

SECOND DAY OF ANNUAL SESSION

Johnstown, NY

November 20, 2017

Roll Call – Quorum Present

Supervisors: Argotsinger, Blackmon, Born, Bradt, Breh, Callery, Christopher, Fagan, Greene, Groff, Handy, Howard, Kinowski, Lauria, Morris, Potter, Rice, Wilson, Young

TOTAL: Present: 19 Absent: 1 (Supervisor Waldron)

Chairman Kinowski called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Chairman Kinowski advised that the purpose of today’s meeting is to conduct 2018 Budget review.

The Chairman then invited Sheriff Richard Giardino to the podium to address the Board, as the Sheriff has requested.

Sheriff Giardino explained the importance of his request for a New Civil Clerk Position in the Sheriff’s Department. He advised that there are currently two (2) similar positions. Both employees are considering retirement within two (2) to three (3) years and he would like to hire someone to receive training before the current employees retire. He stated that he looked for grants to help pay for the position, but he wasn't able to find any funding. Supervisor Callery asked if this could be start in 2019 instead. Sheriff Giardino expressed that he doesn't want to take the risk and have the current employees retire before a new hire is trained. Supervisor Rice asked when the current staff retires, will there remain three (3) positions or can it go back to two (2) positions. Sheriff Giardino stated that he desired to maintain all three (3) positions. Sheriff Giardino reiterated that he wants three (3) positions total, for 2018 and in the future.

The Sheriff also pointed out that he had sent a letter to all Supervisors last week withdrawing his request for two (2) new Deputy Sheriff Positions. However, he reiterated the need for the Civil Clerk position to be added.

Mr. Stead explained that a 2018 “budget impact statement” is included in each position resolution.

Chairman Kinowski then recognized Finance Committee Chairman Richard Argotsinger, who moved to the dais to chair the workshop. Mr. Argotsinger then asked Ms. Kuntzsch, Budget Director/County Auditor, to lead review of the 2018 Tentative Budget.

Budget Director Alice Kuntzsch welcomed everyone to the meeting and described the Tentative Budget review schedule. Ms. Kuntzsch next reviewed a list of new recommended adjustments from Department Heads as of today, November 20, 2017.

Supervisor Groff made a motion to approve the list of recommended adjustments as presented on the handout by Ms. Kuntzsch, seconded by Supervisor Greene and unanimously carried.

Finance Committee Chairman Argotsinger then asked for questions from Supervisors on the Budget by rotation around the room.

Page 20 Revenue Account – A.1000.3016-3016 – Mr. Lauria asked if the increase from requested amount to the 2018 tentative amount was a good idea. Ms. Kuntzsch stated it was recommended by the County Treasurer. Mr. Callery explained that the Finance Committee thought that \$225,000.00 was a good number. Mr. Greene expressed that it should be \$250,000.00. Supervisors Groff and Wilson expressed that it should remain at \$225,000.00.

Supervisor Greene made a motion to increase A.1000.3016-3016 - State Aid-Casino Licensing Fees & Various Gaming Revenues from \$225,000.00 to \$250,000.00, seconded by Supervisor Lauria. Supervisors Groff, Wilson, Handy, Born, Kinowski, Morris, Argotsinger, Callery and Christopher were opposed. Motion DEFEATED.

Supervisor Callery made a motion to increase General Fund account, A.1000.2701-2701-REV-Refunds of Prior Year, from \$25,000.00 to \$50,000.00, seconded by Supervisor Born and unanimously carried.

The County Treasurer advised the full Board of the current Fund Balance figures located on page 9.

Mr. Callery posed that perhaps another \$700,000.00 could be applied from the Fund Balance. He asked Ms. Kuntzsch what the new figure would be if that happened. Ms. Kuntzsch stated that the Tax Levy would be \$30,382,480.00 with an average tax rate of 11.06 per thousand. She noted that those figures do not include any new position requests.

Supervisor Lauria made a motion to decrease the Sheriff Departments account, A.3110.3110-4540-Vehicle Maintenance, by \$5,000.00, seconded by Supervisor Callery and unanimously carried.

Supervisor Greene made a motion to decrease the Social Services Financial Assistance account, A.6010.6011-1100-EXP-Overtime, in the amount of \$2,000.00 seconded by Supervisor Lauria and unanimously carried.

