

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: BUDGET - PUBLIC WORKS

DATE: AUGUST 12, 2008

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS GERAGHTY
BELDEN
O'CONNOR
CHAMPAGNE
KENNY
SHEEHAN
MERLINO

OTHERS PRESENT:

REPRESENTING PUBLIC WORKS:

WILLIAM LAMY, SUPERINTENDENT
JEFFREY TENNYSON, DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT OF
ENGINEERING
BRIAN HUMPHREY, DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT OF HIGHWAYS &
BRIDGES
FRANK MOREHOUSE, SUPERINTENDENT OF BUILDINGS
PAUL BUTLER, DIRECTOR OF PARKS, RECREATION & RAILROAD
DON DEGRAW, AIRPORT MANAGER
JUDY JOHNSON, FISCAL MANAGER
CHAIRMAN MONROE
HAL PAYNE, COMMISSIONER OF ADMINISTRATIVE & FISCAL SERVICES
JOANN MCKINSTRY, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF ADMINISTRATIVE &
FISCAL SERVICES
JOAN SADY, CLERK OF THE BOARD
SUPERVISORS TAYLOR
THOMAS
STEC
STRAINER
ROBERT METTKE, DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
ALYSON MARTIN, *THE POST STAR*
AMANDA ALLEN, SR. LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

Mr. Geraghty called the meeting of the Budget Committee to order at 10:30 a.m.

The Committee commenced with a review of the 2009 Public Works Budget Request, a copy of which is on file with the minutes.

William Lamy, Superintendent of Public Works, began by reading a memo which stated that while he and his staff had made every attempt to contain Budget costs for 2009, there were increases in some areas that could not be avoided. The memo also cited that Mr. Lamy and the other DPW Division Managers were prepared to perform their responsibilities to the best of their abilities with the resources provided to them.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Don DeGraw, Airport Manager, to present the Airport, Code A.5610, section of the Budget Request which reflected a 2009 Request of \$759,099 as compared to the 2008 Amended Appropriation of \$708,832, an increase of \$50,267.

Mr. Geraghty pointed out that while nothing was spent in 2008 under Code A.5610 220, Office Equipment, \$1,000 was requested for 2009. Mr. DeGraw advised that these funds were intended for the purchase of a desktop computer for his office and the amount requested was based on an estimate provided by Information Technology (IT) staff. Jeffrey Tennyson, Deputy Superintendent of Engineering, contended that he had purchased similar desktop computers in the past which had cost between \$750 and \$900, depending on the software included.

Mr. Geraghty then questioned the \$3,800 appropriation listed under Code A.5610 250, Technical Equipment. Mr. DeGraw apprised that this funding would be used to purchase aircraft radios, headsets and accessories for grounds staff and a radio base station for his own office. He explained that this radio equipment would enable himself and his staff to communicate with pilots when landing or taking off at the Airport. As for the \$1,500 appropriation listed under Code A.5610 260, Other Equipment, Mr. DeGraw stated that these funds would be used to purchase the necessary fuel spill kits that the Airport was currently lacking.

Mr. Geraghty noted a large increase in Code A.5610 413, Repair & Maint. - Bldg./Property, which had increased from \$23,768 in the 2008 appropriation to \$49,000 in the 2009 Budget Request. Mr. DeGraw advised that the majority of the increase was for the addition of a washpad at the Airport, the costs for which had been estimated at \$25,000. He explained that the washpad would be comprised of a concrete pad with valving that would allow drainage to be transferred to the sewer, rather than stormwater drainage, when being used for washing aircraft. Mr. Belden asked if the costs for the washpad could be charged back to the users of the facility or if it was the responsibility of the County and Mr. DeGraw stated that the County did not have a responsibility to provide the washpad but that this was a service being requested by patrons of the Airport which could be supplied by the County.

