

2012

FOURTH ANNUAL SESSION

NOVEMBER 27, 2012

The Board convened at 10:30 A.M. in the Supervisors' Chambers at the Court House, Lake Pleasant, New York, with the Chairman, William G. Farber presiding. Mr. Farber led the members of the Board of Supervisors in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, and an opening prayer.

The Clerk, Mrs. Laura A. Abrams, called the roll with the following Supervisors answering:

Arietta	Richard A. Wilt
Benson	Ermina M. Pincombe
Hope	Robert Edwards
Indian Lake	Brian Wells
Inlet	John Frey
Lake Pleasant	Neil P. McGovern
Long Lake	Clark J. Seaman
Morehouse	William G. Farber
Wells	Brian Towers

Also present: Tracy Eldridge, Pete Klein, Press and one Bidder

Public Comment: No one present.

Report of Standing/Special Committees:

John: Met this morning with the Sheriff and D.A. in regards to the Sheriff's budget and possibly increasing a line item.

Rick: Did some research on the heating and electric bills for the white house which runs around \$4,500. With repairs that need to be done he figures they could save around \$5,000.

Bob: Reported they have merit reviews this afternoon.

Bid Opening: Spec. No. 14-2012 – Recycling Roll-Off Containers

1. United Services GP, Inc.	\$39,995
2. Cyncon Equipment Inc.	\$45,983
3. Custom Container Solutions	\$38,206
4. Wasteequip	\$42,287
5. CEJJ, Inc.	\$41,195

A motion was made to accept the bids and refer them to committee by Mr. Towers, seconded by Mr. McGovern. Carried.

Mr. Towers asked if they are receiving delivery within thirty (30) days, Tracy said he didn't spell that out, just that they be delivered to Lake Pleasant and he would then move them to where he wanted them.

Mr. Towers asked about the Solid Waste Local Law. Tracy stated that he is planning on having it on the Supervisors' desks December 14, 2012. Tracy further stated that he will meet with the County Attorney after the December 6th meeting to look at different wording.

Tracy stated that these containers will be used to get paper out of the waste stream. This is all in conjunction with the Solid Waste Management Plan that we have submitted to the State. The State is working on a new Solid Waste Management Plan as well.

The Chairman discussed the frustration with the State changing the rules.

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 321-12

TRANSFER OF FUNDS - SOCIAL SERVICES

DATED: NOVEMBER 27, 2012

BY MR. SEAMAN:

WHEREAS, funds will be exhausted in the Hamilton County Department of Social Services Account No. A6109.401, Family Assistance, by the beginning of December 2012, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the following transfer be made:

FROM:

A6142.401 Emerg Aid to Adults \$3,000.00

TO:

A6109.401 Family Assistance \$ 3,000.00

and the County Treasurer be so authorized.

Seconded by Mr. McGovern and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: WILT, PINCOMBE, EDWARDS, WELLS, FREY, MCGOVERN, SEAMAN,
FARBER, AND TOWERS

NAYS: NONE

RESOLUTION NO. 322-12

**AUTHORIZING CONTRACT WITH VETERINARIAN FOR RABIES VACCINATION
CLINICS**

DATED: NOVEMBER 27, 2012

BY MS. PINCOMBE:

WHEREAS, in NYS it is the responsibility of the local health department to have a system in place for the control and suppression of rabies, and

WHEREAS, the Hamilton County Nursing Service (HCPHNS) holds periodic rabies vaccination clinics throughout the County which provides for free vaccination of taxpayers dogs, cats and domestic ferrets, and

WHEREAS, the services of a licensed veterinarian is required to provide this service, and

WHEREAS, Frederick Ackerman, DVM, of Sabael, NY has agreed to provide veterinarian services for HCPHNS, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ackerman has agreed to maintain his membership in the American Veterinary Medical Association, making him eligible to maintain professional liability insurance at the required level, with the understanding that he will be reimbursed by the County for insurance premiums, not to exceed \$350.00, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ackerman will be reimbursed at a rate of \$75.00/clinic hour plus travel reimbursement at the prevailing county mileage rate, be it

RESOLVED, that the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors is authorized to enter into a contract with Frederick Ackerman, DVM, to provide veterinary services at HCPHNS rabies clinics, at a rate of \$75.00 per clinic hour, plus mileage and reimbursement for insurance premiums not to exceed \$350, as described above, to begin January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2013 upon approval of the County Attorney and the County Treasurer be so notified.

