

## Warren County Board of Supervisors

**Committee: Human Services**

**Date: May 23, 2013**

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**Committee Members Present: Others Present:**

Supervisors Strainer	Chris Hunsinger, Director, Employment & Training Administration
Girard	
Frasier	Sharon Sano, Senior Counselor, Employment & Training Administration
Sokol	
Wood	Kevin B. Geraghty, Chairman of the Board
Loeb	Paul Dusek, County Administrator
Vanselow	Joan Sady, Clerk of the Board
	Frank Thomas, Budget Officer
	Supervisors Mason
	McDevitt
	Monroe
	Taylor
	Don Lehman, <i>The Post Star</i>
	Sarah McLenithan, Legislative Office Specialist

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Mr. Strainer called the meeting of the Human Services Committee to order at 9:30 a.m.

Motion was made by Mrs. Wood, seconded by Mr. Vanselow and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the previous Committee meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Chris Hunsinger, Director, Employment & Training Administration, who distributed copies of the agenda packet to the Committee members; *a copy of the agenda packet is on file with the minutes.*

Commencing the agenda review, Mr. Hunsinger presented a request to amend the 2013 County Budget to increase estimated revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$11,849 to reflect the receipt of supplemental Dislocated Worker funding for reimbursement of training for dislocated workers.

Motion was made by Mrs. Wood, seconded by Mr. Sokol and carried unanimously to approve the request to amend the 2013 County Budget as outlined above and to forward same to the Finance Committee. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Mr. Hunsinger presented a request to amend the contract with Washington-Saratoga-Warren-Hamilton-Essex Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) to increase upset fee from \$12,900 to an amount not to exceed \$13,300 as a result of the new contract settlement. He explained that BOCES had settled their agreement with the Teacher's Union and the increase included the reimbursement rate. He stated that typically the actual dollar amount expended was less than the contract total.

Motion was made by Mrs. Wood, seconded by Mr. Loeb and carried unanimously to amend the contract as outlined above. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes and the necessary resolution was authorized for the June 21, 2013 Board meeting.*

Mr. Hunsinger requested to amend the 2013 County Budget to increase estimated revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$8,314 to reflect the receipt of Trade Adjustment Act Funding for reimbursement of training for dislocated workers.

Motion was made by Mr. Vanselow, seconded by Mrs. Wood and carried unanimously to approve the request to amend the 2013 County Budget as outlined above and forward same to the Finance Committee. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Mr. Hunsinger requested to amend the 2013 County Budget to increase estimated revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$708,980 to reflect receipt of Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Funding for the 2013 WIA Program Year. He noted that this was a 4% increase from the prior year. He pointed out that although the federal funding for the program had decreased, their share of the funds had increased due to the higher unemployment rate in New York State.

Motion was made by Mrs. Frasier, seconded by Mr. Sokol and carried unanimously to approve the request to amend the 2013 County Budget as outlined above and to forward same to the Finance Committee. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Mr. Hunsinger requested to amend the 2013 County Budget to increase estimated revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$69,959 to reflect the receipt of Temporary Assistance of Needy Families Funds (TANF) for administration of the Summer Youth Employment Program. He advised the vast majority of the funds were used for the part-time salaries of the summer youth. Mr. Strainer asked whether more youth would be involved in the program this year and Sharon Sano, Senior Counselor, Employment & Training Administration, replied she felt the level of participation would be dependent upon the hours requested by the work sites, as well as the ability to offer appropriate work sites.

Mr. Strainer queried whether the County actively recruited private sector employers to participate in the program and Mrs. Sano replied in the negative. She explained that they relied upon area schools, non-profit agencies and municipalities for the bulk of their placements. She advised that private sector placements required a more substantial screening; however, she noted, last year two youths were placed in private sector businesses.

Motion was made by Mrs. Wood, seconded by Mr. Vanselow and carried unanimously to approve the request to amend the 2013 County Budget as outlined above and forward same to the Finance Committee. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Mr. Hunsinger requested permission to host the 2013 Summer Youth Program Award Ceremony/Picnic on a date to be determined at a later time. He advised the tentative date for the Award Ceremony/Picnic was August 22, 2013; however, he stated, he would notify the Committee Members when an official date was selected. He said the estimated cost for the awards, food and beverages was \$500 .

Mr. Strainer suggested Committee Members attend the Award Ceremony/Picnic if their schedules permitted, as he felt it was a noteworthy event. He stated that he believed the value of the Program was visible to all who attended the picnic.

Motion was made by Mrs. Frasier, seconded by Mrs. Wood and carried unanimously to approve the request for permission to host the 2013 Summer Youth Program Award Ceremony/Picnic as outlined above. *A copy of the Request to Host a Meeting or Conference form is on file with the minutes.*

Mr. Hunsinger requested a new contract with Washington-Saratoga-Warren-Hamilton-Essex BOCES to provide employment and training services to the Summer Youth Employment Program for a term commencing June 24, 2013 and terminating August 30, 2013 in an amount not to exceed \$15,600. He noted there was a slight increase in the contract from the prior year; however, he said, typically all of the funds were not expended because it was a cost reimbursement contract.

