

BUDGET COMMITTEE
September 9, 2021

Committee Members Present: B. Harris, P. Curran, J. Burdick, D. Fanton, J. Ricci, P. Stockin, C. Crandall

Others Present: R. Anderson, G. Barnes (arrived at 8:44 a.m.), C. Braack, T. Boyde, B. Budinger, J. Budinger, J.R. Carter R. Christman, S. Cicirello, J. D'Arcy, D. Decker, K. Dirlam, K. Geffers, G. Green, G. Hanchett, S. Havey, D. Healy, M. Hennessy, J. Henry, K. Hooker, J. Hopkins (arrived at 11:00 a.m.), D. Horan, I. Jones, E. Kayes, R. Keib, B. Kelley, C. Knapp, J. Luckey, R. Lynch, M. McCormick, J. McMahan, T. Miner, B. Perkins, D. Rahr, B. Reynolds, B. Riehle, D. Root (arrived at 9:00 a.m.), T. Ross, J. Schultz, T. Shaw, K. Slep, R. Starks, B. Thierman, B. VanHousen, M. Washer, S. Weller, L. White, R. Whitney

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 8:36 a.m. by Budget Committee Chairman Brooke Harris.

2022 BUDGET REVIEWS

County Administrator Carissa Knapp stated the purpose of this meeting is to go over estimates submitted by each department, adding the Budget Officer has not made any changes; this is just to ask questions on initial submissions. Committee Chairman Harris asked for the schedule going forward. Administrator Knapp stated they will go back through any questions and concerns, make modifications, and then present the tentative budget. Mr. Harris asked if Administrator Knapp or her deputy would be interested in receiving guidance from the Budget Committee. Administrator Knapp stated guidance and feedback are always a good thing because once the tentative is out it's up to the Board, so she would like to know what the committee is thinking ahead of time.

Committee Chairman Harris asked that all departments come forward, give a broad description on the state of their finances for 2021, and then make notice of any significant changes in their 2022 Budget.

Sheriff/Jail/E-911 – 2022 Budget Review

Sheriff Rick Whitney, Undersheriff Scott Cicirello, and Accountant Sara Weller attended the meeting to discuss their 2022 Budget requests for the Sheriff's Office/Jail/E-911 (A3117, A3020, A3110, A3111, A3112, A3152, A3510, and A3150).

2021 Budget

Sheriff Whitney addressed their 2021 Budget stating they are doing pretty good and have expended 54 percent in the Sheriff's Budget, expended 52 percent in the Jail Budget, and have expended 58 percent in the 911 Budget. Committee Chairman Harris asked how housing revenue has been. Sheriff Whitney stated it's obviously down, but pretty steady. The committee briefly discussed housing revenue payments.

2022 Budget

Sheriff Whitney stated there are no significant changes to his 2022 Budget other than an increase in food which has gone up. County Treasurer Terri Ross stated that federal housing revenue is set at \$985,000. Committee Chairman Harris asked if that is a bit of a stretch. Ms. Ross stated in 2020 during the pandemic and not housing any new inmates during COVID-19, we still collected \$875,000 in revenue, so she doesn't think \$985,000 is a stretch. Sheriff Whitney stated once they get items taken care of and the Pod re-opened, they will be able to start taking new inmates. The committee briefly discussed the process of taking new inmates during COVID-

19 and avoiding any outbreaks in the Jail. Legislator Healy asked if there is any indication that the number of federal inmates will go down in the coming year. Sheriff Whitney stated he doesn't know if it will go down, adding they have been called a couple of times, but they are refusing to take any due to COVID-19. Legislator Healy asked if there is demand from other counties to house. Sheriff Whitney stated they have done very little this year as the population is down due to the new law so no one needs to ship anyone out. Sheriff Whitney added that unless the new governor rescinds all of those new laws, he doesn't see any big increases happening.

Legislator Dibble asked if anything has been included for roof repairs, outdoor security, etc. Sheriff Whitney stated items like that will fall under Public Works. Administrator Knapp stated that Public Works is looking at a number of maintenance items needed at the Jail.

