

**NOT  
APPROVED**

*John Margeson*

**RECEIVED**

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING WITH DEPARTMENT HEADS** NOV 04 2003  
October 30, 2003

ALLEGANY COUNTY  
BOARD OF LEGISLATORS

**Present:** R. Bennett, W. Dibble, R. Heineman, S. Myers, K. Nielsen, J. Palmer, B. Reynolds, D. Russo, R. Sobeck, R. Truax, J. Margeson, B. Rigby, A. Finnemore, several department heads, representation from the AFSCME Unions

**Absent:** E. Burdick, C. Crandall, J. Graffrath, P. Regan, E. Sherman.

**Call to Order** at 1:42 p.m. by Kenneth Nielsen, Emergency Interim Successor for the Chairman.

The express purpose of the meeting was to invite department heads and representatives from the collective bargaining units to gather input on potential reductions to the 2004 budget. County Budget Officer John Margeson had received suggestions from several departments prior to the meeting, which amounted to approximately \$134,000 in savings (County Attorney, Public Health, Office for the Aging, Public Works, Fire Service, Real Property Tax, Mental Health, Treasurer, Probation, Information Technology, and County Clerk). Mr. Margeson thanked those involved for their efforts and opened the floor to department heads preferring to offer their suggestions for reductions at the meeting.

**Suggestions from Department Heads for Potential Budget Reductions:**

**Deborah Aumick – Youth Bureau:** Ms. Aumick presented suggestions resulting in a 10% reduction in the youth program budget or \$4,400 in savings. State aid has already been reduced and if she cuts any further, she'll risk elimination of the entire program.

**Tom Hull – Public Health:** Tom Hull, Vicki Gaeta, Teresa Claypool, and Pam Cackle went through their accounts line by line prior to the meeting and Mr. Hull presented suggestions totaling \$250,000 in appropriation reductions. This figure does not take into account the reduced revenues that will result from many of these cuts.

**Randall Belmont – Sheriff:** Mr. Belmont turned in his recommendations prior to the meeting. His reductions amounted to approximately 11% or \$111,000 in savings, and Mr. Belmont stated that if he cuts any further, it will start costing more and be detrimental to the department.

**Margaret Cherre – Social Services:** Ms. Cherre reported that she was unable to prepare a statement prior to the meeting, but her department has located approximately \$170,000 reductions in County costs.

Mr. Margeson estimated that these recommendations, along with the ones he received from department heads prior to the meeting, will trim between \$445,000 and \$500,000 from the 2004 tentative budget, representing an approximate 3% reduction in the County tax levy. When the tentative budget was filed, it indicated a 55% increase in County taxes. Through recommendations of the Finance and Ways and Means Committees and the suggestions of department heads, the tax increase stands at approximately 35%. All factions need to continue working together to find ways to reduce this increase even further. Mr. Margeson opened the floor to representatives from the collective bargaining units, but stated that comments needed to be limited to budgetary issues.

**Clark Brown – Deputy Sheriff’s Association:** Mr. Brown addressed the recent Finance Committee recommendation to abolish 12 Correction Officer positions. The Sheriff’s Office believes it will increase expenses. When it comes time to make a final decision, Mr. Brown requests those involved to be well informed on what the ramifications are.

The 2004 County tentative budget includes an increase of \$600,000 for health insurance costs. During the last labor contract negotiations in 2002, the County had agreed to investigate less expensive health insurance coverage. Mr. Brown cited Erie County’s savings of \$19 million when they put health insurance out for bid. Although Allegany County is a much smaller county, our savings could be significant. He asked that the County investigate less expensive comparable health insurance coverage and move forward toward a plan that’s equitable for everyone.

Another issue addressed by Mr. Brown is the County’s past practice of employing the services of a labor consultant. He feels the County should not have to bring someone in to perform these services when our County Administrator and Personnel Officer are capable of carrying out this function. The County has spent approximately \$72,000 in labor consultant fees so far in 2003.