Motion was made by Mr. Sokol, seconded by Mr. Vanselow and carried unanimously to authorize the contract with Washington-Saratoga-Warren-Hamilton-Essex BOCES as outlined above. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes and the necessary resolution was authorized for the June 21, 2013 Board meeting.*

Mr. Hunsinger requested a new contract with Saratoga County Employment & Training and the Washington County Economic Opportunity Council/Employment & Training Administration (EOC/ETA) to operate the WIA Youth Programs for a term commencing July 1, 2013 and terminating June 30, 2014. He explained that Saratoga County was the fiscal agent and that he had submitted a Request for Proposal (RFP) to them for a two year agreement two years ago; however, he said, a formal resolution was required. He noted next year another RFP would have to be submitted.

Motion was made by Mrs. Frasier, seconded by Mr. Vanselow and carried unanimously to authorize the contract with Saratoga County Employment & Training and the Washington County Economic Opportunity Council/Employment & Training Administration (EOC/ETA) as outlined above. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes and the necessary resolution was authorized for the June 21, 2013 Board meeting.*

Mr. Hunsinger requested to fill the temporary positions of employment and training to establish training slots and related expenses for federal employment and training programs for a term commencing July 1, 2013 and terminating June 30, 2014. He referred the Committee to Schedule "A", which he reviewed in detail; *a copy of which is on file with the minutes.*

Mr. Loeb asked for clarification as to how the TANF and WIA Programs pertained to youth. Mr. Hunsinger explained that both programs included youths; however, he said, the eligibility for TANF was less stringent than WIA. He noted that the majority of the Summer Youth Program was funded through TANF.

In response to a question by Mr. Loeb, Mrs. Sano advised that the youth in the year round program were referred by other youth in the program, Probation Department, Preventive Services, local schools, Department of Social Services, Community Action Agency and the Wait House. She said the majority of the participants were youth that were not in school and a percentage of them had to meet the following criteria when they exited the program or there was a risk of losing the funding:

- 1) Be employed
- 2) Have an industry recognized credential

3) If they had math and/or reading levels at an 8<sup>th</sup> grade level or below it was required to be elevated through BOCES, as well as the use of an in house tutor.

She apprised that TANF was designed to enhance youth employability skills and give them an opportunity to earn money. She noted the bulk of the participants were between 14-15 years of age, as it was more difficult for them to obtain employment due to labor laws.

Mr. Loeb queried how they determined who was eligible for the 50 employment slots during the summer and Mrs. Sano replied that the youths had to be deemed eligible to participate, which included providing proper documentation. Mr. Loeb asked how youth were referred to the Program and Mrs. Sano advised it was mostly through the guidance staff at the local schools.

With regards to Trade Act Programs, Mrs. Sano advised the training had to be approved and taken at a recognized training facility for a demand occupation so when they completed the Program they could become employed. She noted not everyone who requested training was approved. Mr. Hunsinger advised that monthly financial reports were submitted to the New York State Department of Labor (NYSDOL), as well as reporting to the Saratoga-Warren-Washington Counties Workforce Investment Board (WIB) on all the Programs offered.

Mr. Vanselow questioned whether the possible increase of the Federal Minimum Wage would have an impact on the number of people employed through the Program and Mr. Hunsinger replied affirmatively. He explained that employers would reduce the number of job openings, which would increase the demand for their services. He added it would also decrease the number of participants in the program unless their funding was increased.

Motion was made by Mr. Vanselow, seconded by Mrs. Wood and carried unanimously to authorize filling the temporary positions of employment and training as outlined above. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes and necessary resolution was authorized for the June 21, 2013 Board meeting.*

Mr. Hunsinger requested to reappoint Michael Irish to the Saratoga-Warren-Washington Counties WIB for a term commencing July 1, 2013 and terminating June 30, 2016.

Motion was made by Mr. Vanselow, seconded by Mr. Girard and carried unanimously to authorize the reappointment of Michael Irish to the Saratoga-Warren-Washington Counties WIB as outlined above. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes and the necessary resolution was authorized for the June 21, 2013 Board meeting.*

In regards to youth work crew, Mr. Hunsinger advised they would continue to work through the summer. He said they had been unsure if they would have sufficient funds to proceed; however, he said, they had received their allocation and there was adequate funding available.

As there was no further business to come before the Committee, on motion made by Mrs. Wood and seconded by Mrs. Frasier, Mr. Strainer adjourned the meeting at 9:59 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah McLenithan, Legislative Office Specialist