Legislator Burdick referenced the American Rescue Plan money and asked if there is going to be a separate budget that the Board will see that shows what projects and/or items paid with those funds that could end up being an expense to the County when the ARP funds are exhausted. Administrator Knapp stated currently, there are a number of projects in the 2022 Budget that could be funded with ARP money. County Treasurer Ross stated they will need to provide the Board a budget for those funds that includes the initial cost of the project as well as any liability it will impose on future budgets. Ms. Ross noted they have not done that yet; they wanted to get through the 2022 Budget submissions first so they could see what may qualify under the ARP money.

Legislator Ricci addressed the \$18,000 being requested in A3112 (E911 Dispatch) Reverse 911 Onsolve stating that amount seems steep and asked if that's the total phone bill. Administrator Knapp stated she cannot answer that question at this time, but she will look into it. Legislator Dibble stated he has thought for a long time that because the Chairman of the Board and County Administrator are who apply for disaster money, they should also be in charge of the reverse 911 fund. Chairman Crandall stated the mass message alerts for flooding, etc. was put into place several years ago, and he is not sure where those particular expenses should go.

Legislator Barnes stated two years ago they renegotiated the contract to save on overtime by getting rid of the Sunday premium and asked how that is working out and if the County is saving any money. Sheriff Whitney stated last time he checked, they were close to \$200,000 in overtime, so they are saving compared to the prior year. Sheriff Whitney continued a lot of the savings is due to courts being shut down and not using deputies to transport inmates at night, adding that getting rid of the Sunday premium has also made a big difference. Legislator Healy asked where they are at with the contract with the Sheriff's employees. Administrator Knapp stated the contract is finalized, adding it was retroactive to 2019, and it goes through 2024.

Committee Chairman Harris addressed Telestaff, the Sheriff's Office in-house time and attendance software, stating the early hope was that ExecuTime would take its place, but because that goal has not been achieved, they are keeping Telestaff on through 2022. Mr. Harris asked if the \$20,000 is the cost of the maintenance contract. Administrator Knapp stated, yes; it's prudent that they keep Telestaff until they make any decisions one way or the other on ExecuTime vs. Telestaff, adding she believes the final bill for Telestaff is up to date. Mr. Harris asked if ExecuTime is billing based on the assumption that they'll be performing that function in the Jail. Administrator Knapp stated they have kept the agreement to do advanced scheduling for 911 and the Jail because 911 was using it and haven't migrated over to Telestaff yet, but they will be making that decision soon.

Ms. Ross referenced 2022 equipment purchases included in his budget stating they still have funds left to spend in 2021 and asked if there is anything on the 2022 list that they could purchase with 2021 funds to help reduce their 2022 Budget. Sheriff Whitney stated they are

looking at that right now, but like to wait until October, and then any leftover money will go towards those. Legislator Burdick stated that several departments are requesting furniture and equipment and asked if there is central purchasing or does each department handle their own orders. Administrator Knapp stated there isn't central purchasing. Supplies go through the Clerk of the Board's Office and computers go through the IT Department. Administrator Knapp continued there are a number of items in the 2022 Budget, and it could be a result of the delays in purchasing in 2020 during COVID-19.

STOP-DWI/Youth Bureau – 2022 Budget Review

Youth Bureau/STOP-DWI Director Brian Perkins attended the meeting to discuss his 2022 Budget requests for the Youth Bureau (A7310) and STOP-DWI (A3141) cost centers. Mr. Perkins stated there are not many changes, although, he does have a new computer included because during the pandemic he realized he needed something more efficient to zoom, etc. Mr. Perkins noted that he decreased his postage line as they aren't mailing out as much with everything shifting to electronic.

STOP-DWI

Mr. Perkins stated STOP-DWI is funded through fines, so as long as they are being paid and enforced, that money will keep coming into them, but unfortunately they are at the will of other people. Treasurer Ross stated they can't budget for it, and the reserve is in the hole, adding it was used for a couple of years to fund the STOP-DWI program, and fines didn't come in to cover it, so the County did. Ms. Ross noted we're getting approximately \$42,000 per year which doesn't cover the cost of the program. Legislator Barnes asked if the STOP-DWI program is set up to deal with the legalization of marijuana. Mr. Perkins stated yes and no. They are still working out how field testing for marijuana is going to work, adding they can test to see if there is an impairment, but what the impairment was caused by is where the problem is. Legislator Barnes asked if there is education and training being done. Mr. Perkins stated they have slowly been adding in some of the pieces, adding ACASA addresses it in Victim Impact Panels as well.

