

2022

SECOND ANNUAL SESSION

NOVEMBER 7, 2022

The Board convened at 10:30 A.M. in the Supervisors' Chambers at the Court House, Lake Pleasant, New York, with the Chairman, Brian E. Wells presiding. Mr. Wells 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	Chris D. Rhodes
Benson	ABSENT
Hope	Steven M. Tomlinson
Indian Lake	Brian Wells
Inlet	John Frey
Lake Pleasant	Betsy Bain
Long Lake	Clay J. Arsenault
Morehouse	William G. Farber
Wells	ABSENT

Also present: Jane Zarecki-County Clerk, Kimberly Byrne-Personnel Officer, Beth Hunt-Treasurer and Barry Baker-Real Property Tax Director/Budget Officer

Public Comment: No one present.

Reports of Standing/Special Committees:

Mr. Mauro entered the meeting.

Mr. Farber: Stated that they have been out on another site in Arietta. They have shared an update with the property owners, and they are in the process of getting C&S to put together an incremental plan of how quickly they can get an evaluation done.

Mr. Frey: Stated that they have poured concrete for Tower 1, and they are supposedly pouring Tower 2 today or tomorrow.

Mr. Mauro: Stated that he had a conversation with District Attorney Shambo this morning. He would like to change the time of the meeting scheduled for Wednesday, November 9<sup>th</sup>. The Board agreed to 9:30AM.

RESOLUTIONS:

**RESOLUTION NO. 367-22**

**AUTHORIZING DEPOSITION OF EXCESS VEHICLE**

**DATED: NOVEMBER 7, 2022**

**BY MR. TOMLINSON:**

WHEREAS, certain vehicles/equipment have become excess and no longer needed by certain County Agencies, and

WHEREAS, the County Fleet Coordinator has recommended that the following vehicle be disposed from the County inventory:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Make/Model</u>	<u>VIN</u>	<u>Plate#</u>	<u>Dept</u>	<u>FN</u>
2010	Dodge Caravan	2D4RN4DE8AR208787	AB9090	C.S.	972

be it

RESOLVED, the above vehicle be sold by auction online by Auctions International and funds from the mentioned auction shall be a revenue credit to Account No. A2665 Sale of Equipment, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Fleet Coordinator see that proper inventory notes be recorded when the transactions are accomplished, and the Fleet Coordinator, Director of Fixed Assets, and the County Treasurer be so notified.

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

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

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: SNYDER

**RESOLUTION NO. 368-22**

**AUTHORIZING CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT AMENDMENT B FOR TIME & MATERIALS FOR STATE SNOW & ICE AGREEMENT 2021/2022**

**DATED: NOVEMBER 7, 2022**

**BY MR. TOMLINSON:**

WHEREAS, because of the severity of the winter during 2021/2022 the Hamilton County requests that the Municipal Snow & Ice Agreement estimated expenditure be revised to reflect the

additional lane miles of state roads that were plowed/treated during the winter season, and

WHEREAS, all the terms and conditions of the original contract extension remain in effect except as follows:

ADDITIONAL S&I OPERATIONS		
Original 21/22 Estimated Expenditure	Final Snow & Ice Voucher	Adjustment
\$959,506.59	\$623,851.82	\$322,603.76

TOTAL CONTRACT ADJUSTMENTS		
Final Snow & Ice Voucher	Amount Paid for 21/22 Season	Contract Adjustment
\$623,851.82	\$924,867.68	\$322,603.76

and

WHEREAS, this agreement has been executed by the State, acting by and through the duly authorized representative of the Commissioner of Transportation and the Municipality, which has caused this Agreement to be executed by its duly authorized officer on the date and year first written in the original contract extension, be it

RESOLVED, the Chairman of the Board be so authorized to sign Amendment B of the State Snow & Ice Agreement as stated above and the County Treasurer, the Clerk of the Board and Highway Superintendent be so notified.

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

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

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: SNYDER

2023 Budget Review:

General Fund Expenditures-

Mr. Frey verified that the payroll lines were at 4%.

Mr. Arsenault asked the Board what their opinion was on the legislative assistant position. The Chairman's recommendation was to leave it, but it could be revisited.

The Budget Officer discussed the 6% increase in tax rolls and stated that it was 100% offset by chargebacks. He also discussed that some of the payrolls are more than 4% and that is due to an employee getting a step. This is something that is budgeted for the whole year even though the employee receives their step on their anniversary.

