

**ALLEGANY COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

**September 26, 2016**

**LEGISLATORS PRESENT:** Chairman C. Crandall, P. Curran, D. Decker (*arrived 9:53*) D. Fanton, K. Graves, D. M. Healy, J. Hopkins, C. Jessup, K. LaForge, T. O'Grady (*arrived 9:55*), D. Pullen, D. Root

**OTHERS PRESENT:** T. Boyde, S. Decker, T. Miner, B. Rigby Riehle, T. Ross

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Curtis Crandall called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

**BUDGET REVIEW:**

Chairman Crandall stated that the purpose of the meeting was to review the Tentative Budget that would be released later today. This is part of the process leading up to the adoption of the budget in November. A public hearing will take place on November 10 at 7 o'clock in the Legislative Chambers. If the Board as a group feels there are changes that need to be made to the Budget, those changes will be done by resolution between now and when the Budget is adopted.

County Administrator Tim Boyde noted that this years' Budget calls for the use of \$3 million from the Fund Balance. County Treasurer Terri Ross remarked that they won't have the final property tax assessment numbers until the end of October. Chairman Crandall stated that using money from the Fund Balance is something that's been done over the last several years and once the books are closed at year-end, that Fund Balance can be replenished with any excess carryover. Treasurer Ross stated that the goal of the Fund Balance is not to have to use it, but it's there in case you need it. It's a budget figure, and the goal is not to use it. County Administrator Boyde clarified that the \$3 million is there for a worst case scenario. Treasurer Ross noted some of the unknowns including sales tax revenue and costs associated with the Landfill.

The group discussed the possibility of bonding for some of the larger expenditures that may arise. The Treasurer stated that the County is certainly in a good place for borrowing at this time. They discussed the septic system at the Public Safety Facility and whether that is something that's going to need to be replaced in the near future. Legislator Fanton indicated that the current system is still working. Treasurer Ross stated that doing the maintenance quarterly has proved to be more cost effective rather than replacing the system at this time. The committee discussed the Fund Balance and what amount was necessary and reasonable to keep for unexpected events. They talked about the need for planning ahead on large projects so they can be budgeted for rather than taken out of Contingency. Treasurer Ross remarked that these large projects need to be discussed as capital projects in June so they can be budgeted. County Administrator Boyde said that shouldn't have to be tapped into. The boilers at the Public Safety Facility needing to be replaced couldn't be predicted. There are always going to be things like that that we can't predict. The telephone project and 911 project have life cycles and will need to be upgraded at some point. Those need to be planned ahead for. Vehicle replacement and health care costs are things that can be looked into as well.

The committee went on to discuss overtime costs and staffing at the Public Safety Facility and whether it makes financial sense to house outside inmates at the Facility. Legislator O'Grady expanded on that by suggesting that it might make more sense for the State to take over the court

security. He feels the Board needs to have a better understanding of what our costs and revenues are for the Sheriff's Office. They need to look at what the legacy costs are too. Hiring one more person is a big ticket item. As we lose things we don't tend to downsize like a business would.

Legislator LaForge suggested that it's not just County taxes that bother taxpayers; it's the town, village, and school taxes too. He wants the Board to look at consolidations. He feels the State hasn't done anything to help consolidate things.

The committee discussed the possibility of having the Bonadio Group do some additional efficiency studies. They found areas to save in Social Services and could analyze other departments in the same manner.

Legislator Healy remarked that two parts of the local share of the Budget are property taxes and sales tax. He would like to see continued work on business development at the Crossroads. The County is missing out on a great deal of sales tax revenue by not having a business there to serve travelers. That's additional tax revenue that would come from non-residents. County Administrator Boyde mentioned some of the opportunities we have in development. He reminded everyone of the airport and rail services that are available. He said, "We need to stop the loss of jobs. We have to think ahead and move forward." Legislator Healy added, "...things such as a new convenience store in Belmont just cater to local people; we need to draw revenue from outside sources." Legislator Fanton mentioned that Livingston County, which is similar in size, has more sales tax revenue than we do. Seventy percent of their sales tax revenue is from fuel. They receive \$10 million more in sales tax revenue than we do.

Legislator O'Grady brought up the topic of vehicle replacement. When a new vehicle is purchased, the previously used vehicle isn't always disposed of. We end up with additional vehicles because vehicles are being replaced twice. Legislator Decker stated that he'd like to take a look at the vehicles that are being taken home at night. He doesn't feel it's necessary for the County to provide vehicles for employees to take home.

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was made by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Decker, and carried to adjourn the meeting at 11:21 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah M. Decker, Deputy Clerk of the Board  
Allegany County Board of Legislators