

MINUTES

APPROVED

BUDGET, CAPITAL, AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

JUNE 8, 2003 3:30 P.M. SCOTT HEYMAN CONFERENCE ROOM

Present: J. Dennis, Chair; P. Mackesey; K. Herrera; M. Hattery (arrived at 3:34 p.m.); N. Shinagawa (arrived at 3:43 p.m.)
Staff: C. Covert, Clerk of the Legislature; J. Mareane, County Administrator; M. Lynch, Public Information Officer; N. Jayne, County Administration; D. Squires, Finance Director; C. Haynes, TC3 President; B. Taesch, TC3
Guests: P. Pryor, Legislative Candidate; C. Chock, Legislator

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m.

Changes to the Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes

May 5, 2009

It was MOVED by Ms. Mackesey, seconded by Ms. Herrera, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to approve the minutes of May 5, 2009, as submitted.

Comments from the Public

There was no member of the public present.

Report from the Chair

Mr. Dennis commented on a discussion held at the last Legislature meeting concerning future salary negotiations with bargaining unions in 2010, and said that the County's position is if the Legislature wishes to make a salary adjustment, it would be necessary to pay the contractual amount and find the resources to do so. He made it clear that when it is time to begin negotiations, it will be done in good faith.

Mr. Hattery arrived at this time.

Report from the Director of Finance

Mr. Squires stated that there are now only three properties on the foreclosure list for the auction. The first sales tax distribution for May was down \$230,000. People are not spending their money on taxable sale items.

Mr. Hattery reported as a follow-up to Mr. Proto's request made at the last Legislature meeting concerning local land use that he had asked at the Government Performance and Workforce Relations Committee. The Committee and Planning Department agreed, that properties going to public sale for which there is a recommended restriction that it be considered and action taken at the relevant local municipal level.

Report from the County Administrator

Mr. Mareane said he is in the process of updating the quarterly indicators report and will distribute it in the next couple of days. At this time he provided highlights of the “dashboard” and said the County is seeing the effects of the economy at the local level in various program areas including increases in food stamps, caseloads, and unemployment. The jail population levels are relatively steady and boardouts are down by a third from a year ago. Enplanements continue to be up. The Department of Motor Vehicles revenues are down from over a year ago; however, the revenues from legal documents in the County Clerk’s office are up.

Mr. Shinagawa arrived at this time.

At this time, Mr. Mareane reviewed in detail the list of 2010 budget options to be explored and/or considered by the County over the next few months including the list of suggestions submitted through the electronic suggestion box.

Ms. Mackesey asked about the sales tax on internet sales. Mr. Squires said there is a lobbying effort at the national level to keep the internet tax free. The Department of Taxation and Finance is trying to position themselves to capture every sale conducted by somebody that has a retail location in New York State.

Further review followed concerning budget options to be explored and Ms. Mackesey suggested the County look into becoming a part of the car share program to see if it would be beneficial to the County.

Ms. Herrera expressed caution with the suggestion to look into “Fast-track funding for productivity-enhancing technology” and encouraged a cost analysis be done to assure efficiency.

A brief discussion followed concerning the vending services agreement and Mr. Squires explained the program and said there is only one bidder for this. There is no market and does not believe it is a high priority.

Mr. Hattery asked if the mortgage tax fee could be reviewed and a financial impact for a average-priced house in Tompkins County would be if the tax was raised to the maximum amount. The current rate is .75%; the maximum rate is 1%, but requires State approval. The quarter percent on a \$200,000 house is \$500.

In response to a question from Ms. Mackesey, Mr. Mareane said one of the assumptions that he will be including in the 2010 budget is \$1.3 million in new revenue or applied reserves.

Report from the Public Information Officer

Ms. Lynch said the Public Information Advisory Board will meet June 18th and will begin discussing initiatives for communicating with the public for the upcoming budget process. There is a small group working on this topic as well.

Budget Update – Correction

Ms. Jayne corrected a statement she made at the last Committee meeting concerning the calculation of fiscal targets. She said the fringe costs will be included in the target reductions for departments and has notified Department Heads of this information.

Community Advisory Panel (CAP)

In response to Ms. Mackesey’s question, Mr. Dennis said the next CAP meeting is June 15th at noon at the Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Hattery clarified that the group is advisory and is an information source for Administration and the Legislature. Mr. Dennis said he convenes the meetings and works with Administration staff in developing agendas. The information provided by the Committee will be shared with the Legislature. Many members of this group have experience in this area as they served on this approximately five years ago. Ms. Herrera recollects that the group issued a series of recommendations and believed there were some good suggestions that came out from the previous group. Mr. Dennis said the group began with reviewing those recommendations from five years ago.

Health Department

Resolution

It was MOVED by Mr. Shinagawa, seconded by Ms. Mackesey, and unanimously adopted by voice vote, to approve and submit the following resolution to the full Legislature for approval:

**RESOLUTION NO. – APPROPRIATION FROM CONTINGENT FUND – TERMINAL PAY
– HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

WHEREAS, the Health Department had a Community Health Nurse resign effective April 13, 2009, and

WHEREAS, the Health Department had a Sr. Account Clerk Typist resign effective May 8, 2009, and

WHEREAS, the Fiscal Policy of Tompkins County allows for terminal pay from the Contingent Fund, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Health and Human Services and Budget and Capital Committees, That the Director of Finance is hereby authorized and directed to make the following budget appropriation:

FROM:	A1990.54440	Contingent Fund	\$3,909
TO:	A4016.51000580	Community Health Nurse	\$ 972
	A4016.51000529	Sr. Account Clerk Typist	\$1,902
	A4016.58800	Fringes	\$1,035

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

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Tompkins Cortland Community College

Resolution – Adoption of Operating Budget

It was MOVED by Ms. Herrera, seconded by Mr. Shinagawa, to approve and submit the following resolution to the full Legislature for approval. Discussion followed concerning the operating budget and it was clarified that it represents a 3% increase as agreed to by both counties and that the total sponsoring community contribution is \$4,254,915 (62% Tompkins County and 38% Cortland County). In response to questions raised at previous meetings concerning chargebacks, Mr. Haynes said that data was not available, but discussions will be held to track that information in the future.

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Hattery suggested a note be added to the policy that explains why the fund balance for Solid Waste is higher. Mr. Mareane agreed to draft some language.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:48 p.m.