



GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & IMPROVED METHODS COMMITTEE

APPROVED MINUTES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Committee Members:

Ralph Angelo, Chair
Margaret Hilton
Dominick Vedora
Dianne Crowley
Mark Venuti
Gregory Bendzlowicz

Others Present:

County Administrator, John Garvey; Chief Information Sean Barry;
Fiscal Manager, Sandra Seeber; County Clerk, Matthew Hoose, Real
Property Tax Director, Robin Johnson

Chairman Angelo called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. Supervisor Hilton made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Bendzlowicz, to adopt the minutes of the March 18, 2014 meeting; motion carried.

Fiscal Manager, Sandra Seeber presented the first quarter 2014 budget summaries for departments reporting to the GO Committee, explaining that the presentations are being made to all standing committees at the request of Chairman Marren.

County Administrator Garvey voiced concern over the long term revenues at the Department of Motor Vehicles, citing the availability and push from the State to renew registrations via their website or mail registrations to Albany. County Clerk Hoose explained that the reports actually include only two months of revenues and three months of expenses due to the timing of month end closing and delivery to the cash office. The DMV is trending the same as last year, however the Clerk's office revenues are down, however land records usually pick up in the summer. Supervisor Hilton noted that she was looking for expense percentages to be around 25% for the first quarter, and noticed some line items already at 60%. County Clerk Hoose pointed out that there are encumbered expenses from a grant that have not been entirely expended yet. Also many of the contract payments are made in full during the first quarter. Supervisor Vedora asked if the Geneva DMV office was making enough to pay the bills. County Clerk Hoose replied that they are breaking even since changing the hours of operation and adjusting staffing.

Chief Information Officer Sean Barry presented a resolution to renew a contract with TW Telecom for Internet connection and voice mail services in Geneva. The contract has been renegotiated, resulting in a savings of \$1,000 per month. *Supervisor Hilton made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Crowley to approve the resolution "Authorization to Sign Agreement with TW Telecom", motion carried.*

CIO Barry presented a resolution to renew the contract with Bonadio & Co, LLC. Last year Bonadio provided a security assessment of the county's computer systems, which included training, computer security assessment and audit. This year's assessment will be a follow up on issues that were corrected. The funds are available through the Human Resources Compliance budget.

Supervisor Hilton made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Bendzlowicz to approve the resolution "Approval of Contract with Bonadio & Co., LLC for an IT Compliance Assessment", motion carried.

Real Property Tax Director Robin Johnson updated the committee on a proposed low-income senior housing project in the Village of Clifton Springs.

Director Johnson then provided a summary of the Tax Freeze Legislation passed as part of Governor Cuomo's 2014 budget. The legislation as enacted is very different from the original proposal. To be eligible for the freeze credit, a taxpayer must have received a STAR exemption on the 2014 assessment roll, or would have been eligible had they

applied. The eligibility requirements are that the property is their primary residence and their income does not exceed \$500,000. If the town, village, school or county's tax levy is tax freeze compliant, the property owner will receive a credit check in the amount of the difference between the prior year's tax liability for that purpose and the current year's tax liability OR the prior year's tax bill multiplied by .0146, whichever amount is greater. New requirements for taxing jurisdictions are submittal of data files used to produce tax bills, filing of preliminary and final budgets, and certification of tax freeze compliance.

In year two, the taxing jurisdiction's budget must be tax freeze compliant and a plan filed with the State outlining efficiencies, consolidations or shared services that will produce a 1% savings per year for three years. The plan must be submitted by June 2015. Discussion ensued regarding possible consolidation efforts. Director Johnson noted some of the major differences between the Tax Freeze proposal and the enacted legislation, including the removal of the state's authority to withhold state aid if savings indicated in the efficiency plan are not recognized; prior efficiencies will be considered in the efficiency plan approval process; a single government entity may submit an efficiency plan; credits are available if taxes stay the same or go down.

Director Johnson requested a budget transfer in the amount of \$20,000 from the certiorari reserve to pay legal fees incurred in support of certiorari actions in various municipalities.

Supervisor Hilton made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Vedora to approve the budget transfer request, motion carried.

County Clerk Matthew Hoose related a recurring complaint received at the Department of Motor Vehicles regarding parking. There are nine parking spaces specifically reserved for DMV customer parking, which are rarely filled with DMV customers. The lack of parking hurts business at the DMV office, as people will be more inclined to do their business on-line. After some discussion, County Administrator Garvey offered to discuss the issue with the County Clerk and bring recommendations back to the committee.

Being no further business to come before the committee, Supervisor Hilton made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Supervisor Bendzłowicz, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 4:56 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Robin Johnson, Director
Real Property Tax Services