

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: BUDGET

DATE: AUGUST 15, 2017

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS THOMAS
MERLINO
SIMPSON
BEATY
MONTESI

OTHERS PRESENT:

RONALD F. CONOVER, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
BRIAN REICHENBACH, COUNTY ATTORNEY
SARAH MCLENITHAN, DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD
SUPERVISORS BRAYMER
HYDE
LEGGETT
MACDONALD

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

SUPERVISORS GIRARD
STROUGH
BROCK
SOKOL
DICKINSON
GERAGHTY

JOANN MCKINSTRY, ASSISTANT TO THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
KRISTY MILLER, CONFIDENTIAL SECRETARY TO THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
MICHAEL SWAN, COUNTY TREASURER
MICHAEL WILD, TOWN OF QUEENSBURY RESIDENT
DON LEHMAN, *THE POST STAR*
LESLIE LOVELACE, SECRETARY TO THE CLERK OF THE BOARD

Please note the following contains a summarization of the August 15, 2017 meeting of the Budget Committee; the meeting in its entirety can be viewed on the Warren County website using the following link: <http://www.warrencountyny.gov/gov//comm/Archive/2017/budget/>

Mr. Thomas called the meeting of the Budget Committee to order at 11:05 a.m. (*Please note due to a lack of attendance, Chairman Conover served to make a quorum of the Committee*).

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

Mr. Thomas stated the purpose of today's meeting was to review the 2017 Multi-Year Plan which included years 2018 -2021; he noted the Plan could change at any time as the information was based upon projections. *A copy of the 2017 Multi-Year Plan is on file with the minutes.*

Mr. Thomas commenced with a review of the 2017 Multi-Year Plan, which he outlined in detail. He noted the large decrease in the year 2021 for the Unreserved Fund Balance, and added that his focus would be on the debt as well as contract/pay raises. Mr. Thomas indicated revenue needed to be generated to pay down the debt and prevent the huge projected decrease.

Ms. Hyde entered at 11:21 a.m.

Michael Swan, County Treasurer, applauded Mr. Thomas for entering the Surplus (Deficit) as \$0 for Debt Service so as not to fall short, but instead to grow the surplus.

Mr. Thomas noted the spending for 2017 projects, as follows: \$275,000 on Radios, \$575,000 on Roads and \$300,000 on the Horicon Avenue Sewer Extension.

Discussion ensued relative to estimating sales tax revenues.

Mr. Beaty expressed the projected Unreserved Fund Balance was unsettling to him and he opined the Supervisors would face tough decisions in the future. He noted he was not in favor of raising the

County tax rate and passing the burden on to the taxpayers.

Mr. Conover apprised depletion of the fund balance had not occurred overnight, but rather happened over time and required addressing. He added the projection showed a historical trend going forward which they needed to determine how best to address.

Mr. MacDonald inquired as to whether there had been any discussion of sharing services in the future, and noted the upcoming State-Mandated Shared Services Panel meeting taking place on August 25, 2017. Mr. Thomas responded in the negative; however, he said, he was waiting to see what ideas would come out of that meeting.

Ms. Braymer noted the projected trend appeared alarming and inquired what could be done to reverse it without control of sales tax and Mr. Thomas responded personnel was the largest expense they had control over.

Mr. Conover informed the switch to a self-insured health insurance plan would result in a significant savings, not only for this year but future years, as well.

Mr. Conover indicated there would be an opportunity to review unfunded positions which remained vacant and determine whether they should be deleted in the organizational structure. He added, the deletion of two or three positions a year could be a starting point to realize some savings. Mr. Montesi inquired as to how many unfunded positions were in the County and Mr. Thomas replied there were about twenty to twenty-five.

Mr. Merlino commended Mr. Thomas on having done an excellent job with the budget. He inquired as to what Mr. Thomas' requirements were and Mr. Thomas replied he had requested all the Department Heads keep their budget the same as this year. He added that the health insurance change would also assist in keeping costs low.

Ms. Braymer exited the meeting at 12:06 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the Budget Committee, on motion made by Mr. Montesi and seconded by Mr. Simpson, Mr. Thomas adjourned the meeting at 12:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Leslie Lovelace, Secretary to the Clerk of the Board