

**COMMITTEE DAY
LAKE PLEASANT, NY
MONDAY
OCTOBER 27, 2014**

**FINANCE COMMITTEE
9:00 AM**

Members present: Bob Edwards, Brian Towers and Neil McGovern

Also present: Bill Farber, Phil Snyder, Clark Seaman, Brian Wells, Rick Wilt and Frank Mezzano

Budget Officer Mezzano reviewed the 2015 tentative budget. Last year we raised the sales tax 1% and we have arrived at a budget estimate which is going to be ok, it will be a little above the 2% cap. There isn't any room for enhancing revenues.

Retirement is going to be flat this year. When we do the budget and make the payment in December, we are paying nine months of this year and the first three of next year.

Budget Officer Mezzano stated as for expenses it was agreed to give a 1.75% increase across the board for the employees.

Health Insurance is up 7.7% which equals out to around \$115,000.00. The Retiree Medicare B reimbursement has been traditionally underfunded at \$60,000.00 and it needs to be at \$80,000.00.

With all of those changes as it stands we are at \$211,000.00 over the cap.

Budget Officer Mezzano asked the members to consider a reserve account for highway equipment and explained his reasoning.

Mr. Farber reported that Highway Superintendent Eldridge has kept all of his inventory such as equipment, under separate departments with replacement costs and life expectancy. He knows the costs for each department.

Budget Officer Mezzano stated it is the principle of good budgeting if you know you are going to have expenses.

Mr. McGovern entered during the solid waste reserve discussion.

Mr. Towers asked if we are going to try to get to the cap but the reality is we are over the cap.

Mr. Farber feels they should try to get to the cap. They could have Attorney Getty draft the override resolution but there is an extra step now, if you do the override and don't go over, to be considered of staying under the cap you have to rescind the override so that your residents will be able to receive a rebate check.

Mr. McGovern stated it is not just an exercise; you need have a resolution to adopt a local law.

Mr. Farber stated for the first resolution to be meaningful it has to be the resolution with the local law language and sets the public hearing. At which point you will be stuck with a public hearing, but you might not adopt the local law.

Mr. Towers asked what would be the difference if the COLA was a 1.5% versus a 1.75%. Mr. Farber stated approximately \$12,500.00.

Mr. Snyder stated that they need to start somewhere.

Mr. Farber stated one of the big uncertainties is at the end of 2014 we clearly at this moment don't have a sense of what is going to be left in the fund balance with respect to highway. This is the first year with the significant ramped up numbers and the Highway Superintendent is struggling to finish up projects, so a lot depends upon what gets finished.

The Board decided to move forward with the local law to override the tax cap. If adopted and the budget isn't over they will need to rescind it. If they hold off on doing the local law and they do not go over then they don't adopt the local law.

**PUBLIC WORKS/SOLID WASTE/BUILDINGS COMMITTEE
BUDGET REVIEW
9:30 AM**

Present: Brian Towers, Brian Wells, Rick Wilt and Phil Snyder

Also present: Bill Farber, Bob Edwards, Clark Seaman, Neil McGovern, Tracy Eldridge and Frank Mezzano

Highway Superintendent Eldridge reported he is hoping to have the Beaver Meadow Bridge open this week. He mistakenly left out the transition rail in the original bid. Superintendent Eldridge handed out a resolution to purchase the rail; he feels the amount will be within the original budget of \$300,000.00.

All the paving is done; they did close to ten miles.

Under buildings – Community Services security system is scheduled to go in within the next couple of weeks.

Fuel consolidation is going well, he is hoping it will be on-line tentatively on November 14th.

Budget review - D fund – revenue is staying flat. Mr. Farber stated that they will do one Finance Committee meeting to address all salaries.

Highway Superintendent Eldridge reported he added in a Deputy Superintendent line. As of now Mr. Parslow's salary is being taken out of the other D personal services. He is now making it

administrative. Superintendent Eldridge feels that the new deputy won't be getting overtime, but he did put some money in that line just in case.

Mr. Farber stated the thinking behind putting money in that line is that we don't expect the new deputy to be checking roads and such as Mr. Parslow did. Similar to road projects where we are sharing equipment and manpower with the county and we work until 7 o'clock at night. The overtime is to avoid getting into circumstance where the deputy is in a position where he accrues so much comp time that he needs to be taking time off at key points or can't stay late because of acquiring more comp time.

5110 – Maintenance of Streets – Decreased to \$70,000.00, removed deputy and also moved a mechanic over to DM.

