

## **REGULAR MEETING**

### **DELAWARE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**NOVEMBER 23, 2021**

The regular meeting of the Delaware County Board of Supervisors was held Tuesday, November 23, 2021 at 1:06 p.m. in the Supervisors' Room of the Senator Charles D. Cook County Office Building, 111 Main Street, Delhi, New York, Chairman Tina B. Molé presiding.

The Clerk called the roll and all Supervisors were present except Mr. Gladstone and the Supervisor for the Town of Sidney.

Mr. Marshfield offered the invocation.

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

The minutes of the previous meeting and public hearings were accepted as presented.

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

Chairman Molé granted privilege of the floor to Supervisor Merrill. Mr. Merrill introduced Director of Public Health Services Mandy Walsh via Zoom to give an update on COVID-19.

Ms. Walsh reported there were three deaths yesterday which makes the cumulative deaths in Delaware County 74. The positivity rate in the County is 10.37% with 70 new positive cases. There are 265 active positive cases that are being monitored—12 are hospitalized cases. The number of people in quarantine is lower because everything is backlogged. All counties in New York State are experiencing an influx of cases making the quarantine calls and tracking statistics across the state to be reportedly lower.

Ms. Walsh noted the positivity rate is determined by total positive tests over the total people tested and an increase indicates community transmission and there are some substantial rates of transmission happening in the community. She explained there are other factors such as people who are home ill and do not get tested. They believe there is a lot of underreporting of the illness and that affects the true positivity rate.

Ms. Walsh reviewed several charts showing case statistics based on population and indicated the data shows that with the variants, younger people are getting sick. The Delta variant has been prevalent since July and is highly transmissible as are several other variants. She pointed out the statistics for various age groups, noting the mid-line age groups of 20-29 and 30-39 also represents a lower proportion of people who are fully vaccinated as that group tends to be a lower vaccination group. Obviously, people in the younger age group only until recently could be vaccinated and the children under five who cannot receive vaccination.

Ms. Walsh made several points about herd immunity in general explaining that when only a few people are vaccinated and one person is infected, the virus can spread quite fast. There are two types of immunity—vaccination and natural immunity from having had the virus. When many people are vaccinated or are naturally immune, the base level of herd immunity is higher and transmission is not as active. The idea is trying to get herd immunity at the community level higher to decrease the transmission rate. When most of the population is immune to an infectious disease, it provides indirect protection to those people who are not immune because either the vaccine does not work for them or they cannot get vaccinated. You don't want to put them into a situation where they succumb to the natural immunity because they may not survive. Achieving herd immunity does not completely get rid of the disease. For example, measles is not gone but there are fewer outbreaks and it is not prevalent throughout the state. You do see measles in populations where there are non-vaccinated or non-herd immunity groups of people.

She indicated there are many variants of COVID-19 and there are people who have been infected multiple times. They most likely had different variants. There are also vulnerable people who have been infected multiple times which is very tricky because the transmission cycle continues. Ms. Walsh reviewed COVID-19 deaths that occurred in the county with charts that break down deaths by age and gender noting most deaths occurred in people over 50 with the percent of deaths of males is 64% and 36% are female.

Ms. Walsh reviewed the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations on how to celebrate holidays. They know that people want to see family members and people want to get together. The main concern is because there are many events prior to or during Thanksgiving at indoor public settings which tend to be a high risk of transmission, especially when there is a high positivity rate in the county or area which indicates there is still a fair amount of community transmission. What they are seeing now is that entire households are becoming infected. Even those who are vaccinated are considered a substantial rate of transmission. She advised those who are in a public setting, even if vaccinated, to consider wearing a mask in those public settings because those in that network could potentially be ill and the virus is much easier to transmit. She indicated that the current case level is quite high, almost at the level it was after Christmas last year. They anticipate more cases after Thanksgiving even before getting to Christmas, New Year's and other religious holidays.

It is ideal to avoid crowded spaces. Places are open now with lots of events going on and a lot of movement of people. She expressed that people who are sick or have symptoms need to consider if they should go to a gathering or just stay home. Consider that when interacting with family. She urged people to get tested if they have symptoms or are in close contact with others. This is very critical anymore because many households tend to have some of these variants where the transmission is extremely high and very easy to transmit.