Youth Bureau

Legislator Burdick stated the Youth Bureau budget shows no revenue for 2022. Mr. Perkins stated all of the contracts that come in from the state is money that comes in and goes right back out. Ms. Ross added the Board also passes a resolution every year for Youth, Town, and Village which is done mid-year.

Consumer Affairs (Weights & Measures) – 2022 Budget Review

Weights & Measures Director Gilbert Green attended the meeting to discuss his 2022 Budget requests (A6610). Mr. Green stated he reduced his conference expenses, otherwise, everything else is straight forward.

Emergency Services – 2022 Budget Review

Emergency Management and Fire Director Jeff Luckey and Emergency Services Assistant Bonnie VanHousen attended the meeting to discuss their 2022 Budget requests for Emergency Services (A3640) and Fire Services (A3410). Mr. Luckey addressed his 2021 Budget stating everything is going fairly smoothly. Mr. Luckey continued his 2022 Budget includes an additional \$5,000 to A3410.407 for automated external defibrillators (AED). Ms. VanHousen stated the reason for the increase is their office is responsible for purchasing AED's for all of the County Office buildings as well as the pads and batteries, and they wanted to ensure there was enough

funds to cover it. Administrator Knapp stated we have 8 total, and they are good to have. Mr. Luckey noted they also added \$1,000 to mileage to accommodate the increase in fuel as well as added \$2,000 to conference expenses as they are no longer receiving a credit that used to go towards room and board when sending students to the fire investigation class. Committee Chairman Harris asked what the cause is for the increase in rentals. Ms. VanHousen stated they receive grant money that covers part of the rent; however, the money they received left them short \$3,000. County Treasurer Ross stated there was also the reconfiguration of the IDA building that resulted in an increase in rent for some of the tenants, and they didn't fix the budget last year, so they are doing it for the 2022 Budget. Mr. Harris stated he thought Planning was taking the hit on that, and Ms. Ross stated Emergency Services is taking a huge hit on it. Legislator Healy asked if the grant funds for rent can be used in other places. Ms. VanHousen stated, yes, they receive \$4,000 through the LEMPG grant that can be utilized in other areas.

Public Defender – 2022 Budget Review

Public Defender Barbara Kelley attended the meeting to discuss her 2022 Budget requests for the Public Defender's Office (A1170).

2021 Budget

Ms. Kelley addressed her 2021 Budget stating they have had over \$100,000 in claims submitted, and they are on track for where they need to be. Committee Chairman Harris asked what the life expectancy is for the monies coming from the Hurrell/Harring settlement. Ms. Kelley stated it is a 5-year, \$3 million settlement, adding in the past, they could extend the payment, and everything the state tells them is that it will continue. Ms. Kelley noted there is a push that the state is going to provide more money to ease the burden on the counties, and there is a big push to increase the rate for assigned counsel. Mr. Harris asked if the state will start picking up the tab once the settlement dries up. Ms. Kelley stated they are doing that now so her hope and expectation is that it will continue. Mr. Harris stated a huge part of Ms. Kelley's job is keeping track of these claims and making sure they are filed in a timely manner, adding with her upcoming retirement, there is concern among the Board that it will continue seamlessly and County dollars won't need to be used to cover these expenses. Ms. Kelley stated it is her hope and expectation that it will continue seamlessly, adding there is an individual in her office that she thinks will fit well in her position. He has been brought along with her to committee meetings, has been included in meetings with the state, he has worked with their data officer, and she doesn't see any reason why there should be anything slipping through the cracks.

