

BUDGET COMMITTEE

August 17, 2016

NOT APPROVED

Committee Members Present: C. Crandall, K. LaForge, P. Curran, D. Fanton, D. Healy, J. Hopkins, D. Root

Others Present: T. Boyde, H. Budinger, V. Grant, K. Graves, R. Hollis, D. Horan, T. Miner, D. Pullen, B. Riehle, T. Ross, D. Scholes, N. Ungermann, M. Washer

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 11:05 a.m. by Budget Committee Chairman Curt Crandall.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Legislator Root, seconded by Legislator Fanton, and carried to approve the Budget Committee minutes of July 20, 2016.

Sales Tax Report

County Treasurer Terri Ross distributed the 2016 Allegany County Sales Tax Report reflecting receipts through August 15, 2016, totaling \$11,045,960.27. Receipts for the current period indicate a small decrease from one year ago for the same period. The year-to-date figures show a decrease, currently of \$593,272.57 or 5.097 percent over last year at this time.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

2017 Budget Requests

County Treasurer Terri Ross noted that the report handed out at the beginning of the meeting is the entire budget for Public Works. The report shows everything budgeted as well as actuals from 2014 forward.

Superintendent of Public Works Guy James approached the committee to make the following 2017 Budget requests:

Capital Projects

Mr. James has included in this year's program three town structures that will be town rehabs. This is a simpler process for Mr. James because they can go back and reuse the same abutments but put new super structures in place. Two of the County structures, located in the north part of the County, are currently culverts that were impacted by the July 2015 flooding. Mr. James stated that because of the span length they were not adequate hydraulically, therefore, when they are completed, one will become a bridge and have a longer span length. The second will also have a longer span length than what is currently there but it will remain a culvert even though it has all of the characteristics of a bridge.

Town Projects

1. BR #16-11	Friendship, Moss Brook Road	\$240,000
2. BR #17-10	Genesee, Deer Creek Road	\$291,000
3. BR #22-04	New Hudson, Rush Creek Road	<u>\$324,000</u>
	Total Cost	\$855,000
	County Share 85%	\$726,750
	Town Share 15%	\$128,250

County Projects

1. Culvert 15A-06	County Road 15A, Allen	\$210,000
2. Culvert 15B-51	County Road 15B, Grove	<u>\$300,000</u>
	Total County Cost	\$510,000

Total County share for 2017 Capital Projects is \$1,236,750.

Vehicle and Equipment

Superintendent of Public Works	(1) Extended Cab Pickup or SUV	\$ 34,000
Building and Grounds	(1) Pickup Truck	\$ 25,000
Solid Waste	(1) Mechanics Truck with compressor and welder	\$ 50,000
County Road Traffic	(1) One Ton Truck with utility body	\$ 40,000
Road Machinery	(1) Fifty Ton Lowboy Trailer	\$ 75,000
	(3) Broom/Mowing Tractor (\$53,000/ea)	\$159,000
	(1) Force Feed Sod Loader	\$215,000
	(1) Wood Chipper	\$ 47,000
	(1) Tag Roller	\$ 26,000
	(1) Tractor w/Boom Mower & Rotary Boom Head	\$122,000
	(1) One Ton Truck with Plow	<u>\$ 40,000</u>
	Total	\$833,000

Mr. James made the following highlights regarding the vehicle and equipment requests:

- The first two requested vehicles are in the Vehicle Replacement Fund Budget. One is a replacement vehicle for Superintendent Guy James. His current vehicle will go to Engineering and Engineering's vehicle will move to Highway or Solid Waste and an old vehicle of Highway or Solid Waste's will be taken out of the system. Mr. James currently believes that vehicle will be a 19 year old Dodge Caravan. Mr. James stated the second vehicle for Building and Grounds is being requested because they seem to have quite a bit of travel back and forth between the Jail, Courthouse and other out buildings and in the past have had employees not be able to get out where needed due to the unavailability of vehicles.
- The mechanics truck with compressor and welder will replace a 1991 Dodge.
- The one ton truck with utility body will replace a 2006 truck with 220,000 miles. On a monthly basis, this employee has to travel every mile of every County road to inspect and report on 4,400 signs.

- The fifty ton lowboy trailer will replace a 2001 trailer that could not pass inspection done by our own people. They have tried to see what could be done to refurbish the trailer, as that is something that has been done in the past, but with this particular trailer being 16 years, they were unable to do so. Mr. James also noted that typically lowboy trailers sit 8-10 inches off the ground and see a lot of salt spray.
- The three broom/mowing tractors will go to the other three counties that have not received one and they will replace a 1972 tractor and two 1974 tractors. Being 43 and 45 years old Mr. James stated they are beginning to have a hard time finding parts for them.
- The force feed sod loader commonly referred to as Athey loaders will replace a 1981 loader and a 1983 loader that again are becoming difficult to find parts for.
- The wood chipper will replace a 27 year old chipper currently being used.
- The tag roller will replace a 27 year old roller and will primarily be used in patching operations for blacktop.
- The tractor with boom mower and rotary boom head will replace a 2001 John Deere and is primarily used to cut back the brush on the backside of the ditches. Mr. James noted due to the off season for vegetation, these vehicles are used a lot in the winter months as it is the best time to perform this maintenance.
- The one ton truck with plow will be used primarily to plow the County and Jail parking lots.