Superintendent Eldridge gave his 2015 bridge plan – South Pond and a short bridge in Wells. They are doing well on bridges and this is an area that we could reduce if need be. Mr. Farber does not advocate for that. This gave way for a discussion on federal aid.

DM Fund is relatively flat Highway Superintendent Eldridge reported. Under the Machinery Road Equipment he increased it to cover the tandem that he has ordered and he would also like to purchase a new lowboy detachable and replace a dump box on one of the 2002 tandems.

Mr. Farber asked how much for the box replacement on the tandem, Superintendent Eldridge stated \$175,000.00.

Solid Waste – Superintendent Eldridge reviewed. Under tipping fees this is for equipment replacement and this reflects the \$5.00 a ton tipping fee increase for 2015.

Superintendent Eldridge reported that our electronic recycling company is going to start charging us. They are going to charge for CRT's, which is approximately 60% of our loads. He thinks his budget will cover it.

The technician's salary in Lake Pleasant has gone down considerably due to a retirement and now a new employee.

Buildings – The big change you will see is where he added a line for the Indian Lake laborer and the contract line was zeroed out. The only other increase is under heating for an additional \$5,000.00 and everything else is flat.

The Court maintenance work is also zeroed out. Overall there is an increase of \$13,000.00 which equates to a 3% increase.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE
PERSONNEL BUDGET REVIEW
10:30 AM**

Present: Bob Edwards, Brian Towers and Neil McGovern

Also present: Bill Farber, Brian Wells, Clark Seaman, Phil Snyder, Rick Wilt, Kimberly Byrne and Frank Mezzano

Personnel Officer Byrne requested that her hours go back to 35. She did not put it in on her tentative budget because the last couple of years it hasn't been a topic of discussion. She reported that her 2015 budget is flat; there was a decrease in the supplies line due to getting a new computer in 2014.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE
COUNTY CLERK BUDGET REVIEW
10:45 AM**

Present: Bob Edwards, Brian Towers and Neil McGovern.

Also present: Bill Farber, Brian Wells, Clark Seaman, Phil Snyder, Rick Wilt, Jane Zarecki and Frank Mezzano

County Clerk Zarecki reviewed the office revenues. As of August the County Clerk fees are up to \$130,000.00 so she feels they will hit their goal of \$150,000.00. Basic mortgage tax has come up approximately \$40,000.00, and the county mortgage tax has also come up to \$20,000.00. One-line transactions hurt our revenues.

Mr. Farber asked if she would talk about the microfilm line item and her request.

County Clerk Zarecki stated she had \$6,000.00 in her original budget. Out of that comes storage fees for the microfilm, survey maps that they have to upload and there are still books that have not been filmed. A short discussion continued on how many other books need to be microfilmed.

Mr. Farber asked what her thinking is on this and what each level buys us.

County Clerk Zarecki stated \$6,000.00 will buy us the basic services to get a couple more books done. Mr. Farber asked if it helps with the catch up, County Clerk Zarecki stated no, \$10,000.00 will help with a little bit of catch up.

Mr. Seaman entered.

Mr. Farber requested County Clerk Zarecki get the number of what it will cost to totally get caught up on the microfilming of books so they can decide how to budget over the next couple of years.

County Clerk Zarecki wanted to know why she has two departments and she gets the same salary as the County Treasurer who has one and she left them with that thought.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BUDGET REVIEW
11:00 AM**

Present: Bob Edwards, Brian Towers and Neil McGovern.

Also present: Bill Farber, Brian Wells, Clark Seaman, Phil Snyder, Rick Wilt, Don Purdy and Frank Mezzano

Emergency Manager Purdy reported there is \$9,000.00 left in his budget due to Fulton County not charging for rental of the their burn building this year.

Emergency Manager Purdy just wanted the members to know that Matt O'Brien has been great about letting us use the Oak Mountain property for training.

The only additional item in the tentative budget is he added money for power to the Blue Mountain tower, which is Hamilton County's turn to pay.

Mr. Farber asked how the money for the EMS training or supplies is holding up. Emergency Manager Purdy stated that is part of the \$9,000.00. Mr. Farber asked if we used any of the EMS money, Purdy stated no. Do we know what the training schedule is for 2015, Emergency Manager Purdy stated, EMS Coordinator Wickes is planning a continuing of an education course for EMS starting tonight in Lake Pleasant.

Mr. Farber discussed EMS Coordinator Wickes and not pushing the scheduling of training onto Joyce Muleedy.

