

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: BUDGET

DATE: OCTOBER 28, 2010

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COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS GERAGHTY  
BENTLEY  
KENNY  
MERLINO  
GIRARD  
STEC  
TAYLOR  
CONOVER

OTHERS PRESENT:

FRED MONROE, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD  
PAUL DUSEK, COUNTY ATTORNEY/ADMINISTRATOR  
JOAN SADY, CLERK OF THE BOARD  
JOANN MCKINSTRY, ASSISTANT TO THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR  
RICK MURPHY, FISCAL ASSISTANT TO THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR  
SUPERVISORS LOEB  
MCCOY  
STRAINER  
THOMAS  
VANNESS

COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:

SUPERVISOR GOODSPEED

PAM VOGEL, COUNTY CLERK  
BUD YORK, WARREN COUNTY SHERIFF  
JEFFERY TENNYSON, SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
ROB LYNCH, DEPUTY TREASURER  
PAT AUER, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
ROBERT IUSI, DIRECTOR OF PROBATION  
BRIAN LAFLURE, FIRE COORDINATOR/DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF  
EMERGENCY SERVICES  
BETSY HENKEL, COMPTROLLER - WESTMOUNT HEALTH FACILITY  
EVELYN WOOD, TOWN OF THURMAN RESIDENT  
DON LEHMAN, *THE POST STAR*  
THOM RANDALL, *THE ADIRONDACK JOURNAL*  
AMANDA ALLEN, SR. LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST  
*Please see sign-in sheet for additional meeting attendees.*

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Mr. Geraghty called the meeting of the Budget Committee to order at 1:00 p.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Kenny, seconded by Mr. Taylor and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the prior Committee meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Copies of the meeting agenda were distributed to the Committee members, and a copy is also on file with the minutes.

Commencing with the Agenda review, Mr. Geraghty announced there were several members of the SALS (Southern Adirondack Library System) in attendance wishing to speak on library funding for 2011. Upon Mr. Geraghty's direction, John Plantier and Jim McCauly, both of the Hadley-Luzerne Public Library, Christine McDonald, of the Crandall Public Library, and Sara Dallas, of the SALS, all addressed the Committee individually to express the importance of the programs offered by their facilities and the growing significance of each in light of the current financial times, as well as to stress the dependence upon County funding and request that these amounts not be reduced for the coming year. At the close of these statements, Mr. Geraghty thanked the presenters and announced that the current funding levels would be maintained for the 2011 Budget.

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Mr. Geraghty advised that the next agenda item pertained to presentation of the 2011 Budget proposal. He thanked the Budget team, which consisted of Paul Dusek, County Attorney/Administrator, JoAnn McKinstry, Assistant to the County Administrator, Rick Murphy, Fiscal Assistant to the County Administrator, and himself, for their hard work and dedication, as well as for the sacrifices made by the Department Heads, which culminated in a 2011 Budget proposal that included a 1.09% increase over the 2010 adopted Budget. He said that the proposal was a team effort, and although they had been aiming for a 0% increase, the minimal increase achieved was commendable.

A powerpoint presentation ensued, outlining the 2011 Budget proposal. *A copy of the powerpoint presentation is on file with the minutes.*

At the close of the presentation, Mr. Kenny noted there were 13 positions to be abolished in the 2011 Budget proposal and he questioned whether the positions had already been eliminated, to which Mr. Geraghty responded that these were vacant positions, or positions identified to be vacated in 2011, that would not be filled. Mr. Kenny then questioned a proposed 70% salary increase for a part-time Investigator position and Mr. Geraghty explained this increase was necessary in order to make the salary commensurate with the other part-time investigator salaries. Mr. VanNess interjected that the position was supported by State and Federal funding received through the Department of Social Services (DSS) as it was involved in investigating suspected DSS fraud cases. He added that they intended for the position also to be used to investigate Workers' Compensation cases through the Self-Insurance Department, thereby eliminating the need to hire outside investigative services.

Mr. Girard noted a \$50,000 reduction in funding to the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) and questioned whether the action was sensible given the fact they had reached a critical point in their operation when they were to begin bringing new jobs to the area. He said he feared the EDC may be unable to continue these efforts, based on reduced funding. Mr. Geraghty responded that the reduction was made based on the need to decrease expenditures in light of a \$1 million reduction in sales tax revenues. He added that although they were all aware of the need for economic development in the area, reductions were necessary to compensate for revenue deficits. Mr. Geraghty noted that they had also been unable to include salary increases for non-union employees, which they were not proud of, but hoped to address in future budgets when the County's financial situation improved.

Mr. Merlino pointed out his feeling that the \$25,000 in occupancy tax funding being contributed to the Village of Lake George's Visitors Center was inappropriate and should be revisited. He said the Village was awarded \$120,000 in occupancy tax funding annually and he said that although he was unsure how much the Village contributed to the occupancy tax fund, he did not feel that requests for additional funding received from the Towns, City and Village were being addressed equally. Speaking as Chairman of the Occupancy Tax Coordination Committee, Mr. Kenny apprised that the request for additional funding for the Visitors Center had been approved by both the Occupancy Tax Coordination Committee and the full Board of Supervisors at prior meetings. Mr. Dusek interjected that although a resolution had been passed authorizing the funding, the matter could be reviewed and the resolution amended or revoked; however, he said, the issue would have to be revisited through the proper channels, which began with discussion at the Committee level. Mr. Geraghty recommended that the issue be referred back to the Occupancy Tax Coordination Committee for further consideration.

A discussion ensued during which the Committee members expressed their appreciation for the work done by the Budget team and commended their ability to develop a proposal with a very reasonable increase.

It was the consensus of the Committee to accept the 2011 Budget proposal as presented by the Budget Officer.

Concluding the agenda review, Mr. Geraghty addressed the listing of items pending from prior Committee meetings. He advised that all seven items listed had been addressed and should be removed from the Referral List.

As there was no further business to come before the Committee, on motion made by Mr. Stec and seconded by Mr. Merlino, Mr. Geraghty adjourned the meeting at 1:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Amanda Allen, Sr. Legislative Office Specialist