Budget to accept state aid for a Partnership for Youth-WIA Grant and authorize the County Executive to enter into contracts (\$119,000) - Ms. Chris Flynn, Youth Bureau Admin.

The grant would provide employment services to older youth who are considered hard to serve - homeless, returned from juvenile justice system rehabilitation, youthful offenders on probation caseload, and other challenges such as school drop out.

A motion was made by Mrs. Rapp, seconded by Mrs. Baker to approve this item.

Two partners will be CNY Works and Leadership Institute of University College. These young people have many challenges, some have been hooked in with case managers with Barnabas, Salvation Army, etc. They are working through contacts to recruit young people.

Mr. Warner said that this is similar to the West Side Initiative. Ms. Flynn explained that they have similar features, but the kids in this program are older; profile is likely to be that they failed in school. The West Side Initiative will primarily be the feeder system to Fowler High School.

CNY Works, \$112,000 - will do academic assessment; strengths and needs based assessment, and create individual service plans; \$8,000/youth ages 19 - 21 for 16 youths; \$6,000/youth for ages 17 and 18 for 8 youths. Services will be purchased that they need. Dept. of Aging & Youth, \$7,000 - for administration costs for department; most will go to University College Leadership Institute, will be matched with CNY Works funding in order to do an evaluation. They want to see what it costs to serve and what types of supports really work. A process map for the evaluation of program was created by Dr. Hart, Leadership Institute; 8% of money will be spent on the evaluation. There are several models that will be used for evaluation; 12 months for assessment, expect to see progress on a monthly basis.

Mr. Farrell asked if this program will be integrated with other programs within county and city, etc. Ms. Lenore Sealy, CNY Works, said that they target recruitment through organizations to ensure there is access to the right kids and that they work together.

Chairman Sweetland discussed the cost of \$8,000/youth; wants to get a feeling that all of the programs are working together - Vocational High school, West Side Initiative, etc., are working together. Ms. Sealy said that there are mechanisms in place and will send information to Mr. Sweetland.

Mr. Meyer said DSS has a constant monitor on getting welfare to work and has to meet requirements; hopefully this program will help with that initiative.

A vote was taken on the motion; passed unanimously. MOTION CARRIED.

e. Amending the 2006 County Budget to accept Aquatic Invasive Species Eradication Grant Funds and authorizing the County Executive to execute agreements to implement this resolution (\$33,020) - Ms. Ellen Wilson, Fiscal Officer, Mr. Gary Sauda, Director, Environmental Health

A motion was made by Mr. Corbett, seconded by Mr. Warner to approve this item.

This will be a chemical application over 3 years; it has been used in Onondaga County.

Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

f. A Local Law Designating a Regionally Significant Project within the Onondaga County Empire Zone - Mr. Donald Western, Director

This would designate Metalico Aluminum Recovery, Inc. as a regionally significant company with the Empire Zone program. They make a deoxidizing agent from recovered aluminum and do scrap recycling. It brings 54 new jobs, no limit to the number of regionally significant projects; no cost to the County. There are no contaminants or environmental hazards; has been through Town of Dewitt.

A motion was made by Mrs. Baker, seconded by Mr. Farrell to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

g. **Accepting and approving the contract between the County of Onondaga and the NYS Nurses Association**
- Mr. Peter Troiano, Director, Employee Relations

A motion was made by Mr. Ryan, seconded by Mrs. Baker to approve this item; passed unanimously. MOTION CARRIED.

h. **Amending the 2006 County Budget to accept and provide for additional funds in the Department of Social Services to support Family Services and authorizing the County Executive to enter into contracts (\$350,000)** - **Mr. David Sutkowy, Commissioner**

A motion was made by Mr. Ryan, seconded by Mr. Warner to approve this item.

Chairman Meyer stated that this item was approved by the City Council.

This is a partnership with the City School District, City of Syracuse, Onondaga County Government and not-for profit agencies on the west side. The purpose is to keep kids in school, improve academic performance, and eliminate need for programs down the road. Almost 80% of welfare recipients in Onondaga County do not have a high school degree; 40% of students in class of 2004 graduated at Fowler; 15% of kids at Shea are at grade level. Academics are top priority; kids have to graduate. The education system can't do it alone. The West Side Partnership pushed for the marriage of education and human services with the desire to address issues that may be contributing to a child's failure. The age of intervention is from elementary on.

This resolution allows DSS to accept \$350,000 for the City School District to begin the West Side strategy. The County's allocation allows the possibility of leveraging additional state dollars -- for every dollar that the county can contribute, there is chance to receive \$2 from the State. The \$350,000 will be a match to the submission for the COPS grant.

