

REGULAR MEETING

DELAWARE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

FEBRUARY 28, 2024

The regular meeting of the Delaware County Board of Supervisors was held Wednesday, February 28, 2024 at 1:02 p.m. in the Supervisors' Room of the Senator Charles D. Cook County Office Building, 111 Main Street, Delhi, New York, Vice Chairman James Ellis presiding.

The Clerk called the roll and all Supervisors were present except Ms. Molé.

Mr. Marshfield offered the invocation.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 20

**TITLE: 2024 BUDGET AMENDMENT
ACCEPTANCE OF ABSENTEE BALLOT PRE-PAID POSTAGE GRANT
BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

WHEREAS, New York State has issued an Absentee Ballot Pre-Paid Postage Grant to help with the cost of all the postage relating to absentee ballots, envelopes, and postage machine related items; and

WHEREAS, the Delaware County Board of Elections has been approved of receiving \$18,159.12 of said grant funds.

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

INCREASE REVENUE:

10-11450-43308000/1450014/961	State Board of Elections Grant	\$18,159.12
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INCREASE APPROPRIATION:

10-11450-54327000/1450014/961	General Grant Related Exp	\$6,159.12
10-11450-54327520/1450014/961	Grant Postage	\$12,000.00

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Vernold and adopted by the following vote:
Ayes 4736, Noes 0, Absent 63 (Molé).

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

RESOLUTION NO. 21

**TITLE: 2024 BUDGET AMENDMENT
ACCEPTANCE OF PRETRIAL SERVICES FUNDING
PROBATION DEPARTMENT**

WHEREAS, in April 2019, the State of New York enacted systemic changes to overhaul bail procedures applied by criminal courts; and

WHEREAS, a prominent component of bail reform was the requirement that every county must operate a pretrial services program; and

WHEREAS, the Delaware County Probation Department is the municipal agency designated to implement and operate a pretrial services program; and

WHEREAS, the Probation Department has been granted \$68,868.00 in additional funding in excess of the budgeted expectation; and

WHEREAS, this funding will be used to support the Delaware County Probation Department's certified pretrial services program.

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

INCREASE REVENUE:

10-13140-41158908	Other Public Safety Dept Monitoring	\$68,868.00
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INCREASE APPROPRIATION:

10-13140-54257000	Electronic Monitoring	\$68,868.00
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The resolution was seconded by Mr. Faulkner and adopted by the following vote:
Ayes 4736, Noes 0, Absent 63 (Molé).

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

RESOLUTION NO. 22

**TITLE: 2024 BUDGET AMENDMENT
ACCEPTANCE OF HEALTHCARE WORKER BONUS
SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

WHEREAS, NYS Department of Health has allocated funding for recruitment and retention bonuses to certain healthcare and mental hygiene workers; and

WHEREAS, Delaware County Sheriff’s Office is a qualified employer and is required to claim the bonus for their employees; and

WHEREAS, qualified employee must be “front line health care and mental hygiene practitioners, technicians, assistants and aides that provide hands on health or care services to individuals.”

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

INCREASE REVENUE:

10-13150-43349927	State Healthcare Worker Rev	\$538.25
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INCREASE APPROPRIATION:

10-13150-51000000	Personal Services	\$500.00
10-13150-58300000	Social Security Emplr Contrib	\$31.00
10-13150-58900000	Medicare Emplr Contrib	\$7.25

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Hinkley and adopted by the following vote: Ayes 4736, Noes 0, Absent 63 (Molé).

