

REGULAR MEETING

DELAWARE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

JANUARY 24, 2024

The regular meeting of the Delaware County Board of Supervisors was held Wednesday, January 24, 2024 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 Tina B. Molé presiding.

The Clerk called the roll and all Supervisors were present.

Mr. Marshfield offered the invocation.

Mrs. Scott 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.

Supervisor Gladstone recognized Sheriff Craig DuMond, who was elected President of the New York State Sheriff's Association and recently sworn in. Sheriff DuMond thanked the Board for their appreciation and support, and expressed what a privilege it is to represent the NYS Sheriff's Association and Delaware County.

Chairman Molé added that she believed it was the first time a sitting governor had attended the swearing in ceremony for the President of the NYS Sheriff's Association. Sheriff DuMond agreed that it has been decades since a sitting governor had attended the ceremony, and the first time a sitting governor had assisted in the ceremony.

Ms. Molé granted privilege of the floor to Supervisor Vernold, who introduced Jeff Skelding, Director of the Friends of the Upper Delaware River.

Mr. Skelding expressed his appreciation for the Board's time, and all involved with arranging the presentation. He explained that Friends of the Upper Delaware River (FUDR) is based in Hancock and have a storefront office in the Village of Hancock. He introduced two other staff members in attendance, Deputy Director Sherri Resti Thomas and Policy Director Molly Oliver. He explained that historically, their work has been focused in the towns of Colchester, Deposit, and Hancock as well as the Villages of Deposit and Hancock. Early on in his tenure, he reflected on FUDR and Delaware County being involved in the Upper Delaware River Tailwaters Coalition. The Coalition was made up of local municipal governments and nonprofits. The organization started out focused on trout fishing, hence the use of the term 'Tailwaters' in reference to an especially good location to fish below a dam. Besides the economic support from visiting fishermen, they branched out to address issues within the Watershed which impacts locals as well.

Flood mitigation dominated early discussions, which would impact both fishing and its economic contributions to the area, as well as severely impact residents in the Hancock, Deposit, and Colchester areas. Stream restoration work was also a top priority, prompting the formation of the Delaware River Basin Restoration Program. He emphasized that the great congressional representation has also assisted in securing federal funds. In addition to federal funds, state funding has been a focus, especially given the Upper Delaware Watershed is one of the few in the state without a dedicated state funding program. Lobbying has been successful in raising one million dollars in funding from New York State. After years of looking to secure funds, funding is now included in the governor's budget for our watershed region.

Mr. Skelding reflected that historically the FUDR has focused on the areas below the dams, while the Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District (DCSWCD) and the Delaware County Planning Department has focused on facilitating assistance beyond that specific focus. They are aware of the controversies associated with past involvement of the New York City Department of Environmental Protection regarding land acquisition and usage. Though they follow those issues, their organization's purview does not extend to those controversies.

He reiterated that the Upper Delaware River Watershed Program is funded by New York State and supports the implementation of the federal Delaware River Conservation Fund. Though the money must be used within New York State, it covers not just Delaware County but also Sullivan and Orange Counties. In this way, there is a reliance on partnerships and collaborations among all Upper Delaware River watershed stakeholders. The goal is to promote and support existing plans, not replacing them.

Mr. Skelding furthered that the Program supports non-regulatory approaches to watershed protection which respect private property rights. Leadership includes a committee comprised of local officials and nonprofits as well as an advisory committee including county and state officials. State funding comes through FUDR but they are required to re-grant the funds to distribute to eligible recipients for the implementation of projects which advance the watershed protection and restoration goals of the program. These re-grant awards closely follow the goals and objectives of the Upper Delaware River Action Agenda and the federal Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund (DWCF). Qualified applicants include municipal governments, 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations, universities and other academic institutions. He reiterated that all projects should have landowner and public support and would have multiple conservation benefits.

Mr. Skelding stated that in the past three years many projects have been undertaken, including the Little Beaverkill Waterline Project, the Highland Access boat ramp, and the Mongaup Restoration and habitat improvement. Projects which are scheduled for 2024 funding are Oquaga Creek stabilization in the Village of Deposit, culvert replacement on Mellis Brook in the Town of Colchester, and waterline stabilization in the Town of Rockland. He asked that any Supervisors with the time and ability to participate to consider taking part in their Steering Committee, which meets quarterly, and helps identify opportunities for partnership in Delaware County. He reiterated the personal investment he and other members of FUDR have, they all

live locally, and many of them were born and raised in the area.

