

**REGULAR MEETING**  
**DELAWARE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
**NOVEMBER 21, 2023**

The regular meeting of the Delaware County Board of Supervisors was held Wednesday, November 21, 2023 at 1:05 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 Mr. Merrill. Mr. Ellis arrived shortly after roll call.

Mr. Marshfield offered the invocation.

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

The minutes of the previous Board meeting were accepted as presented.

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

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 207**

**TITLE: 2023 BUDGET AMENDMENT**  
**ACCEPTANCE FOR COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT (COLA)**  
**DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH**

**WHEREAS**, NYS Office of Mental Health has allocated Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for contract provider, Family Resource Network; and

**WHEREAS**, Family Resource Network ensures that the COLA funds for 2023-2024 State fiscal year will be used first to promote recruitment and retention of non-executive direct care staff, non-executive direct support professionals, non-executive clinical staff, or respond to other critical non-personal service costs, prior to supporting any salary increases or other compensation for executive level job titles; and

**WHEREAS**, Delaware County Mental Health has received this State Aid in 2023.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the 2023 Budget be amended as follows:

**INCREASE REVENUE:**

10-14314-43349922 State RIV Family Support \$1,662.00

**INCREASE APPROPRIATION:**

10-14314-54458021 RIV Family Support \$1,662.00

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Vernold and adopted by the following vote:  
Ayes 4308, Noes 0, Absent 491 (Gladstone, Merrill, Ellis).

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 208**

**TITLE: 2023 BUDGET AMENDMENT  
DESIGNATION OF DELAWARE COUNTY AS LOCAL SPONSOR  
FOR SNOWMOBILE GRANT  
PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

**WHEREAS**, the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation has made funds available to develop and/or maintain snowmobile trails in New York State; and

**WHEREAS**, applications for grants for such development and/or maintenance of snowmobile trails require a local government sponsor; and

**WHEREAS**, Hamden Hill Ridge Riders, Delaware Valley Ridge Riders, Central Catskill Trail Association, Big Valley Trail Breakers, Maywood Snowriders, Delaware Otsego Chenango Snowriders and the D & D Snowdiggers have applied for said funds for the development and/or maintenance of snowmobile trails in Delaware County.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that Delaware County is hereby declared as the Local Sponsor for this application under the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Snowmobile Grant Program; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the 2023 Budget be amended to receive and dispense these moneys in compliance with the requirements of the Preservation Snowmobile Trails Grant Program as follows:

**INCREASE REVENUE:**

10-17989-43388900/7989008/908 State Otr Culture & Recreation \$110,778.00

**INCREASE APPROPRIATION:**

10-17989-54555000/7989008/908 Recreation Snowmobile Grant \$110,778.00

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Marshfield and adopted by the following vote:  
Ayes 4308, Noes 0, Absent 491 (Gladstone, Merrill, Ellis).

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 209**

**TITLE: 2023 BUDGET AMENDMENT  
ACCEPTANCE OF ARC FUNDS  
INNOVATIVE READINESS TRAINING (IRT)  
PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

**WHEREAS**, the Delaware County Board of Supervisors passed Resolution No. 66 on March 22, 2023 in support of partnering with the United States Army Reserves to host a medical Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) July 10-21, 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, the Delaware County Board of Supervisors committed to support the IRT expenses prior to grant awards in an effort to ensure success of the mission; and

**WHEREAS**, the Southern Tier Eight Regional Planning Board has approved ARC grant money in the amount of \$30,000.00 toward the cost of the Healthy Delaware IRT programs.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Delaware County Board of Supervisors accepts those funds; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the 2023 Budget be amended as follows:

**INCREASE REVENUE:**

10-18020-42238905-8020028-908	IRT	\$30,000.00
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**INCREASE APPROPRIATION:**

10-18020-54327000-8020028-908	General Grant Related Exp	\$30,000.00
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The resolution was seconded by Mr. Vernold and adopted by the following vote:  
Ayes 4308, Noes 0, Absent 491 (Gladstone, Merrill, Ellis).

