

**SPECIAL MEETING
BUDGET WORKSHOP**

**DELAWARE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OCTOBER 30, 2014**

The special meeting of the Delaware County Board of Supervisors was held Wednesday, October 30, 2014 at 1:00 p.m. in the Supervisors' Room of the Senator Charles D. Cook County Office Building, 111 Main Street, Delhi, New York, Chairman James E. Eisel, Sr. presiding.

The Clerk called the roll and all Supervisors were present except Mr. Merrill and Mr. Layton.

Mr. Marshfield offered the invocation.

Mr. Tuthill led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The Clerk Read the notice of Special Meeting:

Pursuant to County Law §152 and Board Rule 3, notice is hereby given that there will be a Special Meeting of the Delaware County Board of Supervisors on Thursday, October 30, 2014 at 1:00 p.m. in the Board of Supervisors' Room of the Senator Charles D. Cook County Office Building, Delhi, New York for the purpose of discussing the 2015 budget and the creation of a temporary position of Assistant to the Commissioner of Social Services.

Any other business that may properly be brought before the meeting will be conducted.

Christa M. Schafer, Clerk
Delaware County Board of Supervisors
October 24, 2014

Budget Director Bruce Dolph began the meeting noting that the Tentative Budget dated October 24, 2014 called for a 7.8197 percent change in levy from 2014. Since that date, the Finance Committee working in conjunction with committee chairs and department heads have reduced the percentage of increase to 5.7269.

He referenced a handout entitled *Changes to the 2015 Tentative Budget* stating that some budget cuts resulted in a reduction of revenue also causing adjustments to appropriations. He thanked everyone involved for their participation in the budget process.

Mr. Marshfield stated that the initial percentage of increase based on the department's original submissions was about a 9 percent. Some of the reasons for that increase include the anticipated reduction in revenue from county departments, state or federal funding and the anticipated increase in the cost of programs.

In answer to Ms. Miller, Mr. Dolph stated that the percentage of sales tax revenue is a conservative number. The figure fluctuates throughout the year with significant adjustments made at year's end.

Mr. Valente noted that the price of fuel is down and that translates to less sales tax revenue for the county.

Clerk of the Board Christa Schafer stated in answer to Mr. Marshfield, that in 2012 \$600,000 was budgeted in the contingency account and \$586,665.22 was expended, in 2013, \$600,000 was budget and \$436,585 was expended. A transfer from contingency is recorded through a journal entry with the majority of requests being made at year's end.

Mr. Marshfield pointed out that Community College expenditures have gone up and a request for a transfer from the contingency account was made at the last Board of Supervisors meeting.

Chairman of the Public Works Committee Sam Rowe addressed the Finance Committee's request for \$500,000 from the department's fund balance. He shared that DPW has always been a team player and has contributed skilled labor that has saved the county significant money on projects such as the Jail, the Compost Facility and the new Public Safety Radio System. Through the years, the committee has been good stewards of the fund balance. As a result, the department was able to pay off their bond ten years earlier. The committee is looking at building a new facility and there are other needs. The committee is not willing to deplete the fund balance and is offering the Board possible reductions in services in order to build back their fund balance.

Mr. Rowe stated that the committee asked Commissioner of Public Works Wayne Reynolds to provide options for reductions in services. The reduction in services focused on low volume roads defined as less than 400 cars a day based on an average daily traffic count and included going from a four-year program to a five or six where appropriate, changing from a two-year schedule of road stripping and decreasing the mowing and plowing schedules.

In response to Mr. Hynes, Mr. Reynolds provided a list of the low volume county roads.

Mr. Valente said that he supports a reduced maintenance level and greater shared services when and where possible.

Mr. Axtell stated that residents understand that services cost money. If they want the services they will have to pay for them.

Mr. Rowe stated the committee feels it is irresponsible to take \$500,000 from the DPW fund balance. The committee requested that Commissioner Reynolds assign a value to the services the department provides so that the Board can make an informed decision.

