

**Minutes
Budget and Capital Committee
Monday, August 9, 2010 – 3:30 p.m.
Scott Heyman Conference Room**

Approved

Attendee Name	Title	Status
James Dennis	Chair	Present
Kathy Luz Herrera	Member	Excused
Pamela Mackesey	Member	Present
Brian Robison	Member	Present
Peter Stein	Member	Present

Present: J. Mareane, M. Lynch, J. Kippola, County Administration; C. DeMarco, CSEA; S. Estes, J. Thomas, Personnel; B. Doling, Mental Health; R. Bunce, Sheriff's Office; M. Pottorff, Legislature Office
Guests: C. Chock, Legislator; S. Greener, TC3 Biz

Call to Order

Mr. Dennis called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

Minutes Approval – July 26, 2010

It was MOVED by Mr. Robison, seconded by Ms. Mackesey, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to approve the minutes of July 26, 2010, as submitted. MINUTES APPROVED.

Comments from the Public

No member of the public was in attendance.

Changes to the Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda.

Committee Chair Report

Mr. Dennis reported County Administration and department heads are looking at the impacts of the New York State Budget that was recently adopted. He also announced the Expanded Budget Committee calendar is finalized and a schedule of the meetings is now being developed by County Administration.

Mr. Stein asked Mr. Mareane what his initial reaction to the State Budget is with regard to the impact on County departments. Mr. Mareane stated it does not have a catastrophic effect on most departments; however, he noted DSS is still looking at specific allocations. He said he watched the State budget closely and some of the big things that could have happened did not. Mr. Mareane said TC3 appears to have taken the biggest hit in the State budget by losing in excess of \$1 million. He also noted Tompkins County's request to increase the Mortgage Recording Tax was not approved. This represents a loss of revenue to Tompkins County in the amount of \$1 million.

Ms. Mackesey asked what happened with the property tax cap that was proposed in the State budget and was told it did not pass the Assembly. There was further discussion of the candidate for

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Governor, Andrew Cuomo, continuing to push for this cap in the next year if elected. *Ms. Mackesey said she would provide Mr. Mareane with a copy of the plan being proposed by Mr. Cuomo.*

Director of Finance Report

Mr. Squires distributed a chart showing the 2010 retirement bill distribution. Tompkins County's 2010 bill is \$4.4 million, an increase of 54.53% over 2009. Mr. Squires reported TC3's 2010 bill increased by 69.51% and the Public Library's bill increased by 47.39%. He said the hit on the County's budget was significant, however, it was not as high as the amount projected and budgeted (\$4.7). He also said he expects another increase in 2011 of \$1 million.

Mr. Squires reported New York State's contingency plan is to deduct from local governments a percentage of all reimbursement due to those local governments until the State has satisfied all areas of its budget. He said his Office recently received a \$700,000 STOA (State Transportation Operating Assistance) payment.

Mr. Squires provided a report on allocations made to date on the Contingent Fund. The year-to-date appropriations are \$38,064; the balance is \$791,936.

County Administrator Report

Mr. Mareane reported on FMAP (Federal Medicaid Assistance Program) which is an enhanced federal contribution to Medicaid. In order to help local governments the federal government, under the FMAP stimulus plan, has given New York State more than 50%. Earlier this year the President proposed continuing that enhanced FMAP payment through the next fiscal year. That represented approximately \$1 billion to New York State and \$1 million to Tompkins County. Mr. Mareane said Tompkins County did not include this revenue in its budget because it was not a definite and a decision was made that if it was received it would be used as a hedge against State aid cuts and other cuts during the year. New York State, on the other hand, and a lot of other counties included this revenue in budgets. Mr. Mareane said the federal government did pass it, however, at a reduced amount equaling approximately 2/3 of what was originally proposed. Tompkins County will be receiving \$700,000-\$800,000; the State, however, will have to address a shortfall of approximately \$300 million because those funds were included in the State budget. He said he and Mr. Squires believe the State will make up this shortfall by reducing local aid payments.