Mr. Warner said that there needs to be a plan in place for the state to give DSS the money. There is no plan in place yet, DSS will write it. Sara Merrick will write the plan; if they partnership with the director to be hired, it will come out of \$350,000. They will be working with school district personnel. Ms. Merrick's salary is in the operating budget. Mr. Warner said it will cost the county to have DSS employees write and work this program; with that amount be taken out of the \$350,000. Mr. Sutkowy explained that it will cost money in terms of time; \$350,000 is taken by DSS for administrative costs. They want to get this up and running soon; they want outcomes; once plan is submitted to State and approved; it will come through Social Services and Ways and Means Committees. Mr. Warner asked to see the plan when available.

Mr. Corbett expressed concern about the cost to the County concerning employees; asked that the committee be kept apprised of the amount of time spent on this with county employees. Mr. Farrell said that he share's Mr. Corbett's concerns and urged that this be looked at carefully.

Mr. Kraft advocated that youth be given an allowance that they would earn, that gives them an opportunity to participate in American life.

Chair Meyer asked what happens if the City doesn't put up money next year. Mr. Tim Carroll, Director of Operations, City of Syracuse, said that this is the only new money for a program in the budget this year; it is a priority. When the mayor outlined it, he understood it would be a multi-year project.

A vote was taken on the motion; passed unanimously. MOTION CARRIED.

i. **Board of Elections HAVA Update: Ms. Helen Kiggins, Commissioner; Mr. Edward Szczesniak, Commissioner**

Ms. Kiggins reported on what has been done so far in 2006:

- New voter registration system purchased; began document conversion in March; has eliminated a lot of filing and freed up space
- In conjunction with Comptroller's office, a payroll system was set up
- Trained and tested all inspectors; required it be tested annually; training money available through federal government transfer to State of NY; application had to be completed
- Surveyed all polling sites for accessibility
- Eliminated polling places that were not accessible to voters
- Started consolidation sites that they want in place for 2007
- Sent out 5-year agreements to all polling sites - were asked to do this without paying places and no one will be compensated in Onondaga County for the next 5 years
- City voting machines were moved to East Molloy Road; no longer paying rent for voting machine storage
- Machines weighs 800 lbs.; currently have no loading dock--this year will rent fork lifts to move machines; would like to install a lift platform in the future

- Established assignments for custodians; will be more regionally; had lost a lot of custodians
- Met with town clerks and supervisors; most have agreed to store and deliver machines. In some cases they have rented trucks and the County will pay for truck rental; will use their own personnel
- Most clerks have agreed to pick up and return election supplies

Mr. Kraft said that he has had feedback that some towns are not comfortable with the arrangements. Ms. Kiggins said that the Town of VanBuren didn't want to store machines unless mulch was provided, then they wanted a truck paid for which was agreed to. She said that the town clerk was then satisfied. Mr. Warner asked if Ms. Kiggins spoke to the town supervisor. Ms. Kiggins said that the supervisors directed questions through the town clerk. Mr. Warner said that last year the Co. Executive sent a letter to the towns telling them not to put any money into their budgets for election; Van Buren's budget was \$25,000 for this. Now BOE wants them to do a lot of what they did last time and they have no money to do it. Ms. Kiggins said that the County will pay for truck rental. There was discussion about the employees moving the machines around. Ms. Kiggins said that it will be done during the normal workday. A letter will go out today indicating that if there is something the towns can't do, then Elections will find an alternate way to do it. She added that BOE staff is the same size as it was last year, and they are trying to do an awful lot. Some temps were hired.

Mr. Warner suggested that if the towns are going to put hours in and move the machines, then they should be reimbursed. There is \$1 million to help with this situation. Ms. Kiggins said that Van Buren did not relate any of these concerns to them. Mr. Szczesniak said that going into this year they expected to have new equipment and a whole new system; it has not happened and have asked for more partnership with clerks and town supervisors. Towns have indicated they are prepared to help; only issue is that they wish to be reimbursed if they had to purchase something, i.e. truck rental. The County decided to "eat" \$1.2 million and chose not to chargeback the towns.

Mr. Warner said that he is affected by the closing of some polling places; Van Buren highway barn is now closed and people are being sent to Memphis. He questioned why the town was not notified to help make the place more accessible. Ms. Kiggins said that it would have needed a lot of work to make it accessible. Mr. Warner asked that if the deficiencies are corrected, can it be a polling place next year. Ms. Kiggins replied that it can. **Mr. Warner asked to be provided with a list of the deficiencies at the Van Buren highway barn.**

Mr. Szczesniak said that one major thrust of the HAVA is accessibility for disabled. Have tried to address as best they can, \$195,000 of Federal assistance has been made available to the county to help make sites accessible. Had a need to prepare a plan with how much of what to do with monies no later than July 31st. The other need is to move away from stand alone polling place. Need to accommodate the accessible voting equipment; they know that 1 - 4 people at every polling place ; will be in with voting equipment for a long time. Line can be minimized with more accessible equipment and having multiple elections districts combined.

Mr. Warner asked what happens if a town refuses to move equipment unless they get paid; Ms. Kiggins said they would have to be paid. The work would entail a few town Highway people spending less than half a day delivering machines to sites within the town.