Dean Scholes noted that the current 1991 truck being used is on the road quite a bit and will not pass inspection as the frame is rotted and broken. Mr. Scholes went on to say that we do our own inspections and always make sure everyone is safe and in this case passing this vehicle cannot be done again.

Legislator Healy questioned if we have compared the cost of leasing vs. purchasing for our vehicles. Mr. James stated they are currently exploring that option but it is not set in stone and it can only apply to any vehicle that does not require a commercial driver's license (any vehicle that is less than 26,000 pounds of GVW), so would not include any of their big trucks or heavy pieces of equipment.

Legislator Fanton stated the life use of equipment being discussed to replace has been extended to save us a lot of money and while he is not sure how it will work in regards to the rotation process, he feels we need to carefully look at extending the life use of these pieces of equipment before making the decision for all of these purchases. He went on to state that we have been able to keep a lot of our equipment on the road because we do take good care of it ourselves and cautions the committee not to rush to a decision. Legislator Healy noted he agrees with Legislator Fanton but if we don't look into our options we won't know for the future. Mr. James stated that one thing they have seen is while keeping vehicles longer does cut down on capital expenditures, they see the repair side of the budget increase so they need to come to that balance of not going too long and it becoming detrimental to the parts side vs. not going long enough and it becoming detrimental on the purchase side.

Mr. James stated that within the County Road Budget the biggest item that stands out is to budget around \$300,000 for surface treating which is our oil and stone program we use and is funded 100 percent with local County dollars.

Budget Committee Chairman Curt Crandall questioned how these requests fit into what has typically been done in this part of the budget. Mr. James stated that while the pieces of

equipment are more, the dollar amounts are comparable. Mr. James also wanted to note that they understand cuts may need to be made and there is some flexibility, but with this being round one of the budget, he would like to demonstrate their needs as they are not just requesting to replace pieces of equipment that are only five years old.

Legislator Hopkins questioned how this budget compares to last years in regards to whether there are more increases or decreases. Legislator Root stated they have \$200,000 more in equipment but capitals are comparable.

Legislator Fanton noted the town will need to get these in their budgets if approved and questioned when we would need to get this in by. Mr. James stated they have a little bit of a later initial deadline than the County. We like to have ours in by July 1 and they are September 1. Budget Committee Chairman Curt Crandall questioned if all towns are on board. Mr. James stated that, yes, all of these have been requested by their respective towns, Friendship, Genesee and New Hudson.

Buildings and Grounds

Mr. James stated they are requesting another position in Building and Grounds out at the Jail. They could use extra help and are anticipating the retirement of one of their veteran employees.

Snow and Ice

Mr. James stated they are anticipating an increase to town contracts as they usually see a slight increase in materials cost and hauling costs.

Solid Waste

Mr. James wanted to make a generalized statement that there is a big concern that we are raising taxes by having solid waste, however, public works and most of our budget is raised by taxes. There is a cost for the services we provide whether we are providing a building and facility, maintaining our infrastructure with roads and bridges, performing winter or summer maintenance as well as the cost to maintain the solid waste system. Mr. James brought up a previous discussion on ways to close the gap on our revenues and noted that they are hoping to have their expenditures high and their revenues low to help the committee for when reality comes and they have spent less but brought in more. Mr. James also stated there are still two positions being recognized in the County system, however, we are not funding them. Therefore, personnel will be two less in the Solid Waste division which has been factored into the budget that has been submitted.

Legislator Hopkins questioned if the staff has a recommendation on which scale and hangtag fees to use in keeping with finding the balance of making money but not overcharging people. Mr. James stated with the hangtags, they found Oswego County only had one that was comparable, and they charge \$175 so we are below that. As far as the across the scale fee, we are charging the lowest of the ones we looked at. The average we looked at was \$55 per ton across the scale. Steuben County was \$59 per ton. Mr. James stated we need to ask the question of whether or not we want to be comparable with other counties. If yes, his recommendation would be to charge \$200 per hangtag and \$50 scale fee.

County Treasurer Terri Ross stated that for comparison purposes, this is the first year that we have adjusted some revenues because of the changes made in 2016. This is the first year we are paying to dispose of our own garbage; so it is not always going to be apples to apples if you look at old years because of the changes made in 2016.

Old Business

Chairman Curt Crandall asked Don Horan from DSS if there are any highlights or notes that he'd like to point out. Mr. Horan stated they continue to watch the safety net line. It continues to grow but is beginning to stabilize. He continues to track cases and the monthly expenditures have flattened out which is good for DSS and noted that we are doing quite well for the 6 month mark. Settlements from the state are coming in slowly, so we have not received all money that we have reported on.

Chairman Curt Crandall questioned if we have a handle on the state coming in to take over the administration for Medicaid cases. Mr. Horan stated the state does continue to try and take over Medicaid cases to alleviate the cost of local workers, but has not taken over all of them yet.

New Business

A motion was made by Legislator LaForge, seconded by Legislator Hopkins, and carried to enter into attorney/client session at 11:45 a.m. Immediately following discussion at 12:16 p.m., a motion was made by Legislator LaForge, seconded by Legislator Fanton, and carried to end the attorney/client session and return to the regular meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 12:17 p.m. following a motion by Legislator Root, seconded by Legislator Curran, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Meghan Washer, Secretary to the Clerk of the Board
Allegany County Board of Legislators