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 210**

**TITLE: 2023 BUDGET AMENDMENT  
TRANSFER OF FUNDS  
INNOVATIVE READINESS TRAINING (IRT)  
PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

**WHEREAS**, the Delaware County Board of Supervisors passed Resolution No. 66 on March 22, 2023 in support of partnering with the United States Army Reserves to host a medical Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) July 10-21, 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, the Delaware County Board of Supervisors committed to support the IRT expenses prior to grant awards in an effort to ensure success of the mission; and

**WHEREAS**, the Southern Tier Eight Regional Planning Board has approved ARC grant money in the amount of \$30,000.00 toward the cost of the Healthy Delaware IRT programs.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the funds be deposited into the IRT account and transferred to the Delaware County’s Contingency account; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the 2023 Budget be amended as follows:

**TRANSFER FROM:**

10-18020-54327000-8020028-908	General Grant Related Exp	\$30,000.00
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**TRANSFER TO:**

10-11990-54900000	Contingency	\$30,000.00
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The resolution was seconded by Mr. Vernold and adopted by the following vote:  
Ayes 4308, Noes 0, Absent 491 (Gladstone, Merrill, Ellis).

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 211**

**TITLE: AUTHORIZING THE IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING OF 100% OF THE COSTS OF A TRANSPORTATION PROJECT, WHICH MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR FEDERAL-AID AND/OR STATE-AID, OR REIMBURSEMENT FROM BRIDGE NY FUNDS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

**WHEREAS**, a project for CR 7 over Spring Brook (BIN 3351890) Bridge Replacement (BNY22), Town of Colchester, County of Delaware, P.I.N. 9755.49 (the Project") is eligible for funding under Title 23 U.S. Code, as amended, that calls for the apportionment of the costs such program to be borne at the ratio of 95% Federal funds and 5% non-federal funds; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of Delaware will design, let and construct the Project; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of Delaware desires to advance the Project by making a commitment of 100% of the costs of the work for the Project or portions thereof.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Delaware County Board of Supervisors, duly convened does hereby

**RESOLVE** that the Delaware County Board of Supervisors hereby approves the above-subject Project; and it is hereby further

**RESOLVED** that the Delaware County Board of Supervisors hereby authorizes the County of Delaware to pay 100% of the cost of Preliminary Engineering/Design and Right-of-Way Incidentals work for the Project or portions thereof, with the understanding that qualified costs may be eligible for federal-aid, state-aid, or reimbursement from Bridge NY funds; and it is further

**RESOLVED**, that the sum of \$620,000.00 is hereby appropriated from account 34-15112-54000000 and made available to cover the cost of participation in the above phase(s) of the Project; and it is further

**RESOLVED**, that the Delaware County Board of Supervisors hereby agrees that the County of Delaware shall be responsible for all costs of the Project which exceed the amount of federal-aid, state-aid, or NY Bridge funding awarded to the County of Delaware; and it is further

**RESOLVED**, that in the event the Project costs not covered by federal-aid, state-aid, or NY Bridge funding exceed the amount appropriated above, the Delaware County Board of Supervisors shall convene as soon as possible to appropriate said excess amount immediately upon the notification by the Commissioner of Public Works of the County of Delaware; and it is further

**RESOLVED**, that the County of Delaware hereby agrees that construction of the Project shall begin no later than twenty-four (24) months after award and the construction phase of the Project shall be completed within thirty (30) months; and it is further

**RESOLVED**, that the Chairman of the Delaware County Board of Supervisors be and is hereby authorized to execute on behalf of the County of Delaware all necessary agreements, certifications or reimbursement requests for federal-aid and/or state-aid with the New York State Department of Transportation in connection with the advancement or approval of the Project and providing for the administration of the Project and the County of Delaware's funding of Project costs and permanent funding of the local share of federal-aid and state-aid eligible Project costs and all Project costs within appropriations therefore that are not so eligible; and it is further

**RESOLVED**, that a certified copy of this resolution be filed with the New York State Commissioner of Transportation by attaching it to any necessary Agreement in connection with the Project; and it is further

**RESOLVED**, this resolution shall take effect immediately.

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Vernold and adopted by the following vote:  
Ayes 4308, Noes 0, Absent 491 (Gladstone, Merrill, Ellis).

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 212**

**TITLE: AUTHORIZATION OF FOUR-DAY WORK WEEK  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

**WHEREAS**, Resolution No. 55 of 1993, as modified, authorizes a four ten-hour-per-day work week in the Public Works Department which is subject to annual approval by the County and Public Works employees.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that subject to approval of the Public Works employees, four-day work schedules for 2024 are hereby approved in the Public Works Department as follows:

- 1.) January 1, 2024 to March 16, 2024: Bridge Crews only.
- 2.) March 17, 2024 to October 12, 2024: All Public Works employees, except those employees specifically excluded from the four-day work week by agreement with the union, i.e., landfill employees, certain engineering staff, etc.
- 3.) November 10, 2024 to December 31, 2024: Bridge Crews only.