Mr. Geraghty asked if it was possible to fund the project for less than \$25,000 and Mr. DeGraw replied in the negative, explaining that the valving required for the project was very expensive. Mr. Tennyson added that the valving and control system requirements imposed by NYSDEC (New York State Department of Environmental Conservation) and the Town of Queensbury Sewer Department were responsible for elevating project costs. He said that the requirements were necessary to keep stormwater out of the Town's sewer facility and also to keep the washwater from mixing with wetlands or surface water. Therefore, he said, a foolproof electronic system was required that would automatically close and open valves when the washpad was in operation to direct the flow of water to the appropriate place. Mr. Tennyson added that the design and construction work required in connection with the project would be provided by an outside source as this was not something that could be done in-house by County staff.

Mr. Champagne stated that while he felt that providing the washpad for the use of pilots at the Airport was a nice amenity, the current fiscal climate was not conducive for its addition. Mr. Geraghty suggested that the funding for the project be reduced for 2009 with hopes of appropriating additional funding to complete the project in 2010.

Subsequent to discussion on the matter, it was the consensus of the Committee that the appropriation for Code A.5610 413, Repair & Maint. - Bldg./Property, would be reduced to \$30,000.

In response to an inquiry regarding the increase of \$30,425 in Code A.5610 421, Equipment Rental, Mr. Lamy apprised that when machinery was purchased it was technically "owned" by the Machinery Fund and each DPW division paid rental fees for the equipment used to the Fund which served as a revenue to the Maintenance Shop. He noted that new machinery had recently been purchased for use at the Airport, the largest of which was a forestry mower, and the increased rental fees were the result of these purchases. Mr. Lamy added that if the Equipment Rental Fee Codes were reduced, they would have to find another source of revenue to support the Maintenance Shop.

Discussion ensued with respect to the Budget Request.

Mr. Lamy noted that funding for overtime costs incurred during the Adirondack Balloon Festival Event had been removed from the 2008 Budget and had not been included in the 2009 Budget Request. He added that because

of the reduction in the 2008 Budget, they were currently working to move funds from other areas to support the costs anticipated for the upcoming event. Mr. Geraghty asked if other arrangements had been made to support these costs for 2009 or if the Salaries - Overtime, Code A.5610 120, should be increased to \$70,000, as that was approximately the amount spent in 2007.

Messrs. Stec and Taylor, who had been working with the Adirondack Balloon Festival Committee to determine alternate sources of funding for the event, agreed that in order for the Balloon Festival to be held in 2009, increased funding would be required; therefore, they supported an increase in Code A.5610 120, Salaries-Overtime, to \$70,000.

Mr. Champagne noted that there had been ongoing arguments amongst the members of the Board of Supervisors with respect to funding for the Adirondack Balloon Festival event. He said that in his opinion, other arrangements had to be made to fund the Balloon Festival as the taxpayers were being held responsible for the majority of the event costs, which was not appropriate. Mr. Champagne stated that alternate arrangements had to be made to raise the funds to support the event in another manner, whether it be through charging for parking or some other venue. Mr. Taylor countered that the problem with this theory was that the Balloon Festival raised much more than the \$30,000 contributed by the County; however, he said, there was no way to accurately determine what that total was. Mr. Stec apprised that the Adirondack Balloon Festival Committee intended to re-negotiate arrangements with all of the vendors participating in the event in order to generate more revenue to wean themselves from dependance on the County.

Subsequent to discussion on the matter, it was the consensus of the Committee that the appropriation for Code A.5610 120, Salaries - Overtime, would be increased to \$70,000.

In summary, the Airport Code A.5610 2009 Budget Request was increased by \$4,067 as follows:

- Code A.5610 120, Salaries - Overtime, was increased to \$70,000, *increase of \$23,067* and
- Code A.5610 413, Repairs & Maint - Bldg/Property, was decreased to \$30,000, *decrease of \$19,000.*

Privilege of the floor was extended to Paul Butler, Director of Parks, Recreation & Railroad, to present the Parks, Recreation & Railroad 2009 Budget Request which consisted of the following sections:

- 1) Parks & Recreation, A.7110;
- 2) Up Yonda Farm, A.7111;
- 3) Snowmobile Grant, A.7112 and
- 4) Railroad, A.7113.

Beginning with the first portion of the Budget, Parks & Recreation Code A.7110, Mr. Geraghty advised that the 2009 Budget Request was \$889,626 as compared to the 2008 Appropriation of \$995,540, a decrease of \$105,914; however, he noted, revenues had also decreased by \$11,000.

