

ACTION SUMMARY
Expanded Budget and Capital Committee #1
September 8, 2008
3:15 p.m.
Legislative Chambers

APPROVED

Present: 12 Legislators Chock, Dennis, Kiefer, Koplinka-Loehr, Proto, Robertson, Sigler, Hattery (arrived at 3:26 p.m.); Burbank (arrived at 3:36 p.m.); Mackesey (arrived at 4:10 p.m.); Shinagawa (arrived at 4:16 p.m.); and McBean-Clairborne (arrived 4:42 p.m.)

Excused: 3 (Legislators Herrera, Randall, and Stevenson)

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:17 p.m. by Mr. Koplinka-Loehr (7 members present).

Review of Budget Process

Mr. Koplinka-Loehr provided a brief review of the process and requested that if Legislators have motions they wish to make to submit them to Budget Chair, Nathan Shinagawa, or the Clerk of the Legislature, Cathy Covert.

Presentation of the 2009 Recommended County Budget

Ms. Jayne explained the information in the Budget Request Book and provided a PowerPoint presentation outlining the following:

- General Revenue Summary dated September 3, 2008
- Fiscal Targets and Rollover reports dated September 3, 2008
- Summary by Standing Committee program areas as highlighted below

It was noted that one percent of the tax levy equals \$350,000.

BUDGET AND CAPITAL

- Budget Summary or Relevant Cost Information
 - Defer payment for the Health Department to interest only because of lack of immediate SWN (Statewide Wireless Network) funding
 - Continue to add support for the Road program
 - Use \$343,000 fund balance for Capital
 - Other Considerations
 - Centralized fringe and benefits changes reduced the levy by approximately \$800,000
 - The County Administrator Recommendation uses \$2.6M of fund balance to support the budget and ½ of that is used to reduce the tax levy and ½ is dedicated to onetime expenditures
 - Deferred Tax Levy includes:
 - \$334,000 fund balance allocation
 - \$575,458 deferred payment for Health Department Building
 - \$1M fund balance (not sure if we can continue to anticipate fund balance to reduce the levy)
- Overall County requests for printing budget are \$30,000 higher than last year.

FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

- Facilities and Infrastructure

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- Change policy to reduce cost for heating, cooling, opening windows, and after-hours building use
- Requested \$400,000, received \$100,000 toward maintenance;
- Increase onetime funds in 2009 by \$168,000 for Deferred Maintenance
- Highway
 - Shifting costs from State Roads to County Roads should reduce costs, (State roads cost us \$170,000; reimbursement only \$100,000) but actual savings will not be realized until next year
 - Watch equipment rental in 2009
- Information Technology Services
 - Criminal Justice Communications Project funding may need to be enhanced in 2010
- Solid Waste
 - Solid Waste fees are not changing in 2009
- Airport
 - Cost for Airport Security is higher than reimbursements from Federal TSA
 - Monitor fund balance

GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

- Board of Elections
 - HAVA requirements are not fully settled
- County Administration
 - Staffing needs in Administration
- County Attorney
 - Reduced fiscal target
 - Using rollover to fund outside counsel costs
- County Clerk and Department of Motor Vehicles
 - Increase program revenue by \$100,000 in 2009
 - Increased Unallocated Revenues as a result of new Clerk's fees
- Department of Assessment
 - Returned to annual assessment, which increased revenue
- Finance Department
 - Reduced fiscal target and replaced it with two-year funding
- Rural Libraries
 - The Lansing Public Library has asked to be included with the Rural Libraries and funded equally
 - Ulysses library COLA adjustment was not included, but will be requested (Total \$870)
- The History Center in Tompkins County
 - Multi-year agreement provides annual increases for this agency
- Tompkins County Public Library
 - Some consideration could be made to phase in acquisitions funding for the library similar to Facilities deferred maintenance program

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

- SPCA
 - Increased their budget as requested for cat control costs
 - Article 25 and emergency management considerations still need to be addressed
- Health Department
 - Added a WIC position in 2009