In conclusion, Ms. Walsh emphasized if you are not feeling well, consider who you are going to interact with and what you're going to do. For those who will be traveling, check the CDC recommendations to try to stay healthy and follow guidelines to keep safe.

Ms. Molé thanked Ms. Walsh for all she has been doing and continues to do. She appreciates her keeping the Board informed as she does.

Ms. Molé reported that the Governor's Office called a Zoom meeting with county executives in our region on Sunday. The take away that she got from that meeting is there is a really strong possibility that the Governor will mandate vaccination across the board. One of the questions asked was will counties be told ahead of time and will they have some advance notice. They couldn't promise that. That tells her that's the way she believes they are thinking of going. This is a real concern. We have had so many deaths and so many positives, we almost feel like we've gotten callused from that last year but we really are seeing a real spread. She and Ms. Walsh have a conference call this afternoon with the Governor's Office again on looking for ways to stop the spread and for any ideas on how to help the state.

In answer to Mr. Marshfield, Ms. Walsh stated the county's vaccination rate is 53.2%. Mr. Marshfield thanked Ms. Walsh for all she does recognizing the way things are going, there is a lot more to be done. He stated he and his wife just got over COVID-19. He said if his wife had not been vaccinated, she would be one of the 70+ deaths because she was extremely ill. He feared that she might contract the virus; it was fortunate that she was vaccinated.

Mr. Eisel addressed Mrs. Merklen as counsel regarding the Governor's Office coming out with some dictum that says we all have to be vaccinated and opined they cannot mandate that. Other states have a problem with this and are suing the feds. How can they mandate someone to take the shots?

Mrs. Merklen stated they do it all the time. Children have to be vaccinated to go to school.

Ms. Molé stated she believes that's the way the state is going.

Mr. Eisel said this is crazy. Children have the strongest immune system and they want to vaccinate them all.

Mr. Taggart thanked Ms. Walsh for all the work she has done through this pandemic and for all the time and effort put into this.

Ms. Walsh thanked the Board and wished everyone a nice Thanksgiving.

For Standing Committee Reports, Mr. Cetta announced that the Behavioral Health Facility's preplanned ribbon cutting has been rescheduled from December to the spring.

In answer to Mr. Eisel, Mr. Cetta said the facility is up and running.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 175**

**TITLE: 2021 BUDGET AMENDMENT  
ACCEPTANCE OF EARLY VOTING EXPANSION (EVE) GRANT  
BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

**WHEREAS**, New York State has issued a grant to Delaware County for the costs of Early Voting; and

**WHEREAS**, Delaware County Board of Elections has been approved of receiving \$17,413.67 in funds.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the 2021 Budget be amended as follows:

**INCREASE REVENUE:**

|                               |                |             |
|-------------------------------|----------------|-------------|
| 10-11450-43308000/1450013/961 | New York State | \$17,413.67 |
|-------------------------------|----------------|-------------|

**INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS:**

|                               |                       |             |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| 10-11450-54327000/1450013/961 | Grant Related Expense | \$4,966.57  |
| 10-11450-52200001/1450013/961 | Grant Equipment       | \$12,447.10 |

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Valente and adopted by the following vote: Ayes 4092, Noes 0, Absent 130, Vacant 577 (Sidney).

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 176**

**TITLE: YEAR-END ACCOUNTING MODIFICATIONS TO THE 2021 BUDGET  
DEPARTMENT OF FISCAL AFFAIRS**

**WHEREAS**, there are many bookkeeping entries that are needed to close out the books for 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, there will be no increase in the actual spending, just a balancing of accounts between personal services, equipment, contractual, employee benefits and undistributed employee benefits; and

**WHEREAS**, an accounting of all transactions will be presented to the Board of Supervisors upon completion of the annual report.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Supervisors authorizes the Department of Fiscal Affairs to make the necessary adjustments to the 2021 Budget and to file a written report to the Finance Committee before the books for 2021 are actually closed.

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

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 177**

**TITLE: DIRECT TOWN TAX**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that pursuant to §233a of the County Law, the nineteen towns of the County be and hereby are charged \$115,548.70 for the assessment rolls, field books, tax bills, etc.; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors be authorized and directed to apportion said sum against the taxable property of the nineteen towns of the County of Delaware and that said sum be incorporated into the County Treasurer's Preliminary Report of charges and credits to the said towns in accordance with the apportionment.

