

**2021**

**FOURTH ANNUAL SESSION**

**NOVEMBER 16, 2021**

The Board convened at 10:30 A.M. in the Supervisors' Chambers at the Court House, Lake Pleasant, New York, with the Chairman, William G. Farber presiding. Mr. Farber led the members of the Board of Supervisors in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, and an opening prayer.

The Clerk, Mrs. Laura Abrams, called the roll with the following Supervisors answering:

Arietta	ABSENT
Benson	John M. Stortecky
Hope	Steven M. Tomlinson
Indian Lake	Brian Wells
Inlet	John Frey
Lake Pleasant	Betsy A. Bain
Long Lake	Clay J. Arsenault
Morehouse	William G. Farber
Wells	ABSENT

Also present: Herb Schmid-Weights and Measures Director and Tracy Eldridge-Highway Superintendent

Public Comment: No one present.

Reports of Standing/Special Committees:

Mr. Frey: Stated that we are almost through the budget review.

The Chairman stated that they are continuing to make progress in firming up numbers. Beth Hunt, Treasurer, had just given him numbers. Recommends that they leave out the revenue and appropriation for Public Health COVID Grants. They will fund what's remaining by resolution in 2022. It will totally be offsetting. Roberta Bly, DSS Commissioner, is also trying to firm up some numbers. There was one revenue that they both agreed looked over estimated.

The Chairman introduced Herb Schmid, Director of Weights and Measures.

Mr. Schmid stated that he has been the Hamilton County Inspector for 21 years and he discussed what he does. His responsibility is to check all the gas stations to make sure what you are getting matches what the pump reads and he also checks that the octane levels are correct. He hasn't had many problems over the years and stated how the meters are designed to give more away when not working properly. Another one of his responsibilities is fuel oil. He can't do propane, which is done through NYS. He works with a State Representative who goes around and does that for

Hamilton County. He also does scales; deli scales up to truck scales. He stated how he doesn't have the equipment to do truck scales so they hire a company to come in and do that.

Tracy Eldridge, Highway Superintendent, stated that he put in a new scale at the Lake Pleasant Transfer Station. Gerhart will be coming in December to certify it as well as recertifying the scale at the Indian Lake Transfer Station. He will be getting in contact with Mr. Schmid regarding this. Mr. Schmid stated that he will come up; they will do the work and he will be there to observe.

Nick Mauro entered the meeting.

Mr. Schmid stated that he will be looking to retire in 4 years.

RESOLUTIONS:

**RESOLUTION NO. 293-21**

**RESOLUTION TO SET DATE OF ORGANIZATION MEETING**

**DATED: NOVEMBER 16, 2021**

**BY MR. FREY:**

RESOLVED, that the Organization Meeting of the Board of Supervisors will be held on Thursday, January 6, 2022 at 2:00 P.M.

Seconded by Mr. Mauro and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: STORTECKY, TOMLINSON, WELLS, FREY, BAIN, ARSENAULT, FARBER AND MAURO

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: WILT

After the following resolution was placed on the floor; the Chairman stated that there were more expenses coming out of that line which means they will be doing a larger claim. To make it less complicated they transferred the funds from Fund Balance.

They are in the process of working out the details for claiming with Public Health to get the money back for a Deputy's hours worked at the COVID Clinics.

**RESOLUTION NO. 294-21**

**TRANSFER OF FUNDS – SHERIFF BOAT PATROL**

**DATED: NOVEMBER 16, 2021**

**BY MR. FREY:**

WHEREAS, there is a shortage of funds in the Sheriff's Boat Patrol Account, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the County Treasurer be hereby authorized to make the following transfer:

FROM: A1990.0401 Contingent	\$7,300.00
TO: A3110.0106 Boat Patrol	\$7,300.00

Seconded by Ms. Bain and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: STORTECKY, TOMLINSON, WELLS, FREY, BAIN, ARSENAULT, FARBER AND MAURO

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: WILT

Tentative Budget Review:

The Budget Officer discussed the process so far and how the adopting resolution will be a long one with all the salary changes. He is hopeful that the resolution will go out far enough in advance for their review. He further discussed. Mr. Stortecky asked how the public follows along with the budget process. The Budget Officer stated that the tentative budget is posted on the website and the resolution to adopt the 2022 budget will be sent out in advance.