Mr. Frey asked if the Board had heard anything from the Governor's Office regarding the District Attorney being full-time. Mr. Farber stated that he wouldn't consider it dead in the water. They would start seeing local bills flow over to the Governor's Office shortly going on through the remainder of the year. The Chairman asked if these were new numbers in the District Attorney's budget. The Budget Officer stated that the District Attorney had missed the deadline but that he did take into consideration his requests and put them in. They discussed the District Attorney wanting to substitute another ADA position with the Account Clerk.

Mr. Arsenault asked about the second assistant going from \$55,000 to \$60,000 in the Public Defender's Office. The Clerk of the Board stated that she thought when Sterling Goodspeed, Public Defender, was working on the budget with the state they felt that she was underpaid. They weren't comfortable with her pay being that low. Some of her salary is Family Court too so it's not all 100%. She stated that she would get clarification on that. The Budget Officer stated that COLA was based on the \$60,000. Mr. Arsenault asked about A.1170.401 Defense & Investigator. The Clerk of the Board stated that was the one line in his budget that is all county dollars. That is the assigned counsel panel.

Mr. Arsenault asked about A.1185.403, Medical Examiners & Coroners Autopsies. The actual numbers for 2022 are almost \$30,000 but they have budgeted \$15,000 for 2023. Mr. Farber added that it was from a 2022 budget of \$20,000. Mr. Frey suggested they leave it at \$20,000. Board agreed.

Beth Hunt, Treasurer, stated that in her budget, maintenance has gone up quite a bit due to the new County accounting system. Account number A.1325.405, Maintenance of Machines. This is an annual cost. She also stated that A. 1325.411, Investment Analysis, has gone up because she is doing better investing.

Jane Zarecki, County Clerk, left after the Board reviewed her accounts.

The Budget Officer pointed out that Account No. A1430.414, Employee Recognition, was added per the Board's approval in Committee.

The Budget Officer stated that regarding the Board of Election Commissioners he assumed the precedence was that new employees come in at a 10% reduction. That is what he did to take the salaries to the level of \$49,000 and then added the 6% for the Department Head increase. Both Commissioners are required to be compensated the same. Mr. Rhodes asked if it had always been the practice to reduce employees. The Budget Officer stated that it was. Mr. Farber stated that it had been done with elected officials in the past but doesn't believe it had been with a transitional Board of Elections. Mr. Arsenault stated that he doesn't like them going down in pay unless they are made aware. He stated that everyone else is getting a 4-6% raise and the Board is going to lower the Board Election Commissioners by 2-3%. Mr. Rhodes stated that they did start at a high salary, he feels that it needs a reset. Ms. Bain stated that this was discussed, and the Republican Commissioner was aware that there was going to be adjustments once the Democratic Commissioner retired. Mr. Arsenault spoke with the Republican Committee Chair whose strong advice was not to lower their salaries. Mr. Rhodes asked if anyone knew what other counties did.

Mr. Arsenault stated that he called around and the Commissioners do make the same as Hamilton County just some have more than 2. Mr. Tomlinson asked if Hamilton County was obligated to pay them the same rate as the ones leaving. Mr. Farber further discussed some of the background. Mr. Rhodes stated that he liked what the Budget Officer had. Mr. Arsenault stated that he is against it and doesn't think it's a great decision. Ms. Bain agreed with the Budget Officer's numbers as well. Ms. Hunt asked if the Deputy Commissioners had to be paid the same. Mr. Frey stated that the hourly rate had to be the same. Mr. Farber stated that he was sorry that the Board did 11% with the backdrop they had for that office. He feels it made it worse not better last year. Mr. Frey stated that as Finance Chair he was comfortable with the Budget Officer's numbers. Mr. Tomlinson stated that he agreed with Mr. Arsenault. He felt that the Board should have done a better job. They further discussed that Onondaga County adjusted their commissioner salaries down. Ms. Bain further stated that when they replace any position, they have to think about how many years did that person work prior to get to that point. Mr. Tomlinson stated that he agreed with her 100% and feels that they dropped the ball when the Commissioners were hired. They should have hired them at a different rate. Ms. Bain and Mr. Rhodes stated that because of the legalities they couldn't. Mr. Farber stated that there wasn't anything preventing them from keeping the salaries flat for 2022. They further discussed how a number of positions experienced a decrease when hired, including the Clerk of the Board, Personnel Officer and Real Property Tax Director. Mr. Tomlinson stated that it wasn't the same thing because they already received the higher pay at hire and didn't make the change then. The Chairman stated that he understood both points, but we need a consensus. He first verified that Mr. Arsenault and Mr. Tomlinson felt the Commissioners should either get the raise or stay flat. Mr. Rhodes was okay with them keeping it flat. Mr. Farber feels that if the Board deviates from the Budget Officer recommendation, then it seems to him there should be a discussion with the Commissioners to avoid issues. He further discussed issues they have had in the year including the Board of Supervisors being told by the Board of Elections that they didn't have any control over this or that. Mr. Mauro stated that he was leaning towards keeping them flat. He agrees that it was a mistake that they didn't address it in the beginning. He stated that he would talk with the Commissioners and Mr. Arsenault suggested that another Committee member go with him. Mr. Farber suggested that they leave it at the Budget Officer's recommendation. Mr. Frey stated that they would leave a question mark on that line. Mr. Farber asked if Mr. Mauro or the Budget Officer knew what the logic was behind the request. The Commissioners made the request for \$68,611 and the Budget Officer stated that was a 25% increase.