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

RESOLUTION NO. 23

**TITLE: 2024 BUDGET AMENDMENT
PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING POINTS OPERATIONS GRANT
DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES E911**

WHEREAS, the Department of Emergency Services applied for and was awarded a grant from New York State’s 2023-2024 Public Safety Answering Points Operations Grant Program (PS2023 WM23197690) with a contract period of 1/1/23 – 12/31/24 which allows for State support to counties for eligible public safety call taking and dispatching expenses; and

WHEREAS, the grant award will allow for a Computer Aided Dispatch System with integrated records management system and related equipment; and

WHEREAS, this grant was awarded in the amount of \$165,193.00 to Delaware County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Department of Emergency Services be authorized to accept this grant funding and the 2024 Budget be amended as follows:

INCREASE REVENUE:

10-13640-43330500/3640070/911 State Civil Defense \$165,193.00

INCREASE APPROPRIATION:

10-13640-52200001/3640070/911 Grant Equipment \$165,193.00

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Cetta and adopted by the following vote:
Ayes 4736, Noes 0, Absent 63 (Molé).

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

RESOLUTION NO. 24

**TITLE: 2024 BUDGET AMENDMENT
DIVISION OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES
STATEWIDE INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS GRANT
DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES E911**

WHEREAS, the Department of Emergency Services applied for and was awarded a grant from New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services Statewide Interoperable Communications Grant (SI2023 WM23197628) with a contract period of 1/1/2023 to 12/31/2025 this shall allow for the purchase of P25 compliant interoperable communications equipment; and

WHEREAS, the grant award will allow for the purchase of base stations and related items for interoperable input and output channels; and

WHEREAS, this grant will also cover the maintenance costs for the P25 Compliant Interoperable equipment; and

WHEREAS, this grant was awarded in the amount of \$667,382.00 to Delaware County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Department of Emergency Services is authorized to accept this grant funding and the 2024 Budget be amended as follows:

INCREASE REVENUE:

10-13640-43330500/3640071/911 State Civil Defense \$667,382.00

INCREASE APPROPRIATION:

10-13640-52200001/3640071/911 Grant Equipment \$167,382.00

10-13640-54327415/3640071/911 Grant Maintenance & Repair \$500,000.00

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Hinkley.

In response to Mr. Marshfield, Director of Emergency Services Steve Hood stated that neither the Public Safety Answering Points Operations Grant nor the Division of Homeland

Security and Emergency Services Statewide Interoperable Communications Grant will reduce any 2024 Budget appropriations. He confirmed that the grants are in addition to the appropriations, and that the grants afford them the ability to not have an equipment line in their budget.

In response to Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Hood stated that the grants are not guaranteed, but to his recollection, they have been awarded every year he has been director.

The resolution was adopted by the following vote: Ayes 4736, Noes 0, Absent 63 (Molé).

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

RESOLUTION NO. 25

**TITLE: 2024 BUDGET AMENDMENT
ACCEPTANCE OF HEALTHCARE WORKER BONUS
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH**

WHEREAS, NYS Department of Health has allocated funding for recruitment and retention bonuses to certain healthcare and mental hygiene workers; and

WHEREAS, Delaware County Community Services is a qualified employer and is required to claim the bonus for their employees; and

WHEREAS, qualified employees must be “front line health care and mental hygiene practitioners, technicians, assistants and aides that provide hands on health or care services to individuals”; and

WHEREAS, Delaware County Community Services has received this money in 2024.

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

INCREASE REVENUES:

10-14310-43349927	State Healthcare Worker Rev	\$3,229.50
10-14312-43349927	State Healthcare Worker Rev	\$1,614.75
10-14317-43349927	State Healthcare Worker Rev	\$1,614.75

INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

10-14310-51000000	Personal Services	\$3,000.00
10-14310-58300000	Social Security Emplr Contrib	\$186.00
10-14310-58900000	Medicare Emplr Contrib	\$43.50
10-14312-51000000	Personal Services	\$1,500.00
10-14312-58300000	Social Security Emplr Contrib	\$93.00
10-14312-58900000	Medicare Emplr Contrib	\$21.75

10-14317-51000000	Personal Services	\$1,500.00
10-14317-58300000	Social Security Emplr Contrib	\$93.00
10-14317-58900000	Medicare Emplr Contrib	\$21.75

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Marshfield and adopted by the following vote:
Ayes 4736, Noes 0, Absent 63 (Molé).