2022 Budget

Ms. Kelley addressed her 2022 Budget stating it is very similar to prior years, adding the biggest change will be in the Hurrell/Harring funding. Each year they are allotted a certain amount of money, and each year it increases. In 2022, they are going to utilize the increase in part to hire a Paralegal and do stipends to increase the salaries of their attorneys, noting this has been approved by the state. Ms. Kelley continued they see other departments are trying to hire attorneys, and it's been an issue finding and retaining good people. One of Ms. Kelley's best accomplishments is hiring good people, and she would like her legacy to remain, and in order to do that, she needs to pay them. Ms. Kelley stated she has budgeted a stipend for each attorney in the office for approximately \$10,000, and she thinks the fact that they can use state dollars rather than County dollars to accomplish this is a bonus. Ms. Kelley continued there have been changes in other offices, for example, a part-time attorney who was hired making more than one of her attorneys who works full-time and has 7 years of experience. Ms. Kelley went on to say it's not always apples to apples when you compare the offices, but what does remain constant is all of these people have an undergraduate degree, a 3-year law degree, have passed the bar, and

they have met rigorous qualifications to do this job, noting that it's becoming more difficult to attract and retain good qualified attorneys who want to work here. County Treasurer Ross noted that this has not come before the Board to approve adjusting the Section IV Salary Plan. Ms. Kelley stated that New York State pushed them to include a full-time attorney position that they weren't able to fill, so those budgeted funds that weren't spent have been approved by the state to use in this manner. Committee Chairman Harris asked if this is something the salary study will address. Administrator Knapp stated, yes, that will be taken into account noting that Indigent Legal Services (ILS) has said they will pay for it. Committee Chairman Harris asked if they make an amendment to the Section IV Salary Plan based on a finding in the salary study, it will make no difference in her budget, and she can still split out revenue sources to cover the salaries. Ms. Ross stated as long as the state approves how she is spending it, adding they have been really good about retention which is what these stipends are being used for. Ms. Ross continued they have been pretty accommodating with what the County needs to do to cover the cost of the Public Defender's Office the best we can, noting there will always be a portion that is County share. Administrator Knapp stated that Ms. Kelley has done a great job with her budget and office, adding if you look back to when she first started what the budget and personnel looked like compared to today, it is a completely different animal. Administrator Knapp thanked Ms. Kelley for managing it so well and creating a great transition plan.

Legislator Burdick noted that the expenses are \$465,000 more than the revenue and asked where that money comes from. Ms. Ross stated that is the total of all Ms. Kelley's cost centers, not just the Hurrell/Harring grant. That amount reflects the County's cost to run the Public Defender's Office after we get all of our grants. Administrator Knapp stated a lot of that money can't be used to supplant County money; it can only be used to supplement it, so there will always be County funds needed in order to receive Indigent Legal Services (ILS) money.

District Attorney – 2022 Budget Review

District Attorney Keith Slep attended the meeting to discuss his 2022 Budget requests for the District Attorney's Office (A1165) and for Grand Jury (A1190) cost centers. Mr. Slep stated the only significant changes are staff, adding they are anticipating things opening up, so it's with that in mind that they are trying to plan. Ms. Slep continued there is a massive increase in discovery and materials they'll need to provide, and quite frankly, he believes it will be unmanageable, but they need to plan for it, and it's going to be a never ending and extremely costly battle. Ms. Ross asked if Mr. Slep could look at any equipment he could purchase in 2021 to help reduce the 2022 Budget. Mr. Slep stated they have done that with the new staff changes so they should be good there. Committee Chairman Harris stated anything they can get out of the 2021 Budget to subsequently reduce 2022 would help them out. Administrator Knapp asked if they are fully staffed. Mr. Slep stated, yes, with the people permitted. Administrator Knapp addressed the increase in salaries stating it is the expectation that Mr. Slep will stay fully staffed, and it's an increase the Board has already approved. Legislator Healy asked if it's possible Mr. Slep will need additional support staff. Mr. Slep stated it is possible, but office space is a big problem, adding they're already moving filing cabinets and putting people in corners.

Probation – 2022 Budget Review

Probation Director Robert Starks attended the meeting to discuss his 2022 Budget requests for the Probation Department (A3140, A3142, and A3143). Mr. Starks addressed his 2021 Budget stating things are on target with no deficits anywhere. Mr. Starks addressed his 2022 Budget stating he has not received confirmation yet from the state regarding their regular state aid, noting they typically receive \$150,000, and while he assumes it will be the same, he hasn't received official notification yet.