Tracy Eldridge, Highway Superintendent, stated that he had some updated Solid Waste numbers.

Mr. Eldridge stated that it looks like he will have to re-bid gasoline and diesel. He was hoping that he could extend the current Mansfield contract but they haven't responded to his calls. He would like to open the bids on December 17<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Eldridge stated that A.8161.401 was the line they used to pay Fulton County for tipping fees. For 2021 the budget was \$250,000 and he requested an increase for 2022 to \$295,000. Per the 5-year Fulton County contract the tipping fees go up \$0.75 per year. The current rate per ton is \$46.50 and as of January 1<sup>st</sup> it goes to \$47.25. Looking at his numbers for this year he feels they will be close to the 5,800-ton range which equals close to \$270,000. Putting them over budget and using that same math for 2022 he feels they will be closer to \$280,000 rather than his original request of \$295,000. The Budget Officer stated that was the number he used. Mr. Eldridge stated how the amount billed to towns has been a set number and he will be looking to adjust it. He further discussed the history behind tipping fees as well as the process. The Budget Officer stated that he requests the change be made to the towns so they can more accurately fund it. The conversation and proposal for 2021 and 2022 is to use the shared services match grant on behalf of the County to cover that gap. Mr. Eldridge stated that 2023 is the final year for the current Fulton County contract. The price isn't going to go down. He hopes by the middle of 2023 there

will be a new contract. The Chairman stated that they have been working with and through NYSAC on recycling. They had discussed doing a change to the bottle bill that would take more of the glass out of the recycling waste stream. They are also working on sole source recycling.

Mr. Wells asked if the Board had decided to make the part time Personnel Clerk full-time. The Budget Officer stated that they hadn't finalized that decision. Mr. Tomlinson thought it was a good idea. Mr. Arsenault was undecided. Mr. Wells stated that he was confused about how the office was currently covered and agreed with full-time if it was going to be effective. Mr. Frey thought that Ms. Byrne stated that the hours would be staggered to cover. Mr. Wells stated that Ms. Byrne had stated that her clerk wasn't given more training and responsibility because with the part time schedule she didn't have the time. Mr. Arsenault stated that she would have the training being full-time. Mr. Wells stated that one way to look at it was making her more effective in the office and it would lessen the complaints about nobody being there. The Chairman stated that they should work with Personnel so that the schedule is such that the office is open during key times. For that, it means adding hours to the clerk schedule. The Board asked Ms. Bain's opinion. Ms. Bain stated that if the clerk is used the right way it would be a big plus to make her full-time because it would take some workload off of Ms. Byrne but it sounds like that might not be the case. She also feels that if full-time then the hours in the office should be staggered as well as vacation and days off. There is another department where it's the same way and she feels it should be addressed. Mr. Frey stated that the clerk needs to be able to answer questions in Ms. Byrne's absence. He also feels that if there is a vacation then the person in the office should have a different lunch hour than everyone else. The Chairman stated that he hasn't heard from many people that the present clerk hasn't been able to answer questions in Ms. Byrne's absence. He feels the frustration comes when the office door is closed. When it's closed for lunch with no indication of when they left or there is an employee from another department filling in that can't answer any questions. If that is the dynamic then they might as well just have the answering machine pick up. He stated that the clerk, for what training she does have, does a good job and has good people skills. This is by no means an indictment on her. Mr. Stortecky asked if lunch break was a Department Head's decision or was it something that could be dictated. The Chairman stated that this wasn't a new problem. The Board had adopted a resolution that stated that none of the County offices could be closed without prior approval of the Board. He admitted that it had gotten a little lax and some departments have been getting creative. He thought it would be a good idea to send out a reminder to the departments. The Board decided that they would review the adopted resolution, make any changes needed at the following meeting before they send it to the departments. That way it would deal with the lunch issue. Mr. Frey stated that they needed to find out what was needed in regards to training so she can handle everything and he would be more willing to support a full-time position. The Chairman stated that they should be aware that if there's training at a higher level than clerk and she is given more responsibilities then there could be the problem of the employee working outside of title. He stated how Personnel is sending benefit questions to Burnham already and a clerk can do that just as well. He feels there are more things she can do in the office under the clerk title without training. Ms. Bain stated that if they made the decision to go with the full-time clerk how can they be sure that she will get the training. The Chairman stated that the easiest thing to do is set up a meeting with Ms. Byrne and have the conversation about the Board's expectations. Mr. Wells discussed staggering the hours. Mr. Wells stated again that he was in support of full-time if it would be effective. Ms. Bain stated that they had to make sure it was being followed through on. Mr. Stortecky suggested putting it in writing.

