

**REGULAR MEETING**

**DELAWARE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**OCTOBER 22, 2008**

The regular meeting of the Delaware County Board of Supervisors was held Wednesday, October 22, 2008 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. Donnelly, Mr. Axtell, Mr. Rowe and Mr. Maddalone.

Mr. Marshfield offered the invocation.

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

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as presented.

The Clerk reported all communications received have been referred to their respective committees for review.

Chairman Eisel granted privilege of the floor to Public Safety Committee member Leonard Utter. Mr. Utter called the Board's attention to Stop-DWI Coordinator Lisa Barrows article which was enclosed in the Supervisor's packet. The article appeared in the Fall 2008 issue of the *Safety Matters!*, *A Safe NY Newsletter* and compliments Ms. Barrows choice of billboards which ran to coincide with the Memorial Day crackdown, the County's school proms and graduations. The Committee felt Ms. Barrows should be recognized and commended for this achievement.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 193**

**TITLE: 2008 BUDGET AMENDMENT  
ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT MONEY  
FROM THE A. LINDSAY AND OLIVE B. O'CONNOR FOUNDATION, INC.  
FOR FUTURE PROJECTS  
PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

**WHEREAS**, Delaware County has entered into contract with the A. Lindsay and Olive B. O'Connor Foundation, Inc.; and

**WHEREAS**, Delaware County has received funding from the A. Lindsay and Olive B. O'Connor Foundation, Inc. for future projects to be completed

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Delaware County Board of Supervisors accepts the grant funds received in the amount of \$267,600.00 and the following 2008 budget amendment be authorized:

**INCREASE REVENUE ACCOUNTS:**

10-18020-42270604/8020017/908	Regional Historic Rail Themed Tourism	\$124,100.00
10-18020-42270604/8020018/908	County Comprehensive Plan	\$27,250.00
10-18020-42270604/8020019/908	Economic Development Study	\$27,750.00
10-18020-42270604/8020020/908	GIS Implementation (SDWA)	\$32,000.00
10-18020-42270604/8020021/908	AFPP Update-NRI	\$28,500.00
10-18020-42270604/8020012/908	O'Connor Legal Defense Fund	\$28,000.00

**INCREASE APPROPRIATION ACCOUNTS:**

10-18020-54327005/8020017/908	Regional Historic Rail Themed Tourism	\$124,100.00
10-18020-54327005/8020018/908	County Comprehensive Plan	\$27,250.00
10-18020-54327005/8020019/908	Economic Development Study	\$27,750.00
10-18020-54327005/8020020/908	GIS Implementation (SDWA)	\$32,000.00
10-18020-54327005/8020021/908	AFPP Update-NRI	\$28,500.00
10-18020-54327005/8020012/908	O'Connor Legal Defense Fund	\$28,000.00

The resolution was seconded by Ms. Molé and adopted by the following vote: Ayes 3545, Noes 0, Absent 1261 (Donnelly, Axtell, Rowe, Maddalone).

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 194**

**TITLE: 2008 BUDGET AMENDMENT  
AID TO PROSECUTION GRANT  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

**WHEREAS**, the State of New York Division of Criminal Justice Services has awarded a grant to the District Attorney's Office to help with the cost of prosecutions; and

**WHEREAS**, the grant in the amount of \$39,503.00 is for those expenses that are incurred by the department between April 1, 2008 and March 31, 2009 (DCJS No. AP08088142); and

**WHEREAS**, the committee has decided to use the grant to reimburse the County to supplement the salaries of the two Assistant District Attorneys and for the purchase of office

supplies for the year 2008;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the grant be accepted to supplement the salaries of the two (2) Assistant District Attorneys; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that \$503.00 of the grant be appropriated for the purchase of office supplies and the following 2008 budget amendment be made:

**INCREASE REVENUE:**

10-11165-43308900	Aid to Prosecution	\$503.00
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**INCREASE APPROPRIATION:**

10-11165-54595320	Office Supplies	\$503.00
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The resolution was seconded by Mr. Marshfield and adopted by the following vote: Ayes 3545, Noes 0, Absent 1261 (Donnelly, Axtell, Rowe, Maddalone).