Mr. Champagne questioned the \$15,200 increase included for Code A.7110 413, Repair & Maint - Bldg/Property, and Mr. Lamy apprised that \$10,000 of the request was to design and build a platform with handicapped access at the railroad station located at the 1,000 Acres Ranch Resort in the Town of Stony Creek. Mr. Belden apprised that revenues in the amount of \$30,000 would be received to offset the costs of the ramp from a State grant awarded to the Planning Department. Mr. Geraghty noted that after increasing the appropriation and applying the offsetting revenues, a balance of \$40,000 would be left in Code A.7110 413 to support other projects and he felt this amount

could be reduced as only \$10,450 of the 2008 Appropriation of \$49,800 had been spent to date. Mr. Butler stated that the amount spent for 2008 was low because they had been partaking of Planning grant funds to maintain and repair buildings throughout the year. He said that they could reasonably reduce the budget figure if no additional maintenance or construction projects were undertaken throughout the year.

It was the consensus of the Committee that the appropriation for Code A.7110 413, Repair & Maint - Bldg/Property would be reduced to \$60,000.

Mr. Geraghty noted a \$63,000 increase in Code. A.7110 465, Road/Bridge Materials, and read the explanation included in the Budget Request which indicated that the funds were to be used for paving at the Fairgrounds, Fish Hatchery, Bikeway and other miscellaneous areas. Mr. Lamy stated that the paving at the Fairgrounds was for a handicapped access strip that would stretch from the stage area to the restrooms. Mr. Butler confirmed this, noting that he had received several comments subsequent to activities at the Fairgrounds which stated that some handicapped individuals had trouble getting from the complex buildings to the north of the property where the restrooms were located. Mr. Kenny noted that there had been some question as to the County's retaining the Fairgrounds property and Mr. Belden cited his opinion that the paving at the Fairgrounds should be cut from the 2009 Budget as it was not a necessity.

Mr. Butler apprised that the paving included for the Fish Hatchery was to repair crumbled blacktop at the site, the costs of which could be removed from the 2009 Budget Request and addressed in another year.

Mr. Stec questioned whether the Fish Hatchery was necessary to the County and if it could be closed for 2009 to save County funds during the difficult Budget year. Mr. Geraghty cautioned that it was important to remember that the pavilions and grounds housing the Fish Hatchery were used daily by Warren County residents. Mr. Kenny noted that while he felt it might be worthwhile to research the possible savings that could be incurred by closing the Fish Hatchery, he also felt it was very important to determine what effect the closure would have on the residents and tourists visiting the area.

Discussion ensued.

As for paving on the Bikeway, Mr. Butler noted that there was an area which required maintenance and paving to avoid further deterioration. It was the consensus of the Committee that the funds budgeted for repair and paving on the Bikeway would be left in the 2009 Budget Request to avoid any possible injuries or liability issues.

Mr. Geraghty questioned the \$105,000 appropriation listed under Code A.7110 470, Contract, and Mr. Butler apprised that this was for Snowmobile Contracts amounting to \$100,000 with an additional \$5,000 included for miscellaneous fees and such. He explained that \$30,000 was given to each of the North Warren, South Warren and Thurman Connection Snowmobile Clubs, while \$10,000 was given to the Hague Snowmobile Club.

Mr. Merlino pointed out that in the past the County had given much more funding than they were currently to the Snowmobile clubs and Mr. Stec confirmed this statement.

Subsequent to discussion on the matter, it was the consensus of the Committee that the Snowmobile Club funding should be reduced by 10% to each Club and the appropriation to Code A.7110 470, Contract, decreased to \$95,000.

Mr. Champagne noted four vacant positions were listed in the 2009 Budget Request which were Laborer #45,

Laborer #46, Fish Management Specialist and Hatchery Aide. Mr. Lamy apprised that both the Fish Management Specialist and Hatchery Aide positions had been filled while the Laborer #45 and #46 positions remained vacant. Mr. Butler interjected that these vacant positions were used to fund temporary help hired during summer months and were also used when there was a need for unfunded overtime.

It was the consensus of the Committee that both of the vacant Laborer #45 and #46 positions would be deleted and Code A.7110 130, Salaries - Part-time, would be increased by \$15,000.

Subsequent to discussion, the Parks & Recreation A.7110 2009 Budget Request was reduced by \$82,794 as follows:

- Code A.7110 110, Salaries - Regular, was reduced to \$431,054, a decrease of \$45,794;
- Code A.7110 130, Salaries - Part-time, was increased to \$15,000, an increase of \$15,000;
- Code A.7110 413, Repair & Maint - Bldg/Property, was reduced to \$60,000, a decrease of \$5,000;
- Code A.7110 424, Postage, was reduced to \$500, a decrease of \$500;
- Code A.7110 439, Misc. Fees & Expenses, was reduced to \$500, a decrease of \$500;
- Code A.7110 465, Road/Bridge Maintenance, was reduced to \$32,000, a decrease of \$36,000 and
- Code A.7110 470, Contract, was reduced to \$95,000, a decrease of \$10,000.

Continuing to the 2009 Budget Request for Up Yonda Farm, Code A.7111, Mr. Butler noted that the \$25,000 included under Code A.7111 120, Salaries - Overtime, should actually be included under Code A.7111 130, Salaries Part-time, as although overtime costs were not incurred at the Up Yonda Farm, part-time help was used and this would make the accounting process much easier for tracking purposes. Mr. Butler noted that overtime costs were not incurred at the Up Yonda Farm as all of the employees working therein were salaried. Mr. Geraghty agreed that the change was appropriate to accurately reflect the salary code.

Mr. Butler noted that the 21st Century Grant would be ending in June of 2009 and this was reflected in the revenues, which would decrease.

Subsequent to discussion on the Up Yonda Farm, Code A.7111, 2009 Budget request it was the consensus of the Committee that no reductions would be made.

Mr. Butler stated that the 2009 Budget for Snowmobile Grant, Code A.7112, did not include any revenues as they would not be reflected until the grant monies were received from the State.

Proceeding to the Railroad, Code A.7113, 2009 Budget Request, Mr. Geraghty stated that since the Railroad was such a controversial topic, they should budget only what was absolutely necessary. Mr. Kenny questioned why the Budget request included no revenues and Mr. Butler stated that he had included \$24,000 in revenues and he was unsure as to why it was not reflected in the Budget. Ms. Johnson apprised that the revenues were not reflected in this portion of the Budget, but were included under the Parks & Recreation Budget that was previously discussed.

Subsequent to discussion, the Railroad, Code A.7113, 2009 Budget Request was decreased by \$10,000 as follows:

- Code A.7113 439, Misc Fees & Expenses, was reduced to \$1,000, a decrease of \$4,000;
- Code A.7113 465, Road/Bridge Materials, was reduced to \$1,000, a decrease of \$4,000 and
- Code A.7113 470, Contract, was reduced to \$13,000, a decrease of \$2,000.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Frank Morehouse, Superintendent of Buildings, to begin the review of the Buildings, Code A.1620, portion of the 2009 Budget Request.

Mr. Geraghty noted that the revenues estimated for 2009 had decreased by approximately \$50,000 from the 2008 estimated revenues while appropriations to the Equipment (200 Codes) had doubled. He questioned the \$3,500 appropriation to Code A.1620 250, Technical Equipment, which included a foot note indicating that the funds would be used to replace the existing engraving machine. Mr. Geraghty asked if a new engraving machine was necessary for 2009 and Mr. Morehouse replied that the purchase could be delayed for another year. He added that the Budget included the same equipment request list that was submitted and removed from the 2008 Budget request. Mr. Morehouse said that if the Committee was going to reduce the equipment list he would request that he be allowed some input into what items were removed and Mr. Geraghty advised that they could certainly do this.

Mr. Geraghty suggested that the total for the Equipment (200) Codes be reduced to a total of \$10,000, allowing Mr. Morehouse to place the funds where needed and the Committee agreed.