Mr. Szczesniak said that there will be one voting machine at the Civic Center for disabled. It was a compromised issue with Department of Justice. Neither the commissioners or disability advocacy groups indicate that they believe it is truly accessible. It is not a total system. They are trying to emphasis through media that disabled voters will still have the ability to vote at their local polling place with assistance, if needed, for this year, or they can vote by absentee.

Five towns will not have to move any equipment; 8 towns will need to rent trucks. There are funds available in Election's budget to pay for that reimbursement. Mr. Kraft said that some legislators feel that the towns should be compensated in some way and suggested. Ms. Kiggins said that they were trying to save money by not paying polling places and have to hire custodians to open polling places and pay for heat and lights. She said that was the legislature's concern last year; BOE is trying to saving money in one place and now are being told to spend it. She said these are totally mixed messages and is confused on what they are being asked to do.

Chairman Sweetland said that the legislature made a decision that the county would assume the cost of elections. Based on the fact that there are no new voting machines, he feels that BOE decided that it wasn't a county cost anymore to run the election this year. He assumed the county would pick up the costs. There was money in the budget to deliver voting machines, and now the towns have been asked to do the work. He asked what will be done with the money. Mr. Mareane replied that a large part of the money is for personnel to staff the election and most will be spent. Mr. Colon said that a special payroll was set up for them.

Chairman Sweetland said that when the Legislature decided to pick up the cost of elections, he assumed that it would be done; now is told that management decided that there is a way to get out of some of the costs. He referred to the letter that the Co. Executive sent out that suggested that towns not budget for elections. Most, if not, all did not budget for it. Mr. Szczesniak said that they did not do it just for the money savings. When it was known that lever machines would be used again this year, to

have them left in place as much as possible was useful for all concerned. Chairman Sweetland asked about the city's warehouse costs - Mr. Mareane said that it was paid for a couple of months. The county told the city that they would have a savings of \$350,000, almost all of which was a cost to rent the space. County had to rent the space until the machines could be moved to the North Area facility. Chairman Sweetland said that the county physically took possession of the city machines but not the town's machines.

Mr. Farrell asked to be provided with an estimated total for the labor involved for the election. He asked if there are any critical/important issues that are not happening at BOE. Mr. Szczesniak listed: voter outreach and a lot of reporting is going in late to State and Federal. Registration work is getting done and is in place. Mr. Farrell asked that this item be on the agenda for the next meeting to discuss the future of elections. **Mr. Ryan asked for a synopsis of the where we are going prior to the next meeting.**

Mr. Warner asked that if BOE receives a bill from a town for half-day salary and expenses for vehicles used, will it be paid or does it need a resolution. Mr. Kiggins said that they will submit it to Comptroller's for payment.

7. LAW DEPARTMENT:

a. Settlement of Claims

A motion was made by Mr. Corbett, seconded by Mrs. Baker, to enter into executive session to discuss a settlement of claim. MOTION CARRIED.

A motion to exit executive session and enter regular session was made by Mr. Corbett, seconded by Mrs. Baker. MOTION CARRIED.

A motion was made by Mr. Corbett to Authorize the settlement of the Supreme Court Action of Mary Ellen Frederick v. County of Onondaga and Town of Salina, seconded by Mrs. Baker. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

8. OCPL: Ms. Sally Jensen, Director, Administrative Services

a. Amending the 2006 County Budget to accept supplemental NYS aid funds for the Onondaga County Public Library and authorizing the County Executive to enter into contracts (\$50,183)

Ms. Jensen introduced Deb Bendig, new Systems Librarian.

A motion was made by Mr. Kraft, seconded by Mrs. Baker to approve this item.

Desire to spend \$10,183 on additional materials; some in Central Library, some downloadable audio, and some for STAR program for the blind and disabled; \$40,000 to be spent on software, Aqua Brower, it is platform neutral; overlays catalog and makes it more user friendly.

***Mrs. Baker left the meeting.*

Chairman Meyer questioned why this is being purchased if the current system could crash any second. Ms. Jensen said it will work with any system-will work with whatever system is brought in. Chairman Meyer asked if there will be a cost to install and then additional cost if something happens to the current system. Ms. Jensen said that she understands that the \$40,000 covers the installation. She added that the City School system used AquaBrowser.

A vote was taken on the motion. Voting AYE: 5 (Ryan, Warner, Corbett, Rapp, Farrell) NOES: 1 (Meyer) ABSTAINING: 1 (Kraft) ABSENT: 2 (Stanczyk, Baker). MOTION CARRIED.

b. Amending the 2006 County Budget to accept Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) for the Growing A Reader Grant for the Onondaga County Public Library and authorizing the County Executive to enter into contracts (\$2,225)

A motion was made by Mr. Ryan, seconded by Mr. Corbett to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

DEBORAH L. MATURO, Clerk

Related Documents

- [8-24-06 W&MS Attachment 1](#)