

2012

FIFTH ANNUAL SESSION

NOVEMBER 29, 2012

The Board convened at 2:30 P.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: Barry Baker and Pete Klein, Press

Public Comment: Pete Klein wanted to verify what the Chairman and he discussed the other day that if you shop on-line the sales tax that is collected is supposed to go to the county in which you live in. The Chairman stated yes, but the only thing is they are unwilling to make a 100% guarantee of it because they encounter some areas that have zip codes that are multi-county; that seems to be confusing for them despite everybody's best effort to do 911 numbering and get street addresses that should be trackable.

Report of Standings/Special Committees:
No reports.

RESOLUTIONS:

After the following resolution was placed on the floor; Mr. McGovern stated the guides are enjoyed and a good tool for shows.

RESOLUTION NO. 327-12

**RESOLUTION TO ALLOW THE DIRECTOR OF PLANNING, TOURISM AND
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TO REDESIGN THE HAMILTON COUNTY
TRAVEL MAP/GUIDE**

DATED: NOVEMBER 29, 2012

BY MR. MCGOVERN:

WHEREAS, the County's Travel Brochure, a map and guide to attractions, lodging and campgrounds, was last printed in the spring of 2011 and supplies are now gone, and

WHEREAS, a large-scale map is not information that can be provided more easily on a website, and

WHEREAS, consumers liked having a map in hand and its format is economically distributed and mailed, and

WHEREAS, the redesign needs to be proceed now so that reprinting can take place as soon as possible in the new fiscal year, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Director of Planning, Tourism and Community Development is authorized to work with Ad Workshop to redesign the Map/Guide and create electronic files ready for transmission to a printer at a cost not to exceed \$6,500, to be paid from Publicity Budget Line 6410-4010.

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

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

NAYS: NONE

Budget Review:

John stated that everyone has information that he had Barry from Real Property Tax Service put together. He would like to start with scenario A; John would call this the best worst case scenario that he strongly feels they should adopt. This is approximately a 14% increase. This leaves in the 2% cost of living for the employees, the Chairman and the Supervisors salaries as shown without the \$5,000 deduction. This also includes putting \$150,000 back into the budget in three areas that he feels are critical. One being taking less money out of the unallocated funds in general, adding \$50,000 to the contingent line, adding \$50,000 to asphalt for highway. The highway with the additional \$50,000 is still less than what Tracy originally budgeted for. The contingency we have already used up for this year; our budget is too tight to not have money sitting in contingency. We are going to be turning to reserve funds. He feels very strongly as we go into the next budget that we have areas that are flat and will not be enough to run the County. He knows that number is daunting at 14% but he feels very strongly that his scenario A is what they need to do. Continuing to strip our fund balance is wrong; it's not doing what we are supposed to be doing for the taxpayers. He knows this seems like a big change but this is the penalty for us having been conservative in the past. He doesn't think this is something that can be split between two or three years because we are going to be sitting at the same table next year even if we make some housekeeping changes. We need to put something back in this budget to be able to move forward for the next three or four years.

John had asked Barry to come to this meeting because he wanted to talk about the dollar amount per thousand. Barry stated the increase is actually .29 cents per thousand.

John stated our tax rate is good because those of us here and before us have been doing the right things. To cut our pay and our employees and have some of the towns with their 2% increases, we are going to move forward with a workforce that isn't going to be a willing workforce. This

will become a morale issue as much as an ethical issue as/or a dollar and cents issue. In his opinion it is not a way we move forward.

Rick stated that he is more inclined for scenario B.

John stated Rick wants to move on to scenario B. John reported that B does not have any money added back into highway, does not have any added back into contingency and does not have us taking less money out of our unallocated fund balance. B is pretty much where we started yesterday, with the 2% in for the employees, the Chairman and the Supervisors' pay stays where it was, it's reflective of where we were. If you look at the top number for Arietta \$1.88 versus \$2.21 it's a .23 cent difference.

Now on to scenario C, you start in Arietta at \$1.88 and it goes to \$2.05 showing a .17 cent difference. John cannot advocate for this one, this is the one that cuts the staffs pay. He still has to advocate very strongly for scenario A.

Ermina stated she doesn't feel they have the right to ask the employees to do more for less.

John stated what the Chairman said the other day that there is a point in time when we need to start moving some of the burden off the County that was placed there when times were good and possibly look back to our town boards and say maybe more of the percentage of our pay needs to come from the town budget, possibly some highway monies need to come from the town budgets as well.

Neil asked Barry if he had the occasion to be with other directors of other counties and where would you put us as rate per thousand. Barry stated that he did some research this past summer and our county tax rate is the lowest in the State. Our combined tax rate as a factor of the value of your home to the median price home is the third lowest in the state.

John said that one of the painful things in our budget this year was the fact we turned back as much money as last year to get that 2% to do what the Governor wanted us to do because we had that deal, mandate relief. The Chairman stated we are appropriating \$200,000 less fund balance in the 2013 budget without John's enhanced numbers and less than that if you made the changes.

John stated that he would like to eliminate scenario C from the discussions, is everyone ok with that, and the members stated yes. Neil stated the difference between the pain that we deliver in C and in A is quite enough. Bob stated that he is strongly against C. Rick stated he is more comfortable with scenario B with a few moderate changes. It was decided to get rid of scenario C.

John recalled that scenario B was where they had started on the day before, with a 2% increase for COLA, and the increase to \$30,000 in the Other Corrections Agencies line. The Chairman stated this is basically the budget that the other day they had discussed in general terms about the amount being raised by taxes was up 12.1% and this shows the change in the tax levy.

John stated the only difference between B and A is that \$150,000 is added in the three areas that they had talked about, the contingency, unallocated general fund and the road under highway.

John had spoken to Tracy and Tracy still has some creative ideas on what to do with money and equipment.

The Chairman stated that Tracy has been very passionate and creative in what he has looked at over the last forty-eight hours, generally believing that scenario C would have the worst impact on his employees; probably more than any other because of the working relationship between town highway employees and county highway employees. He feels it was critical that we not choose scenario C.

Brian Towers stated that he is the last person in this room in favor of continuing to so call “gut” the highway department but if that’s what it takes for us to get to where we need to be until we come up with a better plan next year, then that’s what it takes.

The Chairman stated the reality is that we talked a lot about the fact that we had really gotten drawn in to a real focus on the percent increase in the amount to be raised by taxes. That is somewhat natural because we have a tax cap that forces us to focus on that particular discussion. What John and others came away from that meeting realizing is that rather than have those conversations we really need to have more details in front of us in terms of what does this really mean to our tax payers. Because talking in percentages it’s not really telling or giving you a lot of insight in what you’re doing. John to his credit took three different scenarios, gave the numbers to Barry and asked him with all of his information, could he generate three spread sheets that he could give to the Supervisors so they will know exactly what the impact will be, dollar for dollar. Then maybe after that discussion their views on whether additional cuts are needed or to restore the 2% will be decided, once they’ve seen the numbers.

Brian Towers asked where we are with our fund balance, the Chairman stated, the fund balance has been trending down slightly. The Chairman was concerned with where we were after the last meeting because the numbers he initially received from Cindy showed a dramatically lower general fund balance and he did some researching to find out why. After talking with the Treasurer’s Office we have two good size capital projects that have not closed that go back to the general fund that we had anticipated would close during 2012. The two projects are the 4th Lake Bridge and the Fuel Depot. Once they are closed they will go back in the general fund balance and it will show a fairly stable amount from where it was last year, but it is trending downward. If we want to keep it flat we are going to need to start reducing how much fund balance we take. Discussion continued on the general fund balance.

John asked if anyone had any other changes under the expenditures in general. He would like to advocate a change in the contingency fund. Line item 1990.401 Contingency – this is where merit comes from, if any lines are underfunded this is where they transfer money from, John recommends this number to be \$265,000.00.

Under 1010.101 and 1010.102 – Legislative, Chairman and Legislative Board – John stated he understands the reasons for considering lowering these salaries. He feels the timing is wrong on this. This needs to be part of a better effort to do the cost shifts that should possibly belong to the town level. Rick stated he doesn’t want to hear the word cost shift, we sit here and complain day after day about the State shifting costs with the County and now here we are shifting the cost to the towns. If the towns feel the Supervisors are over or under paid they should address that on their own, not at the County level.

Brian Towers stated the fact is that we are unlike most of the other counties in that we do not share sales tax with the towns at the county level; with that said certainly the county has taken on things that other counties don’t.

Neil asked moving that \$45,000 .00 in or out what does it really do? John stated if he added \$200,000.00 the difference between scenario A and B you are talking less than sixth tenths of a cent.

Brian Towers didn't want to get bogged down in whether it's a 1% increase or etc., for him it comes down to does anyone on this Board think that they are over paid by 25% because he doesn't. There are several people in this room who make a very serious effort on behalf of this county and the region every day and he wouldn't say they are over compensated. If there are some people in the room that don't feel they earn their keep or that they have a job that pays them extraordinary income, then if you want to give your paycheck back you are more than entitled to do that. But at the end of the day if we collectively need to show our seriousness about keeping the tax rate down what we need to do is be more involved in the government and more involved in operating this government, we need to take a more active role.

John recommends they stay at the 2012 rate with no COLA. All point 1's have been restored to the original amount as well as the Elected Officials showing a 2% or 3% increase. John did not make any more changes to the general fund.

Brian Towers stated that he has a few questions. On line item 1340 Budget Officer, we did speak about an Assistant Budget Officer, John stated in the A scenario he added a Deputy Budget Officer line. John stated that with him being in Inlet that he really needs someone here. The numbers he has now is 1340.101 Budget Officer to \$3,500.00 and then created line item 1340.102 at \$4,500.00 for the Deputy Budget Officer who would be located in Lake Pleasant and be doing more of the light work and double checks for him.

Brian Wells asked John if he had anyone in mind, John said it's a little early right now to make that comment. He has three or four candidates that he is interested in and he is open for suggestions.

Brian Towers questioned Elections Account 1450, there was some discussion regarding the temporaries and the Deputy Commissioners and the amount of time that people were actually working and asked for a refresher on this.

John stated that they struggled whether to have them as hourly or per day or per election. Brian stated that is what we did with the mechanics.

The Chairman stated that he is not sure there's a similar ability to appoint the deputies at an hourly rate verses a salary rate, so he thinks they are stuck with salaries for the deputies. When we had the conversation with the Election Commissioners there were some significant differences of opinion of what the responsibilities of a deputy ought to be for \$3,500.00. We did address it with the mechanics in terms of reducing it and asking them to look at an hourly rate and keeping the budgeted amount in line with the amount of elections. I don't think we really reached that level and resolved the deputy issue. With temporaries there were questions about the way the temporaries got managed differently. John's recommendation splits that apart and creates separate line items for Democrat and Republican temporaries, but they left the deputy salaries untouched.

Brian Towers asked if anyone had any recollection of the amount of time the deputies are actually there. Rick said that he didn't. John stated it varies between the two, it always has. Brian T. stated but if they're a deputy and we set a salary then that is their salary. The Chairman said yes, if your premise is that the salaries are too high in this budget for the deputies for the amount

of work we are getting; this is the opportunity to adjust those salaries. In his opinion under the Election Law there is nothing you can do with it during the fiscal year once the salaries are set; this is your opportunity if you feel they are overpaid.

Brian Wells asked if it is mandated that their office be open forty hours a week. The Chairman stated no, he doesn't believe it is. His recollection is that it is mandated that the Board of Elections Office be open the same hours as the County offices plus there are certain times of the year when there are registrations and/or petitions to be filed etc.

Brian Towers stated the questions in his mind is; is \$3,500.00 the right number or is \$2,500.00 the right number.

Neil stated if his memory serves him right the deputy commissioners were decreased once before. The Chairman stated we reduced them about three years ago. Neil stated that he is ok with \$2,500.00 and Brian W. stated so is he. John asked if anyone was against \$2,500.00 and no one answered. John again asked how many were in favor of \$2,500.00. All agreed.

Brian T.'s stated under 1920.403 – Municipal Assoc. AATV Dues – that could be deducted. The Chairman stated that counties were initially asked to contribute, they are now funded differently, but we still encourage membership.

Brian T. discussed 6326's. 6326.403 – Local Government Review Board – he is one of the representatives of that Board and he feels \$3,500.00 is a lot of money. He recommends that they reduce it by \$500.00.

The Board discussed reducing OFA. The Board agreed OFA 6326.406 should be \$235,000.00.

The Board agreed 6326.407 – ANCA should be zero.

Brian T. stated that the Center for the Arts does a wonderful job, but he feels they could cut it by 10%. If anyone wants to, they can fund up their lines at the town level for them as well as for the libraries. 7010.401 – Center for the Arts – should be \$6,500.00. 7410.401 – Library – should be \$11,500.00.

The Board discussed the Memorial Day Parade. Brian T. stated that he would love to have the parade this year and he will pay for it. Neil asked what the money is used for; the Chairman stated the host of the Memorial Day Parade gets reimbursed some of their expenses, up to \$500.00. 7550.401 – Celebrations – should be zero.

Brian T. then asked about Fish planting. The Chairman explained that the money is used to pay the float plane pilots to stock the back country lakes. DEC provides the fish and coordinates with the pilots.

Brian T. asked if Soil & Water could get by on 10% less. He stated that he feels they are critical and they do a wonderful job and his community benefits a great deal from them. Rick stated that he has thought about it and he feels they need to have that discussion with them next year. The Chairman suggested a 5% decrease. Neil felt that 10% would cripple them a whole lot more. Tracy Eldridge stated that they have greatly helped the highway department especially with the hydro seeding. Brian Wells suggested reducing \$2,500.00 on Soil & Water which would make their line \$103,574.00 and \$1,000.00 less for Cooperative Extension which makes their total \$44,450.00.

The Chairman asked what was the difference between A and B in terms of amounts to be raised by taxes in dollars. Brian T. stated it was \$150,000.00. The Chairman stated that is roughly half back from B to A.

The Chairman asked for a 15 minute recess.

The Chairman called the meeting back to order. On your desk is a resolution that includes all the changes that were made to the 2013 Tentative Budget.

RESOLUTION NO. 328-12

AMENDMENTS TO AND ADOPTION OF THE 2013 COUNTY BUDGET

DATED: NOVEMBER 29, 2013

BY MR. FREY:

WHEREAS, the tentative budget for the year 2013 has been duly presented to the Board by the Finance Committee and Budget Officer and duly advertised, and

WHEREAS, a Public Hearing was held on November 27, 2012 as required by Section 359 of the County Law, be it

RESOLVED, that the following increases and decreases be made in the 2013 Tentative Budget:

INCREASE:

A1165.101	District Attorney	\$3,400
A1165.102	Conf. Secretary	\$1,161
A1165.401	Travel	\$1,000
A1325.101	County Treasurer	\$670
A1355.101	RPTS Director	\$236
A1340.102	Budget Officer Deputy	\$4,500
A1410.101	County Clerk	\$669
A1410.102	Dep. County Clerk	\$2
A1420.102	Ass't County Attorney	\$181
A1450.403	BOE Postage	\$2,000
A1620.102	Senior Custodian	\$1,399
A1620.103	Laborer	\$1,001
A1620.105	Senior Custodian	\$1,399
A1990.401	Contingent	\$50,000
A3110.101	Sheriff	\$727
A3110.107	Conf. Secretary	\$1,050
A3110.110	Sheriff Deputy C	\$1,404
A3110.112	Sheriff Deputy A	\$1,747
A3140.102	Probation Director	\$204
A3150.101	Corrections Officer A	\$1,079
A3150.102	Corrections Officer B	\$1,229
A3150.104	Corrections Officer D	\$1,136
A3150.106	Corrections Officer F	\$1,181

A3150.109	Corrections Officer I	\$1,093
A3640.102	EMS Coordinator	\$6
A3640.103	Fire Coordinator	\$6
A4010.105	Health Nurse #2	\$2,328
A4010.106	Health Nurse #3	\$1,716
A4010.123	Acct. Clerk/Typist	\$1,034
A4050.108	Admin. Asst.	\$1,455
A4050.125	Acct. Clerk/Typist	\$1,034
A6109.401	Family Assistance	\$10,000
A8161.101	Solid Waste Disp.	\$607
A8161.103	Solid Waste Disp.	\$1,651
D5010.102	Senior Acct. Clerk	\$1,452
D5010.403	Postage	\$1,000
D5110.101	Maint. Rd. Salary	\$19,753
D5110.404	Asphalt	\$50,000
D5112.203	Bridge Projects	\$25,000
D9010.801	Retirement	\$39,000
D9050.801	Unemployment	\$6,000

DECREASE:

A1010.101	Chairman	\$871
A1010.402	Board of Supervisors	\$3,104
A1040.101	Clerk of the Board	\$10
A1165.105	Account Clerk	\$2,197
A1325.103	Account Clerk	\$1,257
A1340.101	Budget Officer	\$2,500
A1355.102	Tax Map Tech #1	\$272
A1355.104	Tax Map Tech #2	\$461
A1410.103	Motor Vehicle Clerk	\$1,436
A1410.107	Motor Vehicle Clerk	\$1,413
A1450.103	Dep. Commissioner – D	\$1,070
A1450.104	Dep. Commissioner – R	\$1,070
A1910.401	Unallocated Insurance	\$35,000
A1920.403	AATV	\$500
A4050.101	Director Public Health	\$2,680
A6326.403	Adk. Park Local Gov. Review Brd	\$500
A6326.406	OFA	\$15,000
A6326.407	ANCA	\$500
A6772.101	POE Admin.	\$16,472
A6772.201	POE Equipment	\$600
A6772.401	POE Other Direct	\$4,000
A7010.401	Council on the Arts	\$500
A7410.401	Library Agency	\$500
A7550.401	Celebrations	\$500
A8730.401	Soil & Water	\$2,500
A8750.401	Cooperative Ext.	\$1,000
A9010.801	Retirement	\$35,000
A9050.801	Unemployment	\$6,000
D5110.404	Maint. Rd. Asphalt & Emulsion	\$50,000
D5112.2474	CR 4	\$275,000
DM5130.201	Mach. Rd. Equip.	\$75,000

DM9010.801 Retirement \$40,000

and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Revenues be amended as follows:

INCREASE:

A1255	Clerk Fees	\$5,000
A2260.1	911 System	\$3,000
A2665	Sale of Equipment	\$1,500
A3317	SM Law Enforcement	\$3,000
A4089.1	Econ. Assist. – WIA	\$18,500
A4609	Family Assistance	\$10,000

DECREASED:

A1610	Home Nursing Charges	\$15,000
A2260	Other Gov Drug Testing	\$2,500
A4089	Interlock Ignition	\$13,400

and be it further

RESOLVED, that the following amendments be made:

DECREASE:

County General Fund Cash Suplus	\$50,000
County Road Fund Cash Surplus	\$75,000
County Machinery Fund Cash Surplus	\$50,000

and be it further

RESOLVED, that upon the amendments, amounts as listed to be raised by tax, making a total 2013 Budget \$7,415,679 and pursuant to Section 360 of the County Law, the said tentative budget as amended be and hereby is adopted as the Budget for the year 2013.

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

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

NAYS: NONE

Recessed until December 6, 2012 at 10:30 AM.