D. Mangeson

Click to Search
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NOT APPROVED

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

January 11, 1988

JAN 27 1988

This meeting was held immediately following the regular board meeting with all legislators present except Legislators Raptis and Wentworth.

Legislator Mogavero, Chairman, Resource and Development Committee, reported on the Economic Development Zone Application for which Southern Tier West is continuing in the role of consultants. An area in the Town and Village of Wellsville has been designated for the Economic Development Zone. Mr. Mogavero stated that decisions need to be made and commitments made by the Town, Village and County for incentives to be offered to complement those offered by the state. It was further stated that the county may be asked for a commitment of funds for the administration of the Zone.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED J. Marquson

FEB 2 1988

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

January 22, 1988

This meeting was held immediately following the regular board meeting will all legislators present except Legislator Wentworth.

Richard Rawleigh, Allegany Abstract Company, addressed the board members on behalf of Mike McPeak, Amity Title Services, Inc. and Jim Ball, Surveyor, regarding the new policy in the County Clerk's Office on the use of the copy machine. The office staff makes copies of any documents requested by the Abstract Companies and charges them $1.00 per page as allowed by the law. Mr. Rawleigh stated that this policy has resulted in added expense and delays in the completion of their work. Chairman Watson stated that he will take their concerns under advisement.

A motion was made by Legislator Kramer, seconded by Legislator Snider and carried to go into executive session to discuss collective bargaining negotiations.

Following the executive session, Mr. Richard Wyssling, Negotiator, discussed with board members, the Summary of Memorandum of Agreement between the Deputy Sheriff's Association and Allegany County, which has been approved by Association members. (Summary attached) A motion was made by Legislator Loucks, seconded by Legislator Barnes and carried to proceed with the contract for an official vote at a later board meeting.

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Legislator Allen, seconded by Legislator Raptis and carried.

ALLEGANY COUNTY
SUMMARY
OF
MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT
DECEMBER 30, 1987
SHERIFF'S UNIT

1. Bargaining Unit defined to include all full-time employees in the Sheriff's Office, except Sheriff and Undersheriff.

2. Probationary period changed from 100 calendar days to 100 work days.

3. Summer Hours deleted from Contract.

4. Sunday work shall be paid or used as compensatory time at the employee's option.

5. Overtime - employees must work a fair share.

6. Revised Grievance Procedures.

7. Revised Discipline and Discharge Procedure.

8. Deferred Compensation Plan available to employees.

9. Vacancies shall be filled based on qualifications, ability, efficiency and seniority.

10. Holiday Eligibility - "Any reasonable purpose" changed to "Excused by Sheriff, which shall not be unreasonably withheld"

11. Holidays shall be observed on actual day off occurances for employees who do not work Monday to Friday.

12. Employees hired after January 1, 1988 shall not be eligible for vacation until they have served one year as full-time employees.

13. Grandchildren - Add to immediate family for bereavement leave purposes.

14. Retirement - Parties agree to open negotiations on issue of improved retirement benefits (Section 384d R & SS Law) if the State Legislature permits Deputy Sheriffs to be included in Plan, but negotiations may result in reduced wages and/or benefits.

15. Correction Officers to be upgraded to Deputy Sherrifs - trained and upgraded within four (4) years, minimum of three (3) C.O.'s per year on a seniority basis. 1988 - Prior to Jamestown Training Program begins or April 1, 1988, whichever is sooner. 1989 - Prior to April 1, 1989.

16. Sheriff's Clerk to be upgraded by twenty ($.20) cents effective January 1, 1988 and an additional twenty ($.20) cents per hour effective January 1, 1989.

17. Uniform Allowance increased by fifty ($50.00) dollars effective January 1, 1988 and an additional fifty ($50.00) dollars effective January 1, 1989.

18. Health Insurance - Employees hired after January 1, 1988 to shall pay fifteen (15%) percent of the Health Premium.

19. Prescription Plan shall be modified January 1, 1988 to increase Co-Pay from $1.00 to $3.00.

20. Inequity Adjustment - Eight ($.08) cents per hour effective July 1, 1988 and an additional eight ($.08) cents per hour effective July 1, 1989.

21. Wage Increase of four (4%) percent effective January 1, 1988 and an additional four and one-half (4 1/2%) percent effective January 1, 1989.

J. Margeson

FEB 23 1988

NOT APPROVED

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

February 8, 1988

This meeting was held immediately following the regular board meeting with all legislators present except Legislator Shine.

Michael Mogavero, Chairman, Resource & Development Committee, distributed copies of the proposed Economic Development Zone application. (A copy is attached to the original minutes). Ginger Malak, Southern Tier West and Daniel McLaughlin, Director, Office of Development, reviewed the proposal with the board members. Following a lengthy discussion, it was noted that any comments or suggestions would be appreciated.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

J. Margeson

MAR 24 1988

NOT APPROVED

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

March 11, 1988

This meeting was held immediately following the regular board meeting with all legislators present except Legislators Allen and Hitchcock.

John Margeson, Administrative Assistant, distributed copies of a memo which has been given to all department heads, regarding the establishment of a 5 Year Capital Plan. Enclosed was a narrative guide describing the components of a capital plan and forms to be used for identifying individual capital improvements, which Mr. Margeson reviewed with board members. It was requested that the committees work with the department heads in the development of the Capital Plan.

There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

Jo Margeson

APPROVED

APR 12 1988

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

March 28, 1988

This meeting was held immediately following the regular board meeting with all legislators present except Legislator Hitchcock.

A motion was made by Legislator Gallman, seconded by Legislator Raptis and carried to go into executive session to discuss collective negotiations.

Following executive session, there being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

APR 13 1988 J. Margeson

NOT APPROVED

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

April 11, 1988

This meeting was held immediately following the regular board meeting with all legislators present except Legislator Barry.

A motion was made by Legislator Gallman, seconded by Legislator Wentworth and carried, to go into executive session to discuss collective bargaining negotiations.

Following executive session, discussion was held regarding the current proposal from AFSCME for a Union Contract. (See attached) A motion was made by Legislator Wentworth, seconded by Legislator Cross and adopted on a roll call vote of 12 Ayes, 1 No, 2 Absent (Voting No: Sylor), to direct the Personnel Committee to authorize the necessary resolution accepting Option C of the three year contract, retroactive to January 1, 1988.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

UNION PROPOSALS
AFSCME Council 66, Local 2567 &
Allegany County

Dated: March 23, 1988

UNION PROPOSAL # 16 & 17

Option "A"

1/1/88 3.5% increase with increments
5/1/88 2 % increase with increments
1/1/89 5 % increase with increments plus $50. longevity each step
1/1/90 5 % increase with increments plus $50.00 longevity each step

Option "B"

1/1/88 3 % increase with increments
4/1/88 2.5% increase with increments
1/1/89 5 % increase with increments plus $50.00 longevity each step
1/1/90 5 % increase with increments plus $50.00 longevity each step

Option "C"

1/1/88 5 % increase with increments
1/1/89 5 % increase with increments plus $50.00 longevity each step
1/1/90 5 % increase with increments plus $50.00 longevity each step

All other proposals on both sides be withdrawn

UNION PROPOSALS
AFSCME Council 66, Local 2567 &
Allegany County

Dated: March 23, 1988

UNION PROPOSAL # 6

Delete current language and replace with:

"All Permanent and Temporary job openings which last more than thirty (30) working days will be posted."