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

RESOLUTION NO. 26

**TITLE: 2024 BUDGET AMENDMENT
ADULT PROTECTIVE COMMUNITY LIVING SERVICES GRANT
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

WHEREAS, the Delaware County Department of Social Services is the designated local agency to administer the Adult Protective Community Living Grant; and

WHEREAS, the funding is to be used to enhance, improve, and expand Adult Protective Services’ ability to investigate allegations of abuse, neglect, and exploitation in the context of COVID-19, and is 100% reimbursable; and

WHEREAS, additional funding is available under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) in the amount of \$57,106.00; and

WHEREAS, the Delaware County Department of Social Services has been approved of receiving \$57,106.00 of said grant funds.

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

INCREASE REVENUE:

10-16070-44467000/6010649/971	Federal Services for Recipients (ARPA2)	\$57,106.00
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INCREASE APPROPRIATION:

10-16070-54575000/6010649/971	Services for Recipients (ARPA2)	\$57,106.00
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The resolution was seconded by Mr. Vernold.

Mr. Marshfield noted that the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds granted to the Department of Social Services are not associated with any other ARPA funds the County has received. Deputy Commissioner of Social Services Keith Weaver confirmed these are totally separate funds which were independently procured specifically for Social Services.

The resolution was adopted by the following vote: Ayes 4736, Noes 0, Absent 63 (Molé).

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

RESOLUTION NO. 27

**TITLE: 2024 BUDGET AMENDMENT
ACCEPTANCE OF TOURISM PROMOTION MATCHING FUNDS
PROMOTION OF TOURISM
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

WHEREAS, New York State provides funding through the Tourism Matching Funds Program to designated Tourism Promotion Agencies across the State for the purpose of marketing their destination in order to increase the number of visitors and the level of spending across the State; and

WHEREAS, the Delaware County Department of Economic Development was awarded \$53,463.00 in Tourism Matching Funds for 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Economic Development is authorized to accept this grant funding.

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

INCREASE REVENUE:

10-16420-43390201	State Empire Development Matching Funds Grant	\$53,463.00
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INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

10-16420-54105000	Advertising	\$5,963.00
10-16420-54245000	Dues and Memberships	\$21,500.00
10-16420-54535000	Professional Fees	\$26,000.00

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Wilson and adopted by the following vote: Ayes 4736, Noes 0, Absent 63 (Molé).

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

RESOLUTION NO. 28

**TITLE: OCCUPANCY TAX DISBURSEMENT APPROVAL
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
PROMOTION OF TOURISM**

WHEREAS, Delaware County established a Hotel Occupancy Tax for the purpose of promoting the tourism industry in Delaware County; and

WHEREAS, the Law stipulates that revenues derived from the occupancy tax are to be allocated for the promotion and development of the tourism industry in Delaware County; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Law, Delaware County established and empowered the Tourism Advisory Board to solicit, review and recommend proposals for the use of the funds raised from the occupancy tax for the promotion and development of the tourism industry in Delaware County; and

WHEREAS, on December 5, 2023, the Tourism Advisory Board reviewed the 2024 Media Plan proposal submitted by the Tourism Promotion Agent for Delaware County under the TPA grant program, and has recommended for approval by the Delaware County Board of Supervisors the use of \$155,502.00 in occupancy tax revenues for the implementation of the plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Delaware County Board of Supervisors approves the recommendations of the Tourism Advisory Board to utilize \$155,502.00 in occupancy tax revenues to help fund the 2024 Media Plan.

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Merrill.

In reply to Mr. Marshfield, Director of the Department of Economic Development Glenn Nealis explained that the 2024 Media Plan includes all preplanned advertising outlets which will be used for the year, from social media ads to printed publications. The entire Media Plan is approximately \$175,000.00 and the \$155,502.00 in occupancy tax revenues will help pay for that. He further clarified that this revenue will supplement the department's 2024 Budget.

