

**NOT
APPROVED**

**Committee of the Whole
Budget Review**

John Margeson

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NOV 22 2002

ALLEGANY COUNTY
BOARD OF LEGISLATORS

Minutes of November 7, 2002

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Edgar Sherman at 3:10 pm, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Present: All legislators were present except Legislators Regan and Truax. Also present were Terri Ross, County Treasurer; John Margeson, County Administrator; Brenda Rigby, Clerk of the Board; and Adele Finnemore, Journal Clerk.

The meeting was turned over to John Margeson. He briefly highlighted the budget process to date, beginning with September's presentation of the 2003 Tentative Budget that called for a 29.7% increase in county real property taxes from 2002, to where we are at present following Ways and Means Committee's further cuts and proposals to bring in extra revenue (instituting a bed tax, increasing the mortgage tax rate and accepting solid waste from outside the County for a fee), all of which bring the projected increase down to 13.6%. Mr. Margeson then opened the floor for comments or motions from each legislator in turn.

Comments offered centered on the significant cuts already made and the fact that there really isn't too much more that can be done without possibly looking at eliminating non-mandated services and related personnel. There are still two resolutions to be considered at the November 12 Board meeting that will affect the proposed budget and they address a hiring freeze and possible rescinding of the vehicle purchase/lease ban. The Medicaid burden and possible further actions to push for relief were discussed. Also mentioned was the need to bring more revenue into the County, i.e. OTB as several surrounding counties have done.

Information was requested on some budget transfers that have occurred in 2002 and how stringently the Bioterrorism Preparedness Grant use is restricted. Also requested was information on what programs surrounding counties are considering eliminating to keep 2003 budget increases down.

A motion was made by R. Heineman, seconded by B. Reynolds and approved on a roll call vote of 13 Ayes, 0 Noes, 2 Absent to freeze all remaining 2002 equipment (.2) account balances and that further purchases or transfers would have to be approved by the Ways and Means Committee. ***Referred to County Attorney for Resolution.***

The next Committee of the Whole budget review meeting will take place on Tuesday, November 12 following the Board meeting, instead of November 8.

Meeting adjourned at 4:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Adele Finnemore, Journal Clerk

John Margeson

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ALLEGANY COUNTY
BOARD OF LEGISLATORS

Minutes of November 14, 2002

Present: All legislators were present except Legislator Myers. Also present were John Margeson, County Administrator; Terri Ross, County Treasurer; Brenda Rigby, Clerk of the Board; and Adele Finnemore, Journal Clerk.

John Margeson presented information on bondable items that are presently in the 2003 Tentative Budget (see list below).

County Road Fund

Town Bridge – T/Independence	\$ 125,000
Town Bridge – T/Andover	\$ 182,000
County Bridge – Independence	\$ 315,000
County Bridge – Grove	\$ 125,000
Total	\$ 747,000

Road Construction

Hot Mix Paving	\$1,055,245
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Road Machinery

3 Foreman Trucks	
1 Tandem Axle Truck	
1 Backhoe	\$ 122,725

Solid Waste Equipment

1 Truck Tractor	
1 Stationary Compactor	\$ 52,500
Total	\$1,977,470

The figures listed for Road Machinery and Solid Waste Equipment represent budgeted costs for the year if items were to be leased. If a decision is made to bond these items, these figures would also then represent the County's savings through the issue of bond anticipation notes.

The bridges were discussed. There is one other bridge on schedule for 2003 which is planned to be funded through the repair reserve fund. Others that were originally slated for repair were removed earlier in the budget process. If bonded, the \$747,000 would not be appropriated in the 2003 budget as there would be no payment

for the first year. This measure, along with the previous proposals made at recent meetings, would bring the projected tax increase down to approximately 7.6%. Now is also a good time to bond with the low interest rates. It was also mentioned that we can't rely on bonding every year to ease budgetary problems; there needs to be a commitment to downsizing.

A motion was made by R. Bennett and seconded by R. Heineman to bond the \$747,000 for the four bridges presently included in the 2003 Tentative Budget under the County Road Fund (Town bridges in Town of Independence and Town of Andover, and County bridges in Independence and Grove). The motion was approved on a roll call vote of 14 Ayes, 0 Noes, 1 Absent. Terri Ross, County Treasurer, will contact Bond Counsel to make the necessary arrangements to issue bond anticipation notes.