UNION PROPOSALS #22 & 23 Effective 1/1/89

All permanent employees assigned to solid waste and D.P.W. on a permanent basis shall receive a yearly clothing allowance of fifty ($50.) dollars payable in the first (1st) pay period in December of each year.

UNION PROPOSAL # 24

The County agrees to defend their employees who are sued in a civil action or proceeding while the employees were acting within their scope of employment by transporting clients for the County.

This provision shall in no manner be construed to deprive any individual employee from seeking appropriate legal redress to reduce any uncovered liability and expenses incurred as a result of matters within the scope of his/her employment.

UNION PROPOSAL # 29

The employer agrees to pay for yearly physical examinations for all employees regularly scheduled in the solid waste division. Such examination will be given by a doctor designated by the employer. All employees may participate in the adult assessment program offered by the County Health Department. Participating employees are required to use their accumulated sick time.

MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL #30 Effective 4/1/88

Accepted as modified

Change $1.00 co-pay to $3.00 co-pay Prescription
Change $50.00 to $100.00 Deductible Major Medical
(no other changes)

J. Margeson

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

June 13, 1988

This meeting was held immediately following the regular board meeting with all legislators present.

A motion was made by Legislator Allen, seconded by Legislator Barnes and carried to go into executive session to discuss a personnel matter.

Following executive session, there being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

NOT APPROVED

JUN 20 1988

J. Margeson

JUL 8 1988

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

June 27, 1988

NOT APPROVED

This meeting was held immediately following the regular board meeting with all legislators present except Legislators Kramer and Loucks.

Keith Barber, Fire Coordinator, distributed a report of the Committee to Review Fire and Emergency Radio Dispatch System to committee members. (See report attached) This committee was formed to search the avenues of replacement for Melba Mickle, Fire Dispatch Contractor, at the time of notice of her impending retirement. A unanimous determination was made to recommend that there be Central Fire Dispatch from the Emergency Operating Center at the County Office Building with Fire and EMS Service personnel manning the center. This recommendation was approved by the Allegany County Fire Chiefs Association, the Allegany County Firemen's Association Executive Committee, the Allegany County Fire Advisory Board and the Public Safety Committee. Considerable discussion followed, with no action taken.

Linda Canfield, Clerk, distributed copies of proposed 1989 budget procedures and 1989 budget request forms which have been given to department heads. The procedures were reviewed with committee members by Mrs. Canfield and James Mulholland, County Treasurer.

A motion was made by Legislator Gallman, seconded by Legislator Barry and carried, to go into executive session to discuss a matter under Attorney/Client relationship.

Following executive session, there being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

To: Allegany County Board of Legislators

From: Keith M. Barber
Fire Coordinator

Subject: Report of Committee to Review Fire and Emergency Radio Dispatch System

Date: June 27, 1988

On January 3, 1988 I met with Mrs. Melba Mickle, longtime Fire Dispatch Contractor. At this time she indicated a desire to not renew her contract with Allegany County after December 31, 1988. This meeting was followed by a letter indicating her decision and received by me on January 9, 1988.

The decision to "not renew" was delivered to the Allegany County Volunteer Firemen's Association Executive Committee on January 20, 1988 at the bimonthly meeting at Alfred Station.

From previous experience it has been found that firematic committees need to be formed at times of change and/or need. For example:

Special Recommending Committees

1. Following Donald Bledsoe's resignation, leading to my appointment

2. Aftermath of Wellsville Agway Fire - leading to purchase of air bottles and fill devices for placement in various fire halls in the county

3. Study of and recommendation for a working module for E911

4. Committee for voluntary disclosure of firemen's physical condition

5. Committee to achieve Local Law No. 3-86 requiring firemen's physicals. This procedure was developed with the cooperation of the Allegany County Self-Funded Insurance Plan

I requested that a committee be formed to search the avenues of replacement. This committee represented the three fire related entities in the county.

Allegany County Fire Chiefs Association

William Snyder - Almond Fire Chief, Owner Snyder Electric

Paul Gallmann - Angelica Fire Chief, Owner Gallmann Hardware
Member Angelica Town Board (Councilman)

Daniel Metcalf - Rushford Fire Chief, Employee of Rochester Gas & Electric

Allegany County Volunteer Firemen's Association Executive Committee

David Wallace - Andover Fire Chief, Highway Superintendent - Town of Andover

William Jones - Employee of National Fuel, Foreman
WLSV Radio Announcer

David Jennings - Belfast Fire Chief, Town of Belfast Water Superintendent, NYS Fire Instructor

Allegany County Fire Advisory Board

Donald Patrick - Former Fire Chief - Belmont Fire Department, Employee of Dresser Rand, Member Amity Town Board (Councilman), Certified Fire Investigator - Allegany County

Donald Sherwood - Former Fire Chief - Scio Fire Department, Past President, Allegany County Firemen's Association Employee of Dresser Rand, Chairman, Board of Assessment Review - Town of Scio

Harold "Joe" Lucas - Former Fire Chief - New Hudson Fire Department, Employee of Cuba Cheese, Member New Hudson Town Board (Councilman)

Drexal Preston - Former Fire Chief - Canaseraga Fire Department, Farmer, District (5) Deputy Fire Coordinator

Judson Stearns - Alfred Station Fire Chief, Chairman Fire Advisory Board, Owner Stearns Poultry

Others attending various meetings of this committee were:

Mr. Leonard Watson, Chairman Board of Legislators
Mr. Alton Sylor, Public Safety Committee - Legislator
Mr. Ceylon Snider, Public Safety Committee - Legislator

The first meeting of this committee was held on February 11, 1988.

At this meeting it was determined that the committee proposal would be presented using the following calendar:

1. April 20, 1988 - To the Allegany County Fire Chiefs Association meeting at Alma

2. May 18, 1988 - To the Allegany County Firemen's Association Executive Committee meeting at Wiscoy-Rossburg

3. May 26, 1988 - To the Allegany County Fire Advisory Board meeting at the Court House in Belmont

With approvals from the above groups, the recommendation and support to be presented to the Board of Legislators Public Safety Committee on June 2, 1988.