Mr. Starks briefly discussed Automon Corporation, stating that the IT Department thinks it's in the best interest of the Probation Department and the County for them to take on the responsibility of hosting the server for the Probation Department. Mr. Starks continued if there were a security breach of any kind, it would be the responsibility of Automon Corporation to take care of it rather than the County, adding the liability cost is very high. Committee Chairman Harris asked if it would be a new contract. Mr. Starks stated, yes, currently they just have a caseload services agreement. To host, it's \$7,500 per year with a 5 percent increase each year until they reach \$8,200.

Community Services – 2022 Budget Review

Community Services Director Dr. Robert Anderson attended the meeting to discuss his 2022 Budget requests for the accounts associated with Community Services (A4191, A4220, A4310, A4311, A4312, A4313, A4314, A4315, A4316, A4317, and A4390). Dr. Anderson estimated the need for \$318,000 of County money, adding he does not anticipate any additional expenses or anything that needs to be increased. Committee Chairman Harris asked if the opioid settlement money coming in has been budgeted for. Dr. Anderson stated, no, that's not handled by him. Mr. Harris asked if there is any guidance on what restrictions will be placed on this money. Dr. Anderson stated, no, there is a lot of guessing, but he hasn't seen any specific directive. Mr. Harris asked when they anticipate receiving the money. Treasurer Ross stated a small amount may come in 2021; however, the big settlement won't come in until 2022, and they will allocate it then based on the restrictions. Administrator Knapp briefly discussed anticipated amounts to be received stating a portion will be restricted and flow through Community Services. Legislator Burdick asked if Dr. Anderson foresees the legalization of marijuana affecting their current services or any additional services that may need to be offered. Dr. Anderson stated he has discussed it with ACASA Executive Director William Penman, and the only thing he can think of is with the use of marijuana now being more public, people might want to get treatment; on the other hand, not being forced to get treatment, Dr. Anderson isn't sure people are going to voluntarily get treatment. Dr. Anderson noted that a significant portion of the population think weed is the perfect drug, and there are no issues with it, so are excited at the thought they can use as much as they want.

Health Department – 2022 Budget Review

Public Health Director Tyler Shaw, and Accountant Dave Rahr attended the meeting to discuss their 2022 Budget requests for the Health Department (A1185, A2960, A3645, A4010, A4025, A4035, A4037, A4043, A4046, A4050, A4051, A4052, A4053, A4054, A4056, A4060, A4070, A4071, A4072, A4189, and A4190).

2021 Budget

Mr. Shaw stated that based on COVID-19 and everything else going on in the Health Department, his 2021 Budget looks okay. Currently, A1601 (Public Health Fees) has brought in approximately \$236,000 from COVID-19 vaccine insurance claims, and they will be looking to appropriate that money in the future. Committee Chairman Harris asked what they are charging for the vaccine. Mr. Shaw stated the first dose is approximately \$40, and the second dose is approximately \$50. Administrator Knapp noted they are only charging the insurance company; the individual should never incur a cost.

Mr. Shaw briefly discussed three new cost centers, noting A2028 that will hold approximately \$1.4 million to be used towards schools re-opening. Mr. Shaw continued they are currently looking at a contract with a company out of Buffalo/Syracuse to assist the schools with the weekly testing of un-vaccinated staff members and students. Mr. Shaw continued the tests

are a saliva swab so will be less invasive, adding they cannot get their hands on rapid tests right now; they're trying their best, but it's been very difficult across the state with the new mandate in place for testing. Committee Chairman Harris asked if it's up to the districts at all to handle the mandated testing of un-vaccinated staff members and students. Mr. Shaw stated it partly is. The schools also received money, but the \$1.4 million can be used towards it, noting that the Health Department is here to help our schools.

Mr. Shaw stated that overtime is running at approximately \$87,000, and the revenue they have received will go towards that expense. Committee Chairman Harris asked if they are isolating COVID expenses. Treasurer Ross stated they aren't specifically monitoring all of them; however, if there is aid against a COVID expense, they are isolating it so they can be tracked. Ms. Ross continued when they do the FEMA claim, they'll dive in to see which part of someone's job were regular and which were COVID related, adding allocation for direct COVID costs have separate cost centers. Mr. Shaw added that his staff is using a COVID tracker that monitors their times so they can assign costs for them, noting they do have the information, just not a dollar value assigned to it yet.