Mr. Mareane said with regard to the 2011 budget his staff is working on getting a budget in place to present to the Legislature for consideration. He noted the following items with regard to the budget being developed:

- Mortgage Recording Tax was not approved by the Senate; this was a major element of the County's 2011 budget and will need to be addressed;
- Over Target requests are a list of cuts by departments and agencies; there is nothing new being requested. The total amount of OTR's is \$4.4 million (the local effect is \$3.1 million);
- There are no sources to fund OTR's. Although it looks like the County will see savings from joining the Health Insurance Consortium and other minor areas, these funds will not be available to fund OTR's because these savings will need to offset the loss of Mortgage Recording Tax revenues that will not be received;
- The Legislature will need to look at programs that are within department targets to fund any OTR that is seen as a higher priority.

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Report from the Personnel Department on the Training Program

Ms. Thomas, Administrative Services Coordinator, said in 2009 it was identified that the County needed to improve its training program for new supervisors. A new group was formed from department heads or designees who met with Sue Greener of TC3 Biz. They put together two groups that included two levels with six classes in each level, to address some core competencies that were believed to be important for supervisors to have. Ms. Thomas reported the second group has concluded its second level and provided a brief report on attendance in addition to what was learned and achieved during these trainings. Ms. Doling and Mr. Bunce, participants, each spoke of the value they felt the training had to their positions. Ms. Thomas said the next step is to bring back both groups to have a luncheon and have a dialogue between both classes.

Ms. Thomas updated the Committee on other training opportunities that are available for County employees through TC3 Biz. She also spoke of the savings to the County by providing employees with an opportunity to take classes online.

Mr. Estes thanked Ms. Thomas for her work on providing quality training opportunities to employees with a reduced budget for training.

Ms. Mackesey asked that Ms. Thomas provide her with information showing the number of supervisors Tompkins County has and how many have received training in the last five years.

Workforce Utilization Report – Personnel Department

There were no questions on the report submitted.

As Needed: Public Information Officer

Ms. Lynch reported the Public Information Advisory Board has been working on outreach programs for the 2011 budget. She reported the Fall Creek Neighborhood Association and Legislator Kathy Luz Herrera will be sponsoring a community budget forum to be held at Cooperative Extension on August 19th. She said another forum may be held in Dryden with Groton involved. Ms. Lynch announced a radio forum will be held on October 12 at 7 a.m. during which Mr. Mareane and Mr. Dennis will be taking calls concerning the 2011 budget. The annual Community Budget forum will be held on September 27 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Borg Warner Room at the Public Library.

RESOLUTION (DOC ID: 2144): APPROPRIATION FROM CONTINGENT FUND TO COVER EXPENSES RELATED TO PROSECUTION OF HIGH-PROFILE CASES - DISTRICT ATTORNEY

RESULT:	RECOMMENDED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Brian Robison, Member
SECONDER:	Pamela Mackesey, Member
AYES:	James Dennis, Pamela Mackesey, Brian Robison, Peter Stein
EXCUSED:	Kathy Luz Herrera

WHEREAS, expert witness testimony was obtained to facilitate the County’s prosecution in the recent murder trial of Blazej Kot, and costs were incurred as Mr. Kot was held in a Pennsylvania jail after his arrest, and

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WHEREAS, outside counsel from the Chemung County District Attorney’s office was obtained to investigate the death of Shawn Greenwood, and in putting the case into the Grand Jury costs were incurred for several expert witnesses, and

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County SPCA provided care to 100 animals seized during a search warrant of a home in Caroline, and held the surviving animals as evidence to assist in prosecution of the County’s case, and

WHEREAS, the County has been billed by Dr. Gary Horwitz, for expert witness testimony in the Kot trial in the amount of \$17,800, and billed by the County of Bradford (PA) Correctional Facility in the amount of \$7,973.92, and