At this first meeting the committee reviewed:

1. Applications from three (3) individuals offering to contract for operation of the Fire Control Center from their home, another such application was received for the March 15 meeting

2. An offer to rent an upstairs over a garage, as a possible site.

3. A verbal offer to man and house the Control Center from the New York State Police

4. A rumored offer from Sheriff Larry Scholes

The committee discussed the pros and cons of various tower sites and the various entities that had offered to man the Fire Control Center. The committee determined the need to maintain Fire Service/EMS control of the radio system and the necessity to speed up dispatch time and to streamline radio procedure.

The committee determined to look at any replacement of the operation with the future installation of E911 as a prime consideration. E911 will not work where there is a sleeping/non-constant watch situation.

One of the prime concerns of this committee was, if the control center were to be placed in a private home - how long before it would be moved again. <u>How many future moves.</u> Where would we find the dedication that we have had in the past that did not necessitate moves. Prior to Mrs. Mickle, there has been one other contractor - Mr. Ed Olmstead of Belmont.

Committee members had been made aware by other fire and emergency personnel that now was the time to modernize, streamline and become more professional in the operation of the emergency dispatch center.

The committee addressed the concerns of the Board of Legislators; cost, staffing, liability, etc.

On February 25, 1988 the committee met again and reviewed the operations in other counties and found.

1. Nowhere in New York State is a Fire Control Center operated from a private home nor from a State Police barracks.

2. In Wyoming County dispatch is through the Sheriff's Office with two (2) dispatchers on duty at all times with a third to be called in during a disaster situation.

3. In Livingston County dispatch is through the Sheriff's Office.

4. In Steuben County fire dispatch is by contract with the Village of Bath Police. This is to change in 1989 to the Office of Emergency Services - Steuben County.

A long discussion was held allowing each member to state his preferences and reservations with the resulting determination that the committee pursue the concept of central dispatch with civilian dispatchers having fire and EMS background.

On March 10, 1988 I met with Mr. Watson, Sheriff Scholes, and Mr. Jack Rosell, Personnel Officer to review the committee's concepts to obtain ideas as to job descriptions, comparable salary scales, etc.

The committee met again on March 15, 1988 with Sheriff Scholes present. He stated to the committee that he did not believe the sheriff should be involved with Fire Service dispatch but could see in the future, both fire and sheriff dispatchers working side by side. He agreed with the committee to work with the Fire Service for the betterment of Public Safety.

There was an indepth discussion by the committee. A <u>unanimous</u> determination was made to recommend to the Fire Service Organizations for their approval and support that there be Central Fire Dispatch from the Emergency Operating Center at the Belmont Court House with Fire and EMS Service personnel manning said center. If this meets with the Fire Service Organizations approval the report will be presented to the Public Safety Committee and subsequently to the Board of Legislators.

On March 12, 19, and 26 siren tests (all call, individual siren and plectron) were conducted from the EOC. The test results improved each week. It is evident that some upgrading needs to be done on the EOC system. Consultations will be made with Mr. Fred Wood for his expertise in improvement of the system.

The committee met again on April 14 for a work session. Evaluation of the numbers of people necessary to man the proposed control center was

discussed with the following concept.

1 Head Dispatcher (full time)

2 Dispatchers (full time)

4 to 5 Dispatchers (part time, less than ~~40~~ 20 hours per week)

The rate of $8.00 per hour for full time and $7.00 per hour for part time personnel was applied.

Following is a recap of projected costs:

Annual hours	365 days x 24	8760 hours
Vacation days (sick, etc.)	36 days x 24	864 hours
Weekends	104 days x 24	2496 hours

Shift hours	6264
Weekends	2496
Annual hours	8760
Vacation	864

Total 9624 hours

3 Dispatchers	Vacation	12 days @ 8 hours	96
	Sick	12 days @ 8 hours	96
	Misc.	12 days @ 8 hours	96
			288 x 3 = 864

Shift hours (3 persons @ 261 days)	6264
Part-time fill in	3360
Total hours to be covered	9624

Shift week full time (6264 hrs @ $8.00 /hr)	50,112.00	50,112.00
FICA .0751	3,763.41	
Ret. 75-6 Tier IV .075	3,758.40	
Disability .06	3,006.72	
Health Ins. 3 @210 x 12	7,560.00	18,088.53
Part time-under 20 hrs(3360 hrs @ 7.00/hr)	23,520.00	23,520.00
Medicare @ .0145	341.04	341.04
		92,061.57

Present Expense	Contract	23,505	
	Electric	1,120	
	Telephone	1,400	
		25,025	- 25,025.00
			67,036.57

The total projected cost of $92,061.57 relates to .44/1000 additional tax cost with the net figure $67,036.57 relating to an additional tax cost of .32/1000.

Full time employees will consist of one (1) head dispatcher and two (2) dispatchers under Civil Service with a Civil Service Examination required. The Civil Service examination is given state-wide in February. If approval is given for implementation everything must be in place in December, with provisional employees so that training in response and procedures can be made for an efficient transition at midnight on December 31, 1988.

The complexity of the Allegany County Emergency Alerting System was brought out recently at a SARA Title III meeting. An alternate member representing the NYS Police was reviewing the county response plans and was amazed at the number of telephone listings necessary to complete the Public Safety Task. This can be cleaned up with trained personnel operating from a central control point.

Since the intent of Mrs. Mickle, not to renew her contract for 1989, became known, I have received letters and verbal responses from fire departments and individuals requesting Central Dispatch, simplification of radio procedures and acceleration of dispatch times. Two (2) departments have requested leased lines from their communities to Belmont, at their expense, with Control Center reception and dispatch. One department has determined sufficient savings with the leased line in comparison to their present fire and ambulance telephone system.

The Fire Service radio equipment will be moved from Andover with the control head at the EOC and the transmitter on a site, other than Corbin Hill, to be determined later. The duties of the dispatcher are to be reviewed with additional assignments to complete the job title.

The Committee Report was presented at the Allegany County Fire Chiefs meeting at Alma with approximately 75 fire people in attendance - 2 dissenting votes. It was presented again to the Allegany County Firemen's Association Executive Committee at Wiscoy-Rossburg with approximately 75 fire people in attendance - unanimous. At the Fire Advisory Board meeting on May 26 with 17 members in attendance the report was supported unanimously.

With the support, I reported to the Public Safety Committee on June 2, 1988 and received unanimous support of those present to forward this report to the Committee of the Whole.

The committee has worked long and hard to determine an adequate emergency radio dispatch system for the response units and citizens of Allegany County. Their work was done with sincerity and with regard to all segments of the Allegany County populace. It is our hope that this report will be accepted.

May I close with these observations:

What worked 30 years ago for a society with limited expectations, no longer works today.

Modern Fire and Emergency Medical Services merit modern dispatch with adequate back-up resources.