Betsy Bain left the meeting at this time.

Mr. Arsenault had asked them what their logic was. They stated that it was the average of the top sitting Town Clerks in the County. Mr. Frey verified that they meant Town Clerks and the Chairman verified that it was for Hamilton County. The Board agreed that it didn't make sense. The Board discussed and decided on having a committee meeting and inviting the Commissioners to discuss. The Clerk of the Board suggested a time during Wednesday, November 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Session meeting. Mr. Mauro stated that he would reach out to them.

The Budget Officer stated that he hasn't received any requests from Department Heads to have budget meetings.

Mr. Farber stated that the 2022 actual numbers were close to the budgeted amount of \$30,000 for A.1620.409, Buildings, Heat/Light-Indian Lake. He asked if there should be an additional thought on whether \$30,000 is adequate. Mr. Frey asked if there should be a question mark or an adjustment. Mr. Mauro suggested increasing it. The Budget Officer stated that he didn't know; but when he had spoken with the Highway Superintendent, he had stated there had been work done on the heating system and he wasn't sure if the thought was there would be a decrease because of a more efficient system. He would follow up with him. They agreed to put a question mark next to that line.

Mr. Farber stated there will be a proposal to look at whether it makes sense for some of the departments to buy down benefit time.

Mr. Farber stated that the reason why A.3110.111, Sheriff-Part Time, is so high in 2022 is because there was a vacancy.

The Budget Officer stated that A.3110.120, 911 Coordinator and A.3110.121, 911 Administrator, are both new in the 2023 budget.

Mr. Mauro asked about A.3110.801, Resource Officer Fringe, because there weren't any actuals. Mr. Farber asked Ms. Hunt when she charged to that line is she just transferring it into another fringe account. Ms. Hunt stated she would get back to him regarding that.

Mr. Frey asked about the actuals for A.3110.417, Raise the Age, as well. Mr. Farber believes that the story is different for this. He further discussed the background around Raise the Age.

Mr. Mauro stated that the Probation Director had requested early retirement. Ms. Hunt stated that she thought it was going for a different retirement system. One similar to the Sheriff's. It is a different plan, and it costs the County money to pay that out. Mr. Mauro stated that she had given her a quote. It would be \$10,310 yearly for 5 years. Mr. Farber asked if anyone knew of counties that had switched their Probation Departments over. He stated that he gets that they are considered sworn officers but there weren't a lot of counties that were jumping at the prospect. The Budget Officer had discussed that with her as well and she did have counties to reference but would follow up to get the information.

Ms. Hunt stated that the County received \$60,000 from the Governor's Office for pre-trial. She verified that it was for Probation and has a call into New York State to get more information. She believes that it will be a yearly disbursement but not as much as this original \$60,000. It does look like it must be spent by the end of the state fiscal year which is March 31, 2023.

Mr. Farber asked where they were with Stop DWI Revenues. He stated that they have been cutting it back because the revenues were not doing well at all, but they have heard that the DWI numbers are up. Mr. Arsenault stated that the year-to-date numbers were \$4,853. Mr. Farber asked Ms. Hunt if there was still rollover money. Ms. Hunt stated that she would check.