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

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 213**

**TITLE: AUTHORIZATION FOR DISPOSITION OF PERSONAL PROPERTY  
NO LONGER NECESSARY FOR PUBLIC USE  
DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING AND GROUNDS**

**WHEREAS**, Section 215 of the County Law stipulates that the Board of Supervisors must authorize for the disposition of personal property no longer necessary for public use.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Department of Building and Grounds is authorized to sell by on-line auction or scrap the following item:

<u>Dept. Vehicle No.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Serial Number/VIN</u>
BM 434	2014 Ford Focus	1FADP3E29EL351171

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

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 214**

**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 \$164,252.18 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. Vernold and adopted by the following vote: Ayes 4461, Noes 0, Absent 338 (Gladstone, Merrill).

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 215**

**TITLE: LEVY OF TOWN ACCOUNTS**

**WHEREAS**, there has been presented to the Board of Supervisors the County Treasurer's 2023 Preliminary Report with the following amounts to be charged to the several towns:

<u>TOWNS</u>	<u>CHARGES</u>	<u>CREDIT</u>
Andes	\$1,692.40	
Bovina	\$3,045.60	
Colchester	\$7,843.21	
Davenport	\$6,674.95	
Delhi	\$12,349.38	
Deposit	\$5,286.19	
Franklin	\$8,657.85	
Hamden	\$3,412.22	
Hancock	\$2,786.19	
Harpersfield	\$1,656.65	
Kortright	\$8,253.68	

Masonville	\$3,118.50	
Meredith	\$6,644.42	
Middletown	\$15,797.93	
Roxbury	\$8,275.77	
Sidney	\$28,559.76	
Stamford	\$6,554.01	
Tompkins		(\$2,444.94)
Walton	\$8,851.59	

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Marshfield.

In response to Mr. Marshfield, Mr. Layton explained that there was a mistake made by the fire company which caused the credit.

The resolution was adopted by the following vote: Ayes 4461, Noes 0, Absent 338 (Gladstone, Merrill).

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 216**

**TITLE: YEAR-END ACCOUNTING MODIFICATIONS TO THE 2023 BUDGET  
DEPARTMENT OF FISCAL AFFAIRS**

**WHEREAS**, there are many bookkeeping entries that are needed to close out the books for 2023; 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 2023 Budget and to file a written report to the Finance Committee before the books for 2023 are actually closed.

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Marshfield and adopted by the following vote: Ayes 4461, Noes 0, Absent 338 (Gladstone, Merrill).



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

**RESOLUTION NO. 217**

**TITLE: APPORTIONMENT OF MORTGAGE TAX**

**WHEREAS**, §261 of the Tax Law makes it mandatory to apportion the mortgage tax semi-annually and a report has been received from the recording officer and the County Treasurer for the period ending September 30, 2023.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the County Treasurer be directed to pay to the several towns and villages of Delaware County the amounts stated below; the same having been apportioned according to the aforementioned §261; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the foregoing statement shall be to the County Treasurer a sufficient warrant for the payment of said monies.

Town	Amount Allocated to Tax District	Amount Apportioned to Town	Amount Apportioned to Village
Andes	\$15,719.94	\$15,719.94	
Bovina	\$9,109.19	\$9,109.19	
Colchester	\$9,991.32	\$9,991.32	
Davenport	\$16,413.85	\$16,413.85	
Delhi	\$64,185.76	\$54,750.72	\$9,435.04
Deposit	\$9,631.40	\$9,001.31	\$630.09
Franklin	\$24,265.88	\$23,193.84	\$1,072.04
Hamden	\$7,235.21	\$7,235.21	
Hancock	\$12,221.17	\$11,203.15	\$1,018.02
Harpersfield	\$16,791.25	\$15,041.91	\$1,749.34
Kortright	\$7,298.65	\$7,298.65	
Masonville	\$8,200.75	\$8,200.75	
Meredith	\$6,375.37	\$6,375.37	

Town	Amount Allocated to Tax District	Amount Apportioned to Town	Amount Apportioned to Village
Middletown	\$54,235.14	\$49,413.55 FL	\$1,433.53
		MV	\$3,388.06
Roxbury	\$28,652.75	\$28,652.75	
Sidney	\$35,841.93	\$26,066.78	\$9,775.15
Stamford	\$12,763.27	\$9,946.84 ST	\$1,238.11
		HO	\$1,578.32
Tompkins	\$5,891.96	\$5,891.96	
Walton	\$25,459.63	\$20,964.55	\$4,495.08
Totals ...	\$370,284.42	\$334,471.64	\$35,812.78

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Taggart and adopted by the following vote:  
Ayes 4461, Noes 0, Absent 338 (Gladstone, Merrill).