WHEREAS, the County has been billed by Dr. James Terzian, for testimony in the Greenwood Grand Jury investigation in the amount of \$51.00, and billed by Dr. Anthony Pinizzotto for forensic consultation and testimony in the Greenwood Grand Jury investigation in the amount of \$7,309.30, and billed by CRT Less Lethal, Inc., for forensic analysis of tasers in the Greenwood Grand Jury investigation in the amount of \$2,137.50, and

WHEREAS, the County has been billed by the Tompkins County SPCA, for expenses associated with the housing and treatment of animals seized in a search warrant in the amount of \$17,856.00, and

WHEREAS, payment is now due for all invoices, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Public Safety and the Budget and Capital Committees, That the Director of Finance be authorized and directed to make the following budget appropriation:

FROM:	A1990.54400 Contingent Fund	\$ 53,127.72
TO:	A1650.54442 Professional Services	\$ 45,153.80
	A1650.54479 Extradition	\$ 7, 973.92

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

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RESOLUTION (DOC ID: 2130): BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS - TOURISM PROGRAM

RESULT:	RECOMMENDED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Peter Stein, Member
SECONDER:	Brian Robison, Member
AYES:	James Dennis, Pamela Mackesey, Brian Robison, Peter Stein
EXCUSED:	Kathy Luz Herrera

WHEREAS, pursuant to Administrative Manual Policy 05-02, budget adjustments exceeding \$5,000 require Legislative approval, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Planning, Development, and Environmental Quality and the Budget and Capital Committees, That the Director of Finance be directed to make the following budget adjustments on the County’s books:

REVENUE:	A908	Room Tax Fund Balance	\$88,000
APPROPRIATION:	6475.54400	Program Expense - Festivals Outreach	\$10,000
	6475.54621	Community Arts Partnership	\$ 8,000
	6475.54625	Tourism Capital Grants	\$10,000
	6475.54626	Tourism Marketing & Advert Grants.	\$15,000
	6475.54628	New Tourism Initiative Grants	\$30,000
	6475.54632	Tompkins County Chamber- Convention & Visitors Bureau	\$15,000

RESOLVED, further, That the County Administrator or his designee is authorized to sign all contracts and documents related to the non-grant appropriations.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

EXPLANATION:

- **Festivals Outreach:** Expand festival coordination outreach efforts, create long-term strategic plan to efficiently respond to Tourism Program festival grant requests
- **Community Arts Partnership:** CAP operates County’s Ticket Center, and must recover costs as the State Theatre moves toward selling tickets at the Ticket Center
- **Grants:** Anticipated demand for Fall 2010 grant round
- **Tompkins County Chamber/CVB:** Increase 2010 marketing campaign to attract more overnight visitors

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**RESOLUTION (DOC ID: 2159): SCHEDULING A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2011
TOMPKINS COUNTY BUDGET AND THE 2011-2015
TOMPKINS COUNTY CAPITAL PROGRAM**

RESULT:	RECOMMENDED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Pamela Mackesey, Member
SECONDER:	Brian Robison, Member
AYES:	James Dennis, Pamela Mackesey, Brian Robison, Peter Stein
EXCUSED:	Kathy Luz Herrera

WHEREAS, the tentative 2011 Tompkins County Budget and the 2011-2015 Tompkins County Capital Program are scheduled to be adopted on November 16, 2010, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Expanded Budget, Capital, and Finance Committee, That a public hearing be held before the Tompkins County Legislature in Legislative Chambers, located at 320 North Tioga Street, Ithaca, New York, on Wednesday, November 3, 2010, at 7:00 o'clock in the evening thereof concerning the review of the tentative 2011 Tompkins County Budget and the 2011 - 2015 Tompkins County Capital Program. At such time and place all persons interested in the subject matter will be heard concerning the same,

RESOLVED, further, That the Clerk of the Legislature is hereby authorized and directed to place proper notice of such public hearing in the official newspaper of the County.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

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Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Michelle Pottorff, TC Legislature Office