Mr. Margeson thanked everyone again for their efforts and stated that the Finance and Ways and Means Committees will continue over the next two weeks to look for ways to further reduce the budget.

### **Executive Session:**

A motion was made by B. Reynolds, seconded by R. Heineman and carried to enter into executive session to discuss the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation.

The executive session was closed following a motion made by R. Truax, seconded by B. Reynolds and carried.

**Committee Recommendations for Budget Reductions:**

A motion was made by B. Reynolds, seconded by J. Palmer and carried to request that John Margeson contact Steuben County regarding their elimination of the Environmental Health portion of their Public Health Department, to determine the cost of operating the Environmental Health division of the Public Health Department and what percentage is reimbursable, and finally the amount of revenue generated. ***Referred to County Administrator.***

A motion was made by B. Reynolds, seconded by R. Truax and carried to request that John Margeson speak with the appropriate people at Casella Incorporated and arrange a meeting between them and the Committee of the Whole to discuss the possibility of leasing the landfill. ***Referred to County Administrator.***

A motion was made by B. Reynolds, seconded by R. Heineman and carried to request that the Public Works Committee investigate the feasibility of accepting outside municipal waste to begin as soon as possible and to close four transfer stations immediately. Voting No: W. Dibble. ***Referred to Public Works Committee.***

**Next Meeting:**

The Committee of the Whole will meet again on Thursday, November 6 at 3:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned.

**NOT  
APPROVED**

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**  
November 6, 2003

*John Margeson*

**RECEIVED**

NOV 07 2003

ALLEGANY COUNTY  
BOARD OF LEGISLATORS

**Present:** R. Bennett, E. Burdick, C. Crandall, W. Dibble, J. Graffrath, R. Heineman, S. Myers, K. Nielsen, J. Palmer, B. Reynolds, D. Russo, E. Sherman, R. Sobeck, R. Truax, J. Margeson, B. Rigby, A. Finnemore

**Absent:** P. Regan

**Call to Order** at 3:15 p.m. by Chairman Edgar Sherman, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

**Executive Session:**

A motion was made by B. Reynolds, seconded by R. Bennett and carried to move into executive session to discuss the proposed acquisition, sale or lease of real property. Public Works Superintendent David Roeske and Deputy John Mancuso were asked to attend. Following the executive session, a motion to return to regular session was made by J. Graffrath, seconded by B. Reynolds and carried.

**County Landfill Revenue:**

Committee members discussed possible ways of increasing revenue generated by the County landfill ranging from charging dumping fees, to taking out-of-county municipal solid waste, to leasing of the landfill to a private entity.

At their November 5 meeting, the Public Works Committee made several recommendations summarized below, some with potential revenue indicated. These measures could go a long way toward making the landfill pay for itself. There was some dissension on the issue of charging County taxpayers for use of the landfill when they've already paid for it through their property taxes, although it was mentioned that most other counties in the state do this. Taking out-of-county waste takes some of the burden off the taxpayers. It was mentioned that revenue from current tonnage should be addressed prior to deciding if and how much outside waste to take in.

- \* Acceptance of out-of-county municipal solid waste at \$25 per ton for up to 20,000 tons per year, bringing in \$500,000 annually
- \* Acceptance of contaminated soil at \$15 per ton, potentially generating \$50,000 annually
- \* Acceptance of recycling program tonnage from Cattaraugus County, yielding approximately \$40,000 annually
- \* Taking construction waste only at the landfill to expedite service at the transfer stations
- \* Closing two transfer stations
- \* Discussed raising County permit fees to \$25 annually and/or charging for dumping by the bag or on a punch card system, charging tipping fees for villages' waste (still in discussion stage)

The current landfill permit allows acceptance of solid waste at a rate of up to 218 tons per day (56,000 tons per year). We presently average 140 tons per day (36,000 tons per year). Based on permit allowances, the landfill has a lifespan of ten years. There was discussion on applying for permit modifications to allow up to 400 tons per day thereby increasing revenue significantly, but also reducing the lifespan of the landfill. Operations are also less efficient at the existing permit level. The process could take between six to eight months.

