

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: BUDGET

DATE: OCTOBER 14, 2015

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS THOMAS
TAYLOR
KENNY
MERLINO
CONOVER
WESTCOTT
GIRARD
STROUGH

OTHERS PRESENT:

KEVIN B. GERAGHTY, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
PAUL DUSEK, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
AMANDA ALLEN, CLERK OF THE BOARD
SUPERVISORS BEATY
BROCK
FRASIER
SEEBER
SIMPSON
WOOD

COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:

SUPERVISOR MONROE

JOANN MCKINSTRY, ASSISTANT TO THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
MICHAEL SWAN, COUNTY TREASURER
DON LEHMAN, *THE POST STAR*
SAMANTHA HOGAN, SENIOR LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

Please note, the following contains a summarization of the October 14, 2015 meeting of the Budget Committee; the meeting in its entirety can be viewed on the Warren County website using the following link: <http://www.warrencountyny.gov/gov/comm/budget/>

Mr. Thomas called the meeting of the Budget Committee to order at 10:03 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Strough, seconded by Mr. Kenny and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the previous Budget Committee meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Mr. Thomas stated the purpose of today's meeting was to review the 2015 Multi-Year Plan, which he noted could change at any time as the information was based upon projections.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Paul Dusek, County Administrator, who provided a detailed power point presentation on the 2015 Multi-Year Financial Plan; *a copy of the 2015 Multi-Year Plan is on file with the minutes.*

Following the review of the power point presentation, Ms. Seeber reminded the Committee of the request presented by SUNY Adirondack for financial support from Warren and Washington Counties in relation to the construction of their proposed NSTEM (Nursing, Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) Building. Ms. Seeber distributed documentation outlining the details of the funding request and providing repayment scenarios if the amount requested were to be bonded by the Counties, *a copy of which is on file with the meeting minutes.* A discussion ensued relative to funding for this and other unfunded projects listed in the Multi-Year Plan which led the Committee to the consensus that a list should be compiled, with assistance of the Department Head staff, of unfunded projects which they would then seek to prioritize in order of urgency. During this discussion, Mr. Conover noted capital projects which qualified for State and Federal funding should have priority.

Mr. Merlino commented that the smaller towns within Warren County were struggling with their taxes and he opined it may be time to consider renegotiating the sales tax distributions to alleviate these problems.

Mr. Taylor reminded the Committee that with colder winter weather approaching, Code Blue shelters for the homeless would become a necessity when either the temperature fell below 32 degrees or a foot or more of snow was expected. He suggested that the former County Jail could be converted for use

as a Code Blue shelter which would primarily be used during evening hours when the Municipal Center Building was closed.

Mr. Strough advised that if zoned correctly, the property located behind Westmount Health Facility could be worth a considerable amount of money which could be used to assist with Warren County's portion of the NSTEM Project costs, minimizing the actual financial impact to the County. He added that he felt the property was very marketable and would likely sell quickly.

Mr. Dusek indicated he agreed with the idea of prioritizing unfunded projects and he noted that the Multi-Year Plan would serve as a great tool for the Budget Committee to use going forward in identifying how these projects could be supported. He also acknowledged JoAnn McKinstry, Assistant to the County Administrator, praising her hard work on the Multi-Year Plan. He stated development of the Multi-Year Plan was not any easy job as the Plan changed constantly and he advised Mrs. McKinstry had done a tremendous job. Mr. Dusek then questioned how the Committee would like him to proceed in gathering information relative to unfunded projects and it was the consensus the Mr. Dusek should poll the Department Head staff to determine what unfunded projects remained outstanding, following which a list of projects would be compiled and distributed for prioritization by the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Dusek indicated he would strive to gather this information prior to the next Budget Committee meeting.

Mr. Thomas thanked Mr. Dusek and Mrs. McKinstry for their hard work in preparing the 2015 Multi-Year Plan and he announced he planned to schedule another Budget Committee meeting next week to discuss the status of the 2016 Tentative Budget.

There being no further business to come before the Budget Committee, on motion made by Mr. Girard and seconded by Mr. Taylor, Mr. Thomas adjourned the meeting at 12:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Samantha Hogan, Senior Legislative Office Specialist