Hazardous Materials Incidents require centralized computer resources with response plans, Material Satety Data Sheets, and response tactics.

In a suit-conscious nation - How close are we?

J. Margeson
JUL 25 1988

NOT APPROVED

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

July 11, 1988

This meeting was held immediately following the regular board meeting with all legislators present except Legislator Loucks.

Nancy Koegel, Assistant Director, Emergency Services, related her experiences during the EMT Training Course that she recently completed. Miss Koegel expressed her admiration for the EMT Instructors and most especially for the average EMT out in the field. Miss Koegel urged continued support and respect for the EMS Community.

Keith Barber, Coordinator, Fire Service, requested approval from committee members, to include funds in the 1989 budget for the location of a central fire dispatch center in the Emergency Operating Center at the County Office Building. Following considerable discussion, it was agreed to recommend that Mr. Barber include these funds in the 1989 budget. (Opposed: Barry, Sylor)

John Margeson, Administrative Assistant, reviewed a report regarding the Duties and Responsibilities illustrating the need for an Allegany County Planner. (See attached) It was suggested that if this position was created, the Planner would report to John Margeson, who would report to the Planning & Historical Committee. It was decided to take no action on this suggestion at this time. It was the general consensus of the committee to include funds in the 1989 budget, as outlined in OPTION II.

A motion was made by Legislator Snider, seconded by Legislator Allen and carried, to go into executive session to discuss a personnel matter.

Following executive session, there being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

ALLEGANY COUNTY PLANNER

The following represents a detailed itemization of duties and responsibilities illustrating the need for an Allegany County Planner which would be assigned to such a position at the time of its' potential creation.

I. DEMOGRAPHICS

A. Establishment of a County Data Book

--The development of a County Data Book would be of high priority. Such a document would include, but not be limited to, census data, employment data, population density and sparcity, population projections, municipal tax rates, etc. Such an instrument is valuable to private sector interests looking to expand or locate within the County. Additionally, the data contained in such a document is essential to grant application preparation and must be periodically up-dated.

B. Establish County Land Use Map

--A County Land Use Map is a valuable planning tool. The final product can be a sophisticated representation of land use throughout the County or simply a general overview of land use patterns. The existence of a County Land Use Map allows for intelligent planning, particularly in jurisdictions anticipating growth, as decision makers can influence controlled, logical growth to a degree whereby residential, industrial and agricultural expansion can occur systematically and harmoniously.

C. Creation of Printed Permit Guide

--It is proposed the County Planner would prepare a printed permit guide available as a public service to all County residents and possibly available, for a fee, to out-of-county residents. Such a publication would identify Federal, State, County and local municipal permits required for activities (construction, sewer, installation, etc.) commonly and frequently undertaken by homeowners and others. The Planner would gather the necessary information from County Agencies authorized to issue permits along with all town and village governments relative to zoning or building permits.

Pertinent State and Federal data would be obtained from the New York State Department of State and individual Federal agencies.

D. Establishment of Base Map Library

--For the County Planner to function, it will be necessary for him/her to develop a library of numerous types of base maps. Base maps are generally utilized for the planning of infrastructural developments.

It is proposed the Planning agency be equipped with a wide array of base maps including, but not limited to:

a. County official map (pursuant to Section 239-y of the New York State General Municipal Law)

b. United States Geological Survey Topographical Maps

c. New York State DEC Wetland Maps

d. Federal Emergency Management Agency Floodplain Maps

e. Soil and Water Conservation Soil Characteristic Maps

f. Aerial photos

g. All local municipal special districts maps

1. Sewer
2. Lake
3. Fire
4. Watershed

h. County Agricultural District Maps

E. Create and Maintain Reference Library

--Crucial to the establishment of any administrative agency is the need to develop a sound library of reference materials.

The Planner should have at his/her disposal previously completed documentation pertaining to the County which are either on file or in storage. These materials would include, but not be limited to:

a. Environmental Impact Statement on Solid Waste Landfill

b. Genesee River Basin study
c. Completed grant applications
d. Existing Town/Village Zoning Ordinances
e. Local Economic studies
f. E.D.Z. application
g. Local and County Environmental studies
h. On-going professional planner information

II TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

A. Investigating New Proposals

--A substantial amount of the Planner's time would be devoted to investigating and gathering the necessary decision-making data regarding proposals brought to the County Legislature. A number of such proposals have recently come to light including:

a. The feasibility of a Construction and Demolition Landfill
b. Insufficient parking
c. A County Watershed Management Program
d. Access road to Wellsville Municipal Airport
e. Non-point Assessment Pollution Program
f. The joint County/Alfred University Performing Arts Center
g. Overall County office space needs
h. Source separation, recycling

B. Providing Assistance to Town/Village Planning Boards

--In addition to addressing the planning needs of the County, it is proposed the County Planner could also make himself available, when needed and available to Town and Village governments.

Efforts on the part of Town and Village government in which the County Planner could assist are:

a. Aid in establishing local land use plans
b. Aid in reviewing local municipal site development plans
c. Aiding municipalities in making proper and required zoning related referrals to the County Planning Board
d. Assist, when called upon, in the preparation of local municipal comprehensive Land Use Development Plans
e. Attend or conduct meetings outlining to landowners the procedures for Agricultural Districting

III LIAISONING WITH COUNTY AGENCIES

--Possibly the most important aspect of a County Planners responsibilities is to assist all County governmental agencies with planning and other related services.

In February, 1988, at the direction of the Planning and Historical Committee, the Administrative Assistant conducted a survey of 24 department heads (21 of whom responded) inquiring as to their needs for planning services. Of the 21 who responded, 20 felt there was a need for planning services, in some form, within the County.

Eleven department heads stated they could and would utilize the services of a planner or grants person in the agency, 8 could not and 2 were not sure.

Nine department heads felt they had forgone agency-related opportunities for lack of a planner/grants person and twelve stated they had not.

The heads of the following departments have indicated they would periodically need or utilize the services of a Planner/Grantsperson:

Youth Bureau
Solid Waste Division
Office of Emergency Services
Social Services
Health Department
Public Works (Highway Division)
Fire Service
Probation
County Historian
Office for Aging
Department of Development
Private Industry Council
Administrative Assistant

The primary areas of need expressed by department heads which could be addressed by a Planner are grant identification/preparation and the provision of statistical data to aid in the drafting of State or Federally required long and short term agency Master Plans.

In addition to assisting County agencies, the Planner would

a. Administer the County responsibilities as they apply to agricultural districting

b. Gather data relative to capital planning

c. Identify and disseminate information relative to the availability of grant funds

d. Function as a staff person to aid the County Planning Board

e. Offer recommendation to the Advisory Board to the Office of Development, the Planning Board and the Agricultural Districting Advisory Committee relative to land use

f. In an on-going basis, perform studies pertinent to the needs of general governmental services and facilities to promote cost-effective operations

IV PROMOTION OF COUNTY POLICIES

--The County Planner will be responsible to understand and disseminate material regarding any policies pertaining to county planning as established by the Board of Legislators.