Commissioner Reynolds noted that the committee is trying to make decisions going forward that are sustainable. He understands the need to cut expenses and that a reduction of services has a negative impact.

In light of what was presented, Ms. Miller asked if \$250,000 rather than the requested \$500,000 could be considered.

Mr. Taggart noted his appreciation for the job well done by DPW and felt that if there were reasonable reductions the Board should consider them. The county needs quality roads and services. The DPW is one of the few departments that is not governed by mandates.

Department of Social Services Commissioner William Moon stated in reply to Ms. Miller, that the department is still working on reductions. If the New York State Department of Health releases funds this fall, a significant reduction will be made to the Foster Care Residential Placement appropriation. Additionally, there is the potential of reduction in the non-reimbursable allocation.

In reply to Mr. Rowe, Mr. Reynolds noted that since 1990 DPW through attrition has reduced its labor by 10 percent.

Mr. Rowe pointed out that DPW is also restricted by mandates citing the \$8 million reserve mandated by the state for the closure of the landfill.

County Clerk Sharon O'Dell noted in reply to Mr. Marshfield, that income from recordings has decreased and not gone up. Revenue generated from court filings goes to the state with a minimal percentage retained by the County Clerk.

Mr. Spaccaforno pointed out that if the county moves forward with a shared services program it is in effect transferring a portion of the burden to the municipalities. The taxpayer will still see an increase.

In response to Mr. Valente, Mr. Dolph stated that the revenue amount considered for the wireless surcharge is a figure the committee felt was reasonable for the county. The amount of revenue other counties collected from the wireless surcharge was considered but the committee felt comfortable with \$500,000.

Mr. Hood in answer to Mr. Spaccaforno stated that the landline surcharge has been decreasing due to increase use of wireless. He agreed with Mr. Spaccaforno that the wireless surcharge should not go into the General Fund but rather be set aside for software upgrades, maintenance and repairs.

Mr. Valente commented that he received a rebate check from the state because his school district was under the tax cap. He opined that the system of reimbursing taxpayers whose municipality was able to remain under the tax cap is unfair.

Mr. Spaccaforno called for continued resolutions against mandates stating that the county is picking up the tab for the state making them look like the good people.

Mr. Rowe asked that the Finance Committee consider putting \$250,000 back into the amended Tentative Budget in order for the public to discuss a budget increase of about 6.7 percent at the upcoming public hearing. He opined the public needs to be aware that further cuts to the budget will mean a reduction of services provided by the county. He shared the reasoning for this request saying that if the budget is not approved by the December deadline the Tentative Budget becomes the 2015 Budget by default and the funding provided by DPW will be \$250,000 rather than \$500,000.

Mr. Dolph noted that spending in every department is being reviewed and he thanked the department heads for recognizing they may not be able to have everything they are requesting. He noted that last year about 90 percent of vacancies were eliminated and this year the Finance Committee is looking at transferring used vehicles from departments to eliminate the purchase of new vehicles. The committee is trying to cut as much as possible.

Chairman Eisel asked that committee chairs and department heads to continue to look at ways to cut their budgets and bring any suggestions back to the Budget Director.

Chairman Eisel waived Board Rule 10 to permit the introduction without objection of the following not-prefiled resolutions.

Mr. Marshfield offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 192

TITLE POSITION AUTHORIZATION DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Social Services has indicated that he intends to retire on January 3, 2015; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for a transition period starting November 10, 2014 for the purpose of training a new Commissioner of Social Services with the appointment of Dana Scuderi-Hunter.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that authorization is hereby given for the creation of a temporary position of Assistant to the Commissioner of Social Services. The salary for said position to be set at \$61,295.

The resolution was seconded by Ms. Miller.

Mr. Marshfield advised that the Social Services Committee advertised in August of this year for applicants to fill the position of Commissioner of Social Services. Dana Scuderi-Hunter, an employee of the Department of Social Services, was selected from among six qualified

applicants. Mrs. Suderi-Hunter will train under the Commissioner for eight weeks beginning November 10th to help facilitate a smooth transition in January 2015.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

Upon a motion, the meeting the meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.