

Strategic Planning & Government Committee
Monday, October 26, 2009
10:00 A.M.
County Office Building Oswego

PRESENT: Milferd Potter, Chairman; Legislators Bob Hayes, Lee Walker, Jim Oldenburg, John Proud

EXCUSED: Legislator Kunzwiler

ABSENT: Legislator Jim Bryant

**GUESTS &
STAFF** Legislators Art Gearsbeck, Paul Santore, Margaret Kastler. Stephen Green, Esq., Richard Mitchell, County Attorney, John Kruk, County Treasurer

The meeting was called to order at 10 A.M. by Chairman Potter.

MINUTES - The minutes of the September 28, 2009 meeting were approved upon motion by Legislator Walker, seconded by Legislator Oldenburg with all in favor.

RESOLUTION REGARDING FIRE INSURANCE PROCEEDS ON TAX DELINQUENT PROPERTIES. This resolution will include Oswego County on the list of eligible tax districts maintained by the New York State Superintendent of Insurance under Insurance Law so that it may continue to claim against the proceeds of fire insurance on delinquent tax properties as provided by law. Motion to approve by Legislator Oldenburg, seconded by Legislator Proud with all in favor.

RESOLUTION – BUDGET MODIFICATION ASSIGNED COUNCIL. – Attorney Stephen Greene, the Administrator of the Assigned Counsel Program appeared before the committee to request a transfer of \$400,000 from legal fees to assigned counsel legal fees. Attorney Greene explained that a review of his budget for the year 2009 demonstrates a need for additional funding. Many factors including the poor state of the economy have caused more participants in all Courts within the County to be deemed judicially-eligible for assigned counsel. He further explained that the plan anticipates large impending vouchers for the Alan Jones murder trial and the Lynn and Lindsey Maxwell endangering trials. He explained that the vouchers for attorney services are subject to court approval. He further stated that expert services invoices known of to date relating to the Jones trial alone are in the amount of \$22,757 subject to Court approval. Motion to approve the transfer by Legislator Walker, seconded by Legislator Oldenburg with all in favor. Legislator Proud suggested that perhaps a more regular reporting of this account may help this committee in

the future. Administrator Church stated that we can provide variance accounts monthly; however a lot may depend on when the attorney's send in the vouchers.

CODE ENFORCEMENT – DISCUSSION

This discussion was tabled last month. The County is looking into the possibility of a County Code Enforcement Office. The County may avoid fees by doing it in house. The position would be a tested position. It was also suggested that perhaps it could be contracted out using another code enforcement officer. The Administrator offered that he would rather budget it. The State has a new fee structure. It costs \$500 every time they set foot in our building. Legislator Walker stated that he would not support this position. There being no motions the matter continues to stay tabled at this time.

HEALTH INSURANCE

Leg. Lee Walker requested that under new business the elimination of health insurance for legislators be discussed. It was noted that this is not the proper committee. That would be an item for the Finance & Personnel Committee. Legislator Walker requested that it be placed on the next agenda.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion to go into executive session for the purpose of performance evaluations. Motion by Legislator Oldenburg, seconded by Legislator Doyle with all in favor. Executive Session 10:40 A.M.

Motion to end executive session by Legislator Oldenburg, seconded by Legislator Walker with all in favor. 10:46 A.M.

ADJOURN

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:46 upon motion by Legislator Oldenburg, seconded by Legislator Walker with all in favor.