It is envisioned that the Planner shall:

a. Interact with the print-media

b. Coordinate planning efforts between the County and other institutions such as schools, colleges and businesses.

c. Disseminate to the public, both orally and narratively, general planning principals

d. Provide narrative reports for County Planning Board publications

--In addition, the County Planner will administer and orchestrate:

a. State Environmental Quality Review's (SEQRA) in conjunction with the Planning and Historical committee

b. Assist the County Planning Board in the decision making process as it applies to County review of local municipal zoning matters pursuant to Section 239-m of the General Municipal Law

c. Analyze environmental impacts on behalf of the County or local units of government which may occur with development of an Industrial Park or growth due to the maturation of industry growing out of the Ceramic Corridor project.

The following represents the possible first year cost of establishing a County Planning Agency:

OPTION I

PERSONAL SERVICES**

	Amt.	F.B.	Total
Planner	$19,905.	$7,560.	$27,465.
		Subtotal	$27,465.

EQUIPMENT

Desk, chairs, drafting table, map cabinet, work table	Subtotal	$3,000.

CONTRACTUAL EXPENSES

Postage	$ 200.
Mileage	500.
Maintenance Contracts	-0-
Conference	300.
Insurance	30.
Office Supplies	500.
Fees	100.
Xerox	1,000.
Telephone	1,300.
Printing	100.
Legal Advertising	100.
Publications	500.
Subtotal	4,630.
GRAND TOTAL	$35,095.

** Clerical services to be provided through Office of Development

OPTION II

PERSONAL SERVICES

	Amt.	F.B.	Total
Planner	$19,905.	$7,560.	$27,465.
Act./Clerk/ Typist (part time 17 hrs. per/wk)	6,727.	-0-	6,727.
		Subtotal	$34,192.

EQUIPMENT

Desks, chairs, drafting table, map cabinet, typewriter, etc.	Subtotal	$ 4,500.

CONTRACTURAL EXPENSES

Postage		$ 200.
Mileage		500.
Maintenance Contracts		100.
Conference		300.
Insurance		30.
Office Supplies		700.
Fees		100.
Xerox		1,000.
Telephone		1,500.
Printing		100.
Legal Advertising		100.
Publications		500.
	Subtotal	$ 5,130.
	GRAND TOTAL	$ 43,822.

OPTION III

PERSONAL SERVICES

	Amt.	F.B.	Total
Planner	$19,905.	$7,560.	$27,465.
Acct/Clerk/ Typist (full time)	13,913.	5,285.	19,198.
		Subtotal	$46,663

EQUIPMENT

Desks, chairs, drafting table, map cabinet, typewriter, etc.	Subtotal	$ 4,500.

CONTRACTUAL EXPENSES

Postage	200.
Milage	500.
Maintenance Contracts	100.
Conference	300.
Insurance	30.
Office Supplies	700.
Fees	100.
Xerox	1,000.
Telephone (includes installation)	1,500.
Printing	100.
Legal Advertising	100.
Publications	500.
Subtotal	$5,130.
GRAND TOTAL	$56,293.

Margeson

NOT APPROVED

AUG 18 1988

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

August 8, 1988

This meeting was held immediately following the regular board meeting with all legislators present except Legislator Frair.

A presentation was given on recycling by the staff of ACREP (Allegany County Recycling Education Program), Dr. W. Bumper White, Administrative Coordinating Director; Mrs. Harriet Beck, Educational Materials Coordinator; Ms. Bethany Dawes, Recycling Project Coordinator; and Mr. Pierre LaBarge, Recycling Project Coordinator. ACREP was formed in January of 1988 with its main goal to develop a county-wide educational program to inform the people of Allegany County about the importance of solid waste recycling. An Office Paper Recycling Program has been initiated in the County Office Building and Recycling Presentations have been given to several municipalities in the county. ACREP staff members urged the creation of the position of Recycling Coordinator to oversee and coordinate the County's efforts in recycling. The importance of establishing a long term plan to continue recycling efforts was stressed.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

J. Morgan

NOT APPROVED

AUG 24 1988

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

August 22, 1988

This meeting was held immediately following the regular board meeting with all legislators present except Legislator Barnes.

A motion was made by Legislator Kramer, seconded by Legislator Barry and carried, to go into executive session to discuss a matter under Attorney/Client relationship.

Following executive session, a motion was made by Legislator Gallman, seconded by Legislator Barry and carried, to go into executive session to discuss a personnel matter.

Following executive session, there being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

J. Morgan

NOT APPROVED

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

September 12, 1988

SEP 26 1988

This meeting was held immediately following the regular board meeting with all legislators present except Legislator Raptis.

Jack Rosell, Personnel Officer, distributed a form listing several Department Head Titles, their Civil Service Jurisdiction and Term of Office. (See attached) Mr. Rosell reported that a probationary period of between 8 and 26 weeks is provided for a newly appointed County Officer appointed to any of the following positions, County Attorney; Public Defender; Real Property Tax Director; Personnel Officer; Probation Director; Public Health Director; Social Services Commissioner. The probationary period may be changed subject to approval by the State Civil Service Commission. A motion was made by Legislator Snider and seconded by Legislator Shine, to leave the probationary period at the current 8 to 26 weeks. The motion was defeated on a roll call vote of 3 Ayes, 11 Noes, 1 Absent. (Voting Yes: Shine, Snider, Watson) A motion was made by Legislator Barry and seconded by Legislator Barnes, to request Mr. Rosell to obtain approval from the State Civil Service Commission to increase the probationary period to 52 weeks for those positions stated above and to proceed with a local law to establish a 52 week probationary period for the Public Works Superintendent. The motion was approved on a roll call vote of 10 Ayes, 4 Noes, 1 Absent. (Voting No: Kramer, Shine, Snider, Watson)

A motion was made by Legislator Wentworth, seconded by Legislator Snider and carried, to go into executive session to discuss 1989 salaries of certain County Officers.