A motion was made by R. Truax and seconded by J. Graffrath to bond the entire cost and purchase outright the heavy equipment presently included in the 2003 Tentative Budget under the Road Machinery and Solid Waste Equipment accounts (three foreman trucks, one tandem-axle truck, one backhoe, one truck tractor and one stationary compactor). The motion was approved on a roll call vote of 14 Ayers, 0 Noes, 1 Absent. This brings the projected tax increase down to 6.4%. Terri Ross, County Treasurer, will contact Bond Counsel to make the necessary arrangements to issue bond anticipation notes.

A motion was made by E. Burdick, seconded by B. Reynolds to reinstate the original vehicle resolution which will institute a buying freeze on all vehicles (no buying or leasing new vehicles) except buyout purchase on leases due to expire in 2003. The motion was defeated on a roll call vote of 3 Ayes, 11 Noes, 1 Absent. Voting No were: Bennett, Crandall, Dibble, Graffrath, Heineman, Nielsen, Palmer, Russo, Sherman, Sobeck and Truax.

A motion was made by J. Graffrath, seconded by Reynolds and carried to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Adele Finnemore, Journal Clerk

John Margeson

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NOV 21 2002

ALLEGANY COUNTY
BOARD OF LEGISLATORS

Minutes of November 12, 2002

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Edgar Sherman at 3:08 pm.

Present: All legislators were present except Legislators Myers and Regan. Also present were Terri Ross, County Treasurer; John Margeson, County Administrator; Brenda Rigby, Clerk of the Board; and Adele Finnemore, Journal Clerk.

The meeting was turned over to John Margeson. Presented was Information from surrounding counties regarding what they are doing to try to control anticipated tax increases. Responses were received from Wyoming, Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Steuben, Livingston and Genesee counties and included cutting appropriations in the 2003 budget; increasing sales tax rate from 7 to 8% and dedicating the additional 1% to Medicaid costs; increasing the mortgage tax rate from $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1%; cutting personnel; and giving lower pay raises. Some of the counties surveyed have already instituted a hotel "bed" tax and one county had previously shared sales tax with the schools and recently phased that out.

Discussion ensued on further ways to cut expenses. With the hiring freeze approved at the 11/12/02 Board meeting, department heads need to be aware when they continue to request approval to fill open positions, that lay offs are still an option. Mr. Margeson was asked to locate a chart that was prepared previously that listed positions by department with their funding sources. This would be helpful when addressing possible downsizing, if not this year, then next.

A motion was made by R. Heineman and seconded by D. Russo to begin the process to implement a local law authorizing the collection of an automobile use tax at the rate of \$5 per vehicle per year. The motion was approved on a roll call vote of 12 Ayes, 1 No, 2 Absent (Voting No: Reynolds). (This increase is estimated to generate additional county revenue totaling \$180,000.) ***Refer to County Attorney to prepare resolution.***

Downsizing was discussed as a way of more permanently cutting expenses. Criteria will need to be determined when making decisions involving eliminating positions, such as funding sources, need for the program, and what areas would be hurt the least. An objection was raised that three new revenue streams have been identified in the form of new taxes and fees (motel bed tax, mortgage tax and motor vehicle registration) when we should be looking more seriously at downsizing by cutting services, personnel and vehicles. It was suggested that a committee be formed to look at downsizing over the next three years and phase it in.

Bonding of equipment was discussed and Mr. Margeson was asked to prepare a list of what equipment or materials could be bonded including totals, to be presented at the next meeting to be held after the public hearing on November 14.

A motion was made by R. Heineman, seconded by J. Graffrath and carried to enter into executive session to discuss the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person. Following the executive session, a motion to return to regular session was made by W. Dibble, seconded by J. Graffrath and carried.

2003 Sheriff's Salary – A motion to approve the 2003 Sheriff's salary as recommended by the County Administrator was made by R. Heineman, seconded by R. Bennett and carried by roll call vote of 12 Ayes, 1 No, 2 Absent (Voting No: Truax).

2003 Election Commissioners' Salaries – A motion to approve the 2003 Election Commissioners' salaries as recommended by the County Administrator was made by R. Heineman, seconded by B. Reynolds and carried by roll call vote of 13 Ayes, 0 Noes, 2 Absent.

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Adele Finnemore, Journal Clerk