Emergency Manager Purdy stated that he attended a NCI drill that Herkimer County hosted involving Inlet and Raquette Lake ambulances. Dave who was head of the drill stated that he was more than willing to run another EMT class in the north. He knows we need to continue this training.

Mr. McGovern agreed with Mr. Wilt that a meeting is in order with EMS Coordinator Wickes.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY BUDGET REVIEW
11:15 AM**

Present: Bob Edwards, Brian Towers and Neil McGovern.

Also present: Bill Farber, Brian Wells, Clark Seaman, Phil Snyder, Rick Wilt, Marsha Purdue and Frank Mezzano

District Attorney Purdue reported her budget as flat.

Budget Officer Mezzano passed out a breakdown of District Attorney's travel. The travel shows an increase of \$2,500.00 for 2014. Mr. Farber asked what is different between 2014 and 2015. District Attorney Purdue stated in the past she moved money around within the budget and this time she tried to budget correctly.

Mr. Farber asked about special prosecuting that she does for other counties; do we get District Attorney's doing cases for us? District Attorney Purdue stated not on all cases, but some.

District Attorney Purdue wanted to speak about her salary. When District Attorney Curry left he was making \$88,000.00. After two years she still is not at the level that Mr. Curry was and she feels she is doing a good job. State Troopers and DEC tell her she is doing a great job. She continued to explain all the things she does.

District Attorney Purdue stated she requested \$95,686.00 in her 2015 tentative budget. She also feels that Connie is not being compensated for what a great job she does. She stated if the Board members want people to stay here they need to start paying higher wages.

Assistant District Attorney Goodspeed will not receive health insurance but his salary will have the 1.75% increase that everyone one else will be receiving.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE
SHERIFF BUDGET REVIEW
11:30AM**

Present: Bob Edwards, Brian Towers and Neil McGovern.

Also present: Bill Farber, Brian Wells, Clark Seaman, Phil Snyder, Rick Wilt, Sheriff Abrams and Frank Mezzano

Sheriff Abrams reported in 2014 he had budget shortages due to a very busy year and it's very hard to predict during budget preparation. Because of that some lines are increased to be more prepared for 2015.

Navigation has gone up between winterization, gas, oil, parts etc. Plus he did not plan to help with the 90 miler for two days, or one square mile of hope so he had to make adjustment to this line.

Corrections overtime and holiday line had to be increased, employees have accrued time and are using it so he needs to back fill those positions. He does help do day shifts at the jail to help keep the overtime down.

Mr. Farber stated everyone needs to realize that when towns request Sheriff's presence, the towns should share the cost.

Mr. Towers questioned the navigation expenses being up. The Sheriff explained the maintenance of the fleet and the Long Lake boat is twelve years old, the motor is good but it is starting to show some wear. He would like to put a little money into that boat, such as cosmetic work to get it up to where it will last another four or five years.

Sheriff Abrams reported that Dan Moran may be retiring at the end of 2015 and he will need to replace him. He would like to bring someone in the month of December to learn from Dan before he goes.

Mr. Farber encouraged the Board members to help with names for possible temporary employees. He feels that we should expand the temporary list for the jail, yes there will be the expense for training but it should be a savings long term because it would cut down on the amount of overtime.

Mr. Farber discussed funding the overtime.

Sheriff Abrams budgeted \$30,000.00 for other corrections. Last year we had two females that cost us a lot of money to house out. He did raise the jail medical, which too was costly last year.

Sheriff Abrams stated that the temporary employees are being paid too little and is afraid that after all the training the county pays for they will end up going somewhere else for higher pay.

Mr. Farber stated the more events we have with sheriff presence requested the more this starts to impact the sheriff's budget. He can do only what he can do.

Mr. Farber stated it would be a tragedy to start charging back to the towns when police presence is requested.

A short discussion regarding the new Deputy Knapp. Sheriff Abrams should know very soon if he is going to be losing Deputy Stuart. Deputy Knapp is not in the requested budget, but he is requesting that he be added.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE
PROBATION BUDGET REVIEW
12:10 PM**

Present: Bob Edwards, Brian Towers and Neil McGovern.

Also present: Bill Farber, Brian Wells, Clark Seaman, Phil Snyder, Rick Wilt, Amy Taylor and Frank Mezzano

Probation Officer Taylor reported they were the lead agency last year for the STSJD Grant and this year Department of Social Services took it over.

Budget Officer Mezzano stated your salary budget request will be discussed in another Finance Committee meeting where they will discuss all salaries.