The resolution was adopted by the following vote: Ayes 4736, Noes 0, Absent 63 (Molé).

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

RESOLUTION NO. 29

**TITLE: 2024 BUDGET AMENDMENT
TRANSFER OF FUNDS
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

WHEREAS, the revenues received under the Hotel Occupancy Tax are set aside and placed into the Restricted Fund Balance (Hotel Occupancy Tax) for the purpose of the promotion and development of the tourism industry in Delaware County; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 28 of 2024 the Board of Supervisors approved the use of Hotel Occupancy Tax revenues and the authorization of the use of Occupancy Tax revenues requires such funds to be transferred from the restricted fund balance.

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

INCREASE REVENUE:

10-00000-34899000	Hotel Occupancy Tax Reserve	\$155,502.00
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INCREASE APPROPRIATION:

10-16420-54105000	Advertising	\$151,447.00
10-16420-54535000	Professional Services	\$4,055.00

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Wilson and adopted by the following vote:
Ayes 4736, Noes 0, Absent 63 (Molé).

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

RESOLUTION NO. 30

**TITLE: 2024 BUDGET AMENDMENT
APPROPRIATION OF AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN (ARP) FUNDING**

WHEREAS, the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 appropriated funding to governmental municipalities to assist in the economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Delaware County was awarded a total of \$8,672,706 from the US Department of Treasury (USDT) to be used for eligible costs incurred during the period March 3, 2021 and ending on December 31, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Committee has done a thorough and impartial review of proposals and has approved the following projects for funding:

- Village of Delhi Police Firing Range for building upgrade: \$10,921.00
- Train to Work Initiative to assist businesses in finding and training a quality workforce: \$50,000; and

WHEREAS, the remaining balance of ARP funds to allocate is \$117,899.49, and additional funds are needed for the projects listed above; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 186 of 2021 allocated \$12,000 to Fiscal Affairs for EFPR Group to conduct professional consulting and guidance on appropriate and allowable allocations of ARP funding, of which there is a balance remaining of \$10,000 that will not be utilized; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 24 of 2022 allocated \$4,000 to Economic Development for a Village of Franklin septic system engineering study, of which there is a balance remaining of \$501.00 that will not be utilized for that project.

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

INCREASE REVENUE:

10-11325-44408902/1327889/888 Fed Aid Other-ARP \$50,420.00

INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS:

10-16326-54584000/1327888/888 Eco Dev – Train to Work Initiative \$39,499.00

10-16326-54584000/1327889/888 Eco Dev – Village of Delhi Firing Range \$10,921.00

TRANSFER FROM:

10-11327-54584000/1327888/888 FA – Contractual EFPR Group \$10,000.00

TRANSFER TO:

10-16326-54584000/1327888/888 Eco Dev – Train to Work Initiative \$10,000.00

TRANSFER FROM:

10-16326-54584000/1327889/888 Eco Dev – Village Franklin Septic System Study \$501.00

TRANSFER TO:

10-16326-54584000/1327888/888 Eco Dev – Train to Work Initiative \$501.00

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Cetta.

Mr. Marshfield explained that the additional funding allotted to the Village of Delhi Firing Range is to fulfill the New York State requirement for a permanent bath facility. A unit which would meet state regulations has been adapted to be utilized as an addition to the existing building. He further explained that there was a kickback of funds which were not spent on the Septic Study in the Village of Franklin, which is now being allocated to the Train to Work Initiative. As of February 12, there are \$67,480.00 ARP funds remaining to be allocated. He asserted that all the projects which have unused funds will be monitored to ensure that the funds are used before they expire, though all ARP funds must be allocated by the end of 2024. The funds must be used by the end of 2026, and it is unclear the consequence of having unspent funds which are allocated to projects.

The resolution was adopted by the following vote: Ayes 4736, Noes 0, Absent 63 (Molé).

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

RESOLUTION NO. 31

**TITLE: APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FOR THE DPW COMPLEX
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

WHEREAS, work is proceeding on the DPW Building project; and

WHEREAS, the appropriated contractual funds were exceeded for 2024.

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

INCREASE FUND BALANCE:

41-00000-34899000	Restricted Fund Balance	\$2,871,270.53
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INCREASE APPROPRIATION:

41-15112-54000000	Contractual Expense	\$2,871,270.53
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The resolution was seconded by Mr. Kosier.

In response to Mr. Marshfield, Mr. Haynes confirmed that the funds were previously allocated but are now being expended in order to pay the bills.

The resolution was adopted by the following vote: Ayes 4736, Noes 0, Absent 63 (Molé).

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

RESOLUTION NO. 32

**TITLE: AUTHORIZATION FOR AWARDS
HOMELESS SHELTER CAPITAL PROJECT
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

LETTING OF FEBRUARY 1, 2024

Notice to bidders and proposals received having been filed and the bidding procedures and documents having been approved by the County Attorney:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Department of Social Services is authorized to make awards to the lowest bidders meeting specifications as follows:

PROPOSAL NO. 1-24 for construction of the homeless shelter at 161 Main Street, Delhi, NY.

GENERAL CONSTRUCTION: JP Dugan Construction
22 Terrace Drive
Windsor, NY 13865

Bid Price: \$550,000.00

MECHANICAL CONSTRUCTION: B&I Home Comforts, LLC
235 Nowlan Rd.
Binghamton, NY 13904

Bid Price: \$76,400.00

ELECTRICAL CONSTRUCTION: Treffeisen & Sons, LLC
204 Roundhouse Road
Oneonta, NY 13820

Bid Price: \$135,700.00

PLUMBING CONSTRUCTION: Treffeisen & Sons, LLC
204 Roundhouse Road
Oneonta, NY 13820

Bid Price: \$115,900.00

FIRE SUPPRESSION: Treffeisen & Sons, LLC
204 Roundhouse Road
Oneonta, NY 13820

Bid Price: \$41,920.00

TOTAL PROJECT COST: \$919,920.00

All original bids and a summary sheet of the bids received are on file for inspection at the office of the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors.

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Gladstone.

Mr. Marshfield stated that this was the third time the project was bid, and made the following statement:

“This resolution awards the low bids to the successful contractors to replace the homeless shelter that burned down over two years ago at 161 Main Street in Delhi. This bid was approximately half a million dollars less than the one we had debated earlier last year. The last bid had attracted one bidder, and this attracted four. This bid was advertised at a better time of year, just in time for the upcoming construction season.

The bids came in just shy of \$920,00.00 and we have \$954,000.00 in a reserve account, leaving \$34,000.00 for furniture and appliances. We estimate the furniture at \$12,000.00 and appliances at \$15,000.00. Landscaping will be done by our building and maintenance crews and we probably will be using crushed stone in lieu of paving for the driveway. Of the \$954,000.00 reserve, we were funded \$460,000.00 from insurance claims, hoping for \$600,000.00, and the remainder was saved on projects that were funded by available COVID dollars.

This project required the contractor to post a performance bond which in this case would be in the \$50,000.00 to \$75,000.00 range. This building requires a fire suppression system and construction materials that are more fire retardant than a typical wood frame house. When the old house burned in 2021, there were four residents in there, and we are very fortunate there wasn't a fatality. This facility will be more resistant to fires and safer for the community in which it will reside. On top of that our homeless shelters must be ADA compliant, and this unit will be that. It has eight bedrooms, two which will be double, two living rooms, two bathrooms, two laundry rooms, one boiler, and air conditioning in the living rooms only. It is essentially two homes under one roof and it will house twice as many residents as the facility that burned.

We currently have 14 or 15 homeless people that we are housing in agency foster homes, motels, and at our 165 Main Street home. This new home is to be located conveniently where our Department of Social Services personnel are able to tend to that population on a daily basis. Boarding them in Stamford and Bloomville is far from ideal and cost prohibitive because of daily transportation issues to and from Delhi.

To give a little history, 15 to 20 years ago, the Department of Social Services bought three derelict wood frame homes at 165, 163, and 161 Main Street, demolishing one and redoing the other two for shelters. Today we have one nicely refurbished home, a new visitation center in place of the home that was demolished, and this project replaces the old wooden shelter that burned at 161 Main Street. To me, the Department of Social Services has greatly improved those three lots and this project will complete that improvement for a desperately needed homeless shelter for up to 10 residents. It will be neighbors of the new county highway and planning building. In addition, this project was recognized and approved by the Village of Delhi Planning Board. Your support would be appreciated.”

Deputy Commissioner of Social Services Keith Weaver added that it has been difficult to utilize the unoccupied foster home to mitigate the urgent need to house homeless individuals. He recalled the trend in homelessness being on the rise in recent statistics, shows an increase on a monthly basis. A spike in homelessness in the colder months is expected, but historically once the cold weather abates the need typically goes back to baseline. They had been able to move some homeless individuals from their temporary placement in an unoccupied foster home in Bloomville last week, but this week, the locations where homeless individuals could be housed were again at max capacity and they needed to utilize the Bloomville location on an urgent basis again. He reiterated the need to have a homeless shelter centrally located for accessibility for Social Services personnel to be able to assist the individuals. He also echoed how cost prohibitive the situation currently is, and how much more cost effective the new homeless shelter will ultimately be.

In response to Mr. Marshfield, Mr. Weaver confirmed that the lower portion of 167 Main Street in Delhi is being utilized as a family shelter, and that a family of five had recently been moved to Stamford because the lower portion was occupied by a single female at that time. Once she vacated, the family of five was able to be moved into the family shelter portion of 167 Main Street. The upstairs of 167 Main Street is currently being utilized as the male shelter, and the primary demographic people in need of emergency housing is adult males.

Supervisor Boukai expressed her thanks to Supervisor Marshfield, Department of Social Services Commissioner Sylvia Armanno, and Deputy Commissioner Keith Weaver for all of the hard work that has been put into the bids, and that she is coming into the conversation three quarters of the way through. There is no question that the unhoused deserve a safe and comfortable place that can meet their needs while they are able to get back on their feet. She asserted her belief that goal could be accomplished without spending a million dollars to construct a 1500 square foot duplex. She also expressed her fundamental opposition to the location of the shelter being in the limited commercial district in Delhi. She believes other options were presented to the County, and in her opinion, those were dismissed as inconvenient without sufficient regard to the host community. She concluded that she cannot in good conscience support the shelter at its current location.

The resolution was adopted by the following vote: Ayes 4224, Noes 512 (Boukai), Absent 63 (Molé).

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

RESOLUTION NO. 33

**TITLE: AUTHORIZATION FOR DISPOSITION OF PERSONAL PROPERTY
NO LONGER NECESSARY FOR PUBLIC USE
SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

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 Sheriff's Office is authorized to sell by trade-in or online auction or scrap the following items and all spare parts:

<u>Dept. Vehicle No.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Serial Number/VIN</u>
SHF 102	2018 Ford Explorer	1FM5K8AR1JGC18321
SHF 103	2019 Ford Explorer	1FM5K8AR3JGC18319

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. 34

**TITLE: OPPOSITION TO GOVERNOR HOCHUL'S STATE BUDGET CUTS TO
FOUNDATION AID FOR DELAWARE COUNTY SCHOOLS**

WHEREAS, Delaware County is the fifth largest county in New York State covering 1,442.6 square miles with a population of 44,308 people; and

WHEREAS, Delaware County is located within parts of both the Catskill and Appalachian Mountain ranges and is host to two of the largest reservoirs serving the larger New York City metropolitan area's water supply; and

WHEREAS, thirteen (13) rural school districts support the education of Delaware County youth with each large district nestled into the rural landscape of the 19 Delaware County towns; and

WHEREAS, the rural school districts located in the Catskill and Adirondack Mountain regions are disproportionately affected by the proposed loss of foundation aid in Governor Hochul's proposed budget; and

WHEREAS, the formula used to determine need is skewed to favor the urban areas of New York State, as the formula considers the income wealth index along with pupil count as a factor to determine a school districts ability to pay; and

WHEREAS, Delaware County and other counties within the Catskill and Adirondack Mountain regions, have a large percentage of wealthy second-home and retirement community members that raise the income wealth index disproportionately to the residents and pupils that are served by the rural school districts; and

WHEREAS, according to census data, the median household income for Delaware County is \$58,338.00 which is 27% less than the state median household income of \$79,557.00; and

WHEREAS, 36% of the housing stock in Delaware County is vacant seasonal housing in comparison to the 9.5% of vacant seasonal housing for New York State as a whole; and

WHEREAS, 45.2% of the housing stock in Delaware County has a value of less than \$150,000.00 in comparison to New York State where 17.5% of the total housing stock has a value of less than \$150,000.00; and

WHEREAS, 43.44% of the population in Delaware County is 16 or older and part of the work force with 8.2% of that population working in education related jobs, which is higher than the state's total percentage of 7.7% of the workforce in education related jobs; and

WHEREAS, eleven (11) of the thirteen (13) school districts located in Delaware County will see a loss in foundation aid ranging from 46.70% to 5.38%; and

WHEREAS, all school districts rely on Foundation Aid to support the many educational-based jobs, including teachers, aids, and support staff; and

WHEREAS, the loss of education jobs will strain family households and increase unemployment and poverty rates in Delaware County as well as impact the ability of our local school districts to provide an educational platform that supports the New York State Department of Education curriculum as well as hinder both college bound programing and work force ready

programming that has proven to provide great success in developing an employable work force in New York State.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Delaware County Board of Supervisors opposes Governor Hochul's proposed budget cuts to Foundation Aid in rural school districts serving upstate New York and demands the Governor consider the local, regional, and state impacts associated with the loss of programming in rural school districts that support state objectives to develop a well-educated and workforce-ready employee base into the future; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Clerk of the Board is directed to forward this resolution to Governor Kathy Hochul, Lieutenant Governor Antonio Delgado, Senator Peter Oberacker, Assemblyman Joe Angelino, Assemblyman Brian Maher, Assemblyman Christopher Tague, all Delaware County School Superintendents, ONC BOCES and DCMO BOCES.

The resolution was seconded by Mrs. Driscoll.

Mr. Vernold stated that he had communicated with Assemblyman Angelino this morning regarding the budget cuts, and this is currently being negotiated between the governor and leaders of the legislature. In his mind any negotiations occurring are indicative that part of the budget will be cut. In his opinion, none of the budget should be cut. Though some school districts are impacted more than others, the Hancock Central School which serves Hancock, Deposit, and Tompkins is slated to lose 24% of its budget. The Downsville Central School, Franklin Central School, and Roxbury Central School are all slated to lose over 30% of their budget. Andes Central School would lose 46% of their budget. He affirmed how unacceptable these cuts are, and though he is confident that the school administrators will make the right choices, they will have no choice but to make cuts somewhere. Sports programs, maintenance workers, staff, and notably extra-curricular activities will all likely suffer.

In agreement with Mr. Vernold, Mr. Marshfield stated that in his opinion these budget cuts are an effort to force the smaller schools to close so that they would be consolidated into the larger school districts. The unavoidable consequence will be drastically increased bus transit time for students.

Mrs. Scott agreed, adding that West Virginia consolidated their rural school districts many years ago in favor of county-wide school systems. Consequently, children were unable to play sports because they were many hours away from school. It devastated their after-school activity programs, leaving kids without structured activities after school, and leading to a downward spiral for their youth. The students arrive at school already exhausted by the long bus ride, and she expressed how unreasonable it is to expect elementary age children to be able to have a productive day at school after an hour and a half on a bus. Conversely, by the time these children get home from school in the afternoon, it is dark outside and it limits their time with their families. She expressed what a total disconnect there is in Albany from what our rural communities are like.

Mr. Marshfield added that the over six million dollars in budget cuts in our county is only a fraction of what is being cut statewide.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Hinkley recalled Local Law Intro. No. 16 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 and adopted by the following vote: Ayes 4736, Noes 0, Absent 63 (Molé).

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. 35

**TITLE: POSITION AUTHORIZATION
COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE**

WHEREAS, New York State requires a minimum of two employees for each DMV office; and

WHEREAS, the Delaware County Clerk's Office needs to make additional hires to meet minimum staffing levels and audit regulations to remain open.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that authorization is hereby given for the Delaware County Clerk's Office to hire an additional Database Clerk for each of the Deposit and Margaretville Offices.

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Vernold.

Mr. Marshfield lamented that this is yet another requirement the State imposes without funding.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 36

**TITLE: POSITION AUTHORIZATION
DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**

WHEREAS, the caseload for the District Attorney's office has increased over past years, and additional staffing is needed to meet demand.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that authorization is hereby given for the Delaware County District Attorney's Office to create a temporary full-time Assistant District

Attorney position.

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. 37

TITLE: PAYMENT OF AUDIT

WHEREAS, bills and claims submitted and duly audited by the Clerk of the Board’s office in the amount of \$1,755,773.41 were hereby presented to the Finance Committee for approval for payment on February 14, 2024 prior to presentation to the Board of Supervisors;

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	\$1,546,024.10
OET	\$31,916.29
Public Safety Comm System	\$1,081.25
Insurance Risk	\$9,500.00
CAP 97 Main	\$3,100.00
CAP MH	\$52,752.11
CAP DSS	\$2,556.03
Highway Audits, as Follows:	
Weights & Measures	\$0.00
Solid Waste/Landfill	\$27,884.41
Road	\$339.00
Machinery	\$75,973.35
Capital Solid Waste	\$0.00
Capital Road & Bridge	\$0.00
CAP DPW Complex	\$4,646.87

WHEREAS, bills and claims submitted and duly audited by the Clerk of the Board’s office in the amount of \$2,463,809.82 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	\$1,026,364.64
OET	\$25,676.14
Public Safety Comm System	\$0.00
Insurance Risk	\$1,366.19
CAP 97 Main	\$0.00
CAP MH	\$0.00
CAP DSS	\$2,401.09

Highway Audits, as Follows:

Weights & Measures	\$1,273.75
Solid Waste/Landfill	\$235,877.30
Road	\$419,339.37
Machinery	\$112,491.17
Capital Solid Waste	\$148,080.00
Capital Road & Bridge	\$421,758.10
CAP DPW Complex	\$69,182.07

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Gladstone and adopted by the following vote:
Ayes 4736, Noes 0, Absent 63 (Molé).

Mrs. Scott offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 38

TITLE: EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

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

The meeting reconvened in regular session with all Supervisors present except Ms. Molé.

Vice Chairman Ellis made the following committee appointments:

**DELAWARE COUNTY DEFERRED COMPENSATION COMMITTEE
2-year term ending December 31, 2025**

Appoint:

Supervisor Donald Smith

Reappoint:

Supervisor James Ellis

Supervisor Arthur Merrill

Supervisor Wayland Gladstone

Upon a motion, the meeting was adjourned at 2:57 p.m.