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Marshfield and adopted by the following vote: Ayes 4092, Noes 0, Absent 130, Vacant 577 (Sidney).

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 178**

**TITLE: DESIGNATION OF DELAWARE COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AS  
TOURISM PROMOTION AGENCY FOR DELAWARE COUNTY FOR 2022  
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Delaware County Chamber of Commerce be designated as the Tourism Promotion Agency for Delaware County, for the purpose of making applications for and receiving grants under Section 100[6] of the Economic Development Law, with the Chamber of Commerce to provide the required local matching funds for the "I Love New York" tourism promotion 2022 program.

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Kosier.

Mr. Valente stated the Tourism Promotion Agency (TPA) has been doing a really excellent job for the County. He noted he was particularly fond that they are very fluent in the internet community where our target market resides. Tourist are more and more going to websites and news places rather than picking up paper pamphlets and things like that.

Two new initiatives came out. One to get a good accurate inventory of our short-term rentals and another is to have a listing agent that will get our articles on various websites that our target market frequents.

As you all know, tourism has been through the roof, and we have had an excellent year again, each year exceeding our expectations. He feels that since this is such a big part of tourism and tourism promotion, you have to grant some credit at least to that TPA for doing a good job. He is fully endorsing reassigning the TPA to the Chamber of Commerce.

Ms. Molé said in light of this decision, she wanted to make a few comments and read from her prepared notes.

“First and foremost, she wanted to make sure everyone understands the important role of the Tourism Promotion Agency (TPA) in Delaware County. Delaware County’s economy is diversified and includes agriculture, natural resource development, industry, retail, and of course tourism. Restrictions imposed on development to protect the New York City watershed makes traditional industrial development in nearly half of this county more challenging, giving tourism an even greater role in the county for revenue, jobs and small business opportunities.

The IDA and Economic Development have made substantial investments in tourism-based businesses in recent years that has resulted in a measurable growth in the value tourism plays in our local economy. This board supported these efforts when we passed the bed tax a few year ago, allowing for those funds to be used for new investments in economic development and tourism throughout Delaware County.

The infusion of these dollars, along with the popularity of Air BNB and other vacation rental sites made the role of the county TPA even more important to encourage visitors to come here versus other upstate destinations. For many years the TPA was actually a staff person hired by the Chamber and paid for using the county allocation to the Chamber. That local relationship was very successful as the individual staff person had direct contact with the County Economic Development office as well as the oversight committees and Board of Supervisor’s office. This allowed for coordination and a greater understanding of how the TPA was serving the County.

However, under the current Chamber administration, that direct contact has waned and the relationship between the Chamber and the County has deteriorated. The County leaders have seen less cooperation from Chamber administration and little has been willingly shared about how county dollars are being expended. The County’s Economic Development oversight committee has requested this information on several occasions, receiving unsatisfactory reports with little to no explanation or cooperation. This ultimately prompted the committee to authorize an audit of the Chamber programs and books, which has recently been completed.

Over the past two years, Delaware County has attempted to create a working relationship with the current Chamber president that would allow for candid conversations and an open dialog regarding the Chamber responsibilities and the County’s expectations of our TPA. As the tourism promotion agency and the importance of tourism as part of our local economy, it was felt this relationship needed to have more transparency and oversight. Unfortunately, this was met with defensiveness and defiance from the Chamber president who has on several occasions used his position to make disparaging remarks about the county and the county government to the public.

It goes without saying, I am deeply disappointed by the response we have received from the Chamber president, especially in light of our attempts to correct the issues and address our concerns. It is my opinion, the damage done is irreparable and the relationship we once shared is no longer effective. I hope as we move forward with a new TPA, we can continue to see new investments in tourism throughout the County.”

She stated because of this, she will be voting no to this resolution.

