

2023

SIXTH ANNUAL SESSION

NOVEMBER 27, 2023

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 the 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 E. Wells
Inlet	ABSENT
Lake Pleasant	Betsy A. Bain
Long Lake	Clay J. Arsenault
Morehouse	William G. Farber
Wells	ABSENT

Also present: Barry Baker-Real Property Tax Director/Budget Officer, Kimberly Byrne-Personnel Officer and Anthony Fernandez-New Supervisor Elect for Morehouse.

Public Comment: No one present

Reports of Standing/Special Committees:

Mr. Farber: Encouraged everybody to stay for the Committee meeting this afternoon. They have a couple of items on the agenda. There will be a general update from Jill Dunham, Emergency Services Director, but they are also having an issue working with the state on how to fund part of the Tyler contract. They will also be continuing the conversation related to the handbook changes that Personnel helped draft. The Sheriff would just like to discuss with the Board how to handle out of county transfers with respect to deputies.

Mr. Rhodes: Stated that he assumed that everybody saw the resolution regarding cell towers from AATV and hoped everybody puts it on their town agenda.

Mr. Arsenault: Stated that the Personnel Officer is here to discuss the vision plan for the employees.

The Chairman introduced Kimberly Byrne, Personnel Officer.

Ms. Byrne stated that after she spoke with the Board, they changed the dental insurance to Delta for 2024. She had some employees ask if there was any other vision they offered because they lost

what was an enhancement through Standard by switching to Delta. She had spoken with Burnham Financial to see about other options available and they provided her with the Excellus Plan. It would be a self-pay program for the employees. There isn't a certain amount of enrollment required to participate. It will work in conjunction with Excellus Health Insurance because there is a vision rider. The Chairman asked if there were any employees that expressed interest. Ms. Byrne stated that they have asked about vision before and when they lost that enhancement, they were asking as well.

2024 Tentative Budget Review:

The Budget Officer discussed the status of the budget and the tax cap.

The Budget Officer reviewed changes to the tentative budget. Mr. Farber discussed salaries for Elected Officials. He stated that he has thought a lot about the raise for DA in that it's not like traditional transitions that they have seen. He further discussed the background of the DA's position. He thinks that post-election the Board was in error to adjust the salary down by \$5,673 to hold it flat and he proposes the \$5,673 be put back into that account. The Board agreed to increase A.1165.0101-District Attorney to \$131,713.

Mr. Rhodes asked about the Director of Patient Services position. They have it budgeted at the full amount and if they hire someone then the Public Health Director and Clinical Manager revert to their old salaries. Should we cut A.4050.0121-Director of Patient Services by the amount we increased the Public Health Director and Clinical Manager? Mr. Arsenault stated that he thought they agreed to leave the money in that account in case they found someone to hire. Mr. Rhodes stated that his point was they were leaving excess money. Mr. Rhodes stated he wasn't suggesting taking the whole salary out. Mr. Farber stated that the 2 increases were A.4050.0101-Public Health Director, \$29,269 and A.4050.0123-Public Health Clinical Manager, \$15,570. Ms. Bain asked the Budget Officer for his opinion. Mr. Baker stated that \$85,000 is the hire rate for that position. Mr. Rhodes suggested taking \$40,000. The Board agreed to decrease A.4050.0121-Public Health Director of Patient Services, by \$35,000.

The Board discussed the Fund Balance.

The Budget Officer stated that he doesn't have the final chargeback numbers so they will be using what was estimated. He stated that making the changes as proposed, the amount to be raised by taxes is \$9,635,792 and that would leave the County \$4,252 under the tax cap. He stepped out to do the State Comptrollers report to confirm that they are under the tax cap. When he returned, he stated that the form had been submitted and accepted with their numbers and they are under the tax cap. He stated there was a \$1,900 carryover.

RESOLUTIONS:

After the following resolution was placed on the floor; Mr. Farber asked a procedural question. He understands that an issue was raised in respect to Mr. Wells voting on a budget in Indian Lake where his son was involved. He is inclined, because the Ethics Board is reviewing it, to abstain from this vote. He doesn't want there to be any questions. He knows that historically he had

abstained from any specific conversations about wages related to RaChelle Martz or Heather Farber and then voted on the final product after it had been worked out by others. He stated that it had raised an interesting question. The Chairman stated that in doing research and discussing with the Attorney, he has some questions into the Board of Ethics. It is in NYS Ethics that budgets are an exception to that rule. The only question that was brought up with the Town Attorney for the Town of Indian Lake, was that a disclosure should be done. He stated that he thinks that Mr. Farber has fully disclosed his relationship with those individuals, and he would have no qualms with him voting on the budget. Mr. Arsenault agreed as well. Mr. Farber stated that he had no problem with voting on the budget. He stayed out of not only the discussion about the County Clerk and the Deputy Clerk, but he also abstained from the conversation about the County Treasurer's salary because people had linked them together. The only elected official he did discuss was the District Attorney. The Chairman stated that he felt Mr. Farber's verbal disclosure at the beginning plus with the Clerk of the Board's recorded minutes it would more than cover them but if he didn't feel comfortable, that would be up to him. Mr. Farber stated that he felt comfortable.