A motion was made R. Heineman and seconded by S. Myers to recommend the County begin accepting municipal solid waste from outside of the county at a rate of \$25 per ton to generate revenue up to \$500,000 per year. The recommendation was approved on a roll call vote of 14 Ayes, 0 Noes, 1 Absent. ***Refer to Ways and Means***

A motion was made by B. Reynolds and seconded by S. Myers to hold a roll call vote to gauge interest in the issue of increasing the landfill permit. This is not an actual recommendation at this point. The vote resulted in 11 Ayes, 2 Noes, 2 Absent. Voting No: Bennett, Dibble.

A special Ways and Means Committee meeting was scheduled for Monday, November 10 after the Board meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.

**NOT  
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*John Margeson*

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DEC 15 2003

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

December 10, 2003

ALLEGANY COUNTY  
BOARD OF LEGISLATORS

**Present:** R. Bennett, E. Burdick, C. Crandall, W. Dibble, J. Graffrath, R. Heineman, S. Myers, K. Nielsen, J. Palmer, D. Russo, E. Sherman, R. Sobeck, R. Truax, J. Margeson, D. Guiney, B. Rigby, A. Finnemore, Several Department Heads and Members of the Public

**Absent:** P. Regan, B. Reynolds

**Call to Order** at 5:00 p.m. by Chairman Edgar Sherman, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

The purpose of this Committee of the Whole meeting, along with the next two meetings scheduled for December 11 and 17, is to continue working on the 2004 County Tentative Budget in an attempt to further reduce the current 29.8% tax levy increase. Chairman Sherman opened the meeting for suggestions from legislators.

**Cell Phone Account**

The County cell phones, accounting for annual budgetary expense of approximately \$34,000, were discussed. There was a recent audit performed on the past year's individual calling records of the 162-164 cell phones. Concern was raised regarding the large number of phones assigned and obvious misuse by a few employees. The current cell phone contract expires at the end of the year.

A motion was made by R. Sobeck, seconded by J. Graffrath to cancel the current cell phone contract, study all the options, and try to find the best rates available; then to establish a new contract early in the new year and assign phones on a per need basis.

Legislators agree there is abuse, but are very reluctant to leave certain employees without cell phone contact, i.e. nurses and CPS employees. The Technology Committee will meet December 17 at 2:00 pm to discuss the cell phone issue and will make a recommendation at the Committee of the Whole meeting that immediately follows. R. Sobeck withdrew his motion to allow Technology Committee time to review.

**County Participation in WNY Off-Track Betting**

Legislator Palmer has investigated the possibility of Allegany County becoming a participating member of OTB of Western New York. According to OTB by-laws, Allegany County can participate, does not need to have an outlet to participate, and there is no monetary obligation. Participation would generate approximately \$50,000 in revenue for the County and is based on population. Almost all counties in Western New York are already participating members.

**County Vehicle Use**

Concern was raised regarding County employees driving County-owned vehicles home, also that only a limited number of employees should need to, and the perception that some are using County vehicles for personal use. One alternative previously considered by the Transportation Committee was maintaining a motor pool at the proposed repair shop site near the Soil & Water Conservation shop, with employees driving their own cars back and forth from home to that point. Even though the repair shop proposal is no longer being considered, a similar scenario for the motor pool could still be viable. The Transportation Committee will continue to investigate.

### **County Employee Health Insurance Contributions**

Legislator Graffrath suggested that due to the increased costs for health insurance, the County should investigate the possibility of requesting employees to contribute \$100 per month toward their health insurance benefits. This could generate savings of approximately \$600,000 per year.