2022 Budget

Mr. Shaw distributed and reviewed a summary of his 2022 Budget. Mr. Shaw stated there is an increase to A2960 (Pre-school) due to school administration fees they can charge back to the County. Mr. Shaw noted they are slowly coming on board with billing the County, so they are trying to anticipate what the schools will bill back which is why that line item is in the negative. Mr. Shaw noted to offset being in the red, they did reduce mileage and transportation.

Legislator Burdick stated she appreciates the additional detail provided in his budget. Legislator Stockin referenced the increase in revenue with the Water Lab and asked if they are expanding services being offered. Mr. Shaw stated, yes, it's been slow with COVID-19, but they are expanding their services.

Social Services – 2022 Budget Review

Social Services Commissioner Edna Kayes and Deputy Commissioner Don Horan attended the meeting to discuss their 2022 budget requests for the Social Services Department (A6010, A6055, A6070, A6101, A6106, A6109, A6119, A6129, A6140, A6141, A6142, and A6150).

2021 Budget

Mr. Horan reminded the Board their claims run on a month lag so there are revenues not included, noting they could have another \$3.5 million coming in. Mr. Horan continued one area they are watching closely is the Child Welfare Program, specifically, juvenile delinquents. A lot of those kids are very expensive, and they average 4 to 5 in that category at \$17,000 per month, per child. Mr. Horan noted that two years ago they had 0 to 2 kids in that category. Committee Chairman Harris asked what the nature of those services are. Mr. Horan stated this is for when a child goes to an institution for treatment, or to a secure or non-secure detention facility, noting that it depends on the court order and probation. Legislator Healy asked what the increase can be attributed to. Mr. Horan stated primarily the Raise the Age legislation that is now finally rolling out, adding the kids that don't qualify for Raise the Age are treated as juvenile delinquents. Mr. Horan noted that as they take that into consideration, their 2021 Budget still looks good, adding the state is getting better with settlements now that COVID-19 is moving on and they loosen up with money.

2022 Budget

Mr. Horan addressed their 2022 Budget stating the Child Welfare Program will make or break their budget. Mr. Horan briefly discussed the three new attorney positions that have been added into payroll as well as additional support staff that has been included. Committee Chairman Harris referenced A3175.3689.RTA and asked for more explanation on the expenses included. Mr. Horan stated they were previously budgeting for gap payments as well as for the possible facility being in Allegany or Steuben County that was being discussed by the Eleven County Local Development Corporation. Mr. Horan continued the \$1,050,000 is budgeted for the Raise the Age kids that get placed by our County courts. Committee Chairman Harris asked if we had any expenses in the last two years. Mr. Horan stated yes; they just got one this year that was a 4-month placement at a cost of approximately \$120,000, noting that is 100 percent reimbursed by the state. Mr. Harris asked what the necessity is for budgeting such a large amount. Ms. Ross stated in her opinion it is not necessary to appropriate a number that big because it does not have any effect on our bottom line since it is being 100 percent reimbursed. Ms. Ross continued they would pay for whatever happens, but if they could lower the number a little bit, it would help their overall budget. Committee Chairman Harris stated it looks like we're spending money when we're not. Commissioner Kayes stated the Local Development Corporation has started back up, adding it's in the infancy stage, but there have been conversations about the facility being built. Ms. Kayes continued the state's initial question was if they could use the County Jail for placement, noting the irony of wanting to keep the kids out of jail, but then putting them back in. Ms. Kayes stated she wants the Board to be aware of conversations taking place, and that they for sure will end up with Raise the Age children. Mr. Harris stated the problem with a number of that size is that it's a state expense, but it's showing up in our budget. To our taxpayers, it looks like our budget is \$1 million more than it would otherwise be. Administrator Knapp asked if it's a guaranteed state expense. Mr. Horan stated, yes, it is a guaranteed payment from the state under the Raise the Age legislation, adding he arrived at that number by looking at state data and estimating 4 children at \$250,000 each. Mr. Horan continued they don't necessarily need to budget for it, but if they were to go over, they would just need to come back to committee and request a budget adjustment. Ms. Ross noted it's similar to the Mental Health Hygiene Law where they budget minimally, pay the bills, and get 100 percent reimbursed. Administrator Knapp stated it's responsible of Mr. Horan to include it so they are aware of the potential cost; but they can look at it and adjust it for the tentative budget. Chairman Crandall stated several years ago there was a change close to \$10 million with how they had to budget for reimbursement for food stamps and the HEAP Program, adding it had nothing to do with us, but our budget looked like we increased it by \$10 million. Chairman Crandall noted there needs to be some place where a foot note is added showing items that have nothing to do with them.