Mr. Morehouse apprised that one of the reasons for the decrease in revenues was due to the loss of some maintenance in lieu of rent income when County employees were moved to the CNA Building in Glens Falls. He added that the rental revenue would return to the budget when the new Health and Human Services Building was completed and occupied.

Mr. Lamy requested that Code A.1620 120, Salaries - Overtime, be increased to \$43,000 to appropriately meet anticipated overtime needs in 2009. He noted that the increased amount requested was still less than what had been spent in 2007, and he hoped that the \$43,000 requested would suffice. The Committee agreed that the appropriation to the Salaries - Overtime Code would be increased to \$43,000.

With respect to vacant positions listed, Mr. Lamy apprised that the Janitor position was filled and the remaining vacancy, Laborer #44, was unfunded. It was the consensus of the Committee that the unfunded Laborer #44 position should be deleted.

Subsequent to discussion, the Buildings, Code A.1620, 2009 Budget Request was increased by \$5,775 as follows:

- Code A.1620 120, Salaries - Overtime, was increased to \$43,000, *an increase of \$12,100*;
- Equipment (200) Codes were reduced to a total of \$10,000, *a decrease of \$6,325*.

Mr. Morehouse presented the 2009 Budget Requests for both Building #11, Code A.1621, and the Municipal Center Annex, Code A.1623, neither of which were altered by the Committee.

The Committee recessed from 12:18 p.m. to 12:46 p.m.

Chairman Monroe and Mr. Thomas entered the meeting at 12:46 p.m.

Upon reconvening, privilege of the floor was extended to Mr. Lamy to begin the review of the DPW portions of the 2009 Budget Request. He began with a review of Code A.1490, DPW Administration, which reflected a \$138,174 2009 Request as compared to the 2008 Appropriation of \$137,174, an increase of \$1,000.00.

Subsequent to discussion, it was determined that the DPW Administration, Code A.1490, 2009 Budget Request

would be reduced by \$800 as follows:

- A.1620 444, Travel & Education, was reduced to \$1,000, *a decrease of \$800.*

Mr. Lamy proceeded to the Solid Waste Management, Code CL8160, portion of the Budget which reflected a 2009 request of \$2,607,712 as compared to the 2008 appropriation of \$3,264,500, a decrease of \$656,788. He noted that the debt service figure of \$2,434,212 suggested for 2009 had been included in the budget request.

Chairman Monroe stated his feeling that the Solid Waste Management Budget could be reduced further as in his recent conversations with Steven Lynch, Inter-County Solid Waste Coordinator, he had been advised that they expected that costs of the facility to be approximately \$1.2 million less for 2009 than they had been for 2008, which would make the 2009 operating budget approximately \$2 million. He stated that it appeared a considerable cushion had been built into the budget which the County could not afford in 2009. Chairman Monroe suggested that the matter should be referred to the Solid Waste Coordinating Committee who would contact Mr. Lynch and determine a more realistic operating budget for the facility.

Mr. Lamy stated that he would make a notation that the Solid Waste Budget required adjustment and await an updated figure from the Solid Waste Coordinating Committee members.

Mr. Strainer entered the meeting at 12:58 a.m.

Mr. Lamy directed the Committee to the portion of the Budget Request entitled D.Codes. Beginning with Traffic Control, D.3310, Mr. Lamy requested that the Salaries - Overtime, Code D.3310 120, appropriation be increased for 2009 to match the actual expenditures in 2007, which would be an increase of approximately \$2,900.

Subsequent to discussion on Budget D.3310, Traffic Control, the Committee determined that the 2009 Request would be increased by \$2874 as follows:

- .3310 120, Salaries - Overtime, was increased to \$4,000, *an increase of \$2,874.*

Mr. Lamy then presented the Highway Administration, Code D.5010, 2009 Budget Request, to which no changes were made.

Moving to Engineering, Code D.5020, Mr. Lamy pointed out a \$13,000 expenditure under Office Equipment, Code D.5020 220, which he asked Mr. Tennyson to outline for the Committee. Mr. Tennyson explained that the bulk of the request would be used to purchase a large format scanner that would be used to scan the many bridge, right-of-way and project drawings maintained by the DPW which dated back to the turn of the century. Through the use of this new equipment, he apprised that they would be able to scan these valuable documents and turn them into digital files that could be catalogued and accessed very easily through the computer system while allowing for the originals to be properly stored for historical value without further damage to them. Mr. Tennyson stated that these were original documents that were irreplaceable and were currently being stored in various locations. In addition, he stated that the digital format of the maps would allow for them to be easily printed or forwarded to project consultants when necessary and would provide a digital archive source.

Mr. Geraghty questioned if a State Archive grant had been sought to fund these costs and Mr. Tennyson replied that they had contacted Pam Vogel, County Clerk, with respect to the matter but had not learned if a source of

grant funding was available as of yet.

It was the consensus of the Committee that grant funds should be sought to funds the costs of the archive project and that the Office Equipment, Code D.5020 220, expenditure should be reduced to \$2,000.

Subsequent to discussion on Budget D.5020, Engineering, it was determined that the request would be reduced by \$12,000 as follows:

- Code D.5020 220, Office Equipment was reduced to \$2,000, *decrease of \$11,000*;
- Code D.5020 428, Data Processing & Internet Fees was reduced to \$3,500, *decrease of \$1,000*.

Mr. Lamy presented the Maintenance of Roads, Code D.5110, budget which reflected a 2009 request of \$3,106,493 as compared to the 2008 appropriation of \$2,926,449, an increase of \$180,044.

Mr. Geraghty pointed out two vacant positions listed in the budget request, Working Supervisors #3 and #4, and he questioned if these would be filled. Mr. Lamy replied affirmatively, noting that he had not yet requested the approval of the Public Works Committee to fill them and that was why they remained vacant. Mr. Geraghty asked if the positions would be filled by promotion and Mr. Lamy replied affirmatively. Mr. Geraghty suggested that because a hiring freeze had been instituted, the two positions vacated due to promotion should be deleted, thereby reducing the salaries budget. Mr. Lamy advised that the Sign Shop crew had been supplemented with part-time help and he suggested that some of the funds from the two positions they intended to delete be placed in a part-time help code for use as necessary. It was the consensus of the Committee that the two Working Supervisor positions would be deleted and a line for Code D.5110 130, Salaries - Part-time, would be added to the budget with a \$15,000 appropriation for part-time help to be used as necessary.

Referring to Code D.5110 120, Salaries - Overtime, Mr. Lamy requested that the budgeted amount be increased from \$38,110 to \$50,000 to appropriately fund overtime costs incurred. He noted that although \$56,641 had been spent in 2007, he felt that \$50,000 would sufficiently cover any overtime costs incurred in 2009.

Subsequent to discussion on Budget D.5110, Maintenance of Roads, the Committee determined that the request would be reduced by \$26,226 as follows:

- Deletion of one Working Supervisor and one other vacant position to be determined by Mr. Lamy, *decrease of \$53,116*;
- Addition of Code D.5110 130, Salaries - Part-time, with an appropriation of \$15,000, *increase of \$15,000*;
- D.5110 120, Salaries - Overtime, increased to \$50,000, *increase of \$11,890*.

Continuing, Mr. Lamy presented the County Roads, D.5112, budget request. He reminded the Committee that during the 2008 budget process the priority had been equipment purchases; therefore, he said, many road projects had been delayed in order to lend funding for these needs. Mr. Lamy stated that the 2009 budget request focused on road projects and he noted that the rising costs of asphalt would reduce the number of road miles paved. He directed the Committee to the 2009 Tentative Paving Schedule developed by Brian Humphrey, Deputy Superintendent of Highways & Bridges, which reflected a recommended budget of \$2.7 million for all road projects scheduled for 2009, to be offset by the \$1.38 million projected in CHIPS (Consolidated Highway Improvement Project) funding.

Chairman Monroe questioned if there was a spending requirement attached to CHIPS funding and Mr. Lamy replied in the negative. Chairman Monroe then proposed that the County Roads budget request be reduced to only what would be received through CHIPS funding in order to significantly reduce the total of the 2009 County Budget. Mr. Lamy suggested that a slightly elevated figure be used in order to allow for any costs that might be ineligible for CHIPS funding.

