

**BUDGET COMMITTEE  
JULY 15, 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, S. Decker, M. Gasdik, V. Grant, K. Graves, D. Healy, R. Hollis, C. Jessup, T. Miner, K. Monroe, D. Rahr, D. Root, T. Ross, C. Santora, N. Ungermann, R. Whitney

**Media Present:** No media present

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 11:05 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 June 17, 2015.

**Sales Tax Report**

County Treasurer Terri Ross distributed the 2014 Allegany County Sales Tax Report reflecting receipts through July 15, 2015, totaling \$10,293,739.94. Receipts for the current period indicate a decrease (\$807,576.65 or -7.275 percent) from one year ago for the same period. Ms. Ross indicated that she would like to know what has caused the drop.

**Department Budget Reviews (Big 5)**

Mid-year reports from "BIG 5" with department representatives were presented:

**Office for the Aging**

Office for the Aging Director Madeleine Gasdik said that OFA is doing well and is on track per projections at this time. She added that OFA got its annual Implementation Plan approved. The State, she said, holds OFA vouchers from April 1 to March 31 until the Plan is approved. It was approved in June, so Vicki Pettit is starting to voucher now. The State is now holding three grants at this time until CSE, EISEP, WIN (formerly SNAP), until we can get our Direct Care Workers Grant submitted.

**Department of Health**

Public Health Director Lori Ballengee said DOH is in good shape, about the same as always. DOH is always a quarter behind in revenues, so that's why the revenue looks low. DOH has not done second quarter yet. The expenses, however, are up to date. DOH is well under at this time, but will see an increase in the fall during flu shot season.

### **Department of Public Works**

DPW personnel were out assessing and mitigating damage that had occurred the previous evening during the severe weather. Legislator Hopkins said that based on the submitted report, DPW is on target to its projected budget. He also suggested that if anyone had any questions, they could stop in at DPW or bring them to another meeting.

### **Sheriff's Office**

Sheriff Rick Whitney told the Committee that his area was doing okay except for 911 Dispatch which is projected to be "way behind," noting that the E-911 personnel budget was less than the amount requested and less than the prior year's actual cost. Because of the lack of Dispatchers, they are trying to fill 14 positions with 10 people, he said, and that overtime increases the costs.

### **Department of Social Services**

Social Services Commissioner Vicki Grant said that DSS is on par for this time of the year. Expenses are pretty close to projections except for some of those done quarterly. Revenues are always a quarter behind, she said, because of how some of the contractors bill. DSS usually waits until the end of the year to consider equipment purchases, so that's low at this time. Ms. Grant said that public assistance caseloads seem to be decreasing somewhat which will help the DSS budget if that trend continues. However, foster care caseloads are increasing mostly because of sibling groups so that increases the service payments because of contract work with agencies that work with the families. Ms. Grant said she hopes it will balance out, but so far, we are okay.

### **Review of Submitted Mid-year Reports from Other Departments**

Legislator Hopkins directed the Committee members to review the budget summaries from other departments, and if there were any questions, to bring them back to Committee.

### **New Business**

County Administrator Mitch Alger and County Treasurer Terri Ross suggested some dates for working on the 2016 Budget. After some discussion, it was decided that the Budget Committee would meet Wednesday morning, August 19, perhaps spilling over into the regularly scheduled Budget Committee meeting. It was also determined that the group would meet again on Friday morning, August 21, to try to complete the process. Mr. Alger said he would send out an email confirming these dates.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:25 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