Mr. Davis stated he is on the committee as well. In February, he made the comment on record that started a lot of this by saying there is no way that all the money given last year could have been spent with the Governor’s executive directive. He said he wanted to know what kind of money is left over so that could be called back through the contract they have and then the County could reappropriate that out to help the businesses that are in desperate need. He spoke with County Attorney Amy Merklen about the contract to make sure there was a call-back clause. There was no open dialog in his perception of this and no one showed him the status of the funding as he requested. He would expect anyone who has a contract with the County to do that for any Supervisor who would ask that question regarding how tax dollars are being spent.

He added that at last week’s committee meeting, the audit report indicated there is \$139,000 left over. He said that is the information he was asking for in the first place. The whole idea that he was asking was so we could legally claw it back through the contract that we had through a provision we put in there so we could reappropriate that, and instead, we were stonewalled for eight to nine months. Then when this audit was read, his question regarding the \$139,000 left over, was did the Chamber spend this money in the first six months of this year? He was told yes it was and that it was submitted in the finance reports. He stated he did not know that and remarked that is no way to do business.

He believes the Board should not put an end to something without having a better option. The silver lining of going through this process is they found out that there are other options. He stated for six years he is on record saying they do not have the right to give anyone this contract that goes beyond the County’s procurement policy. You do not have the right to hand over tax dollars without going out to RFP. He was challenged and told there is no other entity in this county that is capable of doing these services and providing this to the County. As a result of this issue, he has found that there are advertising firms in this county that are capable of doing this and they would look forward to working with the County. If we put this out to RFP, we would know that.

He stated he has been supervisor for six years and in the last two elections, the chairman of the Delaware County Chamber Board of Directors has run someone against him to unseat him. In this past election, the secretary of the Chamber has run against Mr. Cetta. It appears there is no problem of the Delaware County Chamber being a political recruiting agency to unseat sitting supervisors but he will not support it if that is what they are going to do. He stated these are the reasons he will vote no on this resolution.

Mr. Marshfield indicated he spoke with Economic Development and IDA and they are in favor of this resolution. He spoke with Mr. Gladstone and although he is not present, he supports

this resolution. Mr. Marshfield said he supports this resolution.

Mr. Valente clarified that according to Director of Economic Development Glenn Nealis, there are very strict requirements for who can and cannot be the TPA. According to research by Mr. Nealis, the two options are the Chamber of Commerce or the Economic Development office itself. Economic Development will take on the role of TPA. That is the only other option we feel we have at this time. This can be put into that office and they will handle it, but they are already overworked like every other agency during this tough time.

He noted the Chamber does give regular reports. They lead the Economic Development Committee meetings. If you are there for most of the meetings, you not only get the reports but you have an opportunity to question the reports and he has always found them to be forthcoming. He said he will take responsibility as the Chairman of the Economic Development Committee for not bringing these reports to the Committee as a whole. He feels as a member of the committee that he is well informed of what is going on. For a lot of money that is left over, it is not quite that simple. There are programs out there like film commission, things that got stalled that were funded. Most of this funding comes directly from the Tourism Advisory Board (TAB) so it is County collected taxes but it goes through a different stream. We ultimately approve them, but the TAB came up with these various programs and they are all excellent programs and they work so we are getting a bang for our buck and it is showing in the numbers.

If you want to put this on Economic Development, okay, but they have enough to do; however, they are willing to handle it. They will carry it.

Mr. Cetta said that based on some of the negative comments made at certain events brought to his attention by elected officials at the state level, he has lost confidence in the way that organization has been managed over the last couple of years and said he is not in favor of this resolution.

Mr. Eisel noted the Chairman of the Board mentioned disparaging comments made to the press and he has a real issue with the Chamber president when he circulated a letter supporting the cannabis law. He does not like the way it was handled within the Chamber when the 15-member executive committee voted on it rather than the entire membership. He does not believe it is something the Chamber should be involved in or supporting. He was disappointed that the president would take a position like that for the sake of business and business alone. It was just wrong. He said he will be voting no on this resolution.

Mr. Kosier stated he is new on the committee and said he was happy to see the results of the audit that the committee requested. He acknowledged that over the past week to ten days he has received numerous emails, phone calls, and messages in support of the Chamber.

The resolution failed by the following vote: Ayes 656, Noes 3436 (Molé, Merrill, Tuthill, Axtell, Taggart, Vernold, Eisel, Haynes, Scott, Ellis, Davis, Hinkley, Layton, Cetta), Absent 130, Vacant 577 (Sidney).