It was the consensus of the Committee that the Road Project budget request would be reduced to \$1.5 million and the Superintendent of Public Works should use his discretion to determine what road projects would be funded for 2009.

The County Roads, D.5112, 2009 budget request was reduced to \$1.5 million, *a decrease of \$1,203,910.*

Mr. Lamy directed the Committee to the Snow Removal - County, D.5142, section of the budget, which reflected a 2009 request of \$1,764,531 as compared to the 2008 appropriation of \$1,630,910.41, an increase of \$133,620. He noted that the majority of the increase was attributed to Code D.5142 410, Supplies, for the purchase of road salt.

Mr. Lamy apprised that the 2009 budget request included an appropriation of \$190,000 for Salaries - Overtime, Code D.5142 120, as that was the figure appropriated for 2008; however, he stated, in an attempt to prepare an accurate budget, he requested that the figure be increased to \$200,000. Mr. Lamy noted that the increased amount was still less than the \$238,797 spent in 2007 and although he was not sure that the amount was an accurate estimate, it was reasonable based on past expenditures.

Subsequent to discussion, the Committee determined that the Snow Removal - County, Code D.5142, 2009 budget request would be increased by \$10,000 as follows:

- Code D.5142 120, Salaries - Overtime, was increased to \$200,000, *an increase of \$10,000.*

Mr. Belden asked if any research had been performed with respect to instituting two shifts for snow plowing during winter months and reducing the staff to one person per truck to reduce overtime costs and Mr. Lamy replied affirmatively. Mr. Lamy explained that he had attended an NYSDOT (New York State Department of Transportation) meeting and had discussed the issue with other County Superintendents from around the State to determine how they were providing these services. He said that at the close of the upcoming Summer Public Works Conference he intended to discuss the matter further with his colleagues to determine how other Counties were handling one person plowing and shift changes. Mr. Lamy said that it appeared there was a wide range of opinions on how best to handle the situation and he would apprise of his recommendation subsequent to further discussion on the matter.

Discussion ensued.

Robert Metthe, Director of Information Technology, entered the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

Mr. Geraghty noted that the Public Works budget request, as well as many other Departmental budget requests, had included appropriations for exorbitant telephone costs and he had asked Mr. Metthe to join the meeting in order to discuss this matter.

Mr. Metthe apprised that although they had attempted to include the remote County locations in the telephone

service being used at the Municipal Center and Annex Buildings to reduce costs, they had not been able to do so for all locations. He said that due to the volume of use, the rates being charged to the County were very low; however, he noted, in each case the purchase of equipment had been required initially to include the remote locations in the group for lower priced telephone service. Mr. Metthe said that since this effort had begun they had saved approximately \$1 million in telephone costs. He said that although they were able to tie the remote offices into the larger group, there were up front costs to upgrade to the appropriate equipment. Mr. Metthe stated that any location included in the large group receiving the low rate should not be faced with exorbitant costs other than the up front equipment costs.

Mr. Champagne noted that approximately \$25,000 had been included in the budget for telephone costs at the Warrensburg DPW shop and Mr. Metthe stated that he felt this figure was incorrect.

Subsequent to discussion on this matter, the Committee directed Mr. Metthe to review the telephone charges for the remote Public Works building locations to be sure that the amounts being charged to each were accurate.

Mr. Metthe left the meeting at 2:10 p.m.

Resuming the budget review, Mr. Lamy presented the 2009 Municipal Contract for snow and ice removal on County roads by Town workforces. He said that he had reviewed the contract with Mr. Belden who had advised that it should be presented to the Committee for their review.

Chairman Monroe stated that while he felt that an increase in the contract fees reimbursed to the Towns was justifiable, the 2008 rates should be maintained due to budget constraints.

Mr. Merlino stated that in 2008, considerably less was reimbursed than what was spent by the Town of Lake Luzerne to provide snow removal services for County roads. He added that if the reimbursement rates were reduced he did not feel that the Town of Lake Luzerne would continue to provide the snow removal services. Mr. Belden agreed that the Town of Hague would take the same stance.