The Chairman thanked everyone for all their work. Mr. Arsenault thanked the Budget Officer. The Budget Officer thanked the Clerk of the Board for all her help. The Board thanked the Clerk of the Board as well.

RESOLUTION NO. 367-23

AMENDMENTS TO AND ADOPTION OF THE 2024 COUNTY BUDGET

DATED: NOVEMBER 27, 2023

BY MR. RHODES:

WHEREAS, the tentative budget for the year 2024 has been duly presented to the Board by the Finance Committee and Budget Officer and duly advertised, and

WHEREAS, a Public Hearing was held on November 17, 2023 as required by Section 359 of the County Law, be it

RESOLVED, that the following increases and decreases be made in the 2024 Tentative Budget:

INCREASE:

A1165.0103 DA-Account Clerk	\$38,000
A1170.0102 Pub. Def.- Admin. Staff	\$11,559
A1170.0406 Pub. Def.-Rent	\$400
A1170.0407 Pub. Def.-Supplies & Telephone	\$2,000
A1175.0401 Public Administrator	\$500
A1185.0101 Coroners- Pers. Services	\$3,000
A1185.0403 Coroners-Autopsies	\$10,000
A1450.0411 Elections-Misc. Supplies	\$18,500

A1620.0103 Bldgs-Cleaner Full Time	\$32,981
A1620.0105 Bldgs-Bldgs & Grounds Manager	\$4,620
A1620.0111 Bldgs-Maintenance Mechanic	\$2,680
A1620.0402 Bldgs-Electric Expense-LP	\$5,000
A3110.0120 Sheriff-911 Coordinator	\$500
A3110.0121 Sheriff-911 Administrator	\$500
A3110.0417 Sheriff-Raise the Age	\$4,389
A4010.0410 PH-Maint. in Lieu of Rent	\$500
A4050.0101 Public Health Director	\$29,269
A4050.0123 Public Health-Clinical Manger	\$15,570
A4050.0127 Public Health-Medical Director	\$16,397
A4310.0430 Mental Health-Resource Officer	\$43,000
A6326.0406 OFA	\$100,000
A6326.0407 ANCA	\$1,500
A6510.0402 Veterans Service-Travel	\$900
A7310.0402 Youth Prog.-Sports & Ed.	\$2,008
A7310.0403 Youth Prog.-Youth Team Sports	\$10,000
A7310.0404 Youth Prog.-Youth Dev. Prog.	\$7,964
A8160.0403 Refuse & Garbage-Recyclables	\$10,000
A8320.0401 Water System	\$6,000
D5010.0102 Deputy Highway Superintendent	\$3,083
D9010.0801 Employ. Benefits-State Retirement	\$50,000

DECREASE:

A1040.0407 Clerk Leg. Brd-Printing	\$800
A1040.0408 Clerk Leg. Brd-Paper	\$700
A1165.0105 DA-PT Assist. DA	\$26,986
A1165.0402 DA-Office Supplies	\$3,000
A1170.0106 Pub.Def.-Arraignment Stipend	\$20,000
A1170.0409 Pub. Def.-Arraignment Mileage	\$25,896
A1325.0101 County Treasurer	\$9,156
A1325.0102 Deputy County Treasurer	\$14,903
A1325.0105 Treasurer-Sen. Acct. Clerk	\$46,395
A1410.0101 County Clerk	\$17,041
A1450.0103 Elections-Deputy Dem. Comm.	\$2,500
A1450.0104 Elections-Deputy Rep. Comm.	\$2,500
A1450.0109 Elections-Election Workers	\$7,875
A1450.0405 Elections-Software Support	\$20,000
A1450.0413 Elections-Election Mileage	\$500
A1450.0414 Elections-Machine Transport	\$1,500
A1910.0401 Unallocated Insurance Cost	\$8,000
A3640.0102 Emerg. Manag.-PT EMS Coord.	\$2,582
A3640.0103 Emerg. Manag.-PT Fire Coord.	\$2,582
A3640.0401 Emerg. Manag.-Radio Repair	\$7,500
A4050.0121 Director of Patient Services	\$35,000
A4310.0201 Mental Health-Automobile	\$31,000

A4320.0102 Mental Health-Program Director	\$5,709
DM5130.0201 Machinery-Road Equipment	\$135,415

and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Revenues be amended as follows:

INCREASE:

