

**COMMITTEE MEETING  
LAKE PLEASANT, NY  
THURSDAY  
AUGUST 1, 2013**

**FINANCE COMMITTEE  
9:30 AM**

Present: John Frey, Rick Wilt, Brian Towers and Neil McGovern

Also present: Bill Farber, Bob Edwards, Clark Seaman, Brian Wells, Marsha Purdue and Pete Klein

Marsha stated that she is working full time as District Attorney. She did not have time to do her private practice so she sold it.

Crime has risen significantly, in 2011 there were 9 matters that went to County Court and in 2012 there were 24. They are up to 16 indictments so far this year.

Marsha stated that she has spoken to each committee member regarding the fact that there are grant dollars available if you have a full time D.A. The law indicates that you have to have a population of over 40,000 to access the grant money. There are seven counties that are under 40,000 in population and they have access to that money which is \$60,000 per year.

Marsha stated that she has reached out to the person that administers the grant who is also head of the DCJS. What needs to happen per this person is that they would have to have a bill passed with respect to the appropriation of money so that Hamilton County could be included in getting that money also.

Marsha stated that Hamilton County is the only county that doesn't get any money and we are also the only one who has a part-time District Attorney. Marsha is proposing that the Board consider making the District Attorney a full-time position. She would like a letter of support that she could take to the Governor's office and ask them for access to that money for Hamilton County. She is not asking them to do this right now; she recognizes that the County does have financial struggles.

Marsha reported that she also spoke with the New York State Police Troop B and they are willing to come in and speak about why they believe Hamilton County needs a full-time District Attorney.

Rick asked if the appropriations are from year to year and Marsha stated yes. Rick stated let's just say that someone was running for the full-time D.A. position and they get elected as a full-time, can we go back. Marsha stated yes you can go backwards. Rick asked even after elected to a full-time position during their term. Bill stated that's a good question. Bill suggested they get some clarity on that from the County Attorney. Bill stated if they go from part-time to full-time and then back to part-time if circumstances change, he thinks this would be an important part, it needs to be looked into.

Neil asked why there are more arrests in Indian Lake. Marsha stated they seem to be making more of the arrests and it seems to be mostly the northern part of the county and also because we have a barracks in Indian Lake.

Brian asked Marsha if she feels the crime is coming into the county or are they county residents. Marsha stated both, but most of it is coming in. There are also some county residents who are causing a lot of trouble.

Bill identified additional information that they would want to consider.

There was further discussion on being full-time and cutting the position to part-time. Bill stated that they shouldn't tie it to the funding. This is an elected position and crime stats can change from up to down so can the position. We can't make a decision contingent upon getting this funding. Marsha stated that she wouldn't pursue it absence of the funding.

John stated he thought during an election cycle the only way we could probably change it to part-time is if someone left mid-term and we were bring someone in temporary until there is a special election. Marsha stated other counties have considered making it part-time mid-term.

After some discussion it was decided to ask Troop B of the New York State Police to come in at the August Committee Day and discuss this.

Marsha left at this time.

John stated maybe they should talk about salaries for 2014, cost of living increases. John recommends 1.5% and wanted to know everyone else's opinions.

Neil stated for the Town of Lake Pleasant, they still carry all the medical insurance; therefore he is not looking for an increase in living for his employees. He stated that he doesn't want the other members of the Board thinking they need to play catch up to make up for the years that there were little to none in raises, county employees still receive merit.

Rick stated that he supports 2% because last year they gave 2% and their pay checks were less due to social security increases. A lot of the employees don't get merit, department heads, elected officials etc. He has addressed some of his town employees; they are going to try to tie it to the county so whatever raises the county gets they will get.

Bill stated that the county employees understand that the town employees have their health insurance paid by the town and also got a cost of living increase on top of the health insurance. The county employees see flat paychecks due to the 2% on social security and then a chunk out for health insurance, which is a tough sell.

Pay scales between the towns and county are all over the place. Rick stated if we start now maybe we can gain in the future. Bill feels the highway salaries are one of the areas that get most closely scrutinized. If the town and county start looking at being the same it would be nice. If we set that as our target goal and start moving in that direction it would be a good thing.

Rick stated he would like to see all of the insurance tied together between the towns and county. Neil and Bill both stated that they would have to change the rules before that could happen. Neil stated in general you can't fix things that are at federal and state level coming from us. As long as we have what we have, the 50 employee limit, the community rating, no competition across state lines, the health care is so convoluted and now people are running scared because the state is saying they will be running less than half of the state's exchanges. It is impossible to understand how come we can't have state wide coverage for all municipal employees and that it wouldn't be cheaper.

Bill stated they tried and it wasn't cheaper basically because of the same reason that the New York State retirement system is so expensive. A short discussion continued on health insurance.

Bob stated he is in support of the 2% because his town highway is now contributing 18% starting this past year which cut their pay checks. The other is they are trying to eliminate the salary schedules simply on the basis that we lived one more year.

Clark stated he would support 1.5% but he doesn't think his board will give the town employees anything because they still pay full health insurance for them.

Brian Wells stated he would go with 1.5%, Indian Lake will be going to arbitration with their bargaining unit.

Brian Towers stated 1.5%, and asked where we are as a whole. We did a double digit increase to last year's budget. He would really like to keep this under the 2% cap this year. He would like to see the increases going to roads and bridges, not to raises.

Bill was at 2%, for reasons that he spoke about earlier. He also feels that 1.75% is a rational number. After a short discussion on the budget the committee decided to give a 1.75% increase for cost of living in the 2014 budget.

As there was no further business, the meeting ended.