### **Further Reductions in Departmental Budgets**

It was suggested by Legislator Dibble that several Department Heads be invited to attend the next two scheduled Committee of the Whole meetings for input on additional personnel reductions. He would like to see the larger departments cut personnel costs by an additional 10%.

Legislator Russo recommended that the County Administrator be instructed to have each department cut an additional 10% from their budgets. Some of the other counties have used this strategy. Following discussion and another recommended figure of 5%, Mr. Margeson pointed out that he didn't feel this was feasible. No action taken.

### **Additional Bondable Expenses**

The possibility of bonding additional expenses such as asphalt was questioned. Paving is usually paid for with CHIPS revenue and it has already been planned to bond bridge construction expenses for 2004. CHIPS dollars can only be used for capital projects. Bonding the paving would free up CHIPS funds for bridges, but wouldn't make any difference in the budget. County Attorney Dan Guiney was requested to investigate what else, if anything, CHIPS funds can be used for.

### **Compensatory Time, Overtime, and Sick Time Expenses**

Legislator Burdick suggested that approximately \$1,000,000 could be cut from the budget if overtime was eliminated, or if necessary, comp time at regular rate be used with no back-fill and no exceptions. No action taken.

### **Increased Retirement Costs**

The County's pension contribution has increased drastically to \$2.6 million, with a minimum payment of \$1.9 million. Mr. Margeson recommends that the balance be bonded. The entire amount cannot be bonded.

### **Federal Flood Damage Reimbursement**

County Administrator Margeson reported that the County is expecting to receive \$511,000 from the Federal government related to this summer's flood damage. A portion will have to be reported on 2003 books, but we may be able to use some as 2004 revenue (Mr. Margeson will report how much at the next meeting). Some of this money has already been received.

### **Percentage of Proposed Tax Increase From Unfunded Mandates**

Legislator Sobeck questioned the County Administrator on what percentage of the proposed increase in the property tax levy is due to unfunded mandates. Mr. Margeson stated that at least 20 percent of the 29 percent increase is a result of unfunded mandates experienced just this year, i.e. Medicaid and NYS pension contribution.

### **Executive Session**

A motion was made by K. Nielsen, seconded by R. Sobeck and carried to go into executive session to discuss matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation. Following the executive session, a motion to return to regular session was made by R. Truax, seconded by J. Graffrath and carried.

### **Elimination of Additional Positions**

A motion was made by C. Crandall, seconded by R. Bennett and carried to ask the County Administrator to investigate the financial impact of cutting 30 additional positions County-wide and discuss with department heads what the impact of losing that many positions would be on County operations and services offered.

***Referred for Resolution***

### **Off-Track Betting**

A motion was made by J. Palmer, seconded by R. Bennett and carried to investigate the feasibility of Allegany County becoming a participating member of OTB of WNY. Anticipated proceeds of \$50,000 will be included in the 2004 Budget Revenues under Account A01.1150. Voting No: Nielsen, Truax.

***Referred for Resolution***

### **Elimination of Additional Job Trak Position**

A motion was made by R. Truax, seconded by W. Dibble and carried to eliminate an additional position of Job Trak Supervisor in the Department of Social Services. (The recently pre-filed resolution for consideration at the 12/18/03 Board meeting involving elimination of one Job Trak position will be amended to indicate two positions.) Amendments to the 2004 Tentative Budget are:

Appropriation Account	A6010.101	Reduce by \$29,412
Revenue Account	A10.3610.00	Reduce by \$ 7,353
Revenue Account	A11.4610.00	Reduce by \$14,706

Net Impact on County Budget is a savings of \$7,353.

