

**COMMITTEE DAY
LAKE PLEASANT, NY
MONDAY
JUNE 25, 2012**

**FINANCE COMMITTEE
10:00 AM**

Present: John Frey, Rick Wilt, Brian Towers and Neil McGovern

Also present: Bill Farber, Brian Wells, Clark Seaman, Bob Edwards and Pete Klein, Press

John asked if we are locked in at 2% for Medicaid. Bill stated yes, the State will control the growth as part of the budget process as far as Medicaid is concerned.

John stated at least that will stay flat. There isn't any mandate relief in any of the areas, also no increase in Sales Tax.

John stated that we have held the line with employees on cost of living. He has three thoughts on COLA; try to mirror the 2%, follow last year's COLA, or no increases. He feels the employees have been very understanding and quite a few have picked up slack from reductions in their department.

Bill asked if he has looked at what last years would have been. John stated his rough estimate is around 1.8% to 2.8%.

John stated that this is the most important thing they have to do today. Try to get some sense as to where they want to go. At the towns level most of them have held the line. The Chairman asked if that was where everyone ended up. Brian T. stated that they did a little something; it might have been 1.5%.

Bill stated the sooner we come up with a figure the sooner the Personnel Department can start working on the salary information so that it can be sent out with the budget requests. Therefore John will have better numbers to work from.

Neil asked if this is not an institutional driver in wanting to swell government. If reimbursements are tied to a better paid staff it seems a misplaced incentive. Bill stated he feels it is not an incentive; it's hard to argue that getting twenty-five percent of the Probation salaries back while we are putting up the other seventy-five percent of the State mandated service is really creating an incentive for us to increase salaries.

John stated that the cost of living has gone up for two years and we have held our employees flat and we all know in Hamilton County the pay compared to other private business may be good, but in the real world it's not. He doesn't want to lose ground, he feels the employees have given and this is the year they make the change.

Clark asked if we know what's going to happen with health insurance, workmen's comp and retirement. Bill stated that State Retirement will be up again this year. NYSAC is predicting and working with the State Comptroller's Office that we are going to see State Retirement, local rates

probably top off around 24% and we shouldn't have any other expectations for another two years because of the five year leveling then it will start to track back down.

Clark stated that this is one of the arguments his Board has made last year was even though we're not giving the employees a raise, we are giving them a raise; it is a mandated raise in the cost of State Retirement. He feels the majority of his Board will probably take that same approach this year. It is not that we don't recognize that the employees are doing a great job and continue to do a great job, it is going to be a tough sell for his Board.

Neil stated by virtue of cutting their work force he anticipates a two and a half percent increase because for the last two years their employees did not receive an increase.

John stated in looking at the fact that retirement is going to be as high as it is, we are going to be over the two percent tax cap.

Bill stated the only way we stayed under the cap last year was not only capping salaries, but slashing the highway budget.

Discussion continued regarding salary increase, the two percent tax cap and all the mandates.

Bill stated that there will be a decision within a week; he will tentatively setup for the July Committee Day to have Burnham come in to speak on health insurance.

Bill stated he likes John's logic with respect to the two percent, he just feels it acknowledges the need to do something for the employees and it does it in a way that makes it clear that it is not what is driving the fact that we are over the tax cap, because we know we are going to be anyways.

Brian T. asked what kind of impact it would have if they put Tracy's budget back in, the equipment and bridge lines. Bill stated he doesn't know a quick answer to that. He would advocate putting the correct amount of money in the highway budget this year. He would have Tracy budget for what he feels he needs for 2013.

Rick stated it is pretty obvious that we are talking more than two percent this year. What is the time frame for creating a Local Law to override the two percent? Bill stated by the time you advertise which they give you longer than usual, it will have to be done before we finish the budget. Bill felt that September or October it could be done.

John asked if the Committee was in agreement to recommend a two percent increase. After another short discussion on percentages it was agreed to the recommended amount.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
10:45 AM

Present: Brian Towers, Clark Seaman, Bob Edwards, Brian Wells,

Also present Ermina Pincombe, Rick Wilt, John Frey, Bill Farber, Neil McGovern, Tracy Eldridge and Pete Klein, Press

Tracy announced the highway projects have started and going very well, we have had good weather.

He has been having a truck issue with a 1990 International tandem dump truck. He figures it has around 500,000 miles on it but it still runs good. It has a good box on it, but the cab is falling apart. Here are the options #1. Cheapest – buy a glider cab. – He feels this is not the practical way to go. #2. Purchase a new Tandem and utilize the body – approximately (\$185,000). # 3. Take our oldest road tractor and mount the dump box on it from that truck and then buy a tractor to replace that one, approximately (\$120,000). Tracy feels option number three is the smartest way to go.

Brian T. asked Tracy where he is going to get the \$120,000, Tracy was thinking of possibly using the fund balance.

Tracy discussed further. He would like to find out today if it is approved or not.

The entire committee continued to discuss what's been going on regarding equipment.

John asked Tracy what our immediate needs are for the next five years for bridges and Tracy stated three bridges.

After more discussion the Committee agreed with Tracy's recommendation on the truck.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Present: Brian Towers, Brian Wells, Ermina Pincombe and Rick Wilt

Also present: Bill Farber, John Frey, Clark Seaman, Bob Edwards, Neil McGovern, Tracy Eldridge and Pete Klein, Press

Barton and Loguidice are working on the application for the Recycling Grant. A reminder for this grant is that we spend the money up front and then we will get reimbursed 50% back.

John stated they have a backhoe in his application for the Town of Inlet.

Tracy will do the resolution once Barton and Loguidice have completed the application.

Tracy reported that he still has not received any responses on the Solid Waste Management Plan he posted on the website. He will do the next step of the plan which is formally introducing it to DEC.

BUILDINGS COMMITTEE

Present: Rick Wilt, John Frey, Brian Towers, Bob Edwards

Also present: Brian Wells, Neil McGovern, Clark Seaman, Ermina Pincombe, Bill Farber, Tracy Eldridge and Pete Klein, Press

The heating oil tank was removed at the Indian Lake garage with no issues. They are preparing to pour a new pad for the above ground tank that is going in there.

Lightning struck a cable at the Indian Lake Community Services Building which caused damage. A new line was run and the claim will be turned into the insurance company. While they were there they decided to replace the side walk also.

Tracy stated he received more quotes on a gazebo, one for \$4,462, one was \$9,439 and the other was \$5,035. This is for a 12 X 18 foot oblong.

The Committee agreed that around \$5,000 is appropriate.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
11:25 AM

Present: Clark Seaman, Brian Wells, Neil McGovern, Ermina Pincombe

Also present: Bill Farber, Bob Edwards, John Frey, Brian Towers, Rick Wilt, Bob Kleppang and Pete Klein, Press

Bob K. handed out information to review.

Bob K. wanted to review what has been happening with Health Homes in the County, what it is and what their roll will be with them. The other thing Bob wanted to review is Medicaid Reform and the SAGE Commission.

Bob K. reported on the handouts it shows the number of people that they are serving and how they are serving them. It does not include the people that they provide services for through the Sunmount contract. It is approximately 60 additional people.

The majority of their people are receiving counseling services; all of them are seeing a therapist weekly or bi-weekly. A majority of them also see Dr. Miller.

Dr. Axelrod our psychologist who works with the Court System deals with children. We have some pretty complex cases in the County. Bob K. then explained a little regarding the budget and how they can now be reimbursed for evaluations that involve children.

Bob K. reported that Dr. Miller informed him that he plans to retire at the end of this year and we can't operate a Mental Health Clinic without a psychiatrist, so we are looking to replace him.

Bob K. went back to reviewing the handouts.

Bob K. stated when he starts to talk about Medicaid Reform and Health Home, these are the clients that are most challenged. There aren't many services outside the County that have transportation and the State as a whole doesn't understand.

Bob K. feels they do a good job for those types of clients and in the twelve years he has worked here only two had to have long term hospitalization. He feels that is a great record with all of the client's they have served.

Regarding client insurance information, Bob K. stated they don't bill insurance, they just like to keep track. 56% that we serve are on Medicaid, 35% have private insurance and 9% no insurance.

Bob K. spoke a little about intake. From the time someone calls them to when they get first seen for intake it usually averages three days. Other places it takes four to six weeks, he feels that is pretty impressive.

Bob K. feels that they are covering the County much better than in the past.

Family Fun Day will be held in Speculator August 6th.

Bob K. is still looking for a case manager. He is really looking for someone who has background in Mental Health and a background dealing with Medicaid.

Regarding Medicaid Reform, Bob K. gave a little history. In the late 70's, early 80's two things that came together were advances and psychotropic medications that make it possible for people in the hospitals to be able to live in the community. At the same time the Federal Government decided to cut funding for that. Due to the cut of funding; Community Mental Health Clinics began closing down. With that, people were coming out of the hospitals without any support due to the clinics closing. That caused a lot of mentally ill people to not take their medications due to lack of supervision. The State of NY stepped in to help fund these types of people in what was called Community Reinvestment. The State then created waivers that would be funded through Medicaid. Because of that the State started chipping away at Community Reinvestment. The State started taking that portion of Medicaid to cover the State's share. That's when we started losing programs in 2003 and 2004.

Bob K. reported that he has been told by the State that Community Reinvestment will continue. He is looking to the future and where the agency is headed. He is looking into possible partnership with programs in counties around us. He has also had discussions on how to get Hamilton County licensed.

INTERNAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

1:30 PM

Employee evaluations