Supervisor Potter made a motion to decrease the Social Services Administration account, A.6010.6010-4020-Exp-Travel, by \$2,000.00, seconded by Supervisor Blackmon. Supervisor Groff was opposed. Motion passed.

Supervisor Potter made a motion to decrease the Social Services Administration account, A.6010.6010-4090-EXP-Professional Services, in the amount of \$2,000.00, seconded by Supervisor Born and unanimously carried.

Supervisor Howard expressed that all Departments have done a great job controlling their budgets and explained that it is very difficult to find a line item that hasn't already been cut.

Supervisor Lauria made a motion to decrease the Social Services account, A.6010.6012-1100-EXP-Overtime, in the amount of \$6,000.00, seconded by Supervisor Young. Supervisor Groff and Greene were opposed. Motion passed.

Ms. Kuntzsch advised that the current Tax Levy is now at \$31,040,480.00. This is \$1.31 lower than the 2017 average County tax rate.

Resolutions related to proposed new 2018 positions were then deliberated upon.

Proposed Resolution No. 3 (Resolution Creating an Assistant Director of Information Services Position in the Information Services Department) - Chairman Kinowski called for a Second. No Seconds was received; therefore proposed Resolution No. 3 died on the floor.

Proposed Resolution No. 5 (Resolution Creating Deputy Sheriff Position in the Sheriff's Department) – Personnel Committee Chairman Callery stated that he did not want to sponsor this proposed Resolution because of the budget situation. It was the consensus of all Personnel Committee members not to sponsor this proposed Resolution. Public Safety Committee Chairman Fagan also requested to withdraw his sponsorship on said Resolution. It was also the consensus of Public Safety Committee members not to sponsor this proposed Resolution. Supervisor Fagan then withdrew Proposed Resolution No. 5. Both Chairmen noted that Sheriff Giardino offered to withdraw his request for both new Deputy positions.

Proposed Resolution No. 6 (Resolution Creating Deputy Sheriff Position in the Sheriff's Department) – Personnel Committee Chairman Callery stated that he did not want to sponsor this proposed Resolution for the same reason. It was the consensus of all Personnel Committee members not to sponsor this proposed Resolution. Public Safety Committee Chairman Fagan also requested to withdraw his sponsorship on said Resolution. It was also the consensus of Public Safety Committee members not to sponsor this proposed Resolution. Supervisor Fagan then withdrew proposed Resolution No. 6.

No. 457 (Resolution Creating Civil Clerk Position in the Sheriff's Department) - Supervisor Callery expressed that there should only be two (2) Civil Clerk positions in the Sheriff's Department once a current Civil Clerk retires. Mr. Callery asked how that could be accomplished procedurally. Mr. Stead stated that this Resolution would need to be amended with a statement of: "Resolved, that upon the next occurrence of a vacancy in the Sheriff's Department of a Civil Clerk position, said vacant position, be and hereby is, abolished".

Supervisor Howard asked if abolishing a position could be taken care of during vacancy review. Mr. Stead explained that under vacancy review the Finance Committee would look at it and make a recommendation to abolish a Civil Clerk position when the Sheriff brought forward an Agenda Item to fill it. Abolition would then require a Resolution by the full Board. Supervisor Potter explained that it is important to start a successful plan from the beginning and he would like to see this Resolution amended to abolish a Civil Clerk position once a vacancy occurs in the future. Supervisor Greene agreed and expressed that there should only be two (2) Civil Clerk positions after the next vacancy occurs. That would allow for a training period. Supervisor Born explained that because the Sheriff has decided to "withdraw" two (2) Deputy Sheriff Positions, she supports this Civil Clerk position request in the Sheriff's Department only.

No. 458 (Resolution Creating a Caseworker Position in the Social Services Department) - Supervisor Callery stated that he does not want to sponsor this Resolution because the Personnel Committee was given the wrong information during its last meeting. Supervisor Greene explained that the Human Services Committee was lead to believe it was a small increase, a little under \$2,000.00, not an increase of \$13,774.00.

Supervisor Lauria explained that he was a previous Child Protective Services (CPS) worker with New York State and expressed that this position is vital to the Social Services Department declaring time and again “It’s a child!, It’s a child!”.