***Referred for Resolution***

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned following a motion made by J. Graffrath, seconded by R. Heineman and carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Adele Finnemore, Deputy Clerk of the Board



NOT  
APPROVED

John Margeson

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DEC 16 2003

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
December 11, 2003

ALLEGANY COUNTY  
BOARD OF LEGISLATORS

**Present:** R. Bennett, E. Burdick, C. Crandall, W. Dibble, J. Graffrath, R. Heineman, S. Myers, K. Nielsen, J. Palmer, B. Reynolds, D. Russo, E. Sherman, R. Sobeck, R. Truax, J. Margeson, D. Guiney, B. Rigby, A. Finnemore, Several Department Heads and Members of the Public

**Absent:** P. Regan

**Call to Order** at 3:00 p.m. by Chairman Edgar Sherman, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

The purpose of this Committee of the Whole meeting, along with the next one scheduled for December 17, is to continue working on the 2004 County Tentative Budget in an attempt to further reduce the current 29.8% tax levy increase. Chairman Sherman opened the meeting for suggestions from legislators.

**Human Services Committee Recommendations**

R. Truax presented the following recommendations from Human Services. (These items were previously eliminated from the Social Services budget; however, additional non-County funding has been located, and it is requested that they be reinstated.)

Social Services requests amendments to their 2004 budget as a result of obtaining 100 percent funding to enhance their Child Care Subsidy Operations.

- \* Increase Appropriation Account No. A6010.201, Equipment, by \$54,000  
(6 computers, monitors, keyboards, mice; 2 network printers;  
4 locking file cabinets; software/programming)
- \* Increase Appropriation Account No. A6010.416, Telephone, by \$11,000  
(Connect CAP phones to County system)
- \* Increase Revenue Account No. A11.4610.00, Federal Reimbursement, by \$65,000

This recommendation was approved following a motion made by R. Truax, seconded by R. Bennett and carried. **Referred for Resolution**

Social Services requests amendments to their 2004 budget as a result of obtaining 100 percent funding for staff development coordinator services, which is a contractual part-time position incurring no additional costs for fringe benefits, telephone or supplies, etc.

- \* Increase Appropriation Account No. A6010.421, Education/Schools, by \$22,720
- \* Increase Revenue Account No. A10.3610.00, State Reimbursement, by \$11,360
- \* Increase Revenue Account No. A11.4610.00, Federal Reimbursement, by \$11,360

This recommendation was approved following a motion made by R. Truax, seconded by W. Dibble and carried. **Referred for Resolution**

### Reduction in Size of Legislative Board

A motion was made by R. Sobeck and seconded by D. Russo to reduce the number of County legislators from 15 to 9, with one being elected from each district and four at-large members, and include that there be an election for County Executive; authorize the County Attorney to prepare the necessary paperwork. This process would require public hearings and a referendum and may take approximately a year to complete. Following discussion, the motion was defeated by a roll call vote of 3 Ayes, 11 Noes, 1 Absent. Voting Aye: Graffrath, Russo, Sobeck.

### Bonding of Additional Expenses

In response to R. Heineman's request to investigate the feasibility of using CHIPS funds to pay the principal of past capital projects bonded to date and bonding 2004 asphalt costs (\$1 million), County Administrator Margeson reported that the County Attorney recommends consulting bond counsel. The County currently pays about \$750,000 annually in principal alone. More information will be available at the December 17 meeting.

### County Administrator's Recommendations

Mr. Margeson reported that the County has experienced an increase in total taxable value of \$33 million, bringing the total to \$1,366,619,865. Therefore, based on the point the preliminary budget is at right now, the 29.8 percent tax levy increase would actually calculate to a 27 percent increase.

Regarding the use of a portion of FEMA monies received for 2003 flood damage repair for 2004 revenue, the only amounts that could be used would be for work actually performed in 2004.