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 195**

**TITLE: 2008 BUDGET AMENDMENT  
TRANSFER OF FUNDS  
STOP DWI**

**WHEREAS**, there is an urgent need to purchase a computer for the STOP DWI Program in the amount of \$1,317.03; and

**WHEREAS**, a transfer of funds is necessary to the equipment account

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the following 2008 Budget transfer be made:

**FROM:**

10-1331554183000	Community Outreach & Education	\$1,317.03
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**TO:**

10-1331552200000	Equipment	\$1,317.03
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The resolution was seconded by Mr. DuMond and adopted by the following vote: Ayes 3545, Noes 0, Absent 1261 (Donnelly, Axtell, Rowe, Maddalone).

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 196**

**TITLE: 2008 BUDGET AMENDMENT  
TRANSFER OF FUNDS  
FISCAL AFFAIRS**

**WHEREAS**, additional funding is needed in the amount of \$29,099.50 in order to pay the interest on the Jail Bond;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the following transfer of funds be authorized:

**FROM:**

10-11990-54900000	Contingency	\$29,099.50
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**TO:**

10-19710-57710000	Interest-Serial Bonds	\$29,099.50
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The resolution was seconded by Mr. Triolo and adopted by the following vote: Ayes 3545, Noes 0, Absent 1261 (Donnelly, Axtell, Rowe, Maddalone).

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 197**

**TITLE: 2008 BUDGET AMENDMENT  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

**WHEREAS**, the following 2008 appropriation account is in need of funds

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the following 2008 transfer be made:

**FROM:**

10-16109-54113000	Family Assistance	\$92,000.00
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**TO:**

10-17310-51000000	Youth Bureau Personal Services	\$92,000.00
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The resolution was seconded by Mrs. Capouya and Mr. Hynes and adopted by the following vote: Ayes 3545, Noes 0, Absent 1261 (Donnelly, Axtell, Rowe, Maddalone).

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 198**

**TITLE: CHANGE ORDER NO. 2 FOR PROPOSAL NO. SW01-08  
CONTRACT LANDFILL GAS COLLECTION SYSTEM - PHASE 1  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

**WHEREAS**, Resolution No. 40 of 2008 authorized the Public Works Department to make award to Upstate Utilities, Inc. for the general construction of the landfill gas collection system at the Delaware County Solid Waste Management Center; and

**WHEREAS**, Resolution No. 155 of 2008 authorized Change Order No. 1 increasing the contract total to \$554,905.00; and

**WHEREAS**, adjustments have been made to reflect the actual quantities of installed materials and the final field quantities have been agreed upon

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Department of Public Works be authorized to execute the change order No. 2 totaling an net decrease of \$14,464.81 bringing the final contact total to \$540,440.19.

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Smith and unanimously adopted.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 199**

**TITLE: SALE OF TAX ACQUIRED PROPERTY**

**Resolved** that the following described parcels of tax acquired property be sold to the party indicated for the price herein stated and the County Treasurer is authorized to execute and deliver deed, therefor, and to cancel all Delaware County tax liens thereon.

COL06TX.005

<b><u>ASSESSED TO:</u></b>	<b><u>FLORENCE E COLEMAN AND HAROLD J BURKE</u></b>
TOWN OF:	122400:COLCHESTER
TAX MAP NO:	374.-2-4
SCHOOL DISTRICT:	122401:DOWNSVILLE
ACREAGE:	130.00'F x 150.00'D: 0.13A ACRES
CONVEYED TO:	EDWIN MALDONADO 198 NAGLE AVENUE #1B NEW YORK NY 10034
CASH CONSIDERATION:	\$25,550.95

TAX DEFICIT: \$2,658.27

The resolution was seconded by Ms. Molé and adopted by the following vote: Ayes 3545, Noes 0, Absent 1261 (Donnelly, Axtell, Rowe, Maddalone).