Chairman Molé thanked the Chamber president for his service.



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

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 179**

**TITLE: APPORTIONMENT OF COUNTY SELF INSURANCE BUDGET**

**RESOLVED** that the budget for the County Self Insurance Fund for Workers' Compensation and Volunteer Firemen's Benefits in the total amount of \$1,850,000, as set forth below be accepted as part of the records of this Board.

| <u>Participant</u> | <u>Full Value Assessment</u> | <u>Apportioned Amount to Raise</u> |
|--------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| County of Delaware | 6,226,729,068                | \$866,926.26                       |
| <u>Towns</u>       |                              |                                    |
| Andes              | 463,992,090                  | \$64,600.04                        |
| Bovina             | 170,479,313                  | \$23,735.25                        |
| Colchester         | 854,438,378                  | \$118,960.54                       |
| Davenport          | 223,596,997                  | \$31,130.65                        |
| Delhi              | 360,029,019                  | \$50,125.61                        |
| Deposit            | 354,908,226                  | \$49,412.66                        |
| Franklin           | 231,699,801                  | \$32,258.77                        |
| Hamden             | 181,604,048                  | \$25,284.11                        |
| Hancock            | 465,800,435                  | \$64,851.81                        |
| Harpersfield       | 157,238,097                  | \$21,891.72                        |
| Kortright          | 162,132,811                  | \$22,573.20                        |
| Masonville         | 121,367,989                  | \$16,897.65                        |
| Meredith           | 143,820,769                  | \$20,023.68                        |
| Middletown         | 740,110,627                  | \$103,043.08                       |
| Roxbury            | 501,919,832                  | \$69,880.59                        |

|                             |                |                |
|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Sidney                      | 317,409,586    | \$44,191.86    |
| Stamford                    | 187,562,830    | \$26,113.73    |
| Tompkins                    | 193,306,319    | \$26,913.38    |
| Walton                      | 395,311,901    | \$55,037.93    |
| <u>Villages</u>             |                |                |
| Delhi                       | 106,942,831    | \$14,889.29    |
| Deposit                     | 46,893,985     | \$6,528.89     |
| Franklin                    | 20,817,687     | \$2,898.38     |
| Hancock                     | 77,783,003     | \$10,829.47    |
| Stamford<br>(Harpersfield)  | 33,780,807     | \$4,703.19     |
| Stamford (Stamford)         | 36,137,459     | \$5,031.30     |
| Fleischmanns                | 39,502,759     | \$5,499.83     |
| Sidney                      | 175,313,673    | \$24,408.33    |
| Hobart                      | 47,024,685     | \$6,547.09     |
| Walton                      | 140,401,826    | \$19,547.67    |
| <u>Fire Districts</u>       |                |                |
| Arena, Hardenburgh          | 17,210,473     | \$2,396.16     |
| Midd.-Hard.,<br>Hardenburgh | 48,895,715     | \$6,807.58     |
| Deposit                     | 43,528,327     | \$6,060.30     |
| TOTAL                       | 13,287,691,366 | \$1,850,000.00 |

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Vernold and adopted by the following vote:  
Ayes 4092, Noes 0, Absent 130, Vacant 577 (Sidney).

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 180**

**TITLE: LEVY OF TOWN ACCOUNTS**

**WHEREAS**, there has been presented to the Board of Supervisors the County Treasurer's 2021 Preliminary Report with the following amounts to be charged to the several towns:

| <u>TOWNS</u> | <u>CHARGES</u> | <u>CREDIT</u> |
|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| Andes        | \$1,161.85     |               |
| Bovina       | \$2,726.89     |               |
| Colchester   | \$10,947.84    |               |
| Davenport    | \$5,183.92     |               |
| Delhi        | \$2,787.56     |               |
| Deposit      | \$2,042.11     |               |
| Franklin     | \$4,166.50     |               |
| Hamden       | \$1,708.29     |               |
| Hancock      |                | \$(3,333.67)  |
| Harpersfield | \$3,774.06     |               |
| Kortright    | \$4,369.80     |               |
| Masonville   | \$689.14       |               |
| Meredith     | \$4,382.88     |               |
| Middletown   | \$8,419.89     |               |
| Roxbury      | \$7,701.87     |               |
| Sidney       | \$7,287.06     |               |
| Stamford     | \$5,020.33     |               |
| Tompkins     | \$1,689.35     |               |
| Walton       | \$6,266.76     |               |

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Tuthill.