Mr. Farber stated that there was a question on funding A.3640.102, EMS Coordinator Part-Time. There was a request for \$5,000 and the Budget Officer didn't put it in not knowing what the Board's

determination was going to be. They are currently advertising for the position, so they need to fund it. Mr. Tomlinson asked if it was going to be \$5,000 per year. Mr. Farber further discussed the background on the position. They discussed A.3640.103, Fire Coordinator and Mr. Farber thought the salary was a little high. He would be happy to speak with Sean O'Brien, Fire Coordinator, to see what his experience is along with Jill Dunham, Emergency Services Director. Mr. Tomlinson asked if there were any applicants. The Personnel Officer stated that they had one. Mr. Tomlinson asked if there was a salary discussed. Mr. Farber stated that there was an hourly rate put in the ad.

Mr. Farber stated that he was surprised there was no request to increase A.4010.110, PH Overtime. They are already over budget in that line for 2022. He asked if there was any conversation regarding that. The Budget Officer stated that Erica Mahoney, Public Health Director, was comfortable with the number. Mr. Farber asked again if there was an explanation as to why. The Budget Officer stated that there wasn't. Mr. Farber asked about cars in Public Health and if they should increase the insurance premium. Mr. Frey and Mr. Farber stated they should put a question mark next to A.4010.401, Insurance and A.4010.402, Upkeep of Cars. Mr. Arsenault asked about the increase for A.4035.401, Family Health Svcs-Gov't Traffic Safety. Mr. Farber stated that it should be what the grant is going to be for the year rather than what they applied for. Mr. Farber stated that he had a conversation with Ms. Bain regarding some changes in staffing and he wanted to let the Board know that there is going to be some salary monies moved around. Mr. Farber discussed maintenance in lieu of rent. Mr. Farber asked if they knew what the big programmatic shift was in terms of the increase in A.4052.101, Immunization Personal Services, versus what it had been. The Budget Officer stated that they had received a lot of funding during COVID for vaccines that they are not going to get and will have to purchase a lot of the vaccines. Mr. Farber stated that they have increased personal services. The Budget Officer stated that they had reimbursement for onsite clinics and now they won't have it. Mr. Farber asked so it was for staffing rather than the purchase of vaccines. The Budget Officer stated that it was for all of it. Mr. Farber stated that he was trying to understand why the Early Intervention Personal Services and Fringe were up, but the program costs seem down or flat. The Budget Officer stated that he would follow up on that.

Recess for lunch at 12:15PM.

Reconvened at 12:50PM

Present: Brian Wells, William Farber, Nick Mauro, John Frey, Steve Tomlinson and Clay Arsenault

Absent: Phil Snyder and Betsy Bain

Also Present: Beth Hunt-Treasurer, Barry Baker-Budget Officer and Kimberly Byrne-Personnel Officer

2023 Budget Review: *(continued)*

The Budget Officer stated that he had his information regarding Public Health and Early Intervention. The amounts match this year's grant money and the revenues coming in. His notes are that the grant is \$25,000. The expenses would be \$10,000, \$5,000 for Services, \$500 for Outreach, \$500 for Respite and \$9,000 for Fringe. The Budget Officer stated that he also did a

spread sheet for WIC and Immunization Grant. Mr. Farber discussed how it all depends on how each grant year ran. Mr. Frey asked about COVID supplies. He stated that Public Health requested an increase from \$30,000 to \$50,000 for A.4189.4104, PH, HRI COVID ELC 6448-01, because they were going to have to buy everything instead of it being provided. The Budget Officer reiterated that a bulk of it was provided and now they are going to have to go out and purchase. Mr. Frey asked if the County was still obligated after that point to provide them for free. Is it up to the County or is it a state dictate? The Clerk of Board stated that those are grants and suggested they be funded by resolution.

Mr. Farber stated that Robert Kleppang, Retired Community Services Director, had told him they were getting close to the end of the hiring process. He assumes that it isn't close enough to know the salary. Kimberly Byrne, Personnel Officer, stated that she had heard from him as well as Noni Irish, Acting Community Services Director, and they were doing reinterviews that day with two candidates. She thought they would then reach out with their proposed person, and she would check with New York State to make sure they were qualified. Mr. Farber asked where they were in the conversation regarding salary for the potential employee. Ms. Byrne stated she knew they were notified of a salary range. The high range was \$110,000.