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 200**

**TITLE: AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION NO. 132-08  
DESIGNATION OF DEPOSITORY FOR DELAWARE COUNTY FUNDS**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that, pursuant to Section 212 of the County Law, as amended and now in force, the banks hereinafter specified are hereby designated as a depository for County Funds, together with the maximum amount that may be kept on deposit therein at any one time, and the County Treasurer is hereby authorized and directed to deposit County monies in the banks herein designated.

**BE IT RESOLVED** the County Treasurer is authorized to wire funds and use electronic transfer of funds (ACH) from or to each facility.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that one certified copy of the resolution shall be filed in the office of the County Clerk, one in the office of the State Comptroller and two in the office of the County Treasurer by the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors.

The National Bank of Delaware County	\$23,000,000.00
The Delaware National Bank of Delhi	7,000,000.00
The Delaware National Bank of Delhi (Court and Trust Fund Designated by NYS Comptroller)	7,000,000.00
The National Bank and Trust Company	40,000,000.00
* Wilber National Bank (increased from \$13,000,000.00)	20,000,000.00

\* Amended from Resolution No. 132-08

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Triolo.

In response to Mr. Marshfield, Clerk of the Board Christa Schafer explained an increase in the maximum amount authorized to be on deposit is requested as Wilber National Bank is offering a better interest rate on County funds.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 201**

**TITLE: AUTHORIZATION TO HOLD TWO COUNTY POSITIONS  
VETERANS SERVICE AGENCY & OFFICE FOR THE AGING**

**WHEREAS**, the part-time bus driver for Office for the Aging, upon completion of all paperwork and training with Office for the Aging, has agreed to be a back-up part-time driver for the Veterans Service Agency

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that Ruth Reynolds be allowed to simultaneously hold both part-time driver positions with the Office for the Aging and Veterans Service Agency.

The resolution was seconded by Ms. Molé and unanimously adopted.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 202**

**TITLE: EXCEPTION TO RESOLUTION NO. 269-1990  
PERSONNEL OFFICE**

**WHEREAS**, Resolution No. 269 of 1990 prohibited County employees from holding more than one County position simultaneously except if such dual employment is specifically authorized by resolution of the Board of Supervisors; and

**WHEREAS**, the Personnel Office is experiencing difficulties in recruiting Clerks to serve as exam monitors for exams scheduled on Saturdays; and

**WHEREAS**, from time to time employees in other county departments may be willing to work on a per hour, as needed basis.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that Resolution No. 269 of 1990 is hereby temporarily waived until December 31, 2009 for County employees who are willing to work on a per hour, as needed basis in the Personnel Office.

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Marshfield and unanimously adopted

Mr Haynes offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

**RESOLUTION NO. 203**

**TITLE: APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE PROVISION  
OF A REDUCED RATE PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN, PROACT,  
TO THE RESIDENTS OF DELAWARE COUNTY  
PERSONNEL OFFICE**

**WHEREAS**, Delaware County recognizes that the high cost of prescription medications may make it difficult for some County residents to obtain the medications they need; and

**WHEREAS**, the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) has formerly endorsed ProAct, Inc. as a means for the County to provide reduced medicine costs for needy residents who may otherwise struggle to afford necessary medicines; and

**WHEREAS**, ten other New York State Counties are already providing this service to their residents who have benefitted from significant savings; and

**WHEREAS**, there is no cost to the County and no cost to individuals who choose to participate in the ProAct, Inc. program; and

**WHEREAS**, the County Attorney has reviewed the proposed Agreement between ProAct, Inc. and the County of Delaware and finds it acceptable; and

**WHEREAS**, Delaware County is not bound to offer exclusive rights to ProAct, Inc. and may also engage other prescription drug plans for the benefit of the residents of Delaware County;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board Chairman is authorized to sign the Agreement with ProAct, Inc. and that the Program shall take effect upon execution of the Agreement.

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Smith.

Mr. Utter noted that he was approached by a local druggist who advised him that there are only two independent drug stores left in Delaware County. The druggist said if the terms of this agreement are similar to other programs he is aware of, he believed that a rebate of \$3 would go back to the company for each prescription filled. Mr. Utter said that he would support this resolution even knowing what it will cost the local druggist because it is for the greater good of the County but, he wanted the Board to know what it meant to the local drug stores.

