

2021

SECOND ANNUAL SESSION

NOVEMBER 8, 2021

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 Abrams, called the roll with the following Supervisors answering:

Arietta	ABSENT
Benson	John M. Stortecky
Hope	Steven M. Tomlinson
Indian Lake	Brian Wells
Inlet	John Frey
Lake Pleasant	Betsy A. Bain
Long Lake	Clay J. Arsenault
Morehouse	William G. Farber
Wells	Nick Mauro

Also present: Barry Baker-Real Property Director and Beth Hunt-Treasurer

Public Comment: No one present.

Reports of Standing/Special Committees:

No reports.

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 283-21

APPROVING 2022 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

DATED: NOVEMBER 8, 2021

BY MR. FREY:

WHEREAS, the Hamilton County Board of Supervisors has received a recommendation from the Internal Management Committee to approve the 2022 Holiday Schedule, and

WHEREAS, the Internal Management Committee has reviewed the 2022 Holiday Schedule proposed by the County Personnel Office, be it

RESOLVED, that this Board of Supervisors authorizes the Hamilton County Holiday Schedule for 2022 as attached and recommended by the Personnel Officer, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Personnel Officer is hereby authorized to disseminate the 2022 Hamilton County Holiday Schedule as appropriate and that a certified copy of this resolution be provided to the Hamilton County Personnel Officer.

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

AYES: TOMLINSON, WELLS, FREY, BAIN, ARSENAULT, FARBER AND MAURO

NAYS: STORTECKY

ABSENT: WILT

COUNTY HOLIDAYS
2022

New Year's Day	Friday, December 31, 2021
Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday	Monday, January 17
President's Day	Monday, February 21
Good Friday	Friday, April 15
Memorial Day	Monday, May 30
Juneteenth Day	Monday, June 20
Independence Day	Monday, July 4
Labor Day	Monday, September 5
Columbus Day	Monday, October 10
Veterans Day	Friday, November 11
Thanksgiving	Thursday, November 24
	Friday, November 25
Christmas	Monday, December 26

RESOLUTION NO. 284-21

**AUTHORIZATION TO RENEW COUNTY HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFITS FOR
2022**

DATED: NOVEMBER 8, 2021

BY MR. FREY:

WHEREAS, a review of the current health insurance rates received for the year 2022 indicated a 18% increase in premium for Excellus BlueCross BlueShield Signature PPO, a 7.5% increase in premium for Excellus BlueCross BlueShield Signature Hybrid PPO, and a 4.9% increase in premium for Aetna Medicare PPO, and

WHEREAS, the Personnel Officer has reviewed the insurance proposals offered by Burnham Financial and suggests the following, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, Hamilton County will renew its current health insurance benefits offered under Excellus BlueCross BlueShield, and be it further

RESOLVED, Hamilton County will offer eligible employees the Excellus BlueCross BlueShield Signature PPO Plan and will again offer the Excellus BlueCross BlueShield Signature Hybrid PPO option, which offers employees the choice of significant savings by enrolling in a Deductible and 20% coinsurance plan; some examples of these include (In-network) Maternity Care (Office Visits); Outpatient Hospital surgery; In-patient medical care, which includes Semi-Private room, Surgery-Physician, Physical Rehabilitation, Skilled Nursing, and Maternity Care, and Inpatient Mental Health and Inpatient Substance Abuse care, and be it further

RESOLVED, Hamilton County will continue to pay 90% or 80% towards the premium cost for either plan, and be it further

RESOLVED, Hamilton County will renew its current health insurance benefits offered for retirees through Aetna Medicare PPO with no changes, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors authorizes the Hamilton County Personnel Officer to start meeting with employees and to send out Retiree Aetna Medicare PPO and Excellus BlueCross BlueShield information, effective January 1, 2022, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Personnel Officer is hereby authorized to disseminate this information as appropriate and the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors be authorized to sign the agreements with Excellus BlueCross BlueShield and Aetna Medicare PPO, for health insurance coverage for the year 2022 and the County Treasurer be so authorized and Personnel Officer be notified.

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

AYES: STORTECKY, TOMLINSON, WELLS, FREY, BAIN, ARSENAULT, FARBER AND MAURO

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: WILT

RESOLUTION NO. 285-21

AUTHORIZING A FIVE (5) YEAR CONTRACT RENEWAL WITH INFO QUICK SOLUTIONS – COUNTY CLERK

DATED: NOVEMBER 8, 2021

BY MR. WELLS:

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 235-16 of September 1, 2016 authorized a renewal of the 5 year contract with Info Quick Solutions, and

WHEREAS, this contract is due to expire on December 31, 2021, and

WHEREAS, Info Quick Solutions has agreed to extend said contract for an additional five (5) years, under the same terms and conditional along with an equipment refresh, with an increase in the monthly fee of \$200.00 per month for a total of \$2,200.00 per month, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that with approval of the County Attorney, the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors is hereby authorized to extend such agreement for a term of January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2026.

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

AYES: STORTECKY, TOMLINSON, WELLS, FREY, BAIN, ARSENAULT, FARBER AND MAURO

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: WILT

After the following resolution was placed on the floor; Mr. Wells asked if the County is paying for the site. The Chairman answered that it is not.

RESOLUTION NO. 286-21

AUTHORIZING LEASE AGREEMENT WITH WELLS FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR TOWER SITE

DATED: NOVEMBER 8, 2021

BY MS. BAIN:

WHEREAS, Resolution 218-21 authorized the purchase of Simulcast Radio Equipment for sites in both Wells and Hope, and

WHEREAS, the site to be utilized in Wells for both placement of the equipment and tower space for antennas is located at the Wells Fire Department, and

WHEREAS, Wells Fire Department has submitted a lease agreement to Hamilton County for use of said space, and

WHEREAS, that lease agreement has been approved by both the County Attorney, Charles Getty, and the County insurance carrier, R & K, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Hamilton County Board of Supervisors approve the adoption of this lease agreement by signature of the County Chairman, and the Hamilton County Office of Emergency Services be so notified.

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

AYES: STORTECKY, TOMLINSON, WELLS, FREY, BAIN, ARSENAULT, FARBER AND MAURO

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: WILT

After the following resolution was placed on the floor; The Chairman explained the need for the extension. Mr. Wells asked if the County was responsible for the trail maintenance on Blue Mountain. The Chairman stated that the County is not responsible but what we have seen is a lack of success in waiting for NYSDEC to do it. The County received a Smart Growth Grant to do trail plans.

RESOLUTION NO. 287-21

AUTHORIZING EXTENSION OF CONTRACT WITH WILDERNESS PROPERTY MANAGEMENT – TRAILS IN TO PROSPERITY GRANT

DATED: NOVEMBER 8, 2021

BY MR. ARSENAULT:

WHEREAS, the County has been awarded the Adirondack/Catskill Park Community Smart Growth Grant Contract No. C01054G Hamilton County Trails in to Prosperity, and

WHEREAS, Wilderness Property Management possesses the requisite skill, expertise and necessary licenses required to provide services to implement the Hamilton County Trails in to Prosperity Grant by providing and crafting a trail management plan and providing work plans required for the said Smart Growth Grant Contract, and

WHEREAS, Wilderness Property Management has agreed to render and provide the desired services to the County, and

WHEREAS, the Hamilton County Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution No 29-20 on January 7, 2020 authorizing the Chairman to enter into a contract with Wilderness Property Management which is not yet completed, and

WHEREAS, the contract in place with Wilderness Property Management expires December 2021 and both parties are in agreement to fulfill the work plan cited in the contract, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that with the approval of the County Attorney, the Chairman is hereby authorized to extend the contract with Wilderness Property Management through December, 2022 to develop a trail work plan for Hamilton County using data developed on site to address corrective actions needed resulting in a more sustainable and recreationally acceptable trail, and to conduct outreach to community stake holders to review proposed implementation and collaborate on strategies to maintain trails in future for remuneration in the amount of \$10,000 for completion of these services.

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

AYES: STORTECKY, TOMLINSON, WELLS, FREY, BAIN, ARSENAULT, FARBER AND MAURO

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: WILT

Tentative Budget Review:

The Budget Officer discussed how the budget would be reviewed, what the impacts are and discussed the Department Head Committee's proposal. He also discussed how the Board had decided to go back and make the current health plan the primary plan. They also opened up the option to sell vacation time to help pay for health insurance. He stated that we will end up being over the tax cap. He mentioned having to meet with Roberta Bly and Stephanie Hutchins in DSS. They had some increased revenues he needs to discuss with them.

Tracy Eldridge, Highway Superintendent, entered the meeting.

Mr. Arsenault stated that the County should become competitive salary wise. He liked the proposals from the Department Head Committee. He does think they should go somewhat bold for 2022. He wasn't sure if a good way to implement it was over a couple of years or all at once. The Budget Officer discussed the impact of doing it over a couple of years. If Hamilton County exceeds the tax cap, we would have to apply for an exception of why we remain eligible for certain funds. He stated he wasn't sure how going over multiple years would play out. He also stated that doing it all in one year versus spacing it out was a judgement call.

The Board discussed the Grade and Step system in regards to the Department Head proposal. How there are things that have effected where employees are at. The Budget Officer explained compounding interest and how the system needs to be cleaned up. The Department Heads that were in attendance discussed their idea around longevity. The Budget Officer stated that it's about preparing people to explain the change. Mr. Arsenault asked if the right thing to do was to do a large COLA and then work on the grades plus longevity when there was more time. Mr. Eldridge

stated that would be a good start. The Budget Officer stated that if they did 10% or 11% along with having stayed with the more expensive health insurance and opening up the ability for employees to use their vacation time towards it; that would show people way more than a modest first step. He feels that it would leave behind a very small, a much more discreet portion that needs future year work. Mr. Eldridge agreed and feels it would be a big positive. He also thought that the job descriptions need some work. The Budget Officer agreed. He doesn't think that they have stayed on top of the grade and step nor job descriptions. He stated that it has been a long time since they have done that on a regular basis. By not doing that, it is a big reason why they are in the position they are in. Mr. Arsenault asked if they did go bold, could they use more Fund Balance. The Budget Officer stated that they could but the Fund Balance and federal money are a one shot, assuring that they will need to go over the tax cap the following year. He feels they should stay fairly conservative about the Fund Balance and see what the actual cost is in terms of how much they need to override and do it big and bold for this year. The Budget Officer stated that they need to act like they are positioning themselves not only for this year but for next year and doing it in a planful way.

The Budget Officer polled the Board on the 11% COLA. The following answered in the affirmative:

11% COLA

Mr. Stortecky
Ms. Bain
Mr. Tomlinson
Mr. Arsenault
Mr. Wells
Mr. Mauro
Mr. Frey

Mr. Eldridge stated how he doesn't want it for himself. Mr. Tomlinson stated that it would be across the board. Mr. Frey stated that it had to be across the board. Mr. Frey stated that they had discussed this during the conversation of reducing the Board's salary. It is a symbolic move that doesn't mean much. He did say that it was a little different now when the Board is looking for money to fund the County Administrator position. The Budget Officer agreed. Mr. Frey stated that the Department Heads have been asking for raises since he has been on the Board and he feels this is the opportunity.

General Appropriations:

The Budget Officer discussed the County Administrator position. The general consensus was that the County needed one. A position that allows them to scale back the work on both the Board and Chairman. Different people can serve as Chair in where everyone thinks they have an equal shot at doing it. It won't make some of the Chairpersons responsibilities go away. It is simply to better position the Board going forward to have that central admin. Ms. Bain had previously brought up having an outside contractor to help look at some of this. He discussed the funding streams and how complicated it had become. He felt that they could also gain on the balance in terms of the

quality of information that one person can bring back to them. He stated that he wasn't sure that he made the correct salary adjustments. He had done a comparison with other counties on Board salary. It will be a history lesson for anyone coming into the position. He mentioned getting some outside help to complete the job description. Get an ad out there and talk to more County Administrators. Mr. Arsenault stated that he wasn't interested in taking a cut in salary. He doesn't think that the Chairman nor Supervisors salary should be cut. Mr. Wells stated that after the presentations he was no further along in what they could do because he didn't think either fit the bill. He was shocked to see it was in the tentative budget. He didn't think they had made it that far and he doesn't see that a \$100,000 person would be that valuable to the County. They are fortunate with the amount of work the Chairman has done for what he has been paid to do. He has also said that it's not fair to other Supervisors with the way things are structured so the Board was looking at a compromise. He doesn't agree with the \$100,000 salary. He could absorb the loss of the Supervisor salary even though he feels that he puts a lot into the County but also knows what other counties are paying their Supervisors. Mr. Arsenault suggested funding an Assistant at \$50,000 and putting the Board's salary back. Mr. Frey stated that he agreed with Mr. Wells in that if they find that magic job description and person there is still going to be a learning curve. He suggested they grow that line so it's there to use but maybe not at the full \$100,000. He feels they should keep the Chairman and Supervisors whole and have an Assistant at \$50,000-\$60,000. The Budget Officer discussed how \$24,000 was already in the 2021 budget. Mr. Frey discussed where the numbers would be including the 11%. Assistant to Chairman - \$50,000, Chairman - \$56,043 and Supervisors (as a whole) \$197,758. The Budget Officer suggested putting in \$50,000 with the flexibility of a position or shifting it to a contractual line for help with County Government. Mr. Arsenault stated that if they weren't ready to hire a County Manager then it would make sense to have a contractual line. Some of the Supervisors stated they would be willing to not take the 11% but they agreed on going across the board.

Recess for Lunch at 12:15PM

Reconvene at 1 PM

Tentative Budget Review (*continued*):

A.1040.410 Computer Maintenance-

The Clerk of the Board stated that the IT contract with MyTech is going well. They purchase blocks of time as needed and it's going great. She also got a proposal from them to do Cybersecurity and she will be reviewing the numbers they gave. The Budget Officer stated that this was a perfect example of how Departments are doing their own thing and this would be a way of making it more consistent. The Clerk of the Board discussed how it wouldn't be for all the computers and explained why.

Mr. Wells asked about the District Attorney's (DA) request. The Budget Officer stated that the salary had passed the Senate but not the Assembly. In the request he asked to add a second Assistant District Attorney (ADA) position. The Budget Officer asked if the Board would like to think on that and/or needed additional information. The DA had agreed to come back in to speak with the Board if needed as well. Mr. Wells stated that they had asked the DA what his caseload was and he couldn't answer them. The Budget Officer also had a conversation with the Public

Defender's Office regarding where the caseload stood and it wasn't consistent. He did not include it in the tentative budget. The Board agreed that they didn't need any more information. If the DA gets back to the Clerk of the Board and wants to come back in to meet with the Board they will agree to it.

A.1340.101-Budget Officer Salary increased back to \$6,000. The Budget Officer discussed that it wasn't a real number if the County decided to go outside to find somebody to do the job. He also discussed the job evolving with the hire of a County Manager.

Mr. Wells stated that Hamilton County will probably need to have 2-Full Time Assessors at some point. Mr. Stortecky asked that if there were 2 assessors would they do all the towns. Mr. Wells stated that they don't do that now but could in the future. He did give Mr. Baker credit for picking up the slack since Daniel Fyffe, Assessor for the towns of Lake Pleasant and Indian Lake left. Mr. Frey stated that his assessor for Inlet will be aging out.

A.1410.108-County Clerk Additional Hours. The Budget Officer discussed the County Clerk requests. She had discussed how she would structurally change the way that additional hours be dealt with and because of that she reduced her hours. He had put in this request but not salaries. The Board could have her come in to discuss how the additional hours will be impacted if they decide to only do part of her request.

Mr. Wells asked what the Personnel Officer had requested. The Budget Officer stated that she had two requests; one was a salary increase for herself and the other was making her part-time clerk full time. Mr. Frey stated that the proposed 11% would get her close to what she was asking for her salary. He asked if it was her going to 40 hours. The Budget Officer stated that it wasn't. Mr. Wells stated that after her presentation he wasn't in favor of the salary increase but was for the full-time clerk. Ms. Bain suggested increasing the hours but not changing the position to full-time. Mr. Wells asked if there were complaints regarding office hours and being available. Ms. Bain stated that there have been a lot. They discussed the staggering of shifts and how other departments have been doing that to cover office hours. The Budget Officer stated that they hadn't asked enough questions like how the clerk's job duties change going to full-time. They agreed that they would have Kimberly Byrne, Personnel Officer, come back to discuss at the next session date, November 10th.

Board agreed to have the County Clerk, Jane Zarecki, in to discuss her requests at the next session date, November 10th.

The Budget Officer discussed Board of Elections. Ms. Bain stated that there is a new Republican Commissioner and there will be a new Democratic Commissioner in May. They are already going to be getting the proposed 11% increase in salary and she doesn't want to see the Board raise it more because they are brand new employees. She feels that the salaries should be held flat. She also discussed the Deputy salaries. The Deputies they have, work full-time jobs elsewhere and aren't always available to work when needed so then temp help is there to cover those hours. She feels that this should be addressed. She gave an example of how the Department is traveling to Amsterdam every election to get the U-Haul when one could be rented from O'Connor's. She feels the Department should really be looked at because there are things going on that people aren't

aware of. Mr. Wells stated that he remembered they had looked at things before and found there were state mandates. The Budget Officer stated that in respect to salary, the Republican and Democratic Commissioner both have to be paid equally as do their Deputies. Nothing dictates the amount though. He discussed the history behind the Department in where the Deputies used to be full-time and Commissioners were part time. He also discussed hearing complaints about what the Deputies were being paid for. He suggested that the Board sit down with the Commissioners to discuss. Another suggestion was to adjust both the Deputy's salary down and the Temp salary up. Ms. Bain stated that she had conversations with the new Republican Commissioner, before she started, about the possibility of needing re-structure within the office. She has had conversations with her since and the Commissioner doesn't feel the job is as difficult as it was made out to be. Mr. Stortecky stated that this should be looked at differently. He feels it should be looked at as the Board is giving a raise to the position not the person. Ms. Bain asked how he would look at it at the town level. He agreed that you would lower the salary for the new hire but in this case, they would have to lower both salaries. Ms. Bain stated that they wouldn't. They would leave both salaries as is and then give the proposed 11% but not more like they were requesting. The Budget Officer stated that it was discussed but their budget request was only for 6%. He understands that the past Republican Commissioner had verbally promoted the idea that the positions were inadequately budgeted for. They all agreed with the proposed 11%. They further discussed the Deputy lines. The Budget Officer discussed hourly at the same rate of pay but up to \$3,000. He also suggested having conversations with both Commissioners about what they were thinking plus the County Attorney. They all agreed and would like to add the Commissioners to the agenda for next session, November 10th, to discuss.

Mr. Arsenault asked if they had discussed the Emergency Services Director position as full-time. The Budget Officer stated that they had not and the ad that was ran said salary commensurate with experience. He had bumped up the health insurance though because they were considering the position to be full-time and also made sure there was extra in Contingent.

The Budget Officer stated that he will be having a meeting that Friday to discuss with the Department Heads, as a group, the decisions the Board has made. He was hoping they would be able to help them with informing the employees.

The Budget Officer stated that he is working with Mr. Eldridge regarding vehicles. When they figure out what they can purchase in 2021 it may effect what they need to do in 2022.

A.4050.410-Public Health Maintenance In lieu of Rent. The Budget Officer stated that he wanted to have a conversation with Public Health in regards to the maintenance in lieu of rent. The actual for 2020 was \$43,915 and even though they hadn't figured out an amount for 2021 it was hard to believe \$44,000 will cover the cost in 2022.

Public Health Early Intervention. The amount put in the budget just like preschool is reflective of their best guess. If they go over, they will receive additional money back but it won't be 100%. The extra money would be coming from Contingent.

The Budget Officer discussed how the County had taken over the operation of what was called the Home Run Program. The contract used to be with Berkshire Farms to provide the programs in the school. The program is going well and the schools have been reporting that it is as well.

A.6100.401-Medicaid to State. The Budget Officer stated that this was all County dollars. Medicaid is a function of what's left over after federal and state funding. They are still in the midst, until March 31st, of the enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) and because of that the County's share is less. They don't know how long the enhanced FMAP is going to last. It is part of the human infrastructure bill. DSS got their number from NYS and it was their anticipation of what Hamilton County will owe for the year. He was less comfortable that the federal government was going to continue giving them the enhanced amount so he budgeted a little more. He was going to again have a conversation with Roberta Bly, DSS Commissioner, and Stephanie Hutchins, DSS Principal Account Clerk to discuss.

A.6290.103-Job Training. This is funded in the spring once NYS sets the allocation. They anticipate that the program will exist next summer.

The Budget Officer stated that the Historian had been in to discuss having a summer intern. He feels that the request for \$2,500 was more accurate and he will switch his numbers.

Recess until November 10, 2021 at 10:30 AM.