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- State reductions are not fully defined
 - The 6% reduction could be as much as \$59,115
- Human Services Coalition
 - The major loss is for 2-1-1 Information and Referral services. Expecting at least a \$45,000 deficit in this program and possibly more.
 - Expect a slight decrease in funding to support the Tompkins Rural Health Network. The DoH reduced funding retroactively for 2008 by 1%
 - Expect further reductions in 2009
- Human Services Coalition – Agencies
 - COLA requests were approved. One correction needs to be made in OTR #034 (OTR Page 34). This was requested as target, but captured as onetime in error.
 - State Impact
 - Advocacy Center
 - 2% decrease in funding from NYS Department of Health (July 08-June 09) and 2% decrease is expected for the following grant year
 - Additional loss of \$1,000 from a federal domestic violence grant
 - Receive \$8,000 increase from NYS Crime Victim's Board beginning October 2008 and ending September 2009 for one year
 - Possible reduction from the federal level of VOCA funds
 - Food Pantry Net/Loaves and Fishes
 - Increase cost in fuel and food prices
 - Ithaca Neighborhood Housing Services
 - Support from New York State will almost certainly be reduced
 - Fees from the origination of loans for home purchase and home repair funding is down
 - Competition for state and federal housing dollars is becoming more intense
 - Lifelong
 - A 2% reduction in state funding and expects that the reduction will continue for the next 5 years
 - The agency's investment account is losing money. As of July the agency has an approximately \$55,000 budget deficit for the 2008 fiscal year due to the poor performance of the investment account
 - Tompkins Learning Partners
 - Anticipating that the agency will lose about \$5,000 of the \$38,000 in state funding (July 08 to June 09) from the NYS Education Department
 - Women's Opportunity Center
 - Expecting to lose \$60,000-\$75,000 in 2009, equivalent to 2 fulltime staff positions
- Mental Health Department
 - State Impact
 - The department does not have any breakdown of the local impacts. The State Office of Mental Health doesn't expect to have any information until the end of September
 - It appears that Challenge Industries, which runs the Sheltered Work program, is again on the firing line (in OMH and OMRDD).
 - The Alcoholism Council and CARS could have state-aid reductions
 - The COLAs in all three areas, the Clinic Plus program (which the County operates) and new supportive housing (which have gotten-10-new beds (not SRO) all are protected
- Office for the Aging
 - State Impact

- The department has confirmed the following cuts from the following sources:
 - Expanded In Home Service for the Elderly Program (EISEP): \$7,279
 - Community Services for the Elderly Program (CSEP): \$3,030
 - Congregate Services Initiative Program (CSIP): \$90
 - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP): \$9,060
 - Health Insurance Information Counseling and Assistance Program (HIICAP): \$870
 - Long Term Care Ombudsman Program (LTCOP): \$178
 - Transportation: \$355
 - Long Term Care Insurance Education and Outreach Program: \$2,661TOTAL: \$23,523

- These cuts affect the operating budget for 2008, which would reduce the 2009 base.
- Office for the Aging
 - State Impact
 - The department is expecting the following cuts, but not yet confirmed:
 - Personal Emergency Response System grant in aid: \$600
 - Weatherization Referral and Packaging grant in aid: \$600
 - Restore: \$7,500TOTAL: \$8,700

GRAND TOTAL: \$32,223

The department is particularly concerned about the impact of the cuts in SNAP on Foodnet and EISEP on the home care program.

HUMAN RESOURCES

- Personnel
 - Requested multi-year funding for pilot supervisory training program
 - Isolated funding for training in account 1987 – not subject to rollover
 - Coordinate training plan with Administration's organizational development program

PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT, AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

- Soil and Water Conservation
 - Office space and cost for rental needs to be reviewed
- Tompkins Consolidated Area Transit
 - Increased fuel prices are depleting TCAT's fund balance
- Workforce Development
 - Reductions in federal and state administrative funds coupled with limited competitive grant opportunities have resulted in insufficient funding of the Workforce Investment Board
 - Reductions in positions will result in the Workforce Investment Board's inability to comply with state and federal responsibilities for maintaining a local Workforce Investment Board. This would force the merger of Tompkins with a multi-county Workforce Investment Board and result in loss of local control and prioritization of workforce funding.
- One Stop Resource Center
 - Reduction in federal and state formula funding coupled with not yet awarded grant opportunities have resulted in insufficient funding for the staff
 - This will cause a reduction in one fulltime staff position to part-time status
 - Results in less availability of staff time for three newly awarded grant funded initiatives (Prove-it, E-Learning, and CNYAHEC)

- Could shift responsibilities to other staff members, resulting in less direct customer services for both jobseekers and businesses

