

COUNTY OF OSWEGO
COMMUNITY AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
October 29, 2008

PRESENT:

Jack Beckwith, Chair
Clayton Brewer
Mary Flett
Kevin Gardner, Vice Chair
Louella LeClair
Linda Lockwood
Phillip Vasho

STAFF/GUESTS

Colleen Bacon, Motor Vehicle Bureau Supervisor
Philip Church, County Administrator
Arthur Gearsbeck, Legislator
David Hastings, Director of Real Property Tax
Richard Hogan, Director of Central Services
John Kruk, County Treasurer
Barry Leemann, Chairman of the Legislature
Steven Loadwick, Budget Analyst
Georgiana Mansfield, Deputy County Clerk
Fred Maxon, Purchasing Director
Bill Scriber, Elections Commissioner
Don Wart, Elections Commissioner
George Williams, County Clerk
Valerie Williams, Social Services
Jeanette Woodland, Administrative Secretary
Pete Correia, Property Owner
Robie Correia, Property Owner

Attendance:

Committee Chair Beckwith called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

Old Business:

Committee Chair Beckwith asked for a motion to approve the September 24, 2008, minutes.

Motion: Legislator Gardner

Second: Legislator Vasho

Minutes were approved, with all in favor.

Committee Business:

1. Real Property Tax Services
 - A. Property owners Robie and Pete Correia came before the committee requesting additional time to pay their property taxes. After giving details of why the taxes hadn't been paid, Mr. and Mrs. Correia were told that this matter would be discussed and that they would be advised of the decision.
 - B. Resolution – Real Property Tax Law Refunds/Tax Collections
David Hastings, Director of Real Property Tax, brought forth the following resolution:
Resolution Authorizing the Implementation of the Provisions of Section 556 of the Real Property Tax Law, Subdivisions 8 & 9 Relative to the Refunds of Funds Due to Tax Corrections. This resolution authorizes the County Treasurer as the official to do the final review and payment of property tax corrections provided they do not exceed \$2,500.

Motion: Legislator LeClair made a motion to approve the resolution.
Second: Legislator Lockwood
Vote: All in favor.
Motion Carried.

C. 2008 Auction Report

Mr. Hastings advised that the property auction went very well but because of certain circumstances there were four properties that did not go to auction. These properties are now the property of the County. Committee discussion ensued. Richard Mitchell, County Attorney, said that it was in the best interest of the County to not hold on to these properties. With winter approaching these properties could sustain considerable damage, as well as theft within the structures. The liability is too great for the County to hold on to them for another year. Mr. Hastings informed the Committee that Sivers Auction Service could hold a special auction for these properties on Saturday, November 15th at 11:00 a.m.

Motion: Legislator Gardner made a motion to sell the four properties at the special auction.
Second: Legislator Vasho
Vote: All in favor.
Motion Carried.

2. Board of Elections

A. Philip Church, County Administrator, advised that the terms of the Elections Commissioner's would be expiring at the end of the year. The term would commence on January 1, 2009 and expire on December 31, 2012. The Legislature approved a 3 percent raise in 2008 which threw off the schedule. Mr. Church recommended that a new schedule be established to go the full term of the resolution.

Motion: Legislator Vasho made a motion to approve the resolution appointing Commissioners of Elections.
Second: Legislator Gardner

A motion to amend the January 1, 2009 salary (last "Resolved" of the resolution) from \$48,292 to \$49,741 was made by Legislator Vasho and seconded by Legislator Flett.

Leg. Chairman Leemann stated that this resolution would be sent on to Finance and Personnel where a salary would be recommended.

At this time Legislator Vasho withdrew his motion to amend the salary and Legislator Flett withdrew her second to the motion.

Motion: Legislator Vasho made a motion to delete the last "Resolved" from the resolution.
Second: Legislator LeClair
Vote: All in favor.
Motion Carried.

3. Budget Reviews

A. Elections

Don Wart, Elections Commissioner, presented the 2009 Board of Elections budget. There were no changes beyond what was earlier submitted.

Motion: Legislator Vasho made a motion to approve the budget submitted by the office of Elections, as presented.
Second: Legislator Gardner
Vote: All in favor.
Motion Carried.

B. Central Services

Richard Hogan, Director of Central Services presented his budget with a request to delete a Computer Specialist position and reclassify that position to a Senior Computer Specialist.

Motion: Legislator Gardner made a motion to approve the request to reclassify one Computer Specialist position to a Senior Computer Specialist position.
Second: Legislator Vasho
Vote: All in favor.
Motion Carried.

Motion: Legislator LeClair made a motion to approve the budget submitted by the office of Central Services, as amended.
Second: Legislator Flett
Vote: All in favor.
Motion Carried.

C. Real Property Tax Services

David Hastings presented the 2009 Real Property Tax Services budget. There were no changes beyond what was earlier submitted.

Motion: Legislator Gardner made a motion to approve the budget submitted by the office of Real Property Tax Services, as presented.
Second: Legislator Flett
Vote: All in favor.
Motion Carried.

D. Weights and Measures

Ted Jerrett, Clerk of the Legislature, presented the 2009 Weights and Measures budget. There were no changes beyond what was earlier submitted.

Motion: Legislator LeClair made a motion to approve the budget submitted by the department of Weights and Measures, as presented.
Second: Legislator Lockwood
Vote: All in favor.
Motion Carried.

At this time (3:00 p.m.) Legislator LeClair excused herself from the meeting.

E. County Clerk

George Williams, County Clerk, presented his budget to the Committee. Legislator Vasho inquired about a new position that he had been alerted to through phone calls.

Motion: Legislator Gardner made a motion to go into Executive Session for matters leading to the appointment, employment, or promotion of a particular person.

Second: Legislator Vasho

Vote: All in favor.

Motion Carried.

The Committee went into Executive Session at 3:05 p.m.

The Committee returned from Executive Session at 3:25 p.m.

Motion: Legislator Gardner made a motion to increase the Clerk fees to \$48,000.

Second: Legislator Vasho

Vote: All in favor.

Motion Carried.

Motion: Legislator Brewer made a motion to approve the budget submitted by the County Clerk's office, as amended.

Second: Legislator Vasho

Vote: All in favor.

Motion Carried.

F. Real Property Tax Auction Discussion

The Committee discussed the property that will be going up for auction in November. John Kruk mentioned that he has concerns by which some property owners have asked for extensions in paying back taxes. An agreed upon decision was made that once a deadline is made that there would not be any extensions, with no exceptions.

4. Executive Session

A. Personnel Evaluations

Motion: Legislator Vasho made a motion to go into Executive Session for Personnel Evaluations.

Second: Legislator Gardner

Vote: All in favor.

Motion Carried.

The Committee went into Executive Session at 3:42 p.m.

The Committee returned from Executive Session at 3:55 p.m.

Adjournment

Motion: Legislator Vasho motioned to adjourn the meeting at 3:55 p.m.

Second: Legislator Gardner

Vote: All in favor.

Motion Carried.