

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

**WARREN COUNTY MUNICIPAL CENTER
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Frederick H. Monroe, Chairman

Joan Sady, Clerk of the Board

AGENDA BUDGET COMMITTEE October 14, 2009

1. Rick Haag, Warren County Conservation Council
2. Request Resolution from NYSAC
3. Review Alternatives from Planning and Personnel/Human Resources
4. Review of non-mandated programs
5. Other Business



NYSAC

NEW YORK STATE
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

Memo

To: Chief Elected Officials
From: Stephen J. Acquario
Date: October 6, 2009
Re: NYSAC 2009 Fall Conference Resolutions

Recently, the NYSAC Membership approved a series of public policy resolutions that will guide our Board of Directors as they set our legislative agenda for the upcoming year.

In particular, I would like to call your attention to the attached resolutions, prioritized by our membership. The first priority resolution takes a strong position against state cost shifting to counties. Given the ongoing economic downturn and its impact on state revenues, we respectfully urge you to take a proactive affirmative stance against state budget cost shifting to counties and pass this resolution within your local legislative body at the next available opportunity. The second priority resolution concerns the need for assistance in the dairy crisis. The dairy industry is an integral part of New York's agriculture and economy and deserves the immediate action of the local and State legislatures to relieve the current dairy fiscal crisis.

During these difficult financial times where revenues do not meet current state budget expenditures, it is critical to control spending. NYSAC believes the proper course of action is to restructure and eliminate unnecessary and wasteful spending, rather than simply implement across the board cost shifts without examining the merits of each program and service.

Please know that we have called on the state to work with us to fashion program reforms and efficiencies that provide real, timely, and mutual fiscal benefit, while minimizing the impact on property taxpayers.

You can find the complete set of the Adopted 2009 Fall Conference Resolutions on our website at www.nysac.org. Should you require any further information or have any other questions, please do not hesitate to contact Ken Crannell, NYSAC's Legislative Director, or me at (518) 465-1473.

**2009 Fall Seminar
Standing Committee on Taxation and Finance
Resolution #01**

**RESOLUTION URGING THE GOVERNOR AND THE STATE LEGISLATURE TO
REDUCE STATE SPENDING WITHOUT SHIFTING COSTS FOR STATE
PROGRAMS TO COUNTY GOVERNMENT**

WHEREAS, counties in New York have long served as the principal partner in administering the State's most critical programs in areas such as health, human services and public protection; and

WHEREAS, as part of administering these programs, the State mandates that counties fund a significant portion of these programs through the county budget; and

WHEREAS, these State mandates are the root cause of high property taxes at the county level; and

WHEREAS, the Governor has announced that he intends to call an extraordinary session of the State Legislature to close a current year State Budget Deficit of at least \$2.1 billion; and

WHEREAS, as State policy makers continue to address the looming State budget deficit it's critical that they draw a clear distinction between "cuts" in State funding and simple cost shifting that requires counties to fund a larger share of State mandated services; and

WHEREAS, counties have no capacity to shoulder more of the State's fiscal burden and in fact, a case can be made that the current level of funding the State provides is not sustainable for the work the State expects counties to perform; and

WHEREAS, as experienced managers who must balance their own budgets, county officials understand and support the need for spending restraint, especially in difficult times; and

WHEREAS, counties believe that it is preferable to restructure and eliminate unnecessary and wasteful spending than to implement across the board reductions without examining the merits of each program and service;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) call on the Governor and State Legislature to reduce State spending without shifting the costs for State programs to county government; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NYSAC believes that by working together, the State and its counties can fashion program efficiencies and changes that provide a real, timely, and mutual fiscal benefit, while minimizing the impact on taxpayers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NYSAC shall forward copies of this Resolution to Governor David A. Paterson, the New York State Legislature and all others deemed necessary and proper.

Summary of Non-Mandated Programs 2

Department	Non-Mandated Programs - Implications of not providing services	2010 Anticipated Cost to County	Notes
Countryside Adult Home	Up to sixty residents will have to be re-located. Thirty-two employees will be displaced.	\$ 665,586.00	
Airport	Airport promotes economic development	\$ 591,121.00	
Fish Hatchery	Raises fish to stock in Warren County waters to promote tourism	\$ 65,000.00	DPW Committee recommends keeping the Fish Hatchery.
Health Services-Preventive Program	Promotes most Health Services programs	\$ 54,917.00	Significant revenue source. 9/29/09
Health Services-Family Health	Home visits to high risk pregnant women, postpartum and breastfeeding mothers and newborns.	\$ 47,975.00	
Health Services-Tobacco Education	Education and advertising activities-monitoring activities for tobacco usage	\$ 15,000.00	
Human Resources-EAP Program	Employee Assistance Program	\$ 14,250.00	
Office for the Aging	Services for Seniors including meal sites and meals-on-wheels program.	\$ 671,263.00	
Social Services - Northeast Parent & Child	Provides preventative services to families	\$ 59,773.00	
Social Services - St. Anne Institute	Provides sex abuse validation and counseling	\$ 30,800.00	
Social Services - COPS Youth Bureau	Youth Court	\$ 14,947.00	
Westmount	Eighty residents will have to be re-located. Will eliminate approximately 110 jobs.	\$ -	
Youth Bureau	Serves Warren County youth up to age 21 to prevent delinquency prevention through positive youth development.	\$ 30,927.00	
Total		\$ 2,261,559.00	
Sheriff	Road Patrol (wage & fringe) (only patrol officers and Sgts.)	\$ 5,645,638.00	
Total including Road Patrol		\$ 7,907,197.00	