Mr. Marshfield explained that after reading a local newspaper and being inundated with calls and emails regarding a publication referencing Local Law Into. Nos. 22 through 36 of 2023 for salary increases, he had felt the need to better understand the salary increases. In communication with the Personnel Officer regarding the salary increases, he now better understands. He stated that according to his understanding, the largest salary increase was for Director of Real Property Tax Services II which was a nine percent increase. He furthered that a seven and a half percent increase for the Commissioner of Social Services, seven percent increase for the Sheriff, and six percent increase for the Personnel Officer were the next highest percentage increases. The remaining percentage increases all fall between four and a quarter percent and four and a half percent. He indicated that there were ‘steps’ included in the salary increases which explain the percentage difference represented by the article he read versus the reality of the increases.

Mr. Marshfield further explained that the Sheriff has received three raises in the past year, however the reasoning behind those increases was to keep his salary above some of his subordinates’ salaries. He added that the Director of Real Property Tax Services II was the only individual who requested a raise which wasn’t in the budget. The nine percent raise which the Director of Real Property Tax Services II was given was negotiated down from her original request. He noted that it is integral to understand Delaware County does not provide health insurance to retired employees. This is a major factor as to why the salaries in Delaware County must be competitive in comparison to adjoining counties which do pay the health insurance premium for retired employees. It is an age where retaining personnel is of high importance, and

being able to offer competitive salaries and benefits is necessary to fill positions.

Mr. Ellis recalled Local Law Intro. No. 22 to set the 2024 salary of Douglas Elston, Director Community Mental Health at \$108,061. The local law was seconded by Mr. Vernold and adopted by the following vote: Ayes 4461, Noes 0, Absent 338 (Gladstone, Merrill).

Mr. Ellis recalled Local Law Intro. No. 23 to set the 2024 salary of Judith Garrison, Election Commissioner at \$60,000. The local law was seconded by Mr. Vernold and adopted by the following vote: Ayes 4461, Noes 0, Absent 338 (Gladstone, Merrill).

Mr. Ellis recalled Local Law Intro. No. 24 to set the 2024 salary of Stephen Hood, Director of Emergency Services at \$74,724. The local law was seconded by Mr. Vernold and adopted by the following vote: Ayes 4461, Noes 0, Absent 338 (Gladstone, Merrill).

Mr. Ellis recalled Local Law Intro. No. 25 to set the 2024 salary of Joseph deMauro, Director of Information Technology at \$98,124. The local law was seconded by Mr. Tuthill and adopted by the following vote: Ayes 4461, Noes 0, Absent 338 (Gladstone, Merrill).

Mr. Ellis recalled Local Law Intro. No. 26 to set the 2024 salary of Wayne Shepard, Director Office for the Aging at \$85,377. The local law was seconded by Mr. Kosier and adopted by the following vote: Ayes 4461, Noes 0, Absent 338 (Gladstone, Merrill).

Mr. Ellis recalled Local Law Intro. No. 27 to set the 2024 salary of Carrara Knoetgen, Personnel Officer at \$90,832. The local law was seconded by Mr. Vernold and adopted by the following vote: Ayes 4461, Noes 0, Absent 338 (Gladstone, Merrill).

Mr. Ellis recalled Local Law Intro. No. 28 to set the 2024 salary of Joseph Ermeti, Public Defender at \$187,650. The local law was seconded by Mr. Vernold and adopted by the following vote: Ayes 4329, Noes 132 (Marshfield), Absent 338 (Gladstone, Merrill).

Mr. Ellis recalled Local Law Intro. No. 29 to set the 2024 salary of Amanda Walsh, Public Health Director at \$113,654. The local law was seconded by Mr. Vernold and adopted by the following vote: Ayes 4461, Noes 0, Absent 338 (Gladstone, Merrill).

Mr. Ellis recalled Local Law Intro. No. 30 to set the 2024 salary of James Thomas, Commissioner of Public Works at \$115,515. The local law was seconded by Mr. Vernold and adopted by the following vote: Ayes 4461, Noes 0, Absent 338 (Gladstone, Merrill).

Mr. Ellis recalled Local Law Intro. No. 31 to set the 2024 salary of Sherri Falcone, Director of Real Property Tax Services II at \$90,000. The local law was seconded by Mr. Vernold and adopted by the following vote: Ayes 3771, Noes 690 (Marshfield, Cetta), Absent 338 (Gladstone, Merrill).

Mr. Ellis recalled Local Law Intro. No. 32 to set the 2024 salary of Sylvia Armanno, Commissioner of Social Services at \$114,056. The local law was seconded by Mr. Vernold and adopted by the following vote: Ayes 4461, Noes 0, Absent 338 (Gladstone, Merrill).

Mr. Ellis recalled Local Law Intro. No. 33 to set the 2024 salary of Mark Dunlop, Director of Veterans Service Agency at \$55,845. The local law was seconded by Mr. Vernold and adopted by the following vote: Ayes 4461, Noes 0, Absent 338 (Gladstone, Merrill).

Mr. Ellis recalled Local Law Intro. No. 34 to set the 2024 salary of Debra Goodrich, County Clerk at \$81,127. The local law was seconded by Mr. Vernold and adopted by the following vote: Ayes 4461, Noes 0, Absent 338 (Gladstone, Merrill).

Mr. Ellis recalled Local Law Intro. No. 35 to set the 2024 salary of Craig DuMond, Sheriff at \$104,690. The local law was seconded by Mr. Vernold and adopted by the following vote: Ayes 4461, Noes 0, Absent 338 (Gladstone, Merrill).

Mr. Ellis recalled Local Law Intro. No. 36 to set the 2024 salary of Beverly Shields, County Treasurer at \$81,127. The local law was seconded by Mr. Vernold and adopted by the following vote: Ayes 4461, Noes 0, Absent 338 (Gladstone, Merrill).

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

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 218**

**TITLE: PAYMENT OF AUDIT**

**WHEREAS**, bills and claims submitted and duly audited by the Clerk of the Board’s office in the amount of \$1,977,860.00 are hereby presented to the Board of Supervisors for approval of payment;

**THEREFORE**, the County Treasurer was directed to pay said expenditures as listed below and this Board now approves of said payment as follows:

General Fund	\$762,101.83
OET	\$16,148.69
Public Safety Comm System	\$0.00
Insurance Risk	\$23,868.27
CAP 97 Main	\$144.13
CAP MH	\$0.00
CAP DSS	\$3,730.27

Highway Audits, as Follows:

Weights & Measures	\$0.00
Solid Waste/Landfill	\$165,604.77
Road	\$26,594.61
Machinery	\$82,321.44
Capital Solid Waste	\$28,790.02
Capital Road & Bridge	\$407,058.06
CAP DPW Complex	\$461,497.91

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Kosier and adopted by the following vote:  
Ayes 4461, Noes 0, Absent 338 (Gladstone, Merrill).

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 219**

**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 \$1,650,000.

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Taggart and adopted by the following vote:  
Ayes 4461, Noes 0, Absent 338 (Gladstone, Merrill).

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 220**

**TITLE: ADOPTION OF 2024 DELAWARE COUNTY BUDGET**

**WHEREAS**, the Tentative Budget for the year 2024 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 for 2024, as revised, be adopted.

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Taggart.

Mr. Marshfield stated that when the Finance Committee began to work on the 2024 Budget, they were at a twenty three percent increase from the 2023 Budget. They worked very hard to reduce the amount of the increase and took more from reserves. He noted that an additional \$500,000.00 from sales tax was included in the 2024 Budget so that everyone in the County can benefit. He explained that the effect to the taxpayers will be \$652,000.00 plus any increase in assessments for 2024.

In response to Mr. Marshfield, Chairman Molé confirmed that the 2024 Budget reflects a 1.9628% increase. Mr. Marshfield furthered that in order for the state to continue to fund the Raise the Age Program, the County needed to be under two percent tax cap.

Mr. Taggart added that funding was cut for 31 vacant positions, however, if these positions get filled, they will be funded. The Committee felt that the taxpayers should not have to fund all of the salaries and benefits for positions which are not filled at this time. He furthered that the County typically has between 75 and 90 job openings, and there is no reason to fund them all as it is unlikely they all will be filled at any given time.

The resolution was adopted by the following vote: Ayes 4461, Noes 0, Absent 338 (Gladstone, Merrill).

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 221**

**TITLE: APPROPRIATION RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, this Board by Resolution No. 220, dated November 21, 2023, adopted a budget for the fiscal year 2024;

**RESOLVED** that the several amounts specified in the column, "Adopted" be and hereby are appropriated for the objects and purposes specified, effective January 1, 2024.

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Taggart and adopted by the following vote: Ayes 4461, Noes 0, Absent 338 (Gladstone, Merrill).

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 222**

**TITLE: EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Delaware County Board of Supervisors convene in executive session to discuss litigation.

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Taggart and adopted by the following vote: Ayes 4461, Noes 0, Absent 338 (Gladstone, Merrill).

The meeting reconvened in regular session with all Supervisors present except Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Merrill, and Mr. Marshfield.

Mr. Vernold stated that the 'EMS Direct Pay Bill' had recently been signed into law by Governor Hochul, which is intended to facilitate health insurance plans to reimburse ambulance services for the transportation of out-of-network patients. He lamented that the Board had not

been informed of this Bill prior to its passage into law. He stated that this Board could have considered passing a resolution in support of the Bill.

In response to Ms. Merklen, Mr. Vernold confirmed that the Bill allows the insurance company to bypass the customer in the billing process. Mrs. Scott added that in the past, the check for the ambulance service has been sent to the patient, and the patient was responsible for providing payment to the ambulance service provider. She explained that paid ambulance providers can now bill patients directly. The County ambulance service will benefit from this as well being that the payments will come directly to the County instead of to the patient. This increased revenue will be a great benefit.

Chairman Molé added that Mr. Marshfield brought up this passage of the ‘EMS Direct Pay Bill’ in today’s Finance Committee discussions, and she wondered why it had not been brought up in any Public Safety Committee meetings. She reiterated that the Board would have sent their support had this Bill been brought up and she expressed that it should have been.

Mr. Vernold noted that the Upstate New York Towns Association, Inc. lobbied hard for this legislation which was signed into law November 17. In response to Mrs. Scott, he furthered that one would think that EMS providers would have been aware of this legislation as a part of their own reading. Ms. Molé added that as members of the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC), they receive a packet of proposed resolutions which they would like counties to support. She reiterated that the ‘EMS Direct Pay Bill’ was not included in that packet.

In response to Mrs. Scott, Mr. Vernold confirmed that Assemblywoman Lupardo, Senator Breslin, Assemblyman Magnarelli, and their colleagues all sponsored the bill. Ms. Molé added that the bill received bipartisan support.

Mr. Taggart added that we understand that legislation takes time to pass through the legislature. He feels that EMS should have brought the topic up for discussion as they supported the legislation, and that it was lobbied well by the Upstate New York Towns Association, Inc. Mr. Vernold added that he is also a paid member of the Upstate New York Towns Association along with Mr. Marshfield, and that he was unaware of this legislation until he received the email regarding its passage.

Ms. Molé stated that as the new year approaches, any new resolutions put forth by the Upstate New York Towns Association or NYSAC should be kept in focus for their support.

Mr. Vernold read the following statement:

“Ambulance providers will receive direct payment for services upon submission of a claim to the beneficiary’s insurance company, without the ambulance company needing to be a “preferred provider.” This will dramatically simplify the ambulance revenue collection process. Currently, when a patient uses an ambulance service that is not a “participating” or “preferred” provider with their insurance company (out-of-network), their insurance company sends the reimbursement check directly to the patient. While the patient is then expected to pay the

ambulance provider, in many cases, the patient cashes the check and does not pay the ambulance provider, forcing extensive collection activities. NYSVARA (New York State Volunteer Ambulance and Rescue Association) believes that fair and direct insurance reimbursement for EMS calls is paramount to financial stability and continued availability of ambulance services to serve our patients and communities. Volunteer EMS responders report to shifts around the clock and are at the ready to assist the ill and injured. This law will help ambulance squads by increasing the percentage of the payment intended for ambulance service that actually gets to the ambulance squad.”

Chairman Molé stated that it is a great benefit to the County and will provide funding that would typically have been supplied by the taxpayers. Mr. Taggart agreed that the collection of more insurance money will be a great benefit.

Ms. Molé wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Upon a motion, the meeting was adjourned at 3:26 p.m.