

**BUDGET COMMITTEE**  
**September 16, 2015**  
**AMENDED AND APPROVED**

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

**Others Present:** M. Alger, L. Ballengee, K. Graves, D. Healy, R. Hollis, G. James, C. Jessup, J. Nelson, B. Riehle, D. Scholes, R. Scott

**Media Present:** No media present.

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

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Legislator Curran, seconded by Legislator Root, and carried to approve the Budget Committee minutes of July 15, 2015, August 19, 2015, and August 21, 2015.

**Sales Tax Report**

County Deputy Treasurer Jenna Nelson distributed the Sales Tax Report reflecting receipts through September 16, 2015, totaling \$13,097,353.68. Receipts for the current period indicate a \$38,000 increase for the month, but still about an \$850,000 decrease for the year. Legislator Fanton suggested by the end of the year, it may be a \$1 million decrease. Legislator Graves suggested it may be from the falling gas prices. Legislator Curran stated he has spoken to many business and they are not reporting a decrease in business. Legislator Root said she thought it was more than just the falling gas prices. County Administrator Mitch Alger stated car sales are the top factor in these figures and he wonders if there is a dip in car sales. Mr. Alger stated they continue to monitor the situation and will keep an eye on it for 2016. Legislator Hopkins asked where Mr. Alger was going to put the sales tax next year in the budget. Mr. Alger stated he is undecided.

**New Business**

**Budget 2016**

County Administrator Mitch Alger talked about having another meeting before releasing the tentative budget. Mr. Alger stated there are still some outstanding items and would like one more meeting where County Treasurer Terri Ross would be able to attend. Mr. Alger suggested, Monday, September 28, 2015, at 9:00 a.m. Legislator Root stated she would not be able to attend.

**County Landfill**

County Administrator Mitch Alger stated for the past two years the County has been putting money aside to plan for the landfill closure, and he would like to do this again. Mr. Alger requested approval to assign \$1 million from the unassigned fund balance for future landfill closing costs, which would bring that account up to approximately \$3 million. This should pay for the pre-closure costs, and the County may have to look at financing post-closure costs in the future. Legislator Fanton asked about pre-closure costs and if they have to put two feet of soil on top. Superintendent Guy James stated it depends on who does the work. Mr. James

originally thought the County could do the work; however, TVGA Site Engineer Terry Ried advised against it. Legislator Curran asked if it would be put out to bid. Mr. James stated he is looking at all options since there are pros and cons to both ways. If the money does not cover all of the costs, it would get the County through a lot of the process. Mr. Alger commented as far as the impact on the budget, no money has been moved. It is earmarking the County fund balance, and does not affect the bottom line of the levy or tax rate. Approval was granted on a motion by Legislator Fanton, seconded by Legislator Curran, and carried. **Refer to Ways & Means**

### Vehicle Fund

County Administrator Mitch Alger shared his recommendations for what he is including for the vehicle capital account in 2016. They are as follows:

Sheriff's Office	(1) Sedan @ \$32,000	\$32,000
Sheriff's Office	(1) Pickup Truck	\$32,000
Health Department	(1) Sedan	\$17,000
Health Department	(1) Full-Size Van	\$26,250
Office for the Aging	(2) Caravans @ \$22,000	\$44,000
	Total	\$151,250

Legislator Graves commented some vehicles have a lot of miles and need replacing. He noted the Sheriff's Department already has about 26 to 27 vehicles. Legislator Graves asked if the vehicles are being replaced or adding to their fleet. Mr. Alger stated he believes they would be replacements because when a department does a request, the form asks that question. The Sheriff's Department stated on their request they are replacements. Legislator Graves asked if they need that many vehicles. Mr. Alger stated he would get some reimbursements for the vehicles. It would be up to for 50 percent for the pickup truck because it would be used to pull the boat for boat patrol. Mr. Alger noted the State gives us grant money under the marine patrol fund that the County has to apply for and receive. Legislator Curran and Legislator Graves questioned why the SUV's could not pull the boats.

Legislator Curran commented that he doesn't think we should be patrolling the lakes. He believes if the land owners feel they need security, then they should hire someone privately. Legislator Fanton asked if the County was legally obligated to provide this service. Mr. Alger stated he was unsure about the legal obligation, but the County does receive money for it. He stated they receive up to half reimbursement. Legislator Graves stated he believes the Department of Environmental Conservation would have to step in and patrol the lakes if the County did not do it. Legislator Graves stated only about six to seven tickets were issued on Rushford Lake last year. Legislator Root stated as a landowner on that lake, she appreciates seeing the Sheriff's Department out there keeping some kind of order. Mr. Alger stated he can look at the legal obligations. Legislator Curran asked if there are four boats. Mr. Alger stated yes. Legislator Curran stated he thought the County could sell a couple. Legislator Hopkins stated the last two were bought by the State. Legislator Graves asked if the County was going to get the pickup truck because he would rather see two sedans purchased. Mr. Alger stated that was what he was recommending and ultimately it is the same amount of money. Legislator Curran suggested replacing the pickup truck with one from the Public Works Department. Superintendent Guy James stated they rotate their trucks in their fleet. Legislator Graves suggested maybe the vans could haul the boats. Legislator Hopkins suggested the committee move on and Mr. Alger should contact the Sheriff's Department about what the truck will be used for.