In reply to Mr. Vernold, Mrs. Schafer stated the credit is for stumpage tax. She noted she would give him the breakdown of the account.

The resolution was adopted by the following vote: Ayes 4092, Noes 0, Absent 130, Vacant 577 (Sidney).

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 181**

**TITLE: TITLE: PAYMENT OF AUDIT**

**WHEREAS**, bills and claims submitted and duly audited by the Clerk of the Board's office in the amount of \$2,144,038.99 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                | \$1,035,012.12 |
| OET                         | \$5,341.90     |
| Public Safety Comm System   | \$0.00         |
| Insurance Risk              | \$25,000.00    |
| CAP 97 Main                 | \$179.12       |
| CAP MH                      | \$124,599.82   |
| Highway Audits, as Follows: |                |
| Weights & Measures          | \$0.00         |
| Solid Waste/Landfill        | \$50,747.15    |
| Road                        | \$34,912.22    |
| Machinery                   | \$58,336.58    |
| Capital Solid Waste         | \$12,635.41    |
| Capital Road & Bridge       | \$302,269.98   |
| CAP DPW Complex             | \$495,004.69   |

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Marshfield and Mr. Taggart and adopted by the following vote: Ayes 4092, Noes 0, Absent 130, Vacant 577 (Sidney).

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 182**

**TITLE: ADOPTION OF 2022 DELAWARE COUNTY BUDGET**

**WHEREAS**, the Tentative Budget for the year 2022 has been presented to the Board by the Budget Officer and duly discussed and a public hearing having been held thereon as required by law;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that pursuant to §360 of the County Law, the Tentative Budget, as amended, for 2022 be adopted.

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Taggart.

Mr. Merrill indicated a few number tweaks on a couple of lines and the change in the tax levy from 2021 will be 1.6848 percent, just a little less than the 1.6975 percent that was presented a few weeks ago.

In reply to Supervisor Davis, Mr. Merrill said there were a few line adjustments because they didn't have all the numbers.

Mr. Marshfield gave a summary of his comparison of this budget with last year's budget noting appropriations are up by \$5 million; however, revenues are up \$2 million. He stated we took approximately \$2.8 more out of the county reserves for 2022. Overall, they are going to the taxpayers for half a million dollars more than they did last year for this give-or-take 1.7 percent increase.

He praised Public Health, Social Services, Office for the Aging, and the Planning and Watershed Affairs departments for their budgets saw a reduction this year. Other departments having slight increases were County Clerk, County Attorney, Law Enforcement, Department of Public Works, and Economic Development. He noted other departments have substantial increases, typically had good reasons for the increases such as cross trainings for anticipated retirements, changes in medical premium coverages, added social media lines of communications, and salary increases. In addition, Mental Health saw a sizeable decrease in their budget but that was due to the shift in some of the expenses to Buildings and Grounds. Buildings and Grounds saw a substantial increase in their budget mainly due to adding a couple of positions and expenses from Mental Health and the new Behavioral Health Center. We have added one position in this budget to DSS, two positions in Buildings and Grounds for the Behavioral Health Center, a deputy position to the Sheriff's Office, four dispatchers to Emergency Services, and a speech pathologist in Public Health. He noted there were many salary upgrades, some of which he does not approve of, but as a total budget package for 2022, he supports it.

He thanked the Finance Committee and the departments for their hard work on the budget.

The resolution was adopted by the following vote: Ayes 4092, Noes 0, Absent 130, Vacant 577 (Sidney).

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 183**

**TITLE: APPROPRIATION RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, this Board by Resolution No. 182 dated November 23, 2021 adopted a budget for the fiscal year 2022;

**RESOLVED** that the several amounts specified in the column, "Adopted" be and hereby are appropriated for the objects and purposes specified effective January 1, 2022.

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Tuthill and adopted by the following vote: Ayes 4092, Noes 0, Absent 130, Vacant 577 (Sidney).

Ms. Molé wished everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Upon a motion, the meeting was adjourned at 1:55 p.m.