In response to Mr. Gladstone, Policy Director Molly Oliver explained that the location of a prospective project is the primary factor in how it is handled. The FUDR would help facilitate communication with the DCSWCD or Delaware County Planning Department as appropriate, or involve local municipalities as needed.

Mr. Skelding furthered that the involvement of external organizations like our DCSWCD and their skillset is a huge asset for our region. Other counties may have Soil and Water Conservation Districts, but he feels that skillset and the resources which come with ours specifically is integral. In closing, he thanked the Board for their time.

Chairman Molé thanked Mr. Skelding and the staff of FUDR for their time and presentation.

Ms. Molé granted privilege of the floor to Supervisor Gladstone, who introduced Director of Emergency Services Steve Hood. Mr. Gladstone reminded the Board that the contract with American Medical Response (AMR) has been in force for just over a year now, and Mr. Hood has a review of the services performed.

Mr. Hood explained that the County had begun with two choices: either invest in a County ambulance, employ individuals directly, purchase equipment, and support the volunteers, or contact out for the service. The Public Safety Committee had decided to go forward with the contract service, and after the bid process, accepted a contract with AMR in 2022. This contract dictated that AMR provide two basic life support ambulances and one advanced life support fly car to be staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week. He asserts that for the entirety of the contract, AMR has not missed a moment. Statistics have been gathered during 2023 in order to assess the benefits of the contract to the County. He overviewed the data, stating that there were 2,281 calls for service from January to December of 2023. Of those calls, 1,525 had patient contact. On average, there are about seven calls a day, and of those seven calls, patient contact is made on about four of the calls. He clarified that the calls where there was no patient contact indicate that a volunteer squad may have reached the patient first, or another ambulance may have been closer.

In response to Mr. Marshfield, Mr. Hood stated that no one is billed for cancelled calls. Most of the time, the cancellation occurs enroute.

Mr. Hood further explained the patient contact statistics, indicating that of the 1,525 patient contacts, 948 resulted in transport, 278 resulted in advanced life support assists, 228 resulted in the patient refusing care, 31 were deceased upon arrival, and 40 involved ET3 assists which involve a telemedicine visit with a doctor to help the patient make an informed decision as to whether or not they should go to the hospital immediately or seek care in the near future.

Mr. Hood indicated that about one third of the time, the County ambulance is being cancelled before it performs any services. He explained that about 69% of the time, patient contact results in basic life support versus advanced life support. Advanced life support is when

the paramedic from the fly car travels in the ambulance with the patient to the hospital, as they needed more than the basic life support available in ambulances. He indicated that this statistic is consistent with the national average.

In review of the monetary facets of the contract, Mr. Hood indicated that the total amount billed to the County was \$1,899,999.96. He reiterated that part of the contract agreement requires AMR to reimburse the County for anything paid by the patient or their insurance to AMR in their monthly bill. At this time, the County has paid \$1,302,103.21 year to date, with reimbursement totaling \$597,896.75.

In response to Mr. Marshfield and in agreement with Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Hood agreed that the \$1,302,103.21 is reflective of a full calendar year of service. He furthered that the billing reimbursement has multiple different sources in what he explained as a 'payor mix' where about 85% of the patients cared for have Medicare or Medicaid and the other 15% are a mixture of non-contract insurance, private pay, veterans' insurance, and contract insurance. Currently, non-government insurance checks are sent directly to the patient, though this is set to change in 2025.

In response to Mr. Wilson, Mr. Hood indicated that he was unsure how the new law requiring insurance companies to send payment for services directly to ambulance providers would affect the billing process. He reiterated that it is a minority of people with that type of insurance, and it is a rarity that patients keep the check as it is against the law.