Mr. Alger stated the Health Department vehicles are fully reimbursed. The Office for the Aging vans are a local cost, but they have an aging fleet. Legislator Root asked if the

Information Technology request for a caravan was for them to go off-site and if they have a vehicle. Mr. Alger stated they currently have a vehicle and can continue to use it for the year.

Mr. Alger reviewed the Department of Public Works request for heavy equipment and machinery for 2016. Legislator Graves stated the County may want to look into financing some of the vehicles since they are so expensive and the costs will continue to increase. Legislator Fanton mentioned programs offered by John Deere and CAT where you pay a cost up front and then by the hour for every hour you use it. Superintendent Guy James stated some towns in Allegany County are doing this as a feasible alternative to budgeting for these items. The County would have to look into the average hours per year for the equipment and see if it is feasible. Legislator Graves stated there would be a low maintenance cost and asked if Mr. Alger, Mr. James, and Mr. Scholes could look into the programs and if it would save the County money. Mr. James stated not every piece of equipment would be ideal for this program, but they can look into it. Legislator Hopkins stated for this year the County will have to stick to this request, and then the County can start examining those types of programs for next year. Legislator Curran asked what the tractor will be used for. Mr. James stated it will be used to haul solid waste containers and as a low boy tractor.

### Personnel

County Administrator Mitch Alger reviewed the requests for new positions and personnel changes in the 2016 Budget and recommended the following:

#### Sheriff's Department

Dispatcher	\$34,619.88

#### Treasurer

Account Clerk/Typist	(Step Base to Step 3)
----------------------	-----------------------

#### County Attorney

Assistant County Attorney	\$70,000
---------------------------	----------

Mr. Alger highlighted the dispatcher positions. The County is still negotiating a new 911 schedule, but the positions still need to be budgeted. These positions are needed for the new schedule Lieutenant Shawn Grusendorf has been working on to be successful. Mr. Alger stated it should decrease overtime. Legislator Graves asked if he could get a copy of the new schedule, and Mr. Alger noted it is still in negotiations. Legislator Graves asked about the Assistant County Attorney. Mr. Alger stated it would help in the transitional period.

### Capital Projects

County Administrator Mitch Alger reviewed the 2016 Capital Projects for the Department of Public Works. He stated he recommends all three projects. The three projects are:

1. BR#07-01 Angelica, Peavy Road \$487,500
2. BR#09-05 Birdsall, Hiltonville Road \$219,000
3. BR#15-06 Cuba, Keller Hill Road \$392,000

Total Cost	\$1,098,500
County Share 85 percent	\$933,725
Town Share 15 percent	\$164,775

Superintendent Guy James stated the Department was behind from last winter and because of the flooding in the northern part of the County. Two of the structures are quite large and will take a fair amount of time to complete.

### **Updates**

Mr. Alger talked about the bottom line and where the County is at this point. The numbers right now with some of the changes he discussed today are: The levy would be \$31,166,009; that is \$1,197,000 increase over last year and the County cap is 0.73 percent, which would be a couple hundred thousand dollars. In 2014, the County appropriated \$500,000; however, at the end of 2014, the County did not use any of the money. Last year, the County appropriated \$1 million of the fund balance toward the budget and he anticipates it will probably be around that number. Mr. Alger stated there are still some items that need to be addressed. He listed items on his to-do-list before the next meeting. They include:

- Compile a comprehensive list of all the changes.
- Take another look at other capital projects such as building and grounds.
- Review sales tax figures including updated numbers and projections.
- Asking Real Property to give assessed value figures.
- Working on the budget for the Solar City project. The County has created an account for the project, but it is for one year. Mr. Alger stated it probably won't be built until late next year, so the budget will have to be prorated.
- County Treasurer Terri Ross will do the official cap calculation and what the figure is for 2016.

Legislator Graves asked about the security upgrades including swipe cards and cameras. Mr. Alger stated it is not in the budget right now, but can be discussed with the other capital projects.

### **Solid Waste**

Superintendent Guy James addressed the new items on the 2016 DPW Solid Waste Only spreadsheet. He noted on page two, A8160.4.99 is the new appropriations account, and it is anticipated that it will cost \$240,000 to take our garbage somewhere else. Mr. James stated the revenue fund A8160.2130.03 is \$25,000 for 2016. It is less than previous years and is based on a smaller foot print and a quarter of a year. Mr. James spoke about A8160.2130.04, permits. The \$500,000 reflects the continued use of our current system with hang tags and punch cards; and the reduction of tonnage because of the landfill closure and change in flow control law. Mr. James talked about A8160.2130.09. He believes the County will be short on tipping fees this year by as much as \$50,000. Mr. James referred to page three and spoke about the decrease in scrap revenue. Mr. James believes people are taking their own scrap metal to other places and if less users are coming, there will be less scrap coming into the system. On page four, Mr. James noted the \$1.1 million deficit. Mr. James is stating he is hoping this represents worst case scenario. Mr. Alger asked Mr. James to describe some of the assumptions he made about the hang tags and punch cards that are in the revenue numbers. Mr. James stated the assumptions were made by the rate of those people using transfer station facilities and directly to the landfill. Mr. Alger asked about continuing to sell hang tags. Mr. James stated yes because it will give a picture of who their real customers are. Legislator Fanton asked if the hang tags will change. Mr. James stated the Public Works Committee will need to discuss this and what will need to be done.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 12:01 p.m. following a motion by Legislator Fanton, seconded by Legislator Root, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rebecca Scott, Secretary to the Clerk of the Board  
Allegany County Board of Legislators