Mr. Valente remarked that he is supporting this resolution but, noted that his agreement is not an endorsement of any product or pharmacy.



Director of Mental Health Pat Thompson answered in reply to Mr. Valente, that ProAct's plan may only benefit an individual who has a prescription coverage plan if the medication being purchased is not covered by their prescription coverage plan.

Director of Personnel Teddie Story noted that the real idea of the plan is to provide relief to individuals without a prescription coverage plan.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 204**

**TITLE: RESOLUTION URGING THE GOVERNOR AND THE STATE LEGISLATURE TO REDUCE STATE SPENDING WITHOUT SHIFTING COSTS FOR STATE PROGRAMS TO COUNTY GOVERNMENT**

**WHEREAS**, counties in New York have long served as the principal partner in administering the State's most critical programs in areas such as health, human services and public protection; and

**WHEREAS**, as part of administering these programs, the State mandates that counties fund a significant portion of these programs through the county budget; and

**WHEREAS**, these State mandates are the root cause of high property taxes at the county level; and

**WHEREAS**, the enacted budget for State Fiscal Year 2008-09, included and across the board 2 percent reduction that affected over 100 county programs; and

**WHEREAS**, the majority of the programs affected by this across the board reduction are State mandated, thus, significantly limiting a county's ability to mitigate the fiscal burden of this State action; and

**WHEREAS**, as State policy makers continue to address looming State budget deficits it is critical that they draw a clear distinction between "cuts" in State funding and simple cost shifting that requires counties to fund a larger share of State mandated services; and

**WHEREAS**, as experienced managers who must balance their own budgets, county officials understand and support the need for spending restraint, especially in difficult times; and

**WHEREAS**, counties believe that it is preferable to restructure and eliminate unnecessary and wasteful spending than to implement across the board reductions without

examining the merits of each program and service

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Delaware County Board of Supervisors calls on the Governor and State Legislature to reduce State spending without shifting the costs for State programs to county government; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Delaware County Board of Supervisors believes that by working together, the State and its counties can fashion program efficiencies and changes that provide real, timely, and mutual fiscal benefit, while minimizing the impact on taxpayers; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Delaware County Board of Supervisors shall forward copies of this Resolution to Governor Paterson, the New York State Legislature and all others deemed necessary and proper.

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Triolo.

Mr. Marshfield noted that he supports this resolution and applauds the Governor's actions for reducing State expenditures but, the State cannot pass unfunded mandates on to our County. It is his feeling that the County should compile and document all State mandated programs and analyze the level of State funding that is provided to the County. In addition, the funded mandates should also be assessed. The information should then be taken to our State representatives for them to consider the financial burden these unfunded mandates cause the County.

Mr. Marshfield stated he was not aware of what percentage of the County's budget was mandated but, noted that 71 percent of Monroe and 70 percent of Erie County budgets consist of mandated programs. That leaves these counties with only 29 percent and 30 percent respectively of their budgets that they are able to control.

Counties have no choice but, to raise taxes when mandates are passed on to them. It is becoming impossible to do more with less and it is time for our County to send that message to State government. He believes our taxpayers need relief and that unfunded mandates will eventually bankrupt our counties.

In answer to Chairman Eisel, Budget Director John Meredith said that he did not know what the County's over all percentage of State mandated programs are.

Chairman Eisel asked Mrs. Schafer to survey the departments in order to determine this information.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

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

Ms. Molé offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

**RESOLUTION NO. 205**

**TITLE: 2008 BUDGET AMENDMENT  
TRANSFER OF FUNDS  
PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING SERVICE**

**WHEREAS**, the fax machine has broken and has been deemed in need of replacement;  
and

**WHEREAS**, the number of children enrolled in the Preschool program at the start of the school year increased by 21% for school year 2007-2008 and by an additional 34% for school year 2008-2009, with another large increase projected for 2009-2010; and

**WHEREAS**, in order to continue efficient, accurate program management and billing without hiring additional staff, specific preschool software with connectivity to the State Education Department is required; and

**WHEREAS**, the following transfers are needed in order to have money in the appropriate accounts to maximize revenues;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the following 2008 budget amendment be authorized:

**FROM:**

10-14010-52200000	Equipment Public Health Nurses	\$1,600.00
10-14016-54000000	Contractual Long Term Home Health Care	\$58,000.00

**TO:**

10-14012-52200000	Equipment Public Health	\$1,600.00
10-14060-52200000	Equipment CPSE 3-5	\$58,000.00

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Hynes and adopted by the following vote: Ayes 3545, Noes 0, Absent 1261 (Donnelly, Axtell, Rowe, Maddalone).

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 206**

**TITLE: ISSUANCE OF A NEGATIVE DECLARATION UNDER  
THE STATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REVIEW ACT  
FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE EAST AND WEST BRANCH DELAWARE RIVER  
STREAM CORRIDOR MANAGEMENT PLANS  
PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

**WHEREAS**, the adoption of a comprehensive resource management plan is a Type 1 action under 6 NYCRR Part 617 State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR); and

**WHEREAS**, Type 1 actions require a coordinated review under the SEQR Act; and

**WHEREAS**, that the Delaware County Board of Supervisors declared lead agency for the adoption of both plans and coordinated the environmental review with the other involved agencies, towns and villages; and

**WHEREAS**, thirty (30) days were available for comment on the plans and no comments were received

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Delaware County Board of Supervisors issues a negative declaration for the adoption of the East and West Branch Delaware River Stream Corridor Management Plans.

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Marshfield and unanimously adopted.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 207**

**TITLE: ADOPTION OF THE EAST AND WEST BRANCH  
DELAWARE RIVER STREAM CORRIDOR MANAGEMENT PLANS  
PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

**WHEREAS**, the Delaware County Board of Supervisors is a signatory of the 1997 Memorandum of Agreement; and

**WHEREAS**, the Delaware County Board of Supervisors has adopted and supports the goals of the Delaware County Action Plan for water resource protection; and

**WHEREAS**, the East and West Branch Stream Corridor Management Plans address water quality and economic vitality issues as defined by local communities and regional experts; and

**WHEREAS**, the Delaware County Board of Supervisors issued a negative declaration under SEQR for the adoption of the East and West Branch Delaware River Stream Corridor Management Plans; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Delaware County Board of Supervisors adopt the East and West Branch Delaware River Stream Corridor Management Plans and support the implementation of goals and strategies for water quality protection and economic opportunities as defined in the plans.

The resolution was seconded by Mrs. Capouya and Mr. Utter and unanimously adopted.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 208**

**TITLE: 2008 CHANGE OF SCHEDULED BOARD MEETING DATE**

**WHEREAS**, due to the Thanksgiving Holiday, there is a need to change the regular scheduled Board of Supervisors meeting schedule for November;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Supervisors Board Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, November 26, 2008 be changed to Tuesday, November 25, 2008.

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Triolo and unanimously adopted.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 209**

**TITLE: PAYMENT OF AUDIT**

**WHEREAS**, bills and claims submitted and duly audited by the Clerk of the Board's office in the amount of \$1,645,759.05 are hereby presented to the Board of Supervisors' for approval of payment;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the County Treasurer be directed to pay said expenditures as listed below:

General Fund	\$1,189,714.74
OET	\$28660.46
Countryside	\$360.00

Highway Audits, as Follows:

Road	\$10,944.23
Machinery	\$271,377.29
Capital Road & Bridge	\$85,392.41
Capital Solid Waste	\$0.00
Solid Waste/Landfill	\$59,309.92

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Meredith and adopted by the following vote: 3545, Noes 0, Absent 1261 (Donnelly, Axtell, Rowe, Maddalone).

Upon a motion the meeting was adjourned for a short recess and reconvened with all Supervisors present except Mr. Donnelly, Mr. Axtell, Mr. Rowe and Mr. Maddalone.

Chairman Eisel announced that the 2009 tentative budget has been placed on each Supervisor's desk and introduced Budget Director Meredith to discuss the budget.

Mr. Meredith noted that this has not been an easy budget to produce in comparison to the last few years. These are difficult financial times. He thanked the Budget Oversight and Finance Committees, the department heads and their staff that worked to bring this budget to a more palatable figure.

No new positions have been recommended for 2009. There are a few modifications in the Public Health Department to comply with State mandates, but by eliminating a part-time position and half funding a vacant position an overall decrease in appropriations was achieved. He noted that New York State is cutting revenues for mandated programs and grants in county departments by 2 percent.

The budget started out at approximately an 18 percent increase. By reviewing revenues and asking departments to re-evaluate their budget, along with a reduction to the increase in the health insurance helped to bring down the levy. In addition, surplus funds of \$7.5 million from the General Fund Reserve and \$700,000 of IGT Fund Reserve further reduced the levy. The sales tax figures were left at last year's amount. While the County is on target to reach what was budgeted, an increase could lead to an anticipation of revenues that may not materialize. Considering the above, the present tax levy figure is 6.3 percent over last year.

Mr. Meredith encouraged Supervisors, department heads, and employees to be attentive to spending. While Budget Oversight and Finance monitor spending and revenues for the whole County it is up to the oversight committees to talk about spending and revenues with the department heads to ensure things are on track. He hoped that upon review of the budget, the levy could be further reduced. If there are questions or concerns Mr. Meredith stated he could be reached at the Walton Town Hall. The 2009 Tentative Budgets are available to be picked up at the Clerk of the Board's Office.

Mr. Bracci expressed concern about next year with the cuts being made in 2009. He

questioned how the County will look next year in spite of these cuts.

Mr. Meredith said that Budget Oversight and Finance considered using more fund surplus this year but felt if there are a few bad years more of the surplus will be needed to offset the levy.

Chairman Eisel remarked that these are uncertain times. It is difficult to know what to expect next year. He referenced Resolution No. 204 entitled: *Resolution Urging the Governor and the State Legislature to Reduce State Spending Without Shifting Costs for State Programs to County Government*. He said that Albany has to understand that passing their cuts to the County does not change the whole tax package that is going to the people. If these cuts are moved to the County, the County has to tax the people and nothing is saved.

Mr. Meredith said this year Probation's State aid funding is being cut by six percent. That in itself is not a great deal but, throughout the County, these cuts make a real impact.

In answer to Mr. DuMond, Mr. Meredith said that the annual audit for 2007 states there is approximately \$26 million in the general fund surplus. That is not all free money, the Treasurer needs \$10 million to operate and \$7 million is held for school taxes.

Mr. DuMond commented that, in his opinion, this tentative budget is already using what is available in the fund balance.

In answer to Mr. Marshfield, Mr. Meredith explained that the County is using \$700,000 IGT funds which we are receiving from the State for 2006 since we owned Countryside for almost the entire year.

Mr. Marshfield remarked that when that money is gone it will have to be made up somewhere else.

Chairman Eisel noted that it is good the County has the IGT Fund Reserve, it has prevented the budget from spiking from year to year. What to expect next year is unknown, it's not possible to figure the economy and sales tax. In addition, what Albany does next year will be crucial.

Mr. Meredith said the budget is at a point now where additional revenue needs to be found or expenses need to be cut further. He noted that all departments have been asked to cut and they have. The Board has to make decisions on where to go from this point.

Mr. Hynes remarked that he did not expect that this discussion would be taking place since the County no longer owned Countryside and sold the resource building in Hamden. He questioned how anyone would be able to judge next year.

Mr. Homovich pointed out that former County employees from Countryside with existing

workers' compensation cases remain an ongoing County obligation.

Mr. Marshfield noted that the projected levy of six percent to the taxpayers is not really true because it does not take into consideration the assessed valuation. Mr. Meredith agreed adding that the projected levy may be different for each town based on equalization rates.

Mr. Utter commented on a year that the County held their budget down to under 3 percent but, when he received the tax warrant for the Town of Middletown the County share went up to 17.5 percent due to the equalization rate.

Chairman Eisel asked that the Supervisors review the budget and set a special meeting for the purpose of discussing the budget on Wednesday, October 29<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

Upon a motion the meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.