The Chairman asked if the Board wanted Ms. Byrne to come to the next meeting to discuss. They all agreed. Ms. Bain asked if a Board member should discuss with Ms. Byrne in advance. The Chairman agreed that he would help Ms. Bain with that after the meeting.

The Budget Officer discussed Ms. Bly's request to make the Homemaker position full-time. He stated that it didn't stand out in the budget because they had originally budgeted for more hours than hired for. The position was discussed and how beneficial making it full-time would be. The tentative budget has the full-time amount already there but they need to make a decision on the position. The Board agreed to make the position full-time.

The Board discussed the Emergency Services Director position and how the salary was going to be based on experience. The appointment and setting of salary wouldn't be until the Organizational meeting.

The Budget Officer stated that he met with department heads regarding on-call pay. He had reached out to Ms. Byrne and is waiting to hear back regarding how long they had been at the rate of \$175 per week. In the conversation he included Mr. Eldridge and the Sheriff to make sure if they approved an adjustment, it wouldn't cause a ripple effect. They both agreed with the Board about the adjustment. Ms. Bly was requesting \$300 per week. He discussed the challenges of being on-call for Social Services, Public Health and Community Services and how the rate was not always equal but had equalized at \$175 per week. He stated that his tendency was to increase the rate and asked the Board for their recommendation. The Board agreed with \$225.

Recessed at Noon.  
Reconvened at 1PM

Present: John Stortecky, Steven Tomlinson, Brian Wells, John Frey, Betsy Bain, Clay Arsenault, William Farber and Nick Mauro  
Absent: Richard Wilt

Also Present: Cathy Rogers and Gail Osgood-Board of Election Commissioners

The Chairman stated that they had asked Board of Elections to meet with the Board to discuss the transition of the new Republican Commissioner and possibly a new Democratic Commissioner next year.

Ms. Bain asked Gail Osgood, Republican Commissioner, how it was going in the office. Ms. Osgood stated that it was going well. Ms. Rogers stated that to do the job the person has to be computer literate. Ms. Osgood was thrown into the office during the busy time and has done wonderful. They have worked well together. The Chairman asked about the structure of how deputies and temps are used. He also asked them to explain when they need both a Republican and Democrat in office and when they don't. Ms. Bain asked if every day the office needed to be bi-partisan. Ms. Rogers stated that it was yes and no. The times by law are during when petitions are filed and tallying the ballots. The Deputies can do petition filing and tallying ballots when temp help can't. During January, February and March the office is slow and there might be only one in the office. The Chairman discussed paying hourly rates and equally between the two parties.

Ms. Osgood stated that her Deputy has already worked 24 hours. The Chairman gave the department kudos for managing their temp hours well. Mr. Frey asked if they had an estimated number of hours the Deputies would work. They both agreed that it would be between 60-80 hours per year. The Budget Officer discussed the \$29,000 request for software support. Ms. Rogers didn't have any information with her but would let him know. The Budget Officer asked if the grant they were expending in 2021 would be exhausted by the end of the year. Ms. Rogers stated that she would get back to him on that as well. Ms. Osgood asked if there was a possibility of having someone on staff for IT services. The Clerk of the Board stated that Board of Elections has a contract with Fulton County and how the County had a contract with MyTech. The Budget Officer stated that they had decided to go with Fulton County IT because they had election experience but that it didn't have to stay that way. The Clerk of the Board stated that they hadn't received a signed contract back from Fulton County and that she was under the impression that they wanted to pay the \$12,000 out of the COVID grant for 2021. The Budget Officer discussed the difference between travel lines, A.1450.401 Travel and A.1450.414 Election Travel.

Recess until November 19, 2021 at 10:30AM.