Mr. Horan stated A6129 (State Training School) increased a significant amount from \$135,000 to \$500,000. This is something they haven't had to budget for in a long time, and they do not have any control over it. Mr. Horan continued these are kids that go beyond the juvenile delinquent stature with the court and get placed in a correctional facility. Mr. Horan noted those kids are very, very expensive, and the County had two kids this year. Mr. Horan continued that billing runs on a 1 to 2-year lag, and he estimates that cost to be \$275,000, all of which is local share, and there is no way around it. Mr. Horan went on to say that the state has not settled out on secure detention placements since 2016, and they are beginning to do that, so he estimates around \$220,000 which is also included in the \$500,000 being budgeted.

Chairman Crandall referenced Mr. Horan's comment that the Families First Program will either make or break their budget, and asked what the local share is for that program. Mr. Horan stated he has budgeted around \$4 million for child welfare, and depending on the eligibility those kids hit will drive the reimbursement for it. Mr. Horan briefly discussed the different eligibilities for these kids and what kind of reimbursement each provides. Chairman Crandall stated this is an

example of state mandates and what is being put on the local dollar. Mr. Horan stated in a 2-year period, expenses have increased over \$300,000, and the main driver of that are juvenile delinquents. Mr. Horan continued in 2019, they only spent \$255,000 on juvenile delinquents, in 2020, they spent over \$1 million, and in 2022, he's expecting them to pay over \$1 million as well, noting how volatile it can be depending on the kids they get into care.

Ms. Kayes stated the Families First Program is a federal mandate upon the state, adding they found that the state wasn't picking up 4E funding in a manner they should have, so they made the state roll out this program on the placement of juvenile delinquents and how they should be qualified in order for them to receive 4E funding if they are eligible. Ms. Kayes continued for the last 2 years, each of the counties have been working on this program to get the most amount of money as possible from 4E funding if the child is eligible; however, with that also comes contracts for people that will be required to evaluate the placement of the children to ensure the court is accurate with their placements.

Office for the Aging – 2022 Budget Review

Office for the Aging Accountant Kimberly Geffers attended the meeting to discuss their 2022 Budget requests for the Office for the Aging (A6772, A6773, A6774, A6775, A6776, A6777, A6778, A6779, A6781, A6782, A6783, A6784, A6785, A6786, A6787, A6788, and A6789).

2021 Budget

Ms. Geffers stated that everything is in line with where it should be in their 2021 Budget. They did receive a fairly large amount of money from the American Rescue Plan that they have taken to committee for appropriation in 2021. They are looking at ways to use those funds to supplement and decrease the waiting list and serve more people, adding they also intend to use some to offset the increase in the 2022 Budget. Ms. Geffers noted the recent increase for Good Times will also be absorbed by the additional funding they received. Committee Chairman Harris asked how restrictive the American Rescue Funds are. Ms. Geffers stated at this time, they aren't very restrictive so they are able to use the money for any service offered in the Office for the Aging; however, they are trying to use the funds for their intended use even though they do have some flexibility.

2022 Budget

Ms. Geffers stated the major increase in their 2022 Budget is for their contracted salary increases in A6772.474 for the caterer and homecare. Ms. Geffers noted the increase is mainly attributed to minimum wage increases and the difficulty homecare agencies are having finding and retaining aids. Committee Chairman Harris referenced the anticipated increase in \$90,000 for 2022 and asked what that is attributed to. Ms. Geffers stated there has been supplemental and re-allocated funding they are anticipating from the federal and state government. Mr. Harris asked how much it will be. Ms. Geffers stated they received \$200,000 for the fiscal year April 2021 through March 2022, and they anticipate to receive another next year. Ms. Geffers noted it's 100 percent state money with no required match. