

COUNTY OF OSWEGO
COMMUNITY AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
February 25, 2009

PRESENT:

Kevin Gardner, Chair
Jack Beckwith, Vice Chair
Clayton Brewer
Mary Flett
Robert Hayes
Louella LeClair
Phillip Vasho

STAFF/GUESTS

Philip Church, County Administrator
Art Gearsbeck, Legislator
David Hastings, Director of Real Property Tax
Richard Hogan, Director of Central Services
Margaret Kastler, Legislator
John Kruk, County Treasurer
Frances Lanigan, Commissioner of Social Services
Jack Proud, Legislator
Paul Santore, Legislator
William Scriber, Elections Commissioner
Legislator Sorbello, Legislator
Donald Wart, Elections Commissioner
Jeanette Woodland, Administrative Secretary

MEDIA:

Aaron Curtis, Palladium Times
Carol Thompson, Valley News

Attendance:

Committee Chair Gardner called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Old Business:

Committee Chair Gardner asked for a motion to approve the January 28, 2009, minutes.

Motion: Legislator Vasho

Second: Legislator LeClair

Minutes were approved, with all in favor.

Committee Business:

1. Central Services

A. Computer Purchase – Social Services Department

Richard Hogan, Director of Central Services, brought forward a request to purchase computer equipment. Frances Lanigan, Commissioner of Social Services, requested approval to purchase 60 computers that are fully loaded and a memory upgrade for an additional 25 computers. The department is required to use state developed case tracking and management systems in Adult and Family Services and Child Support units. New York State will help in purchasing new computers and can purchase the fully loaded computer for \$600 each until March 31, 2009, when the price will increase. The County will have to pay an upfront price of \$37,800 for both the new computers and the upgrades for the existing computers. The purchase will be reimbursed by at least 75 percent making the final cost \$9,450.

Motion: Legislator Vasho made a motion to approve the request to purchase computer equipment, as presented.

Second: Legislator LeClair
Vote: All in favor.

2. Board of Elections

A. Pitney Bowes Smart Mailer

Donald Wart, Elections Commissioner, requested to replace a Pitney Bowes Smart Mailer. The Smart mailer printer that the department is using has been failing and requires service more and more. The service representative has indicated that this model is obsolete and many of the parts are no longer available. Commissioner Wart stressed that the department must have a reliable machine to be able to send out annual mail check cards that must be sent out to every registered voter in a timely manner. Commissioner Wart gave the Committee data detailing the cost involved in leasing or purchasing the printer. To lease the cost would be \$400/month for 51 months including maintenance with \$1.00 purchase option at the end of the lease. To purchase it would \$11,680 plus an additional \$1,044 yearly maintenance agreement. After Committee discussion Legislator Beckwith asked whether the Commissioner's wanted to buy or lease the machine. Commissioner Wart said that the recommendation is to lease, but if the Committee feels that it is better to purchase they would go with that.

Motion: Legislator Beckwith made a motion to approve the request to lease a Pitney Bowes Smart Printer for 51 months at a monthly lease cost of \$400.00 with purchase option at end of lease for \$1.00.

Second: Legislator Vasho

After more committee discussion, County Administrator Church asked if there were other systems. Commissioner Scriber replied that there were two but that they would like to go with Pitney Bowes because they have all the parts. Legislator LeClair asked about the maintenance and whether it included replacements. Commissioner Scriber replied that during the lease period maintenance is built in but we have to pay for parts on top of that. Legislator Hayes asked if the departments have to go through Purchasing. County Administrator Church advised that they do. At this time Legislator's Vasho and Beckwith withdrew their motion.

Motion: Legislator Flett made a motion to table the request and to look at other machines.

Second: Legislator Beckwith

Vote: All in favor.

Motion Carried.

County Administrator Church said that this would be brought to Purchasing and that they would make recommendations to the department. If this goes through this process it may not have to come back to committee. Fred Maxon, Purchasing Director, said that he would meet with Mr. Scriber and Mr. Wart in the next week to see what their needs are and will talk with Pitney Bowes.

3. Real Property

A. Property Buyback

David Hastings, Director of Real Property Tax, brought forth for approval the Tax Delinquent Property Auction Policy for 2009. The policy is scheduled to be held on Saturday, October 3, 2009 at Oswego County BOCES in Mexico. Attached to the minutes is a copy of the policy.

Motion: Legislator LeClair made a motion to approve the Tax Delinquent Property Auction Policy and auction date.
Second: Legislator Flett
Vote: All in favor.
Motion Carried.

B. Assessment Improvement Study Grant

Mr. Hastings introduced Jay Franklin, Assistant Director of Assessment, from Tompkins County. Mr. Franklin gave a presentation on an assessment study. We need to decide what form of assessment administration is best for Oswego County. This study will bring a common level of assessment for all municipalities in the County. A copy is included with these minutes.

Executive Session

County Attorney Mitchell requested that the Committee enter an Executive Session to discuss potential tax property litigation.

Motion: Legislator Vasho made a motion to go into Executive Session.
Second: Legislator
Vote: All in favor.
Motion Carried.

The Committee entered Executive Session at 3:02 p.m.

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

Adjournment

Motion: Legislator Vasho motioned to adjourn the meeting at 3:25 p.m.
Second: Legislator Beckwith
Vote: All in favor.
Motion Carried.