

**WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 18, 2015**

**** NOT APPROVED ****

Committee Members Present: C. Jessup, P. Curran, K. Graves, D. Healy, LaForge, D. Pullen, D. Root, C. Crandall (Absent: D. Fanton, T. Hopkins)

Others Present: S. Burt, L. Ballengee, H. Budinger, J. Budinger, D. Decker, G. Hanchett, R. Hollis, T. Miner, B. Riehle, T. Ross, C. Santora, R. Sobeck-Lynch, J. Wood
Guest Ravo Root, Superintendent, Fillmore Central School

Media Present: No media present

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 3:20 p.m. by Ways & Means Committee Chairman Charles Jessup.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Healy, and carried to approve the Ways & Means Committee minutes of February 9, 2015.

Common Core Presentation

Superintendent of Fillmore Central School Ravo Root, at the behest of Legislator Theodore Hopkins (in order to give another view of the issue which was addressed from the “anti” perspective at the December 17, 2014, Ways & Means meeting), spoke to the Committee regarding the Common Core from the perspective of a practitioner who has been both teacher and administrator in the New York State public school system. Mr. Root distributed a handout outlining the following issues: the shifts in ELA/Language (such as “close” reading), Shifts in Mathematics (bringing more balance between practice and understanding). Mr. Root said that the Common Core standards and modules are educationally sound and that applying the Common Core increases a deeper understanding of the subject matter, as well as the critical thinking and engagement for students. He noted that schools are allowed to adapt and modify the Common Core. However, he said, he was not without concerns regarding the Common Core. Some of these included the fact that this is an unfunded mandate, and that the switch to Common Core is costly in terms of resources and professional development. He is concerned, too, that private corporations such as Pearson, a publishing company that creates textbooks and tests for the Common Core. Mr. Root added that the rollout of the common Core was done poorly and that its scope is too large. Additionally, Mr. Root has concerns regarding testing as it relates to Common Core, including the fact that the testing is too long (more than three hours for grades 3 and 4, and more than four hours for grades 5-8). He noted that evaluating faculty based solely on the test results is not conducive to having teachers teach for knowledge, but rather for test results and job security. His final major concern is the reduction in aid to public schools in New York State.

Board Meeting at the County Fair

Board Rule 110.A and 110.F indicate that Allegany County Legislative Board meetings are held in the Board Chambers on the second and fourth Monday of each calendar month unless the Board designates a different day and/or location by resolution. For the seventh year in a row, the Board would like to conduct a Board meeting at the County Fair. This not only creates a historical event, but it provides an opportunity for our youth and citizens to observe and participate in local government. To that end, Clerk of the Board Brenda Rigby Riehle

requested a resolution changing the first Board meeting in July from Monday, July 13, 2015, to Thursday, July 16, 2015, and the location from the Board Chambers to the Allegany County Fairgrounds in Angelica so that our Legislative Board meeting can be held in conjunction with the Allegany County Fair. The request was approved on a motion by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Root, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

Sales Tax Extension

Clerk of the Board reminded the Committee that it is time to start the process for Allegany County's sales tax extension. If the additional one-and-one-half percent (1.5%) sales tax is to be extended beyond the November 30, 2015, expiration date as set forth in Resolution No. 124-13 (originally changed by Resolution No. 118-67), it will be necessary to adopt a resolution requesting our state legislative representatives to introduce and seek passage of the required legislation to continue the additional one and one-half percent (1.5%) County sales tax for three years. Based on sales tax revenue receipts of \$20,136,080 for 2014, the additional one and one-half percent (1.5%) sales tax resulted in \$6.71 million revenue. There was some discussion noting that an increased sales tax rate is more equitable to County residents/taxpayers than increased property taxes would be. Approval to begin the three-step process for maintaining the increased sales tax was granted on a motion by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Curran, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

Acceptance of Insurance Check—Brenda Rigby Riehle

The Clerk of the Board's office requests a resolution accepting a check in the amount of \$4,635 from NYMIR (New York Municipal Insurance Reciprocal) representing the settlement less a \$500 deductible and \$600 for salvage value on a 2008 Chevrolet Uplander Van (#0447) operated by the Office for the Aging that was totaled as the result of a motor vehicle accident on January 12, 2015. The funds should be appropriated to H5997.2 (Vehicle Purchase/Replacement) with a like sum placed in revenue account H07.2680.00 (Insurance Recoveries). Please note that the \$500 deductible was not recovered and that the \$600 salvage value is forfeited since the County opted to keep the vehicle. Approval was granted on a motion by Legislator Root, seconded by Legislator Curran, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

Sales Tax Report

County Treasurer Terri Ross distributed the 2015 Allegany County Sales Tax Report reflecting receipts through February 18, 2015, totaling \$2,288,896.41. Receipts for the current period indicate a small increase from one year ago for the same period, but the year-to-date figures to show a decrease of \$150,875.92 or 6.184 percent from last year at this time.

Transfer of Funds

The County Treasurer/Deputy Budget Officer requested that the Board of Legislators approve a resolution for the transfer of funds within the following appropriation accounts.

