

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: BUDGET - REAL PROPERTY

DATE: August 27, 2009

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS GERAGHTY
BELDEN
O'CONNOR
CHAMPAGNE
KENNY
SHEEHAN
TAYLOR

OTHERS PRESENT:

MIKE SWAN, DIRECTOR OF THE REAL PROPERTY TAX SERVICES DEPARTMENT
FREDERICK H. MONROE, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
HAL PAYNE, COMMISSIONER OF ADMINISTRATIVE & FISCAL SERVICES
JOANN MCKINSTRY, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF ADMINISTRATIVE & FISCAL SERVICES
JOAN SADY, CLERK OF THE BOARD
SARAH MCLENITHAN, LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

SUPERVISORS MERLINO
STEC

Mr. Geraghty called the meeting of the Budget Committee to order at 1:42 p.m.

Copies of the Real Property Tax Services Agency 2010 Budget Request were distributed to the Committee members; a copy of which is on file with the minutes.

Mike Swan, Director of Real Property Tax Services, presented the 2010 Budget request, which reflected a 2010 total appropriation of \$234,620 as compared to the 2009 appropriation of \$231,314, an increase of \$3,306; and a 2010 total revenue of \$28,390 as compared to the 2009 revenue of \$30,372, a decrease of \$1,982.

Mr. Swan said there had been an increase from the State for licensing fees for the Real Property Tax Services Assessment System. He added that this was the system that was used by the Towns for assessments and had historically been budgeted in the Real Property Tax Services Budget under the Data Processing & Internet Fees (A.1355 428). He explained that the 2010 request was \$16,940 as compared to the 2009 appropriation of \$13,800, an increase of \$3,140 or approximately 25%. He advised that at the last Real Property Tax Services Committee meeting, the Committee had authorized him to bill the additional 25% back to the Towns, which would amount to approximately \$200 per Town. He said that he had sent letters to each Town Supervisor and Town Assessor to inform them of the charge. He stated that \$3,390 had been budgeted under RPS License Fees From Towns (1258) and he added that this amount would balance the \$3,306 increase in appropriations.

Hal Payne, Commissioner of Administrative & Fiscal Services, advised that the appropriations had increased by \$3,306 and the revenues had decreased by \$1,982, making a total increase of \$5,288. In answer to a question if the request included any salary increases, Mr. Swan responded affirmatively and added that he had compensated for the salary increases by decreasing the amount that was budgeted for other expenses.

Mr. Champagne questioned the Assessors Fee (1250) which reflected a 2010 request of \$12,000 as compared to a 2009 revenue of \$14,000. Mr. Swan explained that revenues were decreased for several reasons, including the fact that they would no longer receive the STAR Rebate, which

represented a loss of \$4,500. He added that he also predicted a decrease in revenue from the bulk processing of tax maps.

Mr. Belden questioned the \$200 fee per Town for the licensing fees and asked if each Town would be charged the same amount. Mr. Swan replied that the Towns would be charged based on the number of parcels. He added that the Town of Queensbury would pay the highest amount and the Town of Stony Creek would pay the lowest amount but the remaining Towns would be charged an average of \$200 to \$250 per Town.

Following a brief discussion, it was the recommendation of the Committee that the Real Property Tax Services Agency resubmit their 2010 Budget request with a decrease of \$5,288.

There being no further business to come before the committee, on motion by Mr. Belden and seconded by Mr. Champagne, Mr. Geraghty adjourned the meeting at 1:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah McLenithan, Legislative Office Specialist
As typed by Charlene DiResta, Senior Legislative Office Specialist