Mr. Farber asked about on-call. The Budget Officer stated that it was based on last year's increase.

Ms. Hunt asked about A.4310.402, Mental Health Telephone, and the Clerk of the Board stated that it offset the broadband upgrade. They split the cost with Public Health. She wanted to revisit A.4050.407, PH Telephone. There was a credit from Frontier from when they turned it over. They have been using the credits to offset the bills. The credits will end soon so that account should be increased. Mr. Farber asked about A.4310.420, Mental Health Telepsychiatry. He knew that in 2021 it was high but even 2022 is running ahead of that. The Clerk of the Board stated that this is what is done every year. The contract amount is \$46,500 and every year they amend the contract. Mr. Farber stated he wasn't sure why it wasn't increased. The Clerk of the Board stated that she would ask Community Services to see what their thinking was. Mr. Farber stated that it appears that they are keeping A.4310.430, Resource Officer flat. It may work but when reconciling the first-year numbers between Sheriff's and Community Services it was more than adequately budgeted. Community Services contract with Sheriff is supposed to cover that cost. That number should be however much we expect the Sheriff's cost to be for Sean O'Brien, Resource Officer, his fringe and the contractual expenses associated with it.

The Budget Officer stated that he had not received good budget numbers for A.6326.406, OFA, so that number could change. He stated that he had reached out to Deanna Parks, Director of OFA, and the County hasn't asked for budget numbers since 2018. Mr. Farber stated that Ms. Parks has been in and presented. Mr. Farber stated that the numbers were artificially low during COVID and before that they went through a period when they didn't budget enough because they weren't running as efficiently as they could have. The County has pushed back hard on the numbers a couple of times and have been creeping them down. He isn't sure that the numbers will come back now after COVID so it probably was a good idea to reduce it. The Budget Officer stated that Ms. Parks was going to get him a spreadsheet with numbers.

Mr. Tomlinson asked how it was going with Veteran Affairs. The Clerk of the Board stated that it



was going well. He was doing every other week with a half day in Indian Lake and Lake Pleasant. He has been getting some walk-ins in Indian Lake. He has given her dates for 2023 and she will be advertising it in the paper. We are trying it for a year to see if it's worth it. Mr. Farber stated that it makes sense to get back to doing some office hours. It was a benefit that the County used to provide. Mr. Tomlinson stated that he had received a call from the prior Veteran Services gentleman. He is doing cold calling to all the people that he used to deal with and trying to get everybody to sign up for different services for different organizations.

Mr. Frey asked if the retirement numbers were the artificial ones that the state pushed out. The warning he had gotten in his town was not to bring the number down too low.

Mr. Arsenault asked what was going on with County health insurance. He stated that he had spoken with Mark Crawford, Burnham Financial. They did extend insurance coverage from 12/31 to 1/31/23. Mr. Crawford told him that MVP's pricing was acquisition pricing. 28 members out of 195 are impacted. The County could still switch to MVP after January 31<sup>st</sup>. His advice for the County was to wait because he was pretty certain Nathan Littauer would work something out with Excellus. They further discussed when the deadline was to make a decision as well as the frustration between the provider group and Excellus. Mr. Frey asked if the County still paid in advance for insurance billing. Ms. Hunt stated that yes, we do. Mr. Frey stated that in mid-December they would pay the first premium, so they need to be able to decide at the public hearing. Mr. Arsenault stated that if they chose to go with MVP, it would be more expensive for the County and the employees. Then would they have 175 members upset with the Board because their insurance went up rather than 28? Ms. Byrne stated that they did offer a lower deductible part for Excellus if an employee did want to stay with their provider. They would pay out of network, but it would be a lesser deductible. The Budget Officer stated that the County is at 11% with Excellus and 13% with MVP. Mr. Frey stated that he thought with it only being 28 employees, the County should stay with Excellus. Mr. Frey stated that the Board would decide on November 15<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Farber asked if the Budget Officer had enough in Social Security and Medicare. The Budget Officer stated that based on all the numbers he had in front of him, he thought he had. He stated that the 2022 actuals are misleading because the Treasurer's Office hadn't credited back the money yet but 2021 should be the reconciled number. They have done a 11% increase in wages since then along with the changes for this year, it doesn't look like the 2021 amount has been increased by enough for 2023.

As there was no further business, the Chairman recessed the meeting until November 9, 2022 at 10:30 AM.