Mr. Margeson made the following suggestions for consideration:

- \* Appropriate \$250,000 from 2002 County Road Fund Balance to 2004 Revenue
- \* Appropriate \$50,000 from 2002 Road Machinery Fund Balance to 2004 Revenue
- \* Appropriate \$50,000 Anticipated Aid from OTB Surtax to 2004 Revenue Account A01.1150
- \* Appropriate \$60,000 Anticipated Federal Aid, FEMA, for flood damage repair to be performed in FY 2004
- \* Increase Revenue Account DM07.2665.00, Sale of Equipment, by \$17,000 as a result of identifying some additional equipment that could be sold at auction in 2004
- \* Reduce Social Services Personnel Services by \$12,000, specific accounts to be determined by the County Treasurer (this includes, among other items, the second Job Trak position elimination approved at the December 10 meeting)

These amendments result in budget reductions totaling approximately \$469,000 or a reduction of 2.93 in the tax levy increase (reducing the average full value tax rate from 14.24 per thousand indicated on the 2004 preliminary budget to 13.92 per thousand – but still an increase of 2.68 over 2003). These recommendations were accepted following a motion made by E. Burdick, seconded by K. Nielsen and carried. ***Referred for Resolution***

### **Soil & Water Conservation and Cooperative Extension Appropriations**

A motion was made by R. Bennett, seconded by B. Reynolds and carried to reduce the 2004 Appropriations to Soil & Water Conservation District and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Allegany County by 10 percent each.

- \* Reduce Appropriation Account No. A8730.492, Soil & Water Conservation District Management Contract, by \$9,000
- \* Reduce Appropriation Account No. A8751.492, Agriculture & Livestock – Cooperative Extension, by \$21,000

### ***Referred for Resolution***

### **Executive Session**

A motion was made by B. Reynolds, seconded by J. Palmer and carried to move into Executive Session to discuss matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation. Following the Executive Session, a motion to return to regular session was made by J. Graffrath, seconded by W. Dibble and carried.

### **Solid Waste Permit and Tipping Fees**

A motion was made by J. Graffrath, and seconded by B. Reynolds to institute additional solid waste permit and tipping fees as well as the \$60 per year residential permit fee recently recommended by the Public Works Committee. These fees will include:

- \* \$2500 for Commercial Haulers bringing over 1000 tons
- \* \$ 500 for Curb-Side Pick Up and Municipalities
- \* \$ 100 for Commercial Mid-Range Companies / Commercial Construction & Demolition (C&D)  
(Haulers will have to be identified)

The motion was carried on a roll call vote of 8 Ayes, 6 Noes, 1 Absent. Voting No: Bennett, Crandall, Dibble, Russo, Sobeck, Truax. ***Referred for Resolution***

### **Additional Departmental Budget Reductions**

W. Dibble compiled a list of departments, including number of employees in each, and requested that J. Margeson contact department heads regarding additional cost savings and/or personnel cuts before the next Committee of the Whole meeting on December 17.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned following a motion made by R. Heineman, seconded by R. Truax and carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Adele Finnemore, Deputy Clerk of the Board

# MEMORANDUM OF EXPLANATION

Intro. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Clerk's Use Only)

COMMITTEE: Human Services Committee

Date: December 10, 2003

The Department of Social Services is seeking permission to modify our 2004 budget as a result of obtaining 100% funding for staff development coordinator services. This is a contractual part-time position, incurring no additional costs for fringe benefits, telephone, supplies, etc.

<u>Line Item Affected</u>	<u>Amount</u>
6010.421 Education/Schools	+ \$22,720
3610 State reimbursement	+\$11,360
4610 Federal reimbursement	<u>+11,360</u>
Total revenues	+\$22,720

Note that I cannot determine that the appropriate amounts (totaling \$17,040) were previously subtracted from these revenue lines when the \$22,720 was removed from appropriations. This must be accurately determined prior to the revenue lines being increased.

FISCAL IMPACT: There is no impact on the County budget, as this service will be funded 100% through state & federal funding.

For further information regarding this matter contact

Margaret A. Cherre, Department of Social Services  
Name & Department

268-9303  
Telephone

## MEMORANDUM OF EXPLANATION

Intro. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Clerk's Use Only)

COMMITTEE: Human Services Committee

Date: December 10, 2003

The Department of Social Services is seeking permission to modify our 2004 budget as a result of obtaining 100% funding to enhance our child care subsidy operations.