In response to Mr. Layton, Mr. Hood furthered that for government payors where the rate of payment is set regardless of the charge, there is a significant discrepancy in fees versus payments. For example, when Medicaid raised their rates in July of 2023, the reimbursement for basic life support care is \$250.00 without any way to collect more through a copay, deductible, or other means. The base rate charged per the contract for basic life support care is approximately \$1,500.00. He stated that these government reimbursement rates are far below the cost to provide the service, and is a primary factor in why a subsidy is required. The net revenue per transport for Delaware County is \$482.99, which represents 23.7% of what the gross charges were. It should be noted that given the gap in time between the bill being sent and the money being collected may skew that percentage at this time, making it lower than it would be if payments had already been received.

In summary, overall revenue recovery is a slow process. Invoices are sent within days of service, but it takes some time for payments to come in, especially if a patient has multiple insurances. Private money tends to be the slowest to receive. Accounts are actively worked on by the billing team to obtain maximum returns, though stymied by the fixed reimbursement rates. In rare cases, some accounts can go into collections, an example being when a patient keeps an insurance check. Mr. Hood asserted that regardless of any finances, it is clear from the statistics that the contract with AMR is doing what was intended, filling the major gap in emergency response care for residents of Delaware County.

In agreement with Chairman Molé, Mr. Hood stated that the average response time has improved tremendously. Instead of emergency dispatch toning agency after agency seeking an

available ambulance, and people waiting forty-five minutes or more for emergency assistance, the average response time is now around seventeen minutes.

In response to Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Hood agreed that it has always been an issue but now is better understood how impactful fixed government reimbursement rates are. A lot of ambulance services battle the discrepancy between cost of service and fixed reimbursements daily. He asserted that EMS should be seen as part of the healthcare system, and unfortunately at this time they are not. Because EMS is not considered an 'essential' service, when an ambulance service goes out of business, there are no stipulations requiring local municipalities to provide ambulance services in the way that fire services are required by law. In agreement with Ms. Molé, he reiterated that law must be addressed on a state level.

Mr. Marshfield stated that the commencement of the contract with AMR has been a godsend for the Delhi Fire and Ambulance services specifically. As one can see from the statistics, the number of patients coming from Delhi are quite high, primarily because of the nursing home. He recognized that the majority of patients picked up from the nursing home in Delhi would likely be a fixed reimbursement from government insurance, and that he perceived it to be unfair to the residents of Delhi that residents from all over the county come to the nursing home but it is Delhi which must compensate for that disproportionate population. He noted that alleviating 447 calls from the volunteer ambulance service through the contract with AMR has made a significant difference for the volunteer service.

In response to Mr. Marshfield, Mr. Hood explained that the number of calls in Sidney is higher because of inter-facility transport.

In response to Mr. Faulkner, Mr. Hood stated that weekly conference calls with AMR and a good working relationship has supported the success of the contract and allows them to address any issues or concerns as quickly as possible. He reiterated that AMR has not missed a beat; any time an ambulance needs to be relieved another is at the ready seamlessly.

In response to Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Hood explained that the biggest complaint from patients stems from a lack of understanding of the billing process. Complaints regarding actual service are few and far between.

In response to Mr. Vernold, Mr. Hood stated that only a change in the law on a state level would make ambulance services essential and require towns to provide the service to their residents. Fire services have more often than not been mandated by town laws going back to when towns were established. At that time, ambulance services did not exist.

In response to Mr. Cetta, Mr. Hood confirmed that the initial contract was funded with American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) monies. Mr. Cetta expressed that when the County must renew the contract, it should be considered that the cost must then be encompassed by the Delaware County budget. Budget Officer Art Merrill added that planning for this expenditure has already been considered for the future.

Mr. Hood explained that there is a percentage increase in the contract cost in the second year of the contract. In response to Mr. Smith, Mr. Hood stated that when the original Request for Proposals (RFP) was put forth, the other service which has operating authority in the county had missed the deadline for submission. If the County chooses to redo the RFP, it should be discussed in committee sooner rather than later. Mr. Hinkley agreed, stating that now that it is better understood what we are involved with the contract should be revisited. It is a three-year contract which was signed in December of 2022, and now would be the time to consider if another RFP should be put out.

In response to Mr. Smith, Mr. Hood confirmed that AMR does employ local residents, often including individuals who are volunteers as well. He furthered that AMR also has an agreement with SUNY Cobleskill where students who sign a contract with AMR also receive a subsidy for any EMT classes they may take.