Mr. Lamy observed that although the reimbursement rates were determined in 2007, prior to the dramatic increases in fuel and road salt costs, the Towns had continued to provide the necessary services in 2008 by absorbing overages through their individual budgets. Mr. Geraghty interjected that there should be some way to determine an appropriate figure for the reimbursement rates as the Towns should not be expected to provide these services and incur losses. Mr. Lamy replied that he and his staff could easily provide figures as to what the costs to the County for plowing the roads normally maintained by the Towns would be; however, he said, they could not do so for the Towns.

Subsequent to discussion, Mr. Lamy was asked to determine a fair updated per mile plowing cost for presentation at a future Committee meeting.

Continuing, Mr. Lamy presented the Machinery, Code DM.5130, budget which reflected a 2009 request of \$1,639,500 as compared to the 2008 appropriation of \$1,825,703, a decrease of \$186,203. Mr. Lamy recommended that Code DM.5130 120, Salaries - Overtime, be increased from \$45,020 to \$60,000 to reflect the actual expenditures of the Department. It was the consensus of the Committee that the requested increase was reasonable.

Mr. Geraghty questioned the \$25,500 appropriation listed under Code DM.5130 250, Technical Equipment, and Mr. Lamy apprised that these funds had been included to support the purchase of radios to replace the older models

which were discarded as they were not programmable for use. Subsequent to discussion, it was determined that the budgeted amount should be reduced to \$15,500 and grant funds should be sought for the remainder of the purchase through the assistance of the Office of Emergency Services.

Referring to Code DM.5130 260, Other Equipment, Mr. Lamy apprised that the requested appropriation of \$116,275 included funding for a telescopic man lift the price of which was estimated to be \$60,000. He explained that there was a need for this equipment as these items were rented currently. Mr. Lamy noted that there were funds remaining in the 2008 DPW Equipment bond with which this equipment might be purchased. He pointed out that a lift truck was more desirable than the telescopic lift, but had not been included in the original listing of equipment request because they felt the item was unattainable as the price for the equipment was close to \$100,000.

Pursuant to discussion on the matter, it was the consensus of the Committee that the \$60,000 budgeted for the telescopic lift should be removed from the budget request and the more expensive lift truck should be purchased through the funds remaining in the DPW equipment bond.

Subsequent to discussion, the Committee determined that budget DM.5130 would be reduced by \$108,295 as follows:

- Code DM.5130 120, Salaries - Overtime, was increased to \$60,000, *an increase of \$14,980*;
- Code DM.5130 210, Furniture/Furnishings, was reduced to \$5,735, *a decrease of \$6,000*;
- Code DM.5130 250, Technical Equipment, was reduced to \$15,500, *a decrease of \$10,000*;
- Code DM.5130 260, Other Equipment, was reduced to \$40,000, *a decrease of \$76,275*;
- Code DM.5130 410, Supplies, was reduced to \$41,200, *a decrease of \$31,000*.

Concluding the review of the Budget request, Mr. Lamy directed the Committee to the Capital Project listing for 2009 which reflected a total expenditure of \$1.08 million. Mr. Geraghty noted that the two largest projects listed were the Fuel Farms, at \$350,000, and the Corinth Road Project, at \$150,000, neither of which could be eliminated.

Mr. Gerghy questioned whether the Capital Projects pertaining to the Airport had been included in the Airport budget request and Mr. Lamy replied in the negative, explaining that all Public Works Capital Projects were included under this portion of the budget.

Mr. Lamy noted that in 2008 the Bridge Maintenance Reserve fund was started to acquire funds necessary to make bridge repairs as necessary and at that time it was determined that \$250,000 would be appropriated to the Fund each year for three years. He added that although the 2008 appropriation had been bonded, he had included \$250,000 in this portion of the budget request for the 2009 expenditure.

Subsequent to discussion on the matter, it was the consensus of the Committee that no reductions would be made to the 2009 Capital Project budget request.

As there was no further business to come before the Budget Committee, on motion made by Mr. Belden and seconded by Mr. Kenny, Mr. Geraghty adjourned the meeting at 2:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Amanda Allen, Sr. Legislative Office Specialist