Following executive session, there being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

	TITLE	CIVIL SERVICE JURISDICTION	TERM
1.	County Attorney	Exempt	4 years
2.	Public Defender	Exempt	4 years
3.	Real Property Tax Director	Non-Competitive	6 years
4.	Personnel Officer	Non-Competitive	6 years
5.	Probation Director	Competitive	No Term
6.	Public Health Director	Non-Competitive	6 years
7.	Social Services Commissioner	Non-Competitive	5 years
8.	Emergency Service Director	Exempt	Pleasure of Chairman
9.	Office for Aging Director	Non-Competitive	Pleasure of Board
10.	Employment & Training Direct.	Non-Competitive	Pleasure of Chairman
11.	Economic Devel. Director	Non-Competitive	Pleasure of Board
12.	Public Works Superintendent	Unclassified	4 years
13.	Election Commissioners	Unclassified	4 years (being researched by County Atty.)
14.	Clerk of the Board	Unclassified	Pleasure of Board
15.	Administrative Assistant	Unclassified	Pleasure of Board

NOV 3 1988

NOT APPROVED

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

October 24, 1988

This meeting was held immediately following the regular board meeting with all legislators present.

A motion was made by Legislator Gallman, seconded by Legislator Allen and carried, to go into executive session to discuss collective bargaining negotiations.

Following executive session, there being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

J. Morgan
J.S.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

APPROVED
OCT 28 1988

October 25, 1988

All present except Legislators Hitchcock and Loucks.

The purpose of this meeting was to review the 1989 tentative budget with the Budget Officer and Deputy Budget Officer.

The increase in per diem for legislators from $60.00 to $65.00 was discussed. Inasmuch as no provision had been made in the budget for this increase, a motion was made by Gallman, seconded by Snider and carried, to increase Legislative Board Account No. A1010.1 Personal Services by $10,000 from $125,000 to $135,000. Refer to Ways, Means & Finance Committee for a resolution.

Mr. Raptis mentioned the letter written by Dan McLaughlin, Director of Development, regarding his proposed 1989 salary. Discussion was held - no further action taken.

It was decided that the Contingent Fund should be increased by $100,000 due to several unknown factors relative which may affect Ed. of Handicapped Children, Community Colleges and Blue Cross/Blue Shield accounts. A motion was made by Frair, seconded by Barnes and carried, to increase Contingent Account No. A1990.4 by $100,000 from $500,000 to $600,000. (Voting No: Sylor). Refer to Ways, Means & Finance Committee for a resolution.

The committee debated at length the many changes recommended by the Ways, Means & Finance Committee. That committee proposes B.A.N.'s and General Purpose Bonds be issued to raise money for certain capital costs in the Solid Waste and Public Works areas. These recommendations were accepted on a motion by Allen, seconded by Raptis and carried. (Voting No: Shine, Sylor).

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Barry, seconded by Barnes and carried.

J. Margeson

NOT APPROVED

NOV 23 1988

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

November 14, 1988

This meeting was held immediately following the regular board meeting with all legislators present except Legislator Barnes.

Legislator Barry introduced Joan Sinclair, Social Services Commissioner, who gave a presentation on the Child Assistance Program (CAP). Allegany County has been chosen, along with six other counties and New York City, to test this program, which is an alternative to AFDC, giving single parents an incentive to join the work force and become self-sufficient. A copy of Mrs. Sinclair's Presentation is attached.

On a motion by Legislator Wentworth, seconded by Legislator Gallman and carried, it was moved to have an Attorney/Client Consultation.

Following the Attorney/Client Consultation, the meeting was adjourned.

THE CHILD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CAP)

A PRESENTATION TO THE ALLEGANY COUNTY
BOARD OF LEGISLATORS: NOVEMBER 14, 1988

WHAT'S WRONG WITH WELFARE ?

- The AFDC (Aid to Families with Dependent Children) Program was designed in an era when few women were part of the workforce, the rate of separation and divorce was minimal, and widows were the primary single parent group in need of public assistance.

The "system" has not changed to recognize the dramatic change of population in the past two decades.

The current AFDC population is comprised predominantly of single parents, due to separation, divorce or unwed parenthood; nearly 60% of whom were teen parents; many of whom have low educational and skill levels with few marketable skills in an increasingly high tech job market; less than 60% of whom receive any support from the parent absent from the household; 1/3 of whom have lived in a chronic condition of poverty and ½ of whom are able to be only marginally self-sufficient, resulting in intermittent need for public assistance.

- In 19~~87~~72 income support programs were separated from service programs. A technician's approach to timely and accurate benefits issuance was established. The gains in computerized, highly controlled, and equitable issuances, however, were offset by a reduced focus on the underlying factors in dependency, while administrative requirements and complexity of determinations created a paperwork nightmare for staff and clients alike. The role of the Income Maintenance worker could not be restricted to the technical aspects of the job since they were the only staff having regular client contact, and gradually they have become the primary referral source for the multitude of other internal and external services a client may need, without benefit of being recognized for their case management role.

And, with the advent of a technical approach and control methods such as Food Stamps to insure only food purchases with that portion of income support, direct payments to landlords and utility companies, and other interventions for special needs, recipients were "taught" further dependency and lost experience in household budget management, while at the same time facing the stigma of being obviously in receipt of public assistance.

Further, the AFDC population with children under six years of age were not only exempt from work rules, but those in this category were not offered opportunities to prepare themselves for the job market. We were providing only one option; that of staying home, raising children in poverty conditions, with virtually no opportunity to do otherwise.

- In the late 70's and early 80's emphases on child support enforcement and educational, training, and employment programs, as well as supports for child care, emerged. It was recognized that opportunity for employment, support from both parents, and reliable child care, in combination, were the essential ingredients for escaping from poverty conditions. However, these elements continue to be provided on a fragmented basis.

- Lack of work incentive has, for as long as I can remember, been an issue related to income support programs. There are some standard, and conflicting perspectives.

Some believe that our benefits levels are already too high and that breeds complacency with staying on welfare.

Ohters feel that people should naturally choose work instead of welfare, and if they do not there is "laziness" existing, or a "greed" to get something for nothing.

Still others agree that until we allow opportunity for family financial security beyond the poverty level, along with an ability to be self-sufficient as well as self-supporting, we will continue to foster dependency. I am convinced, given the facts that the latter is the case.

It is very difficult to believe that benefits amounting to under 80% of the Federal poverty level (NYS rate) is in the least appealing to most public assistance recipients. It is not, however, difficult to believe that a welfare mom will choose not to go to work if it means leaving her children for a minimum wage job which may raise her expendable income to only 90% of the poverty level.

In his 1986 State of the Union Address, President Ronald Reagan drew attention to the problem of poverty and welfare in America:

> " In the welfare culture, the breakdown of the family, the most basic support system, has reached crisis proportions--- in female and child poverty, child abandonment, horrible crimes and deteriorating schools. After hundreds of billions of dollars in poverty programs, the plight of the poor grows more painful. But the waste in dollars and cents pales before the most tragic loss--- the sinful waste of human spirit and potential. We can ignore this terrible truth no longer. As Franklin Roosevelt warned 51 years ago, standing before this chamber---
>
> "Welfare is a narcotic, a subtle destroyer of the human spirit."

Subsequently, the White House Domestic Council in their report to the President, strongly urged State/local initiatives to test alternatives to welfare.

William Grinker, NYC-HRA, before the Senate Finance Committee last year called for a meshing of "opportunity and obligation" for both custodial and absent parents, with government taking a supplemental, support role.

In his 1987 Annual Message to the Legislature, Governor Cuomo called upon the Social Services Department to develop a "more rational approach" and "an efficient and dignified alternative" to the current system. Authority was given in Chapter 842 of the Laws of 1987, for what is now known as the CAP demonstration program.

THE CAP ALTERNATIVE

Allegany County has been chosen, along with six other counties and New York City, to test CAP, in a demonstration mode, as an alternative to AFDC.

The basic premise of the CAP program is that the support of a child is the responsibility of both custodial and absent parents. Therefore, CAP is not a feasible alternative unless there is court-ordered support and, at minimum, significant part-time employment of the custodial parent prior to provision of governmental assistance.

It is anticipated that, with work and support effort by both parents, and requirements that parents, not government, manage their resources, inrodes will be made with the chronically dependent (generational) families. Children growing up in households in which the parent's set the example of self-support are more likely to be self-supporting themselves in adulthood.

CAP is designed to address each of the following welfare dependency issues, with a strong focus on bringing children out of poverty conditions:

- dual parent support of children
- work incentive
- adequate child care
- self-sufficiency planning
- refocus of agency effort away from complex paperwork requirements to eliminating barriers to self-sufficiency
- reducing fragmentation of services and benefits.
- reducing the stigma which perpetuates dependency.

We hold the basic beliefs that: 1) regardless of socioeconomic condition, parents as a whole want to provide as well as they can for their children, 2) we tend to alienate absent parents by setting up an adversarial stance rather than garnering their involvement and broad-based support, 3) taking over decision-making and financial management for others solely on the basis that they need financial assistance both breeds dependency and reduces initiative and self-esteem and 4) given reasonable alternatives, people generally make responsible choices. We asked to be considered as a CAP demonstration district due to these beliefs and the program goals.

I believe that we are in a very strong position in Allegany County to test this alternative, which project is likely to have national as well as Statewide implications, for the following reasons:

- We have a strong child support enforcement effort. Our staff is highly experienced and has been recently commended for collections of support which exceed the State-set goal by over 60%.

- We are the only demonstration district which has fully implemented the proposed child support guidelines.

- We have one of the most productive and accurate Income Maintenance staffs in the State, and have the lowest staff turnover rate.

- We have the only Employment, Training and Development Center in the State and a fully integrated approach to planning for educational, training, and employment services, as well as a CEOSC for AFDC single parents, which provides full assessment and career exploration for potential CAP eligibles.

- Through the entrepreneurship program, and day care development efforts, we are increasing availability of licensed and certified homes.

- Our adult and family services staff, again a highly experienced group, is dedicated to case management principles and has universally contributed support for CAP program involvement.

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS

CAP will have a separate office. Since it is an optional alternative to welfare, it will be a "stand alond" operation, not another income maintenance program.

Staff will be in demonstration titles which are designed to include a mix of functions allowing for a case management (integrated services and benefits) approach. These titles will be in the competitive class, but there will be no written examination. Positions, as well as all other administrative costs, will be fully funded by the State. The County will also be held harmless on benefits costs at AFDC county share levels.

Case managers in the CAP program will be responsible for recruitment, work with potential as well as acutal CAP enrollees, and for ongoing eligibility, and participant planning and action for self-sufficiency. (Draft specifications attached.)

Currently, we have 484 potential CAP eligibles, of which population, 72 (14.8%) are employed, but only 37 (7.6%) are both employed and have court-ordered support payments.

In order to be eligible to enroll in CAP, there must be at least one child in the family who is ADC eligible due to the absence of his/her parent, and there must be court-ordered support.

The CAP benefit is a guranteed minimum child support payment, rather than a public assistance payment and, as such, is not offset dollar for dollar when the custodial parent has applicable income. It is, however, offset dollar for dollar in the case of absent parent support or other unearned income.

In order for the CAP program to be financially feasible, the custodial parent would need, on an average, to generate $80-$100 per week in earned income.

Increases in earnings from that level, however, would bring real financial incentives in that 90% of additional income up to the poverty level is retained, as well as 1/3 of income above the poverty level, until phase out at approximately 145% of the poverty level.

Current day care transitional and low income programs would be "folded in" to the total package. The phase out is at a level sufficiently high, in most instances, for child care to be managed privately.

Critical to phase out are:

- Reliable direct child support payments
- Full-time earnings, in most cases
- Reliable affordable day care
- Resource security.

In order to encourage development of resource security for such items as reliable transportation, adequate housing and furnishings, adequate clothing and other itmes for children, (and possibly some savings for such items as insurances, protection from lost work due to illness, temporary layoff, etc., which plague the 50% population mentioned earlier as on and off recipients of AFDC) the resource limit is lifted after initial eligibility. Savings of increased earnings will be encouraged, as will purchase of reliable transportation, for example, and will be part of financial planning.

Should a CAP participant lose employment for an extended period, (s)he would be required to utilize existing resources to tide the family over, with the fallback being AFDC once benefits, such as Unemployment Insurance, and resources, are depleted.

Other than a three-year demonstration time limit, there is no requirement for phase out within a specified time frame. One of the test purposes of the demonstration is to compare this alternative to the success of the AFDC program in assisting clients to become self-sufficient and to remain so.

There is a distinction between self-sufficient and self-supporting in that CAP is concerned with full independence rather than simply having someone earn just barely enough money to be ineligible for welfare benefits, for however brief a time, and remaining in poverty.

Other key ingredients related to self-sufficiency are the extraction of the Department from landlord-tenant issues and financial arrangements, utility direct payments, and Food Stamp issuances. The CAP minimum child support payment, in combination with earnings and a cashed out Food Stamp amount (if eligible) will be household income to be managed by the caretaker parents. CAP staff will provide household management guidance, where needed, but will not directly manage income or resources.

We are interested in determining, through this demonstration, success of participants in negotiating as consumers to gain decent housing with reasonable heating costs, as well as the reduction of administrative burden and costs associated with landlord and utility company dealings. It is to be kept in mind that the bulk of the household income will be earnings and child support, and therefore the participant him or herself has the greatest investment in consumer goods and services.

We are also testing a new type of relationship between agency and participant. While maintaining eligibility controls, time will be focused on mutual planning to remove barriers to independence. If successful, we should see a dramatic change in the population who now only become marginally independent and move from welfare to working poor to welfare, again.

The rise in the number of poor children in America even in times of economic upswing is a clear indicator of the failure of our current welfare system. We are seeking a reasonable alternative which, as Bill Grinker urged, is a combination of "opportunity and obligation", and which provides some hope for bringing children out of poverty and breaking the cycle of dependency.

We are targeting for January, 1989, implementation.

I seek your support for this landmark initiative.

COMPARISON OF ADC AND CAP

ADC	CAP
ADC grant based on budgeted needs for family size	CAP grant based on number of CAP eligible children.
After work expense deduction, for every $1 earned, ADC grant reduced $1 (once 30+1/3 has been used)	For earnings under the poverty level, for every $1 earned, CAP grant reduced 10 cents; for earnings over the poverty level for every $1 earned, CAP grant reduced 67 cents
Food Stamp benefits in coupons	Food Stamp benefits in cash.
Resource limit of $1000 plus automobile valued under $1500	No resource limit. Resources can be accumulated over the ADC limits
Monthly reporting of income	Quarterly reporting of income
$50 pass-through of child support	No $50 pass-through of child support
Up to $160/month per child earned income disregard for child care expenses	Special needs payment of up to $160/month per child ; if child is in regulated care, additional funding may be available
Vendor payments/restrictions allowed	Vendor payments/restrictions not allowed
Medicaid eligible	Medicaid eligible
Transitional Medicaid: 4 months if case closed due to increased earnings or child support; 9 months (and possibly an additional 6 months) if case closed due to loss of 30+1/3	Transitional Medicaid for four months after case closed due to increased income

Messages From a Welfare Mom

When I am willing to help myself and work, why do you take everything away, even health insurance?

BY RAMONA PARISH

Like many other single mothers, I am on welfare. I have received Aid to Families with Dependent Children ever since I divorced my husband six years ago. Living on government aid does several things to people. It destroys their pride and dignity; it makes them dependent on a system that penalizes them for being willing to work. I am not lazy and I want to work. But at this time the best I can hope for is a minimum-wage job that would only undermine my attempts to get ahead. Instead of just being poor, I would become one of the nation's working poor. I cannot survive on $3.35 per hour with three children, without regular child-support payments or health insurance. So I live on AFDC and often feel guilty because I take advantage of this system and its services. But I'm also made to feel ashamed because I cannot pay for things with my own hard-earned money.

To the people behind me on the grocery-store line: You have helped me feel guilty. You chip away at what little pride I have left by snickering to others when I use my food stamps, at the same time commenting loudly about an abuse of taxpayers' dollars. It is because of such comments that I shop in a town 15 miles away, and even there my face reddens with shame.

To all landlords: Some of you believe that because I receive welfare I have no pride in my home or my surroundings. Many times I've called on the phone to ask about a rental and, sight unseen, been turned down when I mention I receive AFDC. I know you have heard that most welfare people will destroy your home and are completely unreliable in paying the rent on time. It doesn't matter if I have excellent references from previous landlords or that I can have the rent payments sent directly to you. On the other hand, there are some of you who will rent *only* to welfare. You like having the money sent to you from social services. You don't care what condition your apartment is in because if I complain about needed repairs (windows that won't open, doors with broken locks), you tell me: "So? Move out." Because there are only a few of you who will rent to AFDC, your apartment will not be empty long.

To my ex-husband: In the past six years I have asked very little from you. Although I appreciate the bags of "used clothing" you sent when I asked if you could help with school clothes, I would have preferred if you had sent child support. Why should I have been the one who was embarrassed when your father stopped by and gave our son a pair of tennis shoes and each of our two daughters $10? You should be the one who is embarrassed—more help from you could make a difference in the way our children live. I make sure they have all their basic needs met, but I get tired of telling them, no, they can't have things they want because I don't have the money.

To my children: I did not intend to raise you on welfare. Bear with me a few more years, for I am trying to make a bad situation better. All of you kids have complained about having to apply for the free-lunch program. I know how ashamed you must feel when you're singled out in the classroom as a free-luncher, and the hurt caused by whispers among your friends that you're poor and your mother is on welfare. I'm sorry for the things I can't afford. But my biggest apology is for the groceries and boxes of toys you saw delivered to the house four years ago by the Old Newsboys organization. Tears still come to my eyes when I think of the question you each asked so innocently, "Mom, I thought people collected these for the poor who can't afford food and toys for the holidays." Little did you know, we were one of the poor. Since that day my pride has not allowed me to accept any more gift baskets.

To all doctors and dentists: Would my hysterectomy which was done three years ago when I was only 28 have been so urgent if I hadn't had Medicaid to pay for it? Could I have avoided having to take estrogen every day for the rest of my life? Although I had a choice of whether to have the surgery or not, I believe scare tactics were used. I wonder if some professionals take advantage of Medicaid recipients because women on AFDC are seen as uneducated and are expected to believe what they are told? And would that explain why so many AFDC women have lost all their teeth? After several extractions—six teeth lost in the six years on AFDC with three more to go soon—I find it difficult to chew my food properly. It's a standard joke now that I'm always the last one to leave the table; in reality, I'm too embarrassed to tell people that dentists suggest pulling teeth because Medicaid won't pay for root canals and crowns.

To all pharmacists: When there is a long line of customers waiting to have their prescriptions filled and I hand you mine, do not shout, "Do you have your current Medicaid card?" Because the shouting is an advertisement that I am on welfare, I will walk around the store until the line is gone. Welfare moms do have some dignity.

To all social-service case workers: When I am willing to help myself and work, why do you take everything away? Can't you at least let me keep the food stamps and medical insurance until I'm above the poverty level? Without these benefits I cannot make it, so I stay on the soaring welfare rolls. I don't want a free ride, but I do need a lift.

To whom it may concern: Do not feel pity for me. I don't want it. I have been given an abundance of self-worth these past two years. Enrolling in college and getting an education is my key to a future without AFDC. Managing a full-time class load, 20 hours a week on a work-study program, and being a mother hasn't been easy, but I've survived. Every time I cash my work-study check, I get back a piece of my pride. I still use my food stamps in another town, but at the same time I use dollar bills that I have earned myself. With each passing semester my head lifts a little higher. What I could use is a smile of understanding and words of encouragement and support. With help, not hindrance, I will make it.

Parish dropped out of school and married at 16; she is studying to be a legal secretary at Kirtland Community College in Roscommon, Mich.

J. Margeson

NOT APPROVED

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

November 28, 1988

DEC 7 1988

This meeting was held immediately following the regular board meeting with all legislators present.

On a motion by Legislator Barry, seconded by Legislator Gallman and carried, it was moved to have an Attorney/Client Consultation.

Following the Attorney/Client consultation, there being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

J. Margeson

NOT APPROVED

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

December 27, 1988

JAN 5 1989

This meeting was held during a recess of the regular board meeting, with all legislators present.

On a motion by Legislator Allen, seconded by Legislator Kramer and carried, it was moved to have an Attorney/Client Consultation.

Following the Attorney/Client Consultation, there being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.