<u>Line Item Affected</u>	<u>Amount</u>
6010.201 Computer Equipment	
6 computers, monitors, keyboards, mice	+\$9,000
2 network printers	+4,000
4 locking file cabinets	+1,200
software/programming	<u>+39,800</u>
	+\$54,000
6010.416 Connect CAP phones to County system	+11,000
Total Appropriations	+\$65,000
4610 Federal reimbursement	+\$65,000

FISCAL IMPACT: There is no impact on the County budget, as these costs will be funded 100% through federal funding.

For further information regarding this matter contact

Margaret A. Cherre, Department of Social Services  
Name & Department

268-9303  
Telephone

*John Margeson*

**NOT  
APPROVED**

**RECEIVED**

DEC 30 2003

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**  
December 17, 2003

ALLEGANY COUNTY  
BOARD OF LEGISLATORS

**Present:** R. Bennett, E. Burdick, C. Crandall, W. Dibble, J. Graffrath, R. Heineman, S. Myers, J. Palmer, B. Reynolds, D. Russo, E. Sherman, R. Sobeck, R. Truax, J. Margeson, D. Guiney, B. Rigby, A. Finnemore, Several Department Heads and Members of the Public

**Absent:** K. Nielsen, P. Regan

**Call to Order** at 3:45 p.m. by Chairman Edgar Sherman, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

The purpose of this Committee of the Whole meeting is to discuss adjustments to the Tentative 2004 County Budget in an attempt to further reduce the current tax levy increase. Chairman Sherman opened the meeting for suggestions from legislators.

**Inter-County and NYSAC Dues**

A motion was made by Legislator Burdick and seconded by Legislator Bennett to reinstate the membership dues for the Inter-County Association of Western New York and New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) in the Tentative 2004 County Budget. All expenses for legislators' attendance at these meetings were previously removed from the budget, but there was a consensus that the County should maintain ties with the two organizations. Only the membership dues portion of the total expense was requested to be reinstated. The motion was carried on a roll call vote of 10 Ayes, 3 Noes, 2 Absent. Voting No: Graffrath, Myers, Truax. ***Referred for Resolution***

**County Cell Phones**

A motion was made by Legislator Crandall and seconded by Legislator Burdick to remove from the Tentative 2004 County Budget all funds currently appropriated for cell phone expenses except those reimbursing the Central Service Cell Phone Account. Recommendations made by the Technology Committee were to collect all County cell phones, reassign very discriminately by need with new numbers attached eliminating 64 phones from the current 164, and establish a new cell phone policy. This should amount to approximately an \$8000 reduction in budget appropriations. The motion was carried on a roll call vote of 11 Ayes, 2 Noes, 2 Absent. Voting No: Graffrath, Myers. ***Referred for Resolution***

**CHIPS Funding and Bonding**

A motion was made by Legislator Heineman and seconded by Legislator Burdick to use \$140,000 of the anticipated 2004 CHIPS funds toward the principal payments on previously bonded capital projects and reduce the \$1.2 million planned for road asphalt by \$140,000. Following discussion including the need to send a message to the Governor that this is the way we are forced to deal with increased Medicaid costs, and concern that this may impact future CHIPS funding, the motion was carried on a roll call vote of 9 Ayes, 4 Noes, 2 Absent. Voting No: Dibble, Graffrath, Sherman, Truax. ***Referred for Resolution***

### Office of the Sheriff – Lieutenant Position

A motion was made by Legislator Reynolds and seconded by Legislator Heineman to remove funding presently in the Tentative 2004 County Budget for Lieutenant salary. This will not eliminate a position, as the employee will be moved to the vacant Sergeant position. The motion was carried on a roll call vote of 12 Ayes, 1 No, 2 Vacant. Voting No: Bennett.

