

Budget Capital and Finance Committee
July 13, 2009
3:30 p.m.
Scott Heyman Conference Room

APPROVED

Present: J. Dennis, P. Mackesey, K. Herrera, M. Hattery, N. Shinagawa (arrived at 3:40 p.m.)
Staff: J. Mareane, N. Jayne, M. Lynch, County Administration; B. Grinnell-Crosby, S. Allinger,
T. Lyzko, Health Department; D. Squires, Finance Director; M. Pottorff, Legislature Office
Guests: S. Shackelford, Ithaca Journal; B. Mumford-Zisk, Finger Lakes Community News

Call to Order

Mr. Dennis called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m.

Changes to the Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes

There were no minutes presented for approval.

Comments from the Public

No member of the public wished to comment.

Chair's Report

Mr. Dennis circulated the first draft of the Expanded Budget Committee calendar.

Finance Director's Report

Mr. Squires reported he received the last payment for the second quarter of sales tax today. Prior to the receipt of the payment the County had estimated a \$1.5 million shortfall; however, based on today's information, it appears to be \$2 million for the year. He said although the decline has gradually diminished, the County is consistently tracking 2007 revenues for activity. Mr. Squires said this is the largest problem the County has experienced since 1992 and there will need to be actions taken to react within the 2009 budget because it cannot carry this over into the 2010 budget. Mr. Mareane noted there are now DSS costs that are beginning to show up in the budget.

Mr. Mareane said staff will be spending time to determine the best course of action to take and will be contact with this Committee and the full Legislature as these challenges are confronted.

Mr. Hattery noted that in 1992, the sales tax equaled the previous year and this time it is falling below. Mr. Squires confirmed this to be true.

County Attorney's Report

Mr. Wood was not in attendance.

Public Information Officer's Report

Ms. Lynch had no report.

County Administrator's Report

Mr. Mareane followed up on the discuss of Mortgage Recording Tax that took place at the June 22, 2009 meeting. He said there are some municipalities in New York State that have an additional tax for transportation authorities. Mr. Mareane noted Tompkins County is among a minority of counties that have the rate set at \$.75. The additional tax that Tompkins County could consider and where authority has been given elsewhere, relates to the local tax of \$.25. He said while there is no limit set, past practice is at the \$.25 level. If approved, this increase could generate slightly less than \$1 million. This action would require State authorization in the fall to become available in the 2010 budget.

At this time Mr. Mareane distributed the Quarterly Indicators Report and made note of the following items:

Areas of concern:

- While still well below the state and national rates, the County's unemployment rate stood at 5.4% in May—the County's highest May jobless rate since at least 1990.
- Welfare cases rose rapidly between December and April, with overall caseloads in April 15% higher than the year before.
- Food stamp caseloads in April were up by 18% from the year before and by 26% from April 2007.
- Countywide sales tax collections through May were down 9% from the same period last year.
- The number of children in Foster Care in June was up 14% over a year ago.
- Interest rates on County deposits averaged 0.9% in May compared to 2.2%. In May 2008.
- Fuel costs are again on the rise, with the price of regular gasoline up 81% since the beginning of the year, and diesel up 43%. Positive areas:
 - Lodging activity is down from May, 2008 to May, 2009 by 9%
 - Overtime costs through June were down 24% from the year before.
 - Airline activity remains very strong, with year-to-date enplanements through June up 21% over 2008.
- County Clerk revenues (mortgage and deed-related are holding up; this is possibly due to loan refinancings)

He also noted there are 736 filled positions currently filled; there were 748 the quarter before. He said department heads are responding to the issues and are holding back on filling positions.

Mr. Mareane said departments are in the process of developing their budgets and Legislators will gain a real sense of reality of the budget situation very soon. There are going to be very difficult decisions that will need to be made in putting together the 2010 budget and it is very likely there will need to be a reduction in services and program in order to adapt to the fiscal environment.

Mr. Mareane will be looking at ways to bring the 2009 budget in line and will bring ideas back to the Committee for reaction and recommendation.

Mr. Shinagawa questioned whether bonds could be refinanced. Mr. Squires said the County refinanced in 1999 with activity starting in 2005. Because of a five-year waiting period requirement, the County could not look into doing this again until 2011.

RESOLUTION NO. - AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE A THREE-YEAR CONTRACT - ADMINISTRATION AND PROVISION OF TRANSPORTATION FOR EARLY INTERVENTION AND PRESCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION CHILDREN RESIDING IN TOMPKINS COUNTY – HEALTH DEPARTMENT

It was MOVED by Ms. Herrera, seconded by Mr. Shinagawa, and unanimously adopted by voice vote, to approve the following resolution and submit to the full Legislature. Ms. Allinger noted the bids came in at lower rates than what the County is currently paying. This contract will result in a seven percent savings from the previous year.

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Finance Department, in cooperation with the Tompkins County Health Department, has duly advertised for proposals for administration and provision of transportation services to children ages 0-5 who are enrolled in Preschool Special Education and Early Intervention programs as authorized by Tompkins County and who reside in Tompkins County, and

WHEREAS, two proposals were received by the June 16, 2009, deadline, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Health and Human Services and Budget, Capital and Finance Committees, That the contract be awarded to Birnie Bus Service, Inc. of Syracuse, New York,

RESOLVED, further, That the contract be awarded for a period of three (3) years commencing September 1, 2009, and terminating August 31, 2012, with the option to renew for an additional five-one year periods,

RESOLVED, further, That the Health Department is authorized to implement this proposal on behalf of the County, funds are provided for in Account A2960.54305 and A4054.54305.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

RESOLUTION NO. - AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT FUNDS, EXECUTE MULTI-YEAR CONTRACTS, CREATION OF POSITION AND BUDGET ADJUSTMENT - TOBACCO CONTROL PROGRAM COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP – HEALTH DEPARTMENT

It was MOVED by Ms. Mackesey, seconded by Mr. Shinagawa. Ms. Herrera asked what “Professional Services” includes. Ms. Lyzcko said there are advertising costs and State evaluation requirements because this is an evidence-based program.

A voice vote resulted as follows: Ayes – 4, Noes – 1 (Hattery). MOTION CARRIED.

WHEREAS, the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) has awarded five-year grant funding **for \$160,000 per year**, for a Tobacco Control Program Community Partnership for the period August 1, 2009, through June 30, 2014, and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this community partnership funding will be to engage local stakeholders, educate community leaders and the public, mobilize community members and organizations, strengthen tobacco-related policies, prevent and reduce tobacco use, and limit opportunities for exposure to secondhand smoke, and

WHEREAS, to accomplish the goals of this grant the Department requests the creation of one full-time position of Health Educator to fulfill strategies and activities in the work-plan, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Health and Human Services and Budget, Capital and Finance Committees, That the Health Department is authorized to accept said funds,

RESOLVED, further, That the Department is authorized to execute any and all agreements necessary to complete the requirements of the grant,

RESOLVED, further, That one position of Public Health Educator (13/763), labor grade M (13), competitive class, 35 hours per week be created effective August 1, 2009,

RESOLVED, further, That said position would only continue so long as one-hundred percent grant funding is available,

RESOLVED, further, That the Finance Director is authorized to make the following budget adjustment on his books for the Tobacco Control grant:

REVENUE:	4016.43489	Other State Grants	\$56,264
APPROPRIATION:	4016.51763	Public Health Educator	\$18,209
	.52206	Computer Equipment	\$ 2,400
	.54330	Printing	\$ 5,000
	.54333	Education & Promotion	\$ 4,000
	.54412	Travel and Training	\$ 1,500
	.54414	Local Mileage	\$ 400
	.54442	Professional Service Fees	\$16,000
	.54452	Postage	\$ 2,200
	.58800	Fringes	\$ 6,555

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

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Explanation:

The Tompkins County Health Department has received New York State Department of Health tobacco funding for more than ten years. The goals of the Tobacco Control Program are to reduce tobacco advertising to discourage initiation of tobacco use by children in our community and to encourage policies that limit exposure to secondhand smoke in order to reduce the health consequences of tobacco. The New York State Department of Health recently awarded a 'Public Health Excellence Award' to the Tompkins County Health Department, the City of Ithaca, and Tobacco Free Tompkins for collaborative efforts to create a tobacco free New York.

RESOLUTION NO. - APPROPRIATION FROM GENERAL RESERVE FUND FOR THE PURCHASE OF 10 SCRAM (SECURE CONTINUOUS REMOTE ALCOHOL MONITORING) UNITS FOR THE TOMPKINS COUNTY PROBATION AND COMMUNITY JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

It was MOVED by Ms. Herrera, seconded by Mr. Shinagawa. Ms. Herrera said she would expect the annual cost to always be paid for from DWI fine monies. Mr. Shinagawa questioned if this is the most effective way to use these funds. No answer was available; Ms. Pottorff will follow-up with Ms. Barber to see that Mr. Shinagawa receives an answer prior to the next Legislature meeting.

Mr. Squires commented that this reserve fund has been building up over the last few years and presently has a balance of \$351,000.

A voice vote resulted as follows: Ayes – 4, Noes – 1 (Hattery). MOTION CARRIED.

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County STOP-DWI Program is providing the Tompkins County Probation and Community Justice Department with ten SCRAM (Secure Continuous Remote Alcohol Monitoring) devices and one year of continuous alcohol monitoring costs to monitor offenders, and

WHEREAS, a SCRAM unit is a bracelet worn on the ankle and monitors alcohol use 24-hours per day, and

WHEREAS, STOP-DWI fine money was collected and placed in to a reserve fund and is available for uses that promote public safety and offender accountability, and

WHEREAS, funds are intended to cover the full costs of the ten SCRAM units and one year of monitoring services at the cost of \$15,000 for the SCRAM units and \$19,345 for daily monitoring fee of

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\$5.30 a day, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Public Safety and Budget, Capital, and Finance Committees, That the Director of Finance is hereby authorized and directed to make the following budget appropriation for purchase of 10 SCRAM units and pay for one year of monitoring services:

FROM: A4250	Reserve Fund	\$34,345
TO: A4250.52220	Departmental Equipment	\$34,345

RESOLVED, further, That the County Administrator is authorized to execute the required documents.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

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Expanded Budget Committee Calendar (continued)

There was a brief discussion of the calendar distributed earlier in the meeting, with the following comments being made:

All departments should be given the opportunity to make presentations to the Legislature.

Ms. Mackesey suggested program committees be given an opportunity to hear department presentations; Ms. Jayne commented the timeline is very tight and it would be difficult to accommodate this request. She also asked that department presentations to the Expanded Budget Committee be in a random order rather than the same from last year.

Ms. Herrera asked that the Legislature be respective of time limits that are set and that meetings not continue past 8 p.m.

Due to his work schedule, Mr. Shinagawa would like voting meetings to take place as late as possible.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Michelle Pottorff, TC Legislature Office