Probation Officer Taylor reported that they have been busy. She has spoken with a lot of other counties regarding them charging for supervision, drug testing and DWI supervision. Montgomery County receives approximately \$10,000.00 per year for these types of charges. She feels that this

may possibly be an option to look into if the board chooses so and possibly just charging for supervision. A discussion continued on fees and what others are charging.

**EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS/EMERGENCY RESPONSE
COMMITTEE
1:00PM**

Present: Rick Wilt

Also present: Bill Farber, Don Purdy and Sheriff Abrams

Mark from Blue Wing conferenced call in to the meeting.

Mark reported that they spoke with the state regarding our issue and they wanted to set up a meeting with a broader group which is slated for Thursday of this week. This will be a general discussion and he feels that they are interested in the county using the money towards a general system, not local radios.

Mr. Wilt stated we need connectivity, we need a plan. Even if we go for another grant, we need a plan.

Mark stated there is the next round of grants called SITG4 and Herkimer County is interested in going jointly on this. He feels the need for a northern site eventually. Information on the next grant will be released soon.

Mark will work with Emergency Management Director Purdy and Sheriff Abrams about coverage in the northwest part of the county for the next grant.

Sheriff Abrams asked if this was for a repeater or microwave, Mark stated microwave.

Sheriff Abrams and Mark discussed the possibilities of using fire towers for the backcountry coverage.

Mark proposed using Hamilton Mountain and stated you can see Gore Mountain from there as well as Spruce Mountain, Cathead etc. It is not in the ditch like Oak Mountain is. Mr. Farber questioned if it was in wild forest or wilderness. Mark stated he would have to go back and look at it.

Mr. Farber stated we would need a constitutional amendment to do that.

Mark feels that Hamilton Mountain is the best site in the area but if that is not possible then it would be stringing along the road way and if Morehouse and Pine Mountain isn't available then we are going to have to do a couple to three hops to get out of the county to Herkimer County. The problem is if you want to stay along the road and you're not able to go to a high site such as Morehouse then you will need more sites because not every site sees as far.

If they went off of Oak Mountain then they would need something around south of Piseco Lake, then something near Hoffmeister then jumping over to Herkimer County or Dairy Hill depending upon the placing of the second tower.

Mr. Farber stated at the last meeting he had talked about doing a mock up budget for set aside permitting, what it would cost to implement a site like Morehouse. Mark reported that he and Don contacted National Grid and received a figure of \$20 - \$30 per foot and feels it's high.

Emergency Manager Purdy stated that National Grid seemed very reluctant to give an honest quote without actually seeing project plans.

Mark contacted Highway Superintendent Eldridge who worked for International Paper Company and is very familiar with developing logging roads and he was going to give a ball park per foot cost.

Mark feels they need to pick a site such as Pine Mountain or Morehouse and mock that up so they could get a real quote. Discussion continued on options to get to Morehouse.

Emergency Manager Purdy stated he just got an extension so we need to redefine it and let them know what we are up against in achieving the connectivity.

Mark asked in regards to the tower on Blue Mountain is there a desire to use the troopers buildings, is that the preferred outcome. Sheriff Abrams stated that was talked about but wasn't that building pretty congested? Mark stated if it was reorganized you could gain a lot of space, but the building needs some work. Sheriff Abrams stated they did have problems in the building due to large ice chunks falling from the tower.

Bob Edwards, Brian Towers, Clark Seaman, Neil McGovern and Phil Snyder entered during discussion on the troopers building.

Sheriff Abrams stated that would absolutely be the preferred direction to go. He would also like to see us in that building and the power line that is encased in cement taken out and redone correctly. Mark feels they did a reasonable job with the power line. Is it ok to start having conversations with the State Police regarding potential co-location, Sheriff Abrams stated yes.

Mark reported in our proposal you have a structure and the biggest thing missing in the proposal is development costs, they had pieces and parts but not the integration of the things, only the development of the site.

Mark will go forward with discussions with the State Police for building use and the call ended.

Mr. Farber suggested they get DOT's right-of-way maps between Evergreen Lake and the end of Piseco Lake. He feels it is worth asking the question if they retained excessive right-of-way there or if they swapped it out under the DOT land bank and gave it up.

Mr. Farber is not convinced that they can get to Pine Mountain without under grounding up route 10.

Mr. Wilt stated according to Mr. Avery the cell company was going to put power up there, but not ground power. They were going to have propane tanks, windmill, solar etc., it's feasible because how often are you going to use the microwave.

The committee continued discussion on different possible sites without a conclusion.