

REAL PROPERTY COMMITTEE
September 17, 2009

PRESENT:

Reginald Crowley, Chairman
George Jahn
Valerie Bertram
Bart Delaney, Jr.
Richard Keaveney
Roy Brown
John Musall
Raymond Staats

ABSENT:

Margaret Robertson- notified
Douglas McGivney- notified

ALSO PRESENT:

Jacquelyn Lydon, Asst. Deputy Clerk
Suzette Booy
Judith Neary
Michael Lorenson
Jodi Tuttle
Barbara Beaucage
Mark Cultary
David Guzman

Press: 1

Chairman Crowley called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

County Attorney: T. Rappleyea

Discussion regarding the 2005 tax foreclosures. T. Rappleyea advised the committee the bid opening for these properties occurred on September 10th. He distributed a copy of the listing of all bids and the final winning bids. He also advised the committee that only 9 of the 14 eligible properties received bids with the amount of winning bids totaling over \$150,000.00. There are 5 properties which have received no bids. T. Rappleyea asked the committee to re-examine the minimum bid levels and put the properties in the next sale, offer the properties to adjoining landowners at the current or re-examined minimum bid, or consider/accept offers from the public at large at whatever the offer may be made. Motion to consider/accept offers from the public at large at whatever offer may be made by J. Musall, seconded by B. Delaney, Jr. Motion carried.

Discussion regarding the 2006 tax foreclosures. T. Rappleyea stated the tour of the 2006 foreclosure properties will be rescheduled to October 6 at 8:30am with R. Brown, R. Staats, and R. Keaveney attending.

J. Neary:

J. Neary stated in regards to county and school tax she believes there should be 2 installment payments, she is concerned of the senior citizen population that cannot afford to pay the taxes in one lump sum. S. Booy will look into this matter and Chairman Crowley advised J. Neary to talk with all school districts and report back to October Real Property Committee.

Real Property: S. Booy

Presentation from D. Guzman, Business Manager from SDG (Systems Development Group, Inc.) and M. Cultary regarding Image Mate Online (IMO) and Parcel History Software. These programs will allow Columbia County to maximize productivity and data-sharing within multiple departments as well as enhancing service to the taxpaying public. IMO is a web based search engine for highly efficient retrieval and display of real property information. The Online Subscription Management Module provides the County with an opportunity to create a revenue stream. (15 clients could generate \$7,500 a year @ \$500 annually) The Parcel History extension keeps track of historic information about Columbia County's parcels. Both public and private modes of access to the system can be configured by SDG to allow or deny access to other types of data, based on the County's needs or requirements. With this software, the Real Property Office can eliminate owner name & exemption information from what the public sees. SDG products can be seamlessly integrated with Pictometry, ArcIMS and Apex sketching software. There are about 30 counties that actively operate the SDG Image Mate Online System and feedback from Appraisers, Banks, Law Offices, Utilities and Realtors is very

positive. Real Property Grant Money could be used to pay for this for the first year or two and then with clients it could pay for itself.

S. Booy stated she will discuss this issue in more detail at October's Real Property Committee meeting with the possibility of purchasing this software.

Discussion regarding Mapping Project. S. Booy stated she has received proposals from 6 vendors who would like to upgrade our digital tax maps to a seamless municipal format. She has been reviewing the proposals and feels 2 are very good. Tax mappers are currently making changes to 523 maps (AutoCad drawings). When this project is complete, mappers will be making changes to 24 "seamless" maps – one per municipality and 2 for the Village of Chatham. They will be able to provide Arcview compatible shape files to departments in need of updates such as Soil & Water, 911, Health, Planning. RPS parcel data will be attached to the maps at the end of the project as well. She stated this will make the County one step closer to having our tax maps ready for being used as a base for GIS if the County chooses to go that direction in the future.

Discussion regarding the proposals received and costs.

S. Booy stated she currently has grant funding of \$40,000.00 to help fund this project and Soil and Water is willing to contribute \$12,500.00. V. Bertram asked if the criteria matched the grant funding. S. Booy stated there is no criteria to the current grant money she has.

Resolution Request: Requesting authorization to contract with Mpower Innovations Inc. at a cost not to exceed \$22,500.00 for the conversion of 523 maps to 24 seamless maps with edgematching and polygon cleanup. Motion by V. Bertram, seconded by B. Delaney, Jr. Refer to Finance.

S. Booy stated the \$22,500.00 includes 2 days of training.

S. Booy stated she will obtain more information and feels their may need to be a special Real Property meeting before Full Board to pass the two co-applicant resolutions.

FYI: Pictometry Update – Training will be held at Columbia-Greene Community College on Friday, October 9, 2009 there will be two sessions: Morning – Assessors; Afternoon – other Town Employees & a few County Employees. Assessors will be receiving their external hard drives loaded with Pictometry Imagery at this class. S. Booy to email all Assessors/Town Clerks/Supervisors about this and request that interested employees contact Real Property to register.

FYI: Department of State – Division of Local Government Services – S. Booy attended a meeting at ORPS on August 24, 2009 with regards to a DOS Efficiency Implementation Grant that is being offered. It may be possible to fund the Valuation Specialist Position as well as Data Collector(s) as transitional personnel with this type of Grant for up to a 3 year period, however the current deadline for Grant Applications is September 23, 2009. This is a highly competitive Grant. S. Booy stated there is currently money for the salary, computer software, and education in the 2010 budget to for the position of valuation Specialist but the position will not be filled if the grant is not obtained. She stated there is a need for 2 co-applicants to the grant to match 10% of the requested amount. S. Booy stated she believes the grant should be for \$300,000.00. V. Bertram asked why the amount is so high. S. Booy stated it is for the funding of 3 years including salary, benefits and computer software.

With no further business, a motion to adjourn at 6:41 P.M. by B. Delaney, Jr., seconded by J. Musall. Motion carried.