Supervisor Born explained that Caseworkers have a difficult job and the CPS Unit is always behind on their Caseloads because they do not have enough staff. Supervisor Greene explained that there are 11 Caseworkers now, including Senior Caseworkers. He advised that multiple Caseworkers are out of the office for different reasons. He also advised that some people take a Caseworker position when they are not ready for what the position consists of.

Proposed Resolution No. 10 (Resolution Reclassifying Part-Time Veterans Director Position to Full-Time in the Veteran’s Service Agency) - Chairman Kinowski called for a Second. No Second was received; therefore proposed Resolution No. 10 died on the floor.

Chairman Kinowski called for a recess at 3:00 p.m.

Chairman Kinowski called the meeting back to order at 3:11 p.m.

Upon a motion by Supervisor Fagan, seconded by Supervisor Howard and unanimously carried, the Board entered Executive Session to discuss employment history at 3:12 p.m.

Upon a motion by Supervisor Lauria, seconded by Supervisor Callery and unanimously carried, the Board re-entered Regular Session at 3:40 p.m.

Ms. Kuntzsch advised that with the new Civil Clerk position being approved and other reductions that were passed; the Tax Levy is now \$31,040,219.00 at a tax rate of \$11.30 per thousand. She stated that there is a \$1.31 difference in the average County tax rate from the 2017 final rate. Supervisor Fagan asked what the Tax Cap Levy limit is. Ms. Kuntzsch stated \$28,244,711.00.

Supervisor Callery asked if there is anywhere else that the Board can make edits to the 2018 Tentative Budget.

Mr. Stead explained that the full Board could probably safely apply another \$1,500,000.00 from the Fund Balance. He stated that he wouldn't recommend any more than that.

Supervisor Fagan asked if the County has been notified of what the new “Raise the Age” mandated costs will be. Mr. Stead stated “no”. He was hoping that New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) would have obtained better estimates from the State by now. County Attorney, Jason Brott explained that there will be additional juveniles that will need to be processed in his office and if they are placed, then it would affect the Social Services Department, the Probation Department and the District Attorney's Office. Mr. Brott expressed

that it will likely be a large cost, but he doesn't know what the numbers are at this time. Mr. Stead explained that hopefully over time, larger counties in the State will have regional facilities to place juveniles in and the County could contract with the Counties that have such facilities for youth.

Supervisor Born recommended applying Fund Balance of around \$1,000,000.00, even though Mr. Stead recommended \$1,500,000.00. Supervisor Handy agreed with Ms. Born.

Mr. Stead asked Ms. Kuntzsch what the Tax Levy Figures would be with a \$1.5 million application of Fund Balance. She stated the total would be \$29,542,219.00, with a \$10.76 per thousand average tax rate (7.7% increase). She expressed that it would still exceed the Tax Cap. Supervisor Howard expressed that the Board shouldn't use more than \$1,000,000.00. If the Board wanted to "move something", then he would support \$1 million from the Fund Balance. Supervisor Callery explained that the County should apply another \$1,500,000.00 to help the taxpayers. Supervisor Greene agreed with applying \$1,500,000.00 from the Fund Balance. Supervisor Argotsinger explained the Board could reasonably do \$1,500,000.00, partially because there is no debt. He also advised that heading towards debt like other counties isn't a position that the County should get into. Supervisor Potter explained that "Appropriations should be reduced" and that the taxpayers should get a "flat tax" and the County should stay with its positive approach. Supervisor Handy agreed with applying an additional \$1,500,000.00 from the Fund Balance. Supervisor Groff mentioned that there will likely be added expenses for transportation for the "Raise the Age" costs and that issue needs to be taken into consideration. Supervisor Lauria agreed with Mr. Groff.

Supervisor Born made a motion to apply an additional \$1,500,000.00 from the Fund Balance, seconded by Supervisor Handy. Supervisors Groff, Howard and Kinowski were opposed. Motion passed.

Mr. Kuntzsch explained that by adding an additional 1,500,000.00 towards the Fund Balance the new Tax Levy amount would be \$29,542,219.00 with an average tax rate of \$10.76 per thousand and a \$0.77 difference from last year's average County tax rate.

Supervisor Argotsinger announced that the next Finance meeting will be held at 11:00 a.m. on November 28, 2017.

The Board recessed at 4:13 p.m. until Tuesday, November 28, 2017 at 1:00 p.m.

Certified by:

Jon R. Stead, Administrative Officer/ DATE
Clerk of the Board