<u>From:</u>	<u>To:</u>	<u>Amount:</u>
A1990.429 (Contingency)	A6432.474 (Econ Dev Consulting)	\$ 28,500
	A6432.475 (Econ Dev Consulting Travel)	<u>\$ 1,000</u>
	Total	\$ 29,500

This is the 2015 portion of the contract approved by Resolution #182-14 between the County and IOC Services, LLC. (Please note there were not any 2014 expenditures for travel so the

entire \$ 1,000 is being allocated for 2015). The request was approved on a motion by Legislator Healy, seconded by Legislator Graves, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

Certificates of Cancellation

Parcel # 142.-1-36.3/1

The Treasurer's Office requested a resolution to prepare and file a Certificate of Cancellation and a Certificate of Prospective Cancellation for the following described property per RPTL Article 11:

Town of Belfast
Southern Tier Wireless
(Wayne Hawley)
Tax Map # 142.-1-36.3/1
Tibbetts Hill Rd
.25 Acre

Per the Real Property Tax Department, the parcel # 142.-1-36.3/1 is a fictitious number that was assigned by the assessor and is not attached to an active parcel on the rolls; therefore, we cannot foreclose on this fictitious parcel for the unpaid tax. The assessment will be added back to the parent parcel 142.-1-36.3/1 and the taxes owed will be added to the parent parcel as an omitted tax. The will correct this incorrect assessment. A Certificate of Withdrawal has been filed with the Clerk of the Board and the County Clerk on February 10, 2015, for the 2013, 2014, and 2015 taxes and will withdraw the parcel from our current tax foreclosure. This will allow us to cancel these taxes and charge them back to the municipalities. The fiscal impact: allows us to correct the incorrect assessment to a fictitious number. There will be no significant fiscal impact as the taxes will be levied to the correct parent parcel in 2016. The request was approved on a motion by Legislator Root, seconded by Legislator Healy, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

Parcel # 233.-1-1.11/1

The Treasurer's Office requested a resolution to prepare and file a Certificate of Cancellation and a Certificate of Prospective Cancellation for the following described property per RPTL Article 11:

Town of Clarksville
Mye, John P
Mye, Johnna L.
Tax Map # 233.-1-1.11/1
Steward Rd
1.00 Acre

Per the Real Property Tax Dept the parcel # 233.-1-1.11/1 is a fictitious number that was assigned by the assessor and is not attached to an active parcel on the rolls, therefore we cannot foreclose on this fictitious parcel for the unpaid tax. The assessment will be added back to the parent parcel 233.-1-1.11 and the taxes owed will be added to the parent parcel as an omitted tax. This will correct this incorrect assessment. A Certificate of Withdrawal has been filed with the Clerk of the Board and the County Clerk on February 10, 2015 for the 2013, 2014 and 2015 taxes and will withdraw the parcel from our current tax foreclosure. This will allow us to cancel these taxes and charge them back to the municipalities. Fiscal impact: allows us to correct the incorrect assessment to a fictitious number. There will be no significant fiscal impact as the taxes will be levied to the correct parent parcel in 2016. The request was approved on a motion by Legislator Curran, seconded by Legislator Root, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

Parcel # 187.-1-999

The Treasurer's Office requested a resolution to prepare and file a Certificate of Cancellation and a Certificate of Prospective Cancellation for the following described property per RPTL Article 11:

Town of Wirt
Austin, Kenneth
Tax Map # 187.-1-999
Gas Well

This needs to be removed from our prospective tax foreclosure sales because of its status of a its being a non-producing gas well and the potential liability associated with this. This will correct the taxes that are currently owed and remove it from the tax roll for the future until it's determined that taxes should be levied. This is for the well only and is not assessed for any real property. Fiscal impact: reducing the liability associated with an unknown gas well and potential issues surrounding ownership of this well. The request was approved on a motion by Legislator Healy, seconded by Legislator Root, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

REFERRALS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

District Attorney

Accept DCJS Grant

District Attorney Keith Slep requested a resolution to accept a \$21,370.68 grant from the NYS Department of Criminal Justice Services for Crime Victim Services. The grant is for a three-year period with a two-year renewal option. This money will offset the money apportioned from the Traffic Diversion Program which was allocated to pay for the Victim Coordinator after the OVS award was terminated. The sum of \$21,370.68 should be placed in Revenue Account A1165.3031.01 (St Aid Victim Impact). Approval was granted on a motion by Legislator Curran, seconded by Legislator Graves, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

Planning & Economic Development

Greater Allegany County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Gretchen Hanchett requested a resolution accepting the NYS Tourism Matching Funds Grant in the amount of \$53,911 from the NYS Department of Economic Development's Division of Tourism. The sum of \$53,911 has been appropriated in the 2015 Budget under Account A6989.476 (Tourism & Culture-Contractual) and to Revenue Account A6989.3715.00 (State Aid-Tourism Promotion). Approval for the acceptance of the Grant funding was made on a motion by Legislator Root, seconded by Legislator Healy, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

Approval of Legislators' Expense Vouchers

The Committee reviewed the Legislative expense vouchers for the month of January 2015. A motion was made by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Curran, and carried to approve the vouchers for payment

Executive Session

The Committee entered executive session to discuss the proposed acquisition of real property at 4:08 p.m. on a motion by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Curran, and carried. The Committee exited executive session at 4:25 p.m. on a motion by Legislator Curran, seconded by Legislator Root, and carried.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 4:25 p.m. following a motion by Legislator Pullen, seconded by Legislator Graves, and carried.

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