PUBLIC SAFETY

- Assigned Counsel
 - Transition funding and review requested in 2009 to move to a hybrid with Public Defender's office
- Emergency Response
 - State funding appears to be secure
 - ½ of the cost of maintenance is in the budget for 2009, anticipate adding an additional \$300,000 to the budget in 2010
- Probation
 - Reimbursement will be reduced by ½ percentage point in 2008. (17% in place of 18% net loss of revenue of approximately \$21,000)
 - For 2009, the state was unwilling to guess. Probation aid is budgeted at 17.5% for 2009

During the presentation the following information was requested by Legislators:

- *Target Fund Balance calculation (Kiefer)*
- *Chart of base budgets and over-target requests (Chock)*

Planning Department

Ed Marx, Planning and Public Works Commissioner, provided an overview of the Department's 2009 budget submission.

Mr. Koplinka-Loehr requested information and the full background of the Stream Monitoring program proposal in over-target request #45.

Regular Business

Resolutions

It was MOVED by Mr. Proto, 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. - SCHEDULING A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2009 TOMPKINS COUNTY BUDGET AND THE 2009-2013 TOMPKINS COUNTY CAPITAL PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the tentative 2009 Tompkins County Budget and the 2009 – 2013 Tompkins County Capital Program are scheduled to be adopted on November 18, 2008, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Budget and Capital 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 Monday, November 10, 2008, at 7:00 o'clock in the evening thereof concerning the review of the tentative 2009 Tompkins County Budget and the 2009 – 2013 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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It was MOVED by Mr. Proto, seconded by Ms. Chock, 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 — OFFICE FOR THE AGING

WHEREAS, the Office for the Aging had an Outreach Worker resign effective August 15, 2008, 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	\$2,776.66
TO:	A6796.5100517	Outreach Worker	\$2,776.66

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

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Budget Adjustment

The following two budget adjustments were briefly reviewed. Mr. Proto stated the Health and Human Services Committee discussed and approved them.

Health Department

<u>Revenue Acct</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Amt</u>	<u>Approp Acct</u>	<u>Title(s)</u>
4090.42665	Sale of Equipment	\$11,308	4090.52310	Vehicles
4090.42665	Sale of Equipment	\$ 1,700	4090.52310	Vehicles

Explanation: Sale of 2005 Jeep Liberty and purchase of 2009 Ford Focus to improve fuel consumption and reduce carbon emissions. Funds will offset new purchase.

Recess

Mr. Shinagawa declared recess at 5:10 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 5:26 p.m.

Assigned Counsel

Julia Hughes and Robert Stolp of Assigned Counsel provided a brief overview of the Department's 2009 budget submission. Ms. Hughes reported that there will be a new Sex Offender court beginning January 9, 2009 and will cost approximately \$10,000-\$11,000 to start.

Following discussion concerning the County Administrator's recommendation to reduce the target by \$25,000 and replace it with two-year funding, *Mr. Proto requested a one-page summary of the departments that were impacted by a reduction in their fiscal target including the page numbers in the Budget Request Book.*

Rural Libraries

Diane Pamel of the Southworth Library Director in Dryden read a joint statement from the rural libraries explaining their requests for 2009. Ms. Darfler of the Lansing Library, newly chartered library

and one of the rural libraries of the Finger Lakes Library System, spoke about their request to receive the same funding as the other four rural libraries.

Ms. Chock requested the following information: number of people who use the various libraries, number of residents, number of members, walk-ins, etc. The representatives of the libraries agreed to provide this information.

Transportation Grant

Mr. Mengel, Chief Transportation Planner, provided an overview of the 2009 budget request he submitted.

County Administration

Mr. Whicher, County Administrator, provided an overview of the department's 2009 budget submission.

County Legislature

Mrs. Covert, Clerk of the Legislature, provided an overview of the department's 2009 budget submission. A brief discussion followed concerning the Workforce Diversity and Inclusion Committee's program expenses and *Ms. Kiefer requested written information pertaining to the Cultural Competency training referenced by Mrs. McBean-Clairborne in her comments.*

Other Business

A brief discussion followed concerning some of the issues and concerns being raised during budget presentations and how these were being communicated to the new County Administrator. Mr. Koplinka-Loehr said there is a transition team, however, it was stated that that may not be the most appropriate venue to address some of these issues. Following further discussion interest was expressed from certain Legislators in serving on this team.

Capital and Debt Program

Ms. Jayne distributed and reviewed the 20-year proposed Capital and Debt program.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.