

**WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
ADJOURNED BOARD MEETING
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2007**

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Warren convened at the Supervisors' Room in the Warren County Municipal Center, Lake George, New York, at 10:00 a.m.

Mr. William Thomas presiding.

Salute to the flag was led by Supervisor VanNess.

Roll called, the following members present:

Supervisors Gabriels, Monroe, Girard, Sheehan, Mason, O'Connor, Kenny, Belden, Bentley, W. Thomas, Tessier, Merlino, Stec, Caimano, VanNess, Sokol, F. Thomas, Haskell, and Geraghty - 19.

Absent: Supervisor Champagne - 1.

Chairman Thomas turned the meeting over to Supervisor Caimano, Budget Officer, for the review of the 2008 Warren County Proposed Budget. Mr. Caimano acknowledged there would be a power point presentation and distributed copies to the board members, a copy of which is on file with the minutes. He began by thanking Hal Payne, Commissioner of Administrative & Fiscal Services, Rick Murphy, Accountant and Deputy Commissioner of Fiscal Services, JoAnn McKinstry, Deputy Commissioner of Administrative & Fiscal Services and Joan Sady, Clerk of the Board, all of whom had worked many hours on the Budget.

Mr. Caimano proceeded, reviewing the highlights of the 2008 Budget. He advised that the appropriations had increased 1.79% over the 2007 Adopted Budget and the revenues had increased 4.18% over the 2007 Adopted Budget as well. He stated that the amount to be raised by taxes had increased 6.5% from last year. He noted that the Unappropriated General Fund surplus was not used to balance the Budget this year; whereas \$3.5 million was used last year, as well as \$925,000 in Tobacco Funds.

Mr. Caimano stated the 2008 Proposed Budget amount to be raised by tax was \$34,860,073 or an increase of \$2.1 million over the 2007 Adopted Budget. He advised that the increase from the 2007 Adopted Budget to the 2008 Proposed Budget included the settlement with the CSEA Union contract, which was a four-year contract and included a 3.5% salary increase, an increase in cost of Employee Benefits, as well as a 3% mandated increase in Medicaid.

Mr. Caimano said that approximately \$15 million, or 43.2%, of the amount to be raised by tax was Warren County's share of all Social Services Programs.

Mr. Caimano reviewed the major reductions that were made to Departmental requests which included the .2 categories of the budget (equipment) which were cut by \$2,694,972 and the .4 categories (operational expenses) which were cut by \$1,060,873.

Mr. Caimano referred to the Comparison sheet included in the power point presentation, which outlined the appropriations and revenues from the 2007 Adopted Budget

compared to the 2008 Proposed Budget. He also reviewed in detail the Appropriation Comparison for the Department of Social Services, the Health Services Department, the Department of Public Works, the Sheriff's Department and the Westmount Health Facility & Countryside Adult Home.

Hal Payne, Commissioner of Administrative & Fiscal Services, commented with regard to the significant increase in the Health Services Department appropriations from 2007 to 2008. He explained that the WIC (Women, Infant & Children) Program included funding in the amount of \$827,000 for food vouchers which would be reimbursed following distribution. Mr. Caimano added that the Health Services Department budget also included the Point of Care Plan.

Mr. Caimano reviewed his recommendations to build the fund balance for the future, which included considering the reduction or elimination of un-mandated, non-essential services. Another option to consider, he stated, was when filling a vacant position, question if the position was necessary, or if others could absorb the workload by re-organizing the department, or even if the position was not filled, would the best interests and well being of the residents of Warren County be compromised. Mr. Caimano added another option would be to analyze and combine shared services where applicable and to identify further areas where intra-department collaboration would avoid duplications and could save money.

Mr. Caimano referred to the last page of the power point presentation which listed the town tax rates based on the Tentative Budget. He opened the floor to questions.

Mr. Girard referred to the DPW Appropriations and the Sheriff Appropriations, and noted that the Departmental requests compared to the Budget Officer's recommendations were greatly different. He said that the DPW difference was \$2.9 million and the Sheriff's difference was \$800,000. He also stated that the 2007 Amended Budget compared to the 2008 recommendation was a significant difference and he questioned why that was. Mr. Caimano explained that with regards to DPW, the vehicles beyond a five-year life would be bonded, which accounted for a \$1.4 million reduction. The Sheriff's Department, he said, had decided to use a capital reserve fund to purchase automobiles. Mr. Girard asked if these figures were realistic, given that a certain amount had been expended in 2007 and the Budget Officer's recommendations were grossly under that amount for 2008. Mr. Caimano affirmed that the figures were realistic and he added that the reductions were reviewed with the appropriate people and the Department Heads.

Mr. Caimano advised that the Public Hearing regarding the Tentative Budget would be held on November 16, 2007 at 10:15 a.m. and copies of the Tentative Budget would be available at the Clerk of the Board's Office by Wednesday, November 7, 2007. Mr. Caimano turned the meeting back over to Chairman Thomas.

Chairman called for reading of resolutions and discussion.

Joan Sady, Clerk of the Board, advised that a motion was needed to bring Resolution

Nos. 669 through 671 to the floor. Motion was made by Mr. Bentley, seconded by Mr. Belden and carried unanimously to bring Resolution Nos. 669 through 671 to the floor.

Chairman Thomas called for a vote on the resolutions.

Resolution Nos. 669 through 671 were approved.

Mr. Haskell thanked everyone that was involved with working on the preparation of the Budget, as well as the Department Heads that brought in realistic budgets. Mr. Belden echoed Mr. Haskell's statements.

Mr. Stec thanked the Board of Supervisors and staff for the support and concern that had been given for his Aunt Kathy, Paul Dusek's wife, during this difficult month.

Mr. O'Connor also thanked everyone that worked on putting the Tentative Budget together. He also noted that a lawsuit that had been filed under Article 78 regarding term limits for Supervisors in the City of Glens Falls against himself, Mr. Sheehan and Mr. Kenny was finally dismissed. He added that Mr. Dusek was present during the hearings and fully prepared on behalf of the County, even during the difficult time that he and his family are going through.

Mr. Kenny questioned if the New York State Comptroller made a recommendation as to what the County surplus should be and Frank O'Keefe, County Treasurer, replied years ago the recommendation was 5% of the total budget. However, he said, the Comptroller's Office no longer made a recommendation. Mr. Kenny asked if it would be prudent on the County's part to set a number or percentage as a goal to be obtained. Mr. Caimano agreed that a goal should be set and Mr. O'Keefe agreed as well, although, he said it should be a percentage set as an obtainable goal.

Mr. Sokol thanked the Board of Supervisors and staff for making his first year on the Board quite an experience. He further stated that he wished all Democrats and Republicans great luck in this years election.

Mr. Caimano advised this would be his last year serving as the Budget Officer for Warren County and he thanked everyone for allowing him to do the job.

There being no further business, on motion by Mr. Merlino and seconded by Mr. Haskell, Chairman Thomas adjourned the meeting at 10:40 a.m.