A1289.0200 Sheriff - SCPI	\$78,000
A2260.0100 911 System	\$3,000
A2280.0100 OFA Health Ed.-Title IIID	\$3,460
A2410.0000 Rental of Real Prop.	\$2,000
A2410.0100 Rental of Real Prop. -Verizon Tower	\$6,000
A3820.0200 Youth Prog.- Sports & Ed.	\$2,008
A3820.0300 Youth Prog.- Youth Team Sports	\$10,000
A3820.0400 Youth Prog.-Youth Dev. Prog.	\$7,964
A3989.0000 Solid Waste Asst Grant	\$150,000
A4401.0000 PH Emerg. Prep. Grant	\$52,099
A4451.0000 Early Intervention Grant	\$25,000
A4482.0000 WIC Grant	\$53,800
A4489.0400 UHPCC-Reg. Info System	\$31,050
A4489.0600 Gov. Traffic Safety Grant	\$3,700
D2401.0000 Interest and Earnings	\$4,500
D3089.0000 NYS DEC Moose River Plains	\$30,000
DM2665.0000 Sales of Equipment	\$200,000

and be it further

RESOLVED, that the following amendments be made:

DECREASE:

General Fund Cash Surplus	\$35,000
County Road Fund Cash Surplus	\$100,000
Machinery Fund Cash Surplus	\$100,000

and be it further

RESOLVED, that upon the amendments, amounts as listed to be raised by tax, making a total 2024 Budget \$9,635,792 and pursuant to Section 360 of the County Law, the said tentative budget as amended be and hereby is adopted as the Budget for the year 2024.

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

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

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: SNYDER, FREY, AND CREWELL

RESOLUTION NO. 368-23

AUTHORIZING RETAINER PAYMENT FOR CONSULTING FIRM

DATED: NOVEMBER 27, 2023

BY MR. TOMLINSON:

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 363-23 authorizes the hiring of a consultant to perform an architectural study and document package for the old Fayle Road bridge trusses, and

WHEREAS, Hartgen Archeological Associates requires a retainer fee of \$2,700.00 to begin this study and documentation package, be it

RESOLVED, the Board of Supervisors hereby authorize the retainer payment of \$2,700.00 and the County Treasurer be so authorized to make a payment of \$2,700.00 to Hartgen Archeological Associates, Inc., 1744 Washington Avenue Extension, Rensselaer, NY 12144 out of Account No. H7.8760.0401 Halloween Storm 2019 and the Clerk of the Board and the DPW Superintendent be so notified.

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

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

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: SNYDER, FREY, AND CREWELL

After the following resolution was placed on the floor; Mr. Arsenault thanked the Personnel Officer for coming in and explaining it to the Board.

RESOLUTION NO. 369-23

**APPROVAL OF VOLUNTARY SELF-PAY VISION PLAN FOR EMPLOYEES –
EXCELLUS VISION PLAN**

DATED: NOVEMBER 27, 2023

BY MR. ARSENAULT:

WHEREAS, the employees of Hamilton County will lose the vision rider that was with The Standard Dental Insurance, as the County is switching dental insurance, and

WHEREAS, Burnham Benefit Advisors has proposed that an Excellus Vision Plan be offered to the employees of Hamilton County through payroll deduction and Section 125 of the Internal Revenue Code, which allows the premium deduction to be paid out of gross income before taxes, and

WHEREAS, this is a voluntary plan with no participation requirements as long as Enrollment Success Guidelines are followed, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Personnel Officer is hereby authorized to offer the Excellus Vision Plan to the County employees and the County Treasurer and Burnham Benefit Advisors be so advised.

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

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

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: SNYDER, FREY, AND CREWELL

Other Reports:

Mr. Farber: Asked where Mr. Rhodes ended up with the resolution that Christy Wilt, Economic Development and Tourism Director, was going to do for the position in her office. Mr. Rhodes stated that they were going to hold it so they could discuss it a little bit more because the Chairman had missed the meeting. They are holding it until Thursday's Board meeting.

Mr. Farber reminded everyone that the AATV general membership meeting was December 3rd and 4th. He encouraged people to attend and appreciated Mr. Rhodes' comments with respect to the resolution AATV is circulating around tower, collocation, cellular, etc. The Chairman thanked Mr. Farber for all his help on that.

Ms. Bain: Asked if anyone had given any thought to the situation at DMV/County Clerk's Office. The County Clerk had been in to discuss looking for a solution because there was a new County Clerk coming in as well as a couple people retiring. The Chairman stated that the County Clerk had reached out to him over the weekend, and he is going to stop in and see her. Ms. Bain stated that she feels like they need to do something. They need to start possibly mirroring the Assistant Deputy County Clerk, and that could possibly be a floater that could be working with her but also working on other things. She also mentioned DMV Clerk. Mr. Arsenault asked if the County Clerk had any ideas. Ms. Bain stated that when she was in the meeting with the Board, she didn't have any ideas. The Chairman stated that he would follow up.

The Chairman stated that he hoped everyone got the notice that the visit was changed in Indian Lake for Senator Schumer. They had a decent crowd of various people. He thanked Mr. Farber for attending. He thought it was a nice meeting and it was a nice chance to visit with him. They did raise a lot of concerns about what they are facing.

As there was no further business, the Chairman recessed the meeting until December 7, 2023, at 10:30 AM.