

**2024**

**THIRD ANNUAL SESSION**

**NOVEMBER 15, 2024**

The Board convened at 10:30 A.M. in the Supervisors' Chambers at the Court House, Lake Pleasant, New York, with the Deputy Chairman, Steven M. Tomlinson presiding. Mr. Tomlinson led the members of the Board of Supervisors in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The Clerk, Mrs. Laura Abrams, did the opening prayer and called the roll with the following Supervisors answering:

Arietta	Chris D. Rhodes
Benson	Phillip C. Snyder
Hope	Steven M. Tomlinson
Indian Lake	ABSENT
Inlet	ABSENT
Lake Pleasant	Betsy A. Bain
Long Lake	Clay J. Arsenault
Morehouse	Anthony Fernandez
Wells	Beth Hunt

Also present: Barry Baker-Real Property Tax Director/Budget Officer and Jodie Small-Treasurer

Public Comment: No one present

Reports of Standing/Special Committees:

Mr. Rhodes: Stated that the Sheriff and Deputy Loomis are continuing to work on the 911 call routing. Deputy Loomis has reached out to Herkimer County, and they are not ready to take all the calls yet. They must work with the telephone company and get them directed. They discussed last week that the 911 calls come from several different locations. They are on hold with that at this point to give Mr. Frey his request. They are supposed to be going back up to the Inlet shelter, possibly Monday, to finish the electrical work.

Mr. Rhodes stated that the good news is that they received the permit for the Morehouse Tower. He thanked the Clerk of the Board for her help with filing, and he hoped to get everything lined up to start in the spring for that project.

Mr. Snyder: Stated that he had spoken with the District Attorney and she wants to come in again. She also mentioned the Public Defender's budget being higher. He told her that she was staying at part-time, but she still wants to come in and discuss money. They further discussed the District Attorney coming to a committee meeting.

Mr. Tomlinson: Stated that Robbs Creek Bridge is almost complete. It looks really nice. It was

done in-house. He stated that there is a company coming in to do concrete work.

RESOLUTIONS:

**RESOLUTION NO. 355-24**

**AUTHORIZING THE 2024-2029 CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES PLAN**

**DATED: NOVEMBER 15, 2024**

**BY MS. BAIN:**

WHEREAS, Roberta Bly has provided the Hamilton County Board of Supervisors the Child and Family Services Plan for Hamilton County for the period from November 1, 2024 – October 31, 2029, and

WHEREAS, a Public Hearing was held on said services plan on October 28, 2024 from 1:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M., and

WHEREAS, based on the hearing participants, and input from the involved agencies the Commissioner of Social Services recommends approval of said plan, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Hamilton County Board of Supervisors hereby approves the 2024-2029 Child and Family Services Plan as submitted, and be it also

RESOLVED, that the Commissioner of Social Services, Executive Director of the County Youth Bureau and the Chairman of the Hamilton County Board of Supervisors are authorized to sign.

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

AYES: RHODES, SNYDER, TOMLINSON, BAIN, ARSENAULT, FERNANDEZ, HUNT

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: WELLS, FREY

**RESOLUTION NO. 356-24**

**EXTENSION OF AWARD OF BID FOR REGULAR UNLEADED GASOLINE FOR  
THE YEAR 2025**

**DATED: NOVEMBER 15, 2024**

**BY MR. RHODES:**

WHEREAS, Hamilton County DPW solicited bids for Regular Unleaded Gasoline per Specification No. 13-2023, and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 415-23 the Hamilton County Board of Supervisors awarded the Regular Unleaded Gasoline bid to Petroleum Traders Corp., and

WHEREAS, the referenced bid provides the bid pricing for a one-year contract with the option of extending the contract by one year if both parties (Hamilton County and Petroleum Traders Corp.) agree that terms and conditions remain the same for the duration of the extension, and

WHEREAS, the County Highway Superintendent has contacted Petroleum Traders Corp. and they will agree to a contract extension for Regular Unleaded Gasoline at the same terms and conditions for a one (1) year period, and

WHEREAS, the County Highway Superintendent believes it is in Hamilton County's best interest to extend the current contract with Petroleum Traders Corp. due to price stability resulting in no price increase in 2025, be it

RESOLVED, that the Hamilton County Board of Supervisors has determined that the contract with Petroleum Traders Corp. for Regular Unleaded Gasoline should be extended for a period of one (1) year subject to the approval of the County Attorney, and the County Treasurer, Highway Superintendent and Clerk of the Board be so notified.

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

AYES: RHODES, SNYDER, TOMLINSON, BAIN, ARSENAULT, FERNANDEZ, HUNT

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: WELLS, FREY

**RESOLUTION NO. 357-24**

**EXTENSION OF AWARD OF BID FOR ON ROAD DIESEL MOTOR FUEL FOR THE  
YEAR 2025**

**DATED: NOVEMBER 15, 2024**

**BY MR. ARSENAULT:**

WHEREAS, Hamilton County DPW solicited bids for On Road Diesel Motor Fuel per Specification No. 14-2023, and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 416-23 the Hamilton County Board of Supervisors awarded the Diesel Motor Fuel bid to Petroleum Traders Corp., and

WHEREAS, the referenced bid provides the bid pricing for a one-year contract with the option of extending the contract by one year if both parties (Hamilton County and Petroleum Traders Corp.) agree that terms and conditions remain the same for the duration of the extension, and

WHEREAS, the County Highway Superintendent has contacted Petroleum Traders Corp. and they will agree to a contract extension for Diesel Motor Fuel at the same terms and conditions for a one (1) year period, and

WHEREAS, the County Highway Superintendent believes it is in Hamilton County's best interest to extend the current contract with Petroleum Traders Corp. due to price stability resulting in no price increase in 2025, be it

RESOLVED, that the Hamilton County Board of Supervisors has determined that the contract with Petroleum Traders Corp. for Diesel Motor Fuel should be extended for a period of one (1) year subject to the approval of the County Attorney, and the County Treasurer, Highway Superintendent and Clerk of the Board be so notified.

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

AYES: RHODES, SNYDER, TOMLINSON, BAIN, ARSENAULT, FERNANDEZ, HUNT

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: WELLS, FREY

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 358-24**

#### **AUTHORIZING SEASONAL EMPLOYEES FOR WINTER SEASON 2024 – 2025 PUBLIC WORKS**

**DATED: NOVEMBER 15, 2024**

**BY MS. HUNT:**

WHEREAS, the DPW Superintendent has met with the Public Works Committee to discuss Seasonal Full Time Employees for 6 months for the 2024 – 2025 winter snow & ice season effective November 25, 2024, for the Public Works Department as follows:

William Babcock, MEO – Lake Pleasant at \$21.741 per hour  
Adam Desrochers, MEO – Lake Pleasant at \$19.50 per hour  
Richard Clawson, Trans. Tech - Indian Lake at \$20.379 per hour  
Paul Blanchard, Laborer – Indian Lake at \$18.81 per hour

be it

RESOLVED, that hereby the DPW Superintendent is authorized to hire the Seasonal Full Time Employees effective November 25, 2024 until May 25, 2025 as stated hereon and the Personnel Officer is authorized to add the employees as stated hereon effective November 25, 2024 and the DPW Superintendent, County Treasurer and Clerk of the Board be so notified.

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

AYES: RHODES, SNYDER, TOMLINSON, BAIN, ARSENAULT, FERNANDEZ, HUNT

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: WELLS, FREY

2025 Tentative Budget Review:

The Budget Officer stated that he would go back over all the changes made so far.

Revenue:

3389.0125, State Aid PS23-1057-E00, changed name to State Aid PSAP 911 Expenses and added \$163,770.

Mr. Arsenault stated that there are no legalities per say as to if the County were to use Fund Balance from the County Road Fund, the County can legally do that. His question is, is that something the County should consider? The Treasurer stated that the Highway Department has a very large expenditure, and she gets nervous using the County Road Fund Balance. The Budget Officer stated that the D and DM Funds are 56% of the County budget. They discussed Building Reserve. Mr. Tomlinson stated that when the Building Reserve Fund was set up, they discussed a portion of that being for the driveway project.

Expenditures:

A.1010.101, Chairman of Board, putting 3% back in, making it \$34,990.

A.1040.102, Clerk BOS, Deputy Clerk is \$72,607

A.1165.103, DA Account Clerk, has a request of \$2,880.

A.1170.106, Arraignment Stipend, that's now \$0.

A.1325.101, County Treasurer, \$96,000.

A.1340.101, Budget Officer, \$7,492.

Barry Baker, RPTS Director/Budget Officer, stated that he had been working with Personnel on a position in his office. They have added A.1355.103, Assessors Aide. That would allow the individual to do data collection and train to be an assessor, doing dual functions. It would be Grade 8, entry level at \$42,995. Also, adding A.1355.408, Automobile Expense for mileage.

The Budget Officer stated that there was some confusion about why there would be 2 open positions in County Clerk. He had discussed it with County Clerk and Personnel. A.1410.103, Motor Vehicle Clerk, is an open position that they are budgeting at \$39,160, which is the high end of the hire range for Grade 6. A.1410.107, Senior Motor Vehicle Clerk, the salary was removed. A.1410.105 is changing from Temporary Clerk to Motor Vehicle Clerk P/T.

A.1420.101, County Attorney back at request amount \$101,377.

A.1420.102, Assistant County Attorney back at request amount \$54,318.

The Budget Officer discussed the salaries for both Probation Director and Officer. He stated that with the raise, A.3140.103, Probation Officer would be \$64,506 and that is outside of Grade 12 Step 5. They further discussed how to fix it. The Budget Officer stated that the Probation Officer would be getting a 6% raise and a step. The Budget Officer will discuss it with the Personnel Officer.

The Treasurer asked if they would be funding A.3140.105, Probation Overtime. The Deputy Chairman stated that he wasn't sure she was definite in how she wanted to handle it. The Probation Director had discussed using Pretrial funding for early retirement. The Budget Officer stated that if you follow the handbook, they get comp time not overtime. The Clerk of the Board stated that with the County Clerk's office they call it additional hours. The Budget Officer asked if they knew the mechanism for how they would be paying and funding those retirement buy-ins and how they were going to set up the annuals. Ms. Hunt stated that the rate would be higher but the buy-in is the question. They further discussed.

The Treasurer stated that the County has always pre-paid the retirement bill in December because they receive a discount. It's about \$8,000. If she leaves that money for the retirement bill in an investment, she is going to make more than \$8,000. She would like to change it from pre-paying in December to paying it in February when it is due.

11:05AM Bid Opening:

### **Antenna Mounting on Inlet Monopine Tower #2**

Mr. Rhodes stated that it was for the antenna installation for the County radio equipment on Tower 2 in Inlet. He discussed the radio equipment being moved from Hope to Inlet.

1. Mid-State Communications  
185 Clear Road  
Oriskany, NY 13424

Total Cost Proposal:       \$24,500

A motion was made by Mr. Rhodes to accept the bid and refer it to committee, seconded by Mr. Fernandez. Carried.

2025 Tentative Budget Review: (*Continued*)

A.3640.101, Emergency Mgt PT Manager, Tim O'Neill. Mr. Rhodes stated that it has been adjusted because of trying to figure out what the actual hours he will work in this position will be. The Clerk of the Board stated that Mr. O'Neill was split between CO and Court Security. After discussing with Personnel, he will keep billing back to the other jobs and then at the end of 2025 we should have a better idea of how to budget for 2026.

They discussed A.3640.104, Emergency Mgt PT Director. Mr. Rhodes stated that the Director is an appointed position. They created that so it could be moved or re-designated at any point. That's up to the Board. The Deputy Chairman stated the next Sheriff may not want to do this.

The Board discussed the Public Health positions, including funding the per diem positions.

The Budget Officer discussed A.4310.110, Mental Health Therapy Aide and the request. The Budget Officer stated he wasn't sure the request was made to the Board. The request was to make the current Secretary the Mental Health Therapy Aide; moving from grade 5 to grade 12 staying at the current step. Lynette Greene, Mental Health Director, proposed moving the Secretary in at \$74,823. Mr. Fernandez questioned that it would be a person without experience in that job. The Clerk of the Board stated that she was the Personnel Officer for many years; this past year she resigned and was hired as the Secretary at Community Services. They further discussed her experience. Ms. Hunt stated that they could do that, but she would have to start at step 1. The Deputy Chairman asked if Ms. Greene had one of these lines that weren't getting filled in 2025, so she would have money to move. The Clerk of the Board stated that Ms. Greene had requested \$34,430 so she thought she would be hiring a secretary. They decided to have Ms. Greene come in to discuss it on the 19th. Mr. Arsenault asked how the salary was decided for A.4310.117, Clinical Social Worker. The Budget Officer wasn't sure but thought it could be Ashley Snow. She was the Mental Health Aide going to Clinical Social Worker. She comes in at grade 20 but she won't be able to get a step until next year. The Budget Officer stated she is at Step 3 and will retain that.

Recessed for lunch at 11:45AM

Reconvene at 12:20PM

Present: Steven Tomlinson, Anthony Fernandez, Chris Rhodes, Phil Snyder, Clay Arsenault, Betsy Bain

Also present: Barry Baker-Real Property Tax Director/Budget Officer and Jodie Small-Treasurer

Tentative Budget Review: *(continued)*

The Deputy Chairman asked if the Board received any reports from Veteran Services. The Clerk of the Board stated that she hears from Ian Pitcavage, she will have him in to do an update.

They discussed A.7410.401, Library Agency. The Board discussed the funding that is sent to the Southern Adirondack Library System and decided to have them in to give an update.

A.8020.101, County Planning Director. The request is \$70,236 and the tentative is \$66,178. Mr. Arsenault asked if the Board wanted to go to the \$66,178 or have the Director come in? Mr. Rhodes stated that he wanted to go to the \$66,178. The Deputy Chairman stated that this was very similar to what Ms. Greene was requesting and they are bringing her in. He thinks they should be consistent. The Deputy Chairman stated either both or neither of them in his opinion. He stated that he had heard enough already. The Budget Officer stated that he didn't have any supporting documentation. The Clerk of the Board stated that A.8020.103, Administrative Assistant, is short in the request. The Budget Officer stated that the Director didn't give her a step. The Clerk of the Board asked if that was intentional. They further discussed and decided to fund the step, it will be up to Ms. Wilt if she has an issue with her getting her step.

Mr. Arsenault asked what they decided about Ms. Greene. Mr. Rhodes stated Department Heads need to go through the proper channels; the Board decided not to schedule a meeting at this time.

Mr. Arsenault asked about A.7010.401, Council on Arts. The Clerk of the Board stated that it is for the Adirondack Lake Center for the Arts. Mr. Arsenault confirmed that it was the one in Blue Mountain that just bought Potters. They agreed to have them in to share what they are doing. They further discussed that they are non-profit and buying Potters. Potters had a listing price of \$1.6 Million. It would also be off the tax rolls. Mr. Rhodes proposed they cut it from the budget. Mr. Tomlinson seconded Mr. Rhodes suggestion. The Board agreed.

The Treasurer stated that there is a postage machine in the Tourism Office. She has had issues with no money being on the machine when she has tried to use it. She has had to go to the post office and use the county credit card to get postage. She hasn't had a chance to discuss this with Christy Wilt, Economic Development/Tourism Director, as to why this happens. She would like to figure out a way to resolve it. The Clerk of the Board stated that the County used to have a centralized postage account, would it make sense to fund it to cover all the departments that use it? There would still be the ability to run reports for everyone every month, so they will still know the usage. She also suggested moving the machine from Tourism to the Treasurer's Office. She discussed that when Tourism was in Indian Lake, they had a postage machine because everything was mailings and when the office moved to Lake Pleasant it came with them. Everyone started using it and created accounts, now it's a centralized postage machine. The Economic Development/Tourism Office goes to conferences and are out at meetings. Their office must be opened and shut on those days so everyone can use the machine. The Treasurer's Office is always open, and they would be putting money on the machine. The Treasurer stated that each department has a postage account and what she is proposing is to take that budget out of every department and create one centralized postage account number. The Treasurer further stated that there wouldn't be a budget impact. They need to leave some money in the department's budgets, they do po box rent and some also buy stamps.

Mr. Arsenault discussed A.9010.801, State Retirement. It went from \$600,000 to \$931,000. The Budget Officer stated that it wasn't budgeted correctly last year. Last year they budgeted basically what would have been the second payment only. They ended up making the early payment this year, like they have always done. They further discussed.



The Treasurer discussed investing some money for the D Fund. She has also discussed it with Mr. Eldridge.

D.5010.101, Highway Superintendent. Mr. Arsenault asked if they should give him his full request of \$130,000. Mr. Rhodes stated that Tracy Eldridge does a great job, but his hesitation was that the Board adjusted Chris Mitchell, Lisa Johnson and Mark Stuart last year because they were taking work off his plate. The Deputy Chairman had a conversation with Mr. Eldridge. He would really appreciate \$130,000. The Deputy Chairman stated that he thought the Board had missed over the years the opportunities to make it right with Mr. Eldridge. He has taken on a lot of roles over the years. Everything the Board has asked him to do he has. He is in favor of giving him his full request. Mr. Arsenault stated that he could see where Mr. Rhodes was coming from. Mr. Rhodes stated that they were delegating some of his duties to other people and getting them raises through the year. He is not questioning or doubting he does a lot. The Board went around the room.

Mr. Snyder -	\$127,500
Ms. Bain -	\$125,000
Mr. Rhodes -	\$125,000
Mr. Tomlinson -	\$130,000
Mr. Arsenault -	\$130,000

Mr. Fernandez stated that Mr. Eldridge never tells him no and he didn't get a raise last year. Mr. Rhodes stated that theoretically he didn't get a raise but what he was saying was that they took a bunch of work off his plate. Mr. Stuart took over the buildings department and got \$5,000. The Deputy was supposed to be taking over the workload and then Mr. Mitchell got \$5,000 to take some of his work. Mr. Arsenault understood but his only argument was that he never tells the towns no. Look at how much he saves the towns. They further discussed all that he does. The Deputy Chairman stated that he strongly feels that he is worthy of the \$130,000. The Board has been making corrections in the last couple of weeks, and he thinks Mr. Eldridge is worthy of it.

Mr. Fernandez - \$130,000  
Ms. Bain changed to \$130,000

The Budget Officer made the change.

The Treasurer asked if they were going to continue the schedule that's in place for the Senior Account Clerk, D.5010.106, for 2025. The Treasurer stated that it ended this year. The Deputy Chairman stated that he didn't know, he hadn't heard an update. The Clerk of the Board confirmed that the request was 30 hours, and the Budget Officer put in 35 hours. The Budget Officer stated that he assumed that it was going back to 35 hours. The Board will have to approve it past what they already approved. The Deputy Chairman stated that it's in the budget, but they don't have to spend it. If they wanted to follow the request, then they could reduce it. Mr. Rhodes stated that they should probably keep it just in case.

The Treasurer discussed investing Interest and Earnings for DM Fund. In the past machinery wasn't invested. She stated that the rates were good this year.

The Budget Officer stated that he had a discussion with Mr. Eldridge. The one thing that went down was the sale of equipment.

Mr. Arsenault confirmed that the Budget Officer would let the Board know what the numbers are after the changes made today.

#### Other Reports:

Mr. Snyder: Stated that the DA wants to talk about the DA position being full-time. He mentioned to her that it wasn't something that was going to happen right away. He couldn't see putting it in the budget. She is going to bring in her caseload list. Mr. Snyder confirmed the state was only giving them \$75,000 and the Deputy Chairman added if she is full-time. The Clerk of the Board stated that for the County to get funding for a full-time District Attorney, the Board would have to request it. Mr. Rhodes stated that the County would give up a certain amount of control by doing that. Mr. Arsenault stated that she could come in and make her pitch.

The Clerk of the Board confirmed that the Board agreed to the District Attorney's request for the Confidential Secretary's grade change. She will have to do that by resolution. She also confirmed that the Board wanted it effective January 1. She stated that she wasn't sure what the DA's request was for the ADA. The Deputy Chairman confirmed that the ADA had to live in the county. They discussed the hourly rate and number of hours requested for the ADA. The Treasurer stated that there is the residency issue. The Board agreed they wouldn't approve the increase until he was a resident. They further discussed the ADA. The prior DA hired him part-time when he had a full-time ADA.

Mr. Arsenault confirmed that they are going to adopt the budget on Friday. The Clerk of the Board stated that they have both public hearings. The tentative budget and the override, which they will have and not pass.

Mr. Arsenault: Thanked the Deputy Chairman for doing a great job in the Chairman's absence.

Mr. Fernandez: Told the Deputy Chairman great job as well.

The Treasurer stated that she wouldn't be here next Friday. Normally she files the tax cap with the Comptroller. She is recruiting Ms. Hunt and the Budget Officer to do it. She stated that she was curious why the Board pauses for a minute while they upload it to the Comptroller and then adopt it. She looked it up and it's written that way. They must file the tax cap before they can adopt.

As there was no further business, the Deputy Chairman recessed the meeting until November 19, 2024 at 10:30 AM.