***Referred for Resolution***

### Department of Public Works Truck

A motion was made by Legislator Myers, seconded by Legislator Truax and carried unanimously to remove the cost of a truck from the 2004 County Road Fund, reducing Appropriation Account D5112.204 by \$28,000. ***Referred for Resolution***

### Health Department

A motion was made by Legislator Reynolds, seconded by Legislator Palmer and carried unanimously to reduce the Health Department's 2004 total budget by \$150,000, accomplished through a \$75,000 reduction in Appropriations and \$75,000 increase in Revenues; specific Accounts to be determined by the Department Head and Treasurer. ***Referred for Resolution***

### Department of Social Services

A motion was made by Legislator Reynolds and seconded by Legislator Heineman to reduce the Department of Social Services' 2004 total budget by \$100,000 which can be accomplished through a combination of reductions in Appropriations and increases in Revenues; specific Accounts to be determined by the Department Head and Treasurer. Discussion centered around concern with the total cuts this department has already experienced and comment from Commissioner Cherre that services would be impacted. Legislator Reynolds had originally asked for \$100,000 reduction in local share costs, but changed the motion to indicate "total budget" when it was pointed out that due to grant funding formulas, \$400,000 would actually have to be cut from Social Services total budget to realize \$100,000 in local share savings. The motion was carried on a roll call vote of 12 Ayes, 1 No, 2 Absent. Voting No: Truax. ***Referred for Resolution***

### Department of Public Works

A motion was made by Legislator Reynolds and seconded by Legislator Graffrath to reduce the Department of Public Work's 2004 total budget by \$50,000; specific Accounts to be determined by the Department Head and Treasurer. The motion was carried on a roll call vote of 12 Ayes, 1 No, 2 Absent. Voting No: Heineman. ***Referred for Resolution***

### Two Percent Reductions in Several Other Departments

A motion was made by Legislator Reynolds, seconded by Legislator Heineman and carried unanimously to reduce the 2004 budgets for the following departments by two percent in local share costs: Office of Development, County Clerk, County Treasurer, Probation, Human Resources, Technology, County Attorney, Office for the Aging, Emergency Services, and Weights & Measures; specific Accounts to be determined by the Department Heads and Treasurer. This reduction can be accomplished through a combination of reductions in Appropriations and increases in Revenues. ***Referred for Resolution***

### **County Forest Lands, Sale of Forest Products**

A motion was made by Legislator Bennett, seconded by Legislator Graffrath and carried unanimously to add \$10,000 to Appropriations for the Contract with Soil & Water Conservation District to maintain County forest lands, which was previously omitted from the Tentative 2004 County Budget, and increase the Revenue Account for Sale of County Forest Products by \$10,000. *Referred for Resolution*

### **Investigate Further Increases in Revenues**

Legislator Reynolds requested that the County Administrator look at all departments to determine the feasibility of increasing revenue by \$400,000.

### **Estimated Budgetary Impact of This Meeting's Recommendations**

County Administrator Margeson estimated that the recommendations approved at this meeting will have a net impact of further reducing the tax rate increase by 2.7 percent.

### **Overtime, Compensatory Time and Sick Time**

Legislator Burdick brought up the issue of overtime, compensatory time and sick time that account for approximately \$2 million in the Tentative 2004 County Budget. He feels that close to \$1 million could be saved if employees had to take comp time at regular rate when they absolutely had to work overtime, and not back fill positions. No action was taken at this time, but this issue will be looked at further after the first of the year.

### **County Clerk Deputy Position**

A motion was made by Legislator Bennett and seconded by Legislator Truax to cut funding from the Tentative 2004 County Budget allocated for salary for a vacant deputy position in the County Clerk's office. This would save approximately \$33,000 local share costs plus fringes. Following comments related to waiting until after the new County Clerk begins so his input can be considered and concern with other cuts that department has already taken, the motion was withdrawn by Legislator Bennett.

### **Adjournment**

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