Chairman Molé thanked Mr. Hood for the update.

Mr. Cetta provided an update on the distribution of the funds approved through the Opioid Settlement Committee, stating that there is a not-prefiled resolution which will distribute the first round of funding. Over the past six to eight months, the committee has put a lot of time and effort into deciding how to begin the disbursement, and he wanted to reiterate that the timeframe for utilizing the funds is lengthy.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 8

**TITLE: 2024 BUDGET AMENDMENT
ACCEPTANCE OF TIER GRANT
BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

WHEREAS, New York State has issued a Technology Innovation & Election Resource (TIER) grant to Delaware County to help with costs of upgrades of software, technology updates and election supplies; and

WHEREAS, Delaware County Board of Elections has been approved of receiving \$48,355.54.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the 2024 Budget be amended as follows:

INCREASE REVENUE:

10-11450-43308000/1450012/961	New York State	\$48,355.54
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INCREASE APPROPRIATION:

10-11450-52200001/1450012/961	Grant Equipment	\$48,355.54
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The resolution was seconded by Mr. Vernold and adopted by the following vote:
Ayes 4799, Noes 0, Absent 0.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 9

**TITLE: 2023 BUDGET AMENDMENT
TRANSFER OF FUNDS
SHERIFF'S OFFICE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY**

WHEREAS, funds have been made available to the Sheriff's Office by way of Federal Board-ins, which is over the allocated amount budgeted; and

WHEREAS, these funds are to help cover the expense of the contractual expenses and personal services for the Correctional Facility in 2023; and

WHEREAS, we are looking to transfer the overage from boarding in federal inmates to help offset these expenses.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the 2023 Budget be amended to reflect the purchase of said supplemental items, as follows:

INCREASE REVENUE:

10-13150-41152501	Prisoner Charges (Federal) – JAIL	\$92,500.00
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INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

10-13150-54310000	Food	\$5,800.00
10-13150-54445000	Medical Services	\$7,100.00
10-13150-51000000	Personal Services Exp- JAIL	\$39,800.00
10-13150-58100000	State Retirement System	\$39,800.00

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Vernold and adopted by the following vote:
Ayes 4799, Noes 0, Absent 0.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 10

**TITLE: 2024 BUDGET ADMENDMENT
TRANSFER OF FUNDS
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES**

WHEREAS, Local Health Department (LHD) COVID-19 Vaccine Response grant has approved the purchase of a respirator fit tester to perform required annual fit testing of employees and just-in-time fit testing during disease related emergencies ensuring proper

respirator fit and safety of employees and clinic workers; and

WHEREAS, a transfer of funds is necessary to purchase the approved equipment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the 2024 Budget be amended as follows:

TRANSFER FROM:

10-14012-54327000/4012023/906	General Grant Related Exp	\$19,610.00
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TRANSFER TO:

10-14012-52200001/4012023/906	Equipment-Grant	\$19,610.00
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The resolution was seconded by Mr. Kosier and adopted by the following vote:
Ayes 4799, Noes 0, Absent 0.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 11

**TITLE: 2024 BUDGET AMENDMENT
TRANSPORTATION INITIATIVE PROGRAM
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

WHEREAS, the Delaware County Department of Social Services is the designated local agency to administer the Transportation Initiative Program, and

WHEREAS, the expenditures will be used to meet the transportation needs of individuals eligible under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program who are employed or participating in other allowable work activities; and

WHEREAS, the expenditures will be 100% reimbursed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the 2024 Budget be amended as follows:

INCREASE REVENUE:

10-16010-44461000	Federal Social Services Administration	\$14,478.00
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INCREASE APPROPRIATION:

10-16010-54427013	Transportation Initiative	\$14,478.00
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The resolution was seconded by Mr. Vernold.

Chairman Molé clarified that the Department of Social Services Transportation Initiative Program is separate from the Transportation Study which the Delaware County Chamber of

Commerce had engaged in utilizing funds from the American Rescue Plan (ARP).

The resolution was adopted by the following vote: Ayes 4799, Noes 0, Absent 0.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 12

**TITLE: 2024 BUDGET AMENDMENT
ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDS FROM APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR
DEVELOPMENT OF THE DELAWARE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

WHEREAS, the Delaware County Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution No. 111 dated June 22, 2022, allocating \$150,000.00 through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 to the Delaware County Planning Department for the development of a County Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, Delaware County has secured additional funding in the amount of \$150,000.00 from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) for the development of the Plan.

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 2024 Budget be amended as follows:

INCREASE REVENUE:

10-18020-44408900-8020018-908	Fed General Gov Aid	\$150,000.00
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INCREASE APPROPRIATION:

10-18020-54327200-8020018-908	Grant Contractual County Comp Plan	\$150,000.00
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The resolution was seconded by Mr. Ellis.

In response to Mr. Marshfield, Planning Director Shelly Johnson-Bennett explained that this grant is in addition to the ARPA funding. ARC funding requires a dollar-to-dollar match, so the Planning Department engaged a consultant to start working on the County Comprehensive Plan. The proposal put forth by the consultant considers that there are certain facets which may need special study and require utilization of specialized subcontractors, particularly with renewable projects and exploring potential long-term impacts to the county. Examining land acquisition programs, housing, and open space are also on their agenda. The additional funding will allow the utilization of specialized subcontractors to explore these concerns.

Chairman Molé stated that this is the first County's first comprehensive plan.

The resolution was adopted by the following vote: Ayes 4799, Noes 0, Absent 0.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 13

**TITLE: PAYMENT OF MACHINERY RENTALS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

WHEREAS, various authorized expenditures from the Machinery Fund are being made, especially for the purchase of new equipment; and

WHEREAS, anticipated rentals earned from the County Road Fund appear insufficient to meet those expenditures during the next several months.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the County Treasurer is hereby authorized to pay in advance such highway equipment rentals as are necessary to cover the cash needs of the Machinery Fund; and to credit subsequent rental warrants against the amount so advanced, provided that the total advanced and credited shall not exceed the amounts authorized in the budget for 2024.

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Kosier and adopted by the following vote: Ayes 4799, Noes 0, Absent 0.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 14

**TITLE: AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION NO. 237 OF 2023
CORRECTION OF OMITTED TAX
REAL PROPERTY TAX SERVICES**

WHEREAS, the Director of Real Property Tax Services was presented with a correction of omitted taxes for the 2022 and 2023 tax rolls in the Town of Walton, tax map no. 273.7-7-26 which was formerly an exempt property and was transferred to DSSS Enterprises Corporation; and

WHEREAS, the amount needed to be raised was the town and county portion of the omitted tax, not the school portion.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Resolution No. 237 of 2023 is hereby amended to levy the amount of \$6,018.21 to the 2024 tax bill for DSSS Enterprises Corporation.

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Marshfield.

Mr. Merrill explained that this resolution had been previously passed, however, because the school tax portion went out on the school tax bill, the resolution needed to be amended.

The resolution was adopted by the following vote: Ayes 4799, Noes 0, Absent 0.

Mr. Hinkley introduced Local Law Intro. No. 16 of 2024 entitled *Local Law Providing for Adjusted Weighted Voting by Members of the Board of Supervisors Based on the 2020 Census*. The Local Law was seconded by Mr. Vernold.

LOCAL LAW INTRO. NO. 16 OF 2024

**TITLE: LOCAL LAW PROVIDING FOR ADJUSTED WEIGHTED VOTING
BY MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
BASED ON THE 2020 CENSUS**

WHEREAS, the 2020 United States of America population census figures for the towns in Delaware County have changed and requires an amendment to the weighted voting of the members of the Board of Supervisors; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Delaware County Board of Supervisors to establish a plan of weighted voting pursuant to Municipal Home Rule Law which permits a County legislative body to prescribe the voting powers of individual members; and

WHEREAS, as many counties throughout the State rely on weighted voting systems, the new Census data required many counties to reexamine the distribution of weighted votes. Many counties in New York hired an independent evaluator to make recommendations. Based on these recommendations, Table A, attached hereto and made part hereof, represents that recalculation; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors has previously adopted Local Law No. 3 of 2011 which established the current weighted voting and, now, is hereby repealed with the enactment of Local Law No. 16 of 2024.

THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED that the Delaware County Board of Supervisors adopt the following Table A; and

BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that the weighted votes derived from the 2020 population census and specified in Table A become effective for Delaware County Board of Supervisors after the ratification of this Local Law No. 16 of 2024.

TABLE A

<u>Town</u>	<u>2020 Population</u>	<u>Weighted Vote</u>
Andes	1114	5

Bovina	658	3
Colchester	1782	8
Davenport	2955	13
Delhi	4795	22
Deposit	1427	6
Franklin	2288	10
Hamden	1137	5
Hancock	2764	13
Harpersfield	1442	6
Kortright	1544	7
Masonville	1239	6
Meredith	1484	7
Middletown	3336	15
Roxbury	2247	10
Sidney	5536	25
Stamford	2000	9
Tompkins	1290	6
Walton	5270	24
Total	<hr/> 44308	200

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

RESOLUTION NO. 15

TITLE: PUBLIC HEARING ON LOCAL LAW INTRO. NO. 16 OF 2024

BE IT RESOLVED that a public hearing be held on Local Law Intro. No. 16 of 2024 entitled, A Local Law Providing for Adjusted Weighted Voting by Members of the Board of Supervisors Based on the 2020 Census, on Wednesday, February 28, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. in the Board of Supervisors Room of the County Office Building, 111 Main Street, Delhi, NY.

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

Ms. Molé stated that the Public Hearing will be held at the next meeting on February 28, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. 16

**TITLE: 2024 BUDGET AMENDMENT
APPROPRIATION OF OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**

WHEREAS, the Opioid Settlement Fund Advisory Board (OSFAB) of 2021 appropriated funding to counties to assist in the New York State’s efforts for treatment, recovery, harm reduction and prevention efforts; and

WHEREAS, Delaware County was awarded a total of \$540,965.95 from New York State Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS) to be used for eligible costs incurred during the period January 1, 2022 and ending on December 31, 2039; and

WHEREAS, the Opioid Settlement Funds Committee has done a thorough and impartial review of proposals and has approved the following projects for funding:

- Vecc Videography to provide funds to develop an interactive social media application called DelCovery and maintain for one year: \$78,850.00
- Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council of Delaware County (ADAC) to provide funds to establish a full-time Recovery Coach for the Delaware County Jail for one year: \$64,842.00
- Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services to provide funds to increase treatment outcomes for one year: \$30,460.00
- Behavioral Health to provide posters to all Delaware County schools: \$700.00

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the 2024 Budget be amended as follows:

INCREASE REVENUE:

10-11325-43308902/1327890/887	State Aid Other-Opioid Revenue	\$174,852.00
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INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

10-14310-54586000/1327890/887	MH Dep -Vecc Videography DelCovery	\$78,850.00
10-14310-54586000/1327890/887	MH Dep - ADAC- Recovery Coach	\$64,842.00
10-14317-54586000/1327890/887	ADA Dep - Increase Treatment Outcomes	\$30,460.00
10-14310-54586000/1327890/887	MH Dep - Posters	\$700.00

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Hinkley.

In response to Ms. Molé, Mr. Cetta confirmed that this is the distribution of funds approved through the Opioid Settlement Committee. He wanted to point out that part of the funding allocated to the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council of Delaware County (ADAC) had a part-time Recovery Coach who primarily served in the Correctional Facility, and that position has now been upgraded to a full-time position to match the demand for the service.

In agreement with Mr. Cetta, Sheriff Craig DuMond stated that the goal of the Corrections Facility is to release individuals from incarceration improved from how they entered. He furthered that there is a significant need for a full-time Recovery Coach, especially in consideration of the mental health and substance abuse difficulties many incarcerated individuals struggle with. He agreed that the Recovery Coach is very helpful in that endeavor.

The resolution was adopted by the following vote: Ayes 4799, Noes 0, Absent 0.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 17

TITLE: RESOLUTION URGING THE NYS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO IMMEDIATELY EXTEND SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING RESOURCES TO WESTCHESTER MEDICAL CENTER'S HEALTH ALLIANCE OF THE HUDSON VALLEY, AS REQUESTED TO ENSURE THE CONTINUED SUSTAINMENT OF CRITICAL HEALTHCARE SERVICES IN THE CENTRAL CATSKILLS REGION

WHEREAS, New York State has chosen to deny financial support to the WMCHHealth Network as requested in the SFY2024 Vital Access Provider Assurance Program (VAPAP) for Health Alliance of the Hudson Valley; and

WHEREAS, Margaretville Memorial Hospital (MMH) and Mountainside Residential Care Center (MRCC) are both part of WMCHHealth and are direct beneficiaries of VAPAP funding; and

WHEREAS, MMH and MRCC are critical components of the local economy, providing more than 200 jobs and numerous residential services; and

WHEREAS, Emergency care provided by the MMH Ambulance service is crucial to the well being and safety of the entire eastern portion of Delaware County including neighboring Belleayre Mountain Ski Center (ORDA) employees and visitors. Loss of this emergency care would be a devastating and dangerous loss to several communities; and

WHEREAS, with the decline and crisis the volunteer EMS community in NYS is experiencing, loss of the MMH Ambulance would place our residents' health and welfare in immediate jeopardy; and

WHEREAS, MRCC, a long standing 5-star facility, is the preferred nursing home in the area for long term care and rehabilitation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Delaware County Board of Supervisors requests Governor Kathy Hochul and the State Legislature to direct the Department of Health (and other relevant State Agencies) to prioritize and allocate the necessary supplemental funding resources urgently requested by the Health Alliance of the Hudson Valley to ensure that the essential healthcare services in our underserved, rural communities, are not forced to be reduced or eliminated.

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

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Faulkner.

Mr. Gladstone explained that a month ago, a virtual meeting was held with Westchester Medical Center regarding the dire financial situation they have found themselves in. Funds have been cut by New York State which were integral to their functioning. The goal is to assist in facilitating the funds being reinstated. The resolution has been worded specifically to impart the dire need for these funds, and how critical the situation would be for our rural area should the Margaretville Memorial Hospital and Mountainside Residential Care Center be forced to close. They are a large employer of our region, and the medical services are direly necessary.

Chairman Molé thanked all of the Supervisors who had already sent letters of support urging the Governor to reinstate the lost funding.

Mr. Hinkley emphasized that the emergency room at the Margaretville Memorial Hospital is the only one within at least forty miles in any direction. The closure of this hospital would not only impact Delaware County, but also Ulster County and Schoharie County. The loss of this facility would be devastating for residents and significantly impact health care services. He reiterated how critical this situation is.

Mr. Gladstone mentioned a special thanks to the Mayor of Margaretville, John Hubbell, who arranged the virtual meeting.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 18

TITLE: PAYMENT OF AUDIT

WHEREAS, bills and claims submitted and duly audited by the Clerk of the Board's

office in the amount of \$1,715,057.69 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	\$1,087,177.28
OET	\$7,266.64
Public Safety Comm System	\$21,077.51
Insurance Risk	\$0.00
CAP 97 Main	\$0.00
CAP MH	\$0.00
CAP DSS	\$3,446.71
Highway Audits, as Follows:	
Weights & Measures	\$0.00
Solid Waste/Landfill	\$133,419.02
Road	\$43,729.02
Machinery	\$118,505.74
Capital Solid Waste	\$1,115.00
Capital Road & Bridge	\$27,486.27
CAP DPW Complex	\$271,834.51

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Marshfield and adopted by the following vote:
Ayes 4799, Noes 0, Absent 0.

Ms. Molé asked that all Supervisors check their roster cards for accuracy, as new cards will be printed after the next Board meeting.

Chairman Molé made the following committee appointment:

HEALTH SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD
2-year term ending December 31, 2025

Appoint:

Tristan Sharratt, NP, Medical Advisor

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

RESOLUTION NO. 19

TITLE: EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

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

The meeting reconvened in regular session with all Supervisors present except Mr. Kelso.

Mr. Haynes motioned to release the Weighted Vote Recalculation Report, which was seconded by Mr. Vernold. The motion was unanimously approved.

Upon a motion, the meeting was adjourned at 2:38 p.m.