Seconded by Mr. Wells and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: WILT, PINCOMBE, EDWARDS, WELLS, FREY, MCGOVERN, SEAMAN,
FARBER, AND TOWERS

NAYS: NONE

RESOLUTION NO. 323-12

AGREEMENT WITH HAMILTON COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING SERVICE/HOME HEALTH AGENCY & DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

DATED: NOVEMBER 27, 2012

BY MR. EDWARDS:

BE IT RESOLVED, the Chairman of the Hamilton County Board of Supervisors is hereby authorized to sign an agreement on behalf of Hamilton County Public Health Nursing Service/Home Health Agency with Department of Social Services, to provide services to Medicaid recipients, for the period of January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2013.

Seconded by Ms. Pincombe and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: WILT, PINCOMBE, EDWARDS, WELLS, FREY, MCGOVERN, SEAMAN,
FARBER, AND TOWERS

NAYS: NONE

RESOLUTION NO. 324-12

AUTHORIZING CONTRACTS WITH SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS

DATED: NOVEMBER 27, 2012

BY MR. SEAMAN:

WHEREAS, the Hamilton County Public Health Nursing Service contracts with individual providers of treatment for speech and language pathologies for several programs, and

WHEREAS,

Rebecca Lynn Pelton
9 Ordway Lane
North Creek, New York, 12853

Patty Wojcicki
372 Ridge Road
Broadalbin, NY 12025

are duly licensed Speech and Language Pathologists by the NYS Department of Education, Office of Professions and wish to contract with the Nursing Service, and

WHEREAS, the term of these contracts shall be from January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013, and

WHEREAS, provider will be compensated at a rate of \$75.00 per visit plus mileage at the current county rate for services rendered through the Certified Home Health Agency, and

WHEREAS, the provider will be compensated at the current per visit rate, with mileage included in rate, set by the New York State Department of Education for services rendered under through the Preschool Special Education Program, be it

RESOLVED, that the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors is authorized to enter into a contract with Rebecca Lynn Pelton, SLP, and Patty Wojcicki SLP to provide treatment for speech and language pathologies to the residents of Hamilton County, for the period January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013 at the rates set above, upon approval of the County Attorney and the County Treasurer be so notified.

Seconded by Ms. Pincombe and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: WILT, PINCOMBE, EDWARDS, WELLS, FREY, MCGOVERN, SEAMAN,
FARBER, AND TOWERS

NAYS: NONE

RESOLUTION NO. 325-12

AUTHORIZING CONTRACTS WITH SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST

DATED: NOVEMBER 27, 2012

BY MR. EDWARDS:

WHEREAS, the Hamilton County Public Health Nursing Service contracts with Rebecca Lynn Pelton, 9 Ordway Lane North Creek, New York, 12853 for speech services for the Early Intervention Programs, and

WHEREAS she is duly licensed Speech and Language Pathologists by the NYS Department of Education, Office of Professions and wishes to contract with the Nursing Service, and

WHEREAS, the term of this contracts shall be from January 1, 2013 through March 31, 2013, and

WHEREAS, provider will be compensated at the current per visit rate, with mileage included in rate, set by the New York State Department of Health for services rendered through the Early Intervention Program, and be it

RESOLVED, that the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors is authorized to enter into a contract with Rebecca Lynn Pelton, SLP, to provide treatment for speech and language pathologies to children eligible for Early Intervention Services in Hamilton County, for the period January 1, 2013 through March 31, 2013 at the rates set above, upon approval of the County Attorney and the County Treasurer be so notified.

Seconded by Mr. McGovern and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: WILT, PINCOMBE, EDWARDS, WELLS, FREY, MCGOVERN, SEAMAN,
FARBER, AND TOWERS

NAYS: NONE

RESOLUTION NO. 326-12

**AUTHORIZING CHAIRMAN TO SIGN CONTRACTS WITH EARLY
INTERVENTION SERVICE PROVIDERS**

DATED: NOVEMBER 27, 2012

BY MR. MCGOVERN:

WHEREAS, Hamilton County Public Health Nursing Service is required to provide Early Intervention Services to infants and toddlers age 0-3 with developmental delays and disabilities pursuant to Section 2541 of chapter 428 of the Laws of 1992, and

WHEREAS, the following providers have agreed to provide for evaluation and services for children under the Hamilton County Early Intervention Program, and

WHEREAS, there are no center based providers located within Hamilton County approved to provide these services, and

WHEREAS, these providers are approved providers pursuant to Section 2541 of said ACT to provide Early Intervention Evaluations to determine eligibility and services for those children determined to be program eligible, and

WHEREAS, maximum reimbursement for these services is determined by the state rate setting unit of the New York State Bureau of Early Intervention, be it

RESOLVED, that the Chairman of the Hamilton County Board of Supervisors is hereby authorized to sign contracts, upon approval of the County Attorney, for evaluation and professional service provision, for children residing within Hamilton County at rates set by the NYS Bureau of Early Intervention for the Period of January 1, 2013 through March 31, 2013 between the Hamilton County Public Health Nursing Service and, not limited to but including, the following Early Intervention Service Providers:

NYSARC, Inc.
a/k/a The Children's Corner – The Adirondack ARC
12 Mohawk Street
Tupper Lake, NY 12986
518-359-3351

United Cerebral Palsy Association of the Tri-Counties, Inc
d/b/a Prospect Child and Family Center
133 Aviation Road
Queensbury, NY 12804
518-798-0170

Center for Disability Services, Inc
f/d/a Centers for the Disabled, Inc
f/d/a United Cerebral Palsy Association of the Capital District, Inc
314 South Manning Boulevard
Albany, NY 12208
518-437-5700
d/b/a/ Cloverpatch - Early Childhood Services

Seconded by Mr. Wells and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: WILT, PINCOMBE, EDWARDS, WELLS, FREY, MCGOVERN, SEAMAN,
FARBER, AND TOWERS

NAYS: NONE

Budget Review:

John explained that most of them probably already know that he had used some numbers that were incorrect. Once he made the corrections he realized that they need to go through the revenues again and make some corrections.

Revenues:

Less Appropriated Cash Surplus – should be changed to \$1,150,000.
1601.0000 - Public Health Fees – should be \$8,000.

John then asked for a 5 minute recess.

The Chairman reconvened the meeting after 5 minutes.

A motion was made to open the Public Hearing on the 2013 Tentative Budget by Mr. Frey, seconded by Mr. McGovern. Carried.

John continued with budget corrections as follows:

The Less Appropriated Cash Surplus number that we changed earlier is correct at \$1,150,000.

Under Sales and Use Tax it should show \$2,450,000.

2320 - Econ Asst. Franklin County should be \$30,000.

3277 – State Aid, Education-Handicapped Child should be \$85,000.

3401 – State Aid, Public Health should be \$300,000.

3715 – State Aid, Tourism Promotion should be \$65,000.

4401 – Federal Aid, Public Health Emergency Prep should be \$37,106.

With these changes the total revenue for the general fund should be \$6,477,749.

John stated the next changes should have already been done but would like to note it on the record as follows:

3170.401 – Other Corrections Agencies – the committee recommended this morning to change that number to \$30,000.

John reported that is all the changes he has for them, but with these changes it takes the budget to a 12.4% increase. He would like to open the floor for any discussion on how to reduce that number and apologizes for putting them in this situation this late in the budget. He believes with good intentions last year they kept it below the 2% tax cap with the thought that mandate relief would follow or our sales tax would be within the playing field and neither has happened. We basically cut our reserve funds and stayed within a budget that was already tightened. Now we are at a junction with a tax increase. He feels that drastic changes need to be made next year.

John stated that he does have some ideas for next year that he has shared with a few of the Board members that are very harsh. We would be looking at a health insurance co-pay increase, a reduction of funding to those agencies that are in our control, among them Cornell Cooperative Extension, Soil & Water and Office for the Aging. There has been some discussion as to moving Soil & Water into this building that would give us a savings of heat and electric.

Rick stated one of the other things we should be looking at, as a Board, is deciding whether we are happy with the 12% or are we going to try for 8% today. If we are going to try for the 8% we are going to have to make some harsh decisions. One of the things he brought to John is the merit pay. He doesn't know if they would ever be able to get it back if they get rid of it next year.

The Chairman stated he feels the more equitable thing to do is to do something with the increases. The merit pay will not impact all the employees equally. Historically what has been done is when people have been looking at the idea of getting rid of the merit was reconfiguring the grade and step schedule. If you do one without the other basically all we are doing is penalizing the good employees and the bad employees aren't touched. The merit pay will not impact all of the employees equally.

Rick suggested softening the blow by each Supervisor taking a 5% cut; we did get us into this position.

John stated that he has heard ideas that they were going to talk about in the future. Here I sit with Tracy in the room saying can we move forward with consolidating workforce with County and/or Towns in some areas. Can we do something to trim back one of the facilities.

Brian T. stated Neil has asked in a couple of emails what does 12% actually mean to a home worth \$200,000. Rick stated it comes out to .30 cents per thousand.

John stated if we are going to look at Highway we also need to look at general, this should not be dumped on one department.

The Chairman stated that he strongly agrees with Rick, if you are going to implement strategies that are harsh and it's your conclusion that the Board of Supervisors contributed to getting us to this point then I think we need to look seriously at our wages. The historical reality of the wages for the Board of Supervisors is that when times were economically good and the County had sales tax the wages for the Supervisors were set at the County at a level that subsidized the Towns. Now the harsh reality is the town budgets are not as big a struggle as the County's budget is and the County is still subsidizing the wages because the wages are seen as accumulative wages Town and County that the Supervisors get. Over time these were decisions that were made. John Heffernan had stated in the past that Solid Waste is really not a County expense. The Chairman continued to discuss why the County has such a tough budget.

Ermina asked what was the percentage of raise that the Director's received. John stated the elected officials received 3%, and everyone else received 2%. The elected officials have not received anything in the past three years.

Neil stated that he agrees with Rick, they have to share the pain along with everyone else. Neil stated that in the past it was crazy to think of the budget at an 8% increase, but not today. Neil discussed some of the ideas that were mentioned but stated that those things take time to develop which won't help this budget now.

Neil stated that he feels we need feedback from our taxpayers because these large increases may not go away short of us shrinking what we believe is some of our vital services. We had an 8.7% increase in the paper last week and there is no public here; he did receive a few phone calls.

John stated then it is decided to reduce each Supervisor and the Chairman by \$5,000.

1010.101 - Legislative – Chairman - should be \$38,528.

1010.102 – Legislative – Supervisors – should be \$114,928.

John stated he would like to go back to Rick's thoughts on merit pay. Maybe eliminating merit pay is a bad idea, but he would like to see it cut in half. If they do this he would possibly drop his suggestion of touching the health insurance, he doesn't know if they could do both, but he feels they should do something. Neil also stated that he agrees, but he feels the health insurance should be the last, due to the fact that some employees are paying 20%. John stated if they were to eliminate the merit pay, in 2012 it would have been \$180,000. Neil asked isn't it more equitable to leave merit and look at the raises that we have built in. John stated he doesn't consider the 2% increase a raise; it's a cost of living. Neil is calling it a freeze; you take dollars away either way. The merit goes to productivity as opposed to across the board. In a time such as this he doesn't know whether the public message should be raises, merit is earned.

John stated in rough math if we take away the 2% increase we could save somewhere between \$125,000 - \$140,000 versus \$90,000 with giving up half the merit. The Chairman stated that they would then be impacting the wrong employees; John stated he is just looking at the math.

Rick stated he would be for taking away the 2%.

John reported that they would need to know when employees had steps and increases, etc. There will be some math involved.

The Chairman stated that he feels they would then be looking at meeting on Friday to adopt the budget with the changes. John stated that he cannot meet on Friday, the Chairman stated then Thursday.

John reported with making the change under the Legislative line the budget is now down to 11.6%.

Neil stated that these types of maneuvers are only short of furloughs or layoffs. We are not going to find those kinds of items that take a percent off by taking 5% off of our salaries. The only real one there is, is the quarter of a million dollars in the senior meal sites. Several people here have pointed out that about a third of our people that use them it is probably their best meal of the day for nutrition. This is a really drastic one to cut before we look inward both to ourselves and to the staff.

John stated with that said, even if we get into the single digits which he feels they can by making those three changes that have been discussed, we can't stop looking now, we can't stop talking about it now, we need to make some of these changes next year or else our fund balance will be gone.

John asked as far as staffing, who is retiring, should they put a freeze on hiring?

Neil stated that is our biggest driver.

Tracy Eldridge asked if he could speak and the Chairman stated that public comment is open. Tracy stated that he has no problem with them decreasing his salary and agrees that if they take away it should be the 2% COLA rather than the merit. It's not as personal a hit as far as the employees feel. Since he has been Superintendent for eight years, his budget for materials and etc. has stayed pretty flat. As they are all aware he is open to talking about consolidating, but they need to have a local conversation. They really haven't been budgeting enough for highways for many years and the constituents need to understand that there hasn't been enough budgeted for highways from the Federal Government right down to the towns. Nobody is innocent here; they all expect their roads to be plowed, the bridges to be safe, etc.

Tracy stated he has to figure out a way to do a better job, try to stretch the dollars better, there is always more efficiencies to improve upon. Tracy stated that they need to decide what services we need to provide and what our citizens want.

The Chairman stated the simply reality is that he has been here 20 years and it has been historically the position of the Board to balance the budget on the back of the County Highway Department.

Brian T. stated that he is not a big fan of raising the taxes but they have probably played this a little too close for too long. Again, he is not a big fan of raising taxes but we probably have done a poor job of putting a budget together that actually reflects the actual cost of running this Government.

Neil stated that one of the things is that there is a big difference between discretionary and essential. We sometimes blur the lines and we say the discretionary things in our budgets are Sheriff's patrol, highway etc. that doesn't make them nonessential and anything that is mandated we need to weed out that are not essential to us.

John stated that he has been working to get more money budgeted in the Highway budget and thought this was going to be the year. There are still increases in the Highway budget this year but they are not all that we need, it is not enough to keep pace.

The Chairman continued to discuss why we are in this position with our budget.

A motion was made to close the Public Hearing for the 2013 Tentative Budget by Mr. McGovern, seconded by Mr. Wilt. Carried.

The Chairman announced they will recess of lunch.

Reconvened at 1:00 PM.

John stated that they stand with some changes in the budget under the Legislative line and taking out the cost of living increase of 2%. He will need to meet with Personnel and get the new numbers. He recommends waiting on a resolution to adopt the budget.

The Chairman stated they had discuss format of resolutions to adopt and he wants to make sure everyone is comfortable with that format rather than list every individual line in the resolution to adopt for all the salaries that need to be adjusted; we will simply make reference to the salaries as a whole rather than separately.

The Chairman stated after speaking with Kim they will need to talk to Tracy regarding the Highway, those are personal service line items that have blocks of money in them and this will take some time to sort out.

John asked if anyone had anymore continued thoughts on their discussion this morning.

Brian T. stated that they need to continue to work through the budget as long as they have time.

John stated that he is hesitant to change any lines, such as travel, he feels they could have some savings here and there but he feels the time for those types of savings has passed.

Neil asked John if he would review the health insurance options. John stated that they had been offered two alternatives. The one that we went with, keeping all the numbers the same and then there was one that had a \$48,000 savings but it did drastically change the co-pays for the employees. Brian T. stated the other part of that was in talking to some of our employees that the co-pays would increase for some from \$25.00 up to \$200.00. After having those discussions with employees he began to realize that maybe our goal, or his goal, is to have a healthy workforce, we want their families to be healthy; that is what brings them to work. If what we propose to do is encourage people not to go to the doctor at all, that is not to our advantage.

Neil stated we have spoken before of logistics and that one is a logistical nightmare. To Brian's point of where to start budgeting, he feels in 2013 they have to start looking at the high deductible. Brian T. stated we need to look at what we have and compare not just dollars and

cents but services provided. Neil stated there will come a time that we will have to look at it as an alternative because we lose ground on what product we buy each year and a 12% to 15% increase in the overall premium. He would like to look toward a new and improved high deductible.

John reported that Burnham Financial discussed earlier in the year of a structured plan with possibly three options. If we work along those lines for next year there could be some savings or even hold back the increase.

Discussion continued on things that need to be looked at in 2013.

John asked if anyone would like to take over as Budget Officer, but he is willing to continue to learn this budget. He suggested that he would like an assistant and the money could come from his line with no budget increase.

The Chairman stated that he feels there are other people that could be part of this process, someone who has worked on the budget before or someone that is just good with numbers and has an interest such as Barry Baker, who has a lot of private sector experience. In many ways Frank was a great choice because he was right here in town, he was coming off of operating a business that was seven days a week; he had the time to start doing the budget forms early. He had the time to go out and meet with department heads, or come in and review vouchers on a monthly basis for all the departments, so he knew what was being paid out. The Chairman stated that he knew full well that he didn't have that kind of excess time to commit to it. The Chairman continued to discuss why it worked so well with Frank as Budget Officer.

Brian T. stated that the list he had in mind for today was not to try to fix all of this today, but to create a list of things, areas that we need to focus on.

The Chairman stated the point is if we're going to split the budget officer line or do something that is budget related then it needs to take place today. If it is something that John's thinking, like put someone in that has more support out of the finance committee, then that doesn't need to take place today. It is dependent on how you are proposing to move forward.

Brian T. stated he really didn't anticipate changing the number from where it is right now. In his mind he was trying to figure a different way to get there.

John stated that he is sitting here right now with his recommendation leaving it as is. All the low hanging fruit is gone.

It was decided that the salaries will stay at the 2012 rate with no 2% increases. Reduce the Chairman and the Supervisor's salaries by \$5,000 each.

Recessed until Thursday November 29, 2012 at 2:30 PM.