

Budget, Capital and Finance Committee
Special Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 1, 2009 5:10 PM
Tompkins County Courthouse

Approved 2-8-10

Present: J. Dennis, Chair; P. Mackesey; M. Hattery; K. Herrera; N. Shinagawa (arrived at 5:15 p.m.)
Staff: C. Covert, Clerk of the Legislature; M. Lynch, Public Information Officer; D. Squires, Finance Director; J. Mareane, County Administrator
Guests: S. Shackford, Ithaca Journal Reporter

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:10 p.m.

Finance Department

Resolution (DOC ID: 1571): Delegating to the Finance Director of the County of Tompkins, New York, the Power to Authorize the Issuance of and to Sell \$8,000,000 Revenue Anticipation Notes of Said County in Anticipation of Receipt of State Aid During the Fiscal Year of Said County Commencing January 1, 2010

Mr. Hattery commented that some Legislators have an interest in what happens to some of the revenue this is going to cover. Mr. Dennis said the Finance Director will be available at the Legislature meeting this evening to answer any questions. [Mr. Squires arrived later in the meeting and the resolution was reconsidered.]

RESULT:	RECOMMENDED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Pamela Mackesey, Member
SECONDER:	Michael Hattery, Vice Chair
AYES:	Dennis, Hattery, Luz Herrera, Mackesey
ABSENT:	Shinagawa

WHEREAS, it is prudent to allow for the possible issuance of revenue anticipation notes should there be a cash-flow problem resulting from delays in State Aid during 2010, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Budget, Capital, and Finance Committee, by the Legislature of the County of Tompkins, New York as follows:

Section 1. The power to authorize the issuance of and to sell \$8,000,000 revenue anticipation notes of the County of Tompkins, New York, including renewals thereof, in anticipation of the receipt of State Aid due said County during the fiscal year of said County commencing January 1, 2010, is hereby delegated to the Finance Director, the chief fiscal officer of such County. Such notes shall be of such terms, form, and contents, and shall be sold in such manner as may be determined by the Finance Director, consistent with the provisions of the Local Finance Law.

Section 2. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

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Assessment Department

Resolution (DOC ID: 1596): Appropriation from Contingent Fund – Terminal-Pay Reimbursement – Assessment Department

RESULT:	RECOMMENDED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Pamela Mackesey, Member
SECONDER:	Michael Hattery, Vice Chair
AYES:	Dennis, Hattery, Luz Herrera, Mackesey, Shinagawa

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Department of Assessment had the Director of Assessment retire effective October 30, 2009, and

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

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Government Performance and Workforce Relations and the Budget, Capital and Finance Committees, That the Director of Finance is hereby authorized and directed to make the following budget appropriation:

REVENUE	A1990.54440	Contingent Fund	\$25,755.41
APPROPRIATION	A1355.51000244	Director of Assessment	\$25,755.41

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

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Resolution – Reconsideration

Mr. Squires spoke about the Bond Anticipation Note resolution above and asked if the Committee would consider increasing the amount to \$10 million. He said this is a broiler-plate resolution and has only been used a couple of times in the past, primarily to provide liquidity for TCAT. He is concerned that the situation at the State level will require the County to use this option to fund operations. He received an opinion yesterday for the State Transit Assistance and most of the money coming in has been rather small. Ms. Herrera also spoke about the situation at the State level and said the announcements from the Governor’s office today specifically related to transportation funding.

Motion to Reconsider Bond Anticipation Note Resolution (ID #1571)

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Pamela Mackesey, Member
SECONDER:	Michael Hattery, Vice Chair
AYES:	Dennis, Hattery, Luz Herrera, Mackesey, Shinagawa

Resolution (DOC ID: 1676): Delegating to the Finance Director of the County of Tompkins, New York, the Power to Authorize the Issuance of and to Sell \$10,000,000 Revenue Anticipation Notes of Said County in Anticipation of Receipt of State Aid During the Fiscal Year of Said County Commencing January 1, 2010

Mr. Hattery reiterated his concern that there could be some cases where anticipated revenues may not be received this year. He understands that using revenue anticipated notes is for revenue that is known. Mr. Squires said that is always the challenge and that the County should only extend itself with what it knows can be reimbursed.

RESULT:	RECOMMENDED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Pamela Mackesey, Member
SECONDER:	Michael Hattery, Vice Chair
AYES:	Dennis, Hattery, Luz Herrera, Mackesey, Shinagawa

WHEREAS, it is prudent to allow for the possible issuance of revenue anticipation notes should there be a cash-flow problem resulting from delays in State Aid during 2010, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Budget, Capital, and Finance Committee, by the Legislature of the County of Tompkins, New York as follows:

Section 1. The power to authorize the issuance of and to sell \$10,000,000 revenue anticipation notes of the County of Tompkins, New York, including renewals thereof, in anticipation of the receipt of State Aid due said County during the fiscal year of said County commencing January 1, 2010, is hereby delegated to the Finance Director, the chief fiscal officer of such County. Such notes shall be of such terms, form, and contents, and shall be sold in such manner as may be determined by the Finance Director, consistent with the provisions of the Local Finance Law.

Section 2. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

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Minutes Approval

(DOC ID: 1613): Expanded Budget Comm. Minutes for September 9 Thru October 26

Ms. Kiefer said she reviewed the expanded Budget Committee minutes and would like to recommend correcting non-substantive errors and suggest adding information presented by the department heads that was not included in the budget documents.

Mr. Shinagawa arrived at this time.

Mr. Hattery suggested postponing action on the minutes until the next meeting.

Ms. Herrera stated for the record her position and that by policy and law, the minute-taker's version of minutes at meetings is correct until proven otherwise by having to review tapes. She asked that the committee tread very carefully before accepting an individual's notes as over-riding these minutes. She recognizes routine errors are made and that they can be corrected as manifest errors, but to go through and amend based on what other people said she believes is abusive of Legislative authority and also needlessly makes the minutes too long and can add a political slant to the document and history of County government. Although she would support going through the minutes line-by-line, she is concerned about this and supports making minutes more concise and more factual and shorter not longer.

Ms. Kiefer highlighted the options available to the Committee for reviewing the minutes: postponing discussion and action or let staff be the final arbiter of whether something should be included or not.

Ms. Herrera supports staff correcting manifest errors, but adding words and changing discussions is not something a Legislator should be carrying directly to staff and adding that burden to their work.

Mr. Dennis suggested the Committee look at all the minutes at the next meeting and make those determinations. The Committee agreed to postponing the discussion and action on the minutes.

Minutes
Budget, Capital and Finance Committee
Tuesday, December 1, 2009

RESULT: WITHDRAWN

(DOC ID: 1614): November 9, 2009

RESULT: WITHDRAWN

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.