

**BUDGET COMMITTEE
APRIL 27, 2015**

**** NOT APPROVED ****

Committee Members Present: T. Hopkins, K. LaForge, P. Curran, D. Fanton, C. Crandall
(Absent: T. O'Grady)

Others Present: M. Alger, L. Ballengee, H. Budinger, D. Decker, M. Gasdik, K. Graves, D. Healy, R. Hollis, D. Horan, G. James, Y. Marks, K. Monroe, V. Pettit, D. Rahr, B. Riehle, T. Ross, C. Santora, D. Scholes, R. Whitney

Media Present: No media present

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m. by Budget Committee Chairman Theodore Hopkins.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Legislator Curran, seconded by Legislator Fanton, and carried to approve the Budget Committee minutes of March 18, 2015.

Department Budget Reviews ("Big 5")

Office for the Aging

Office for the Aging Director Madeleine Gasdik and OFA Accountant Vicki Pettit addressed the Committee, saying that overall, OFA is where it is supposed to be at this point in the Budget year, maybe even a little better. Ms. Gasdik noted that OFA has expended about 14 percent of its budget 25 percent through the Budget year. Although they noted that they do not foresee any budgetary problems at this time, Ms. Gasdik indicated that her current concern was about BIP (Balancing Incentive Program) which had originally been scheduled to end in April 2016, and now is scheduled to end in December 2016. Now, she said, the BIP funds will need to be spread out over this new time frame.

Department of Health

Public Health Director Lori Ballengee and DOH Accountant Dave Rahr addressed the Committee, noting the following regarding the first quarter of the DOH Budget:

The Komen Grant has once again stopped funding as of April 1. Ms. Ballengee said that the Department will refer women who need services to Komen to see what it can do for them.

Mr. Rahr indicated that typically the DOH revenues are one quarter behind which would explain some of the negative numbers on the budget report. He added that the quarterly claim numbers are not known at the time the budget summary needs to be prepared. He added that the claims have been filed, but quarterly claims are not calculated by the time the budget summary is due. He said that Article 6 can't be done until all the other claims are done. He added that they have until the end of May to do Article 6.

Ms. Ballengee noted that DOH ended 2014 \$100,000 short in Article 6 monies because the Department had generated so much revenue, and the Article 6 monies are distributed after the revenues are deducted. Ms. Ballengee said she had talked to Budget Officer Mitch Alger saying that DOH might bump up expenses for the 2016 Budget to prevent having similar deductions made in the future. Mr. Rahr added that Special Education has a large negative in the first quarter, but that is anticipated because it takes up to a year to get all the expenses recovered from the State.

Ms. Ballengee, when asked, did not foresee any major impact locally as a result of the Governor's budget. She said that she had been monitoring the Public Health and Human Services lines and she sees nothing "massive" for DOH. WIC was untouched, she said, and Public Health stayed pretty even.

Legislator Hopkins asked DOH if, in the future, it would use the one-page budget form for ease of reading. Mr. Rahr and Ms. Ballengee agreed to do so.

Legislator Curran inquired whether this would be an appropriate time to bring up the one percent reductions. Mr. Alger responded that he has already begun reaching out to Department Heads, but that more will be done as the deadline approaches.

Department of Public Works

Superintendent of Public Works Guy James addressed the Committee, saying that the DPW budget is on track and very close to projections. He added that the revenue amounts are through April 15, so it is a little beyond the first quarter and includes the CHIPs extreme winter funding that got put in the budget. He indicated that he is keeping an eye on the snow removal budget because of the severe winter we had just gone through which required a lot of spending from January 1 right through the winter season. Mr. James also said we need to know where we are going with the Solid Waste Program for 2016. He indicated that if any resident had inquiries, he was directing them to contact their respective Legislators. He said he has heard negative comments about the "per bag" plan. Deputy Superintendent of Public Works Dean Scholes said he has heard that residents hope to still have access to the Transfer Stations. Mr. James did not want to get into a lengthy discussion during the Budget Committee meeting, but he did want to bring it up so the Board could keep the issue on the front burner. He invited anyone with questions to drop by his office, and he'd be glad to answer them. Finally, Mr. James thanked Yvonne Marks for her diligence in keeping DPW within budget.

Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Whitney told the Committee that his revenue accounts are accurate and very close to projections. However, he said, E911 Dispatch is over budget. He added that the E-911 personnel budget was less than the amount that had been requested. When asked, Sheriff Whitney indicated that as of the last payroll, administrative overtime was down between eight and nine percent. He noted that he has been receiving multiple requests for participation in local parades throughout the summer season, and he is responding judiciously with an eye to costs. When asked about the impact of the Governor's budget, Sheriff Whitney indicated that should the proposal of changing the age of responsibility change, the Sheriff's Office would see more transport of 16-18-year-olds which would increase costs. Sheriff Whitney summed up by saying that the first quarter looks good so far.

Department of Social Services

Department of Social Services Director of Administrative Services Don Horan appeared on behalf of the Department of Social Services. He indicated that DSS is on track for the year thus far. He stated that DSS starts out kind of slow because DSS accruals are so big at the end of the year, and he has to wait for the State to close out its first quarter. He added that DSS had just received an increase of \$2,620 in weekly share for Medicaid which translates into \$102,180 for the year. This was taken into consideration when the Budget was put together. The bottom line, he said, is that DSS is a little over on what it needs to finish out the year, but he expects that to change. He went on to say that there is a new state recommendation on how to record FFFS (Flexible Fund for Family Services) revenue funding. They don't like us to accrue that anymore, he said, so none of that revenue is reflected in the current summary. They are not to record it until it is received. Before the report was completed, he said, DSS had received

\$973,000, but it is not reflected here. He said he is comfortable with the current status as we are one-quarter through the year, and about one-quarter through projected spending. As regards the Governor's budget, Mr. Horan said that from what he's seen, allocations are staying the same. The one increase is the Foster Care Block Grant which will be used to cover the new child welfare regulation (older children still in care).

New Business

Legislator Hopkins asked County Treasurer Terri Ross if she had any results from the Tax Sale. She said it was a successful sale, but that her Office was currently compiling the auction results.

County Administrator Mitch Alger noted that it was time to begin thinking about the 2016 Budget process. He anticipates a mid-May kick-off meeting with the Department Heads.

Mr. Alger went on to say that his office had sent out 43 letters regarding the Government Efficiency Plans to towns, villages, fire districts, etc. He said that 15 sent back the signature forms indicating their participation. Two have declined (Town of Birdsall and Village of Alfred) and would seek efficiencies on their own.

Two municipalities (Town Wellsville and Friendship) had submitted cost-savings plans. Still have 26 to hear from, but we'll see what we get this week, and after that start some follow-ups. There's a lot of work to be done in the next month or so, he said.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m. following a motion by Legislator LaForge, seconded by Legislator Fanton, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia Santora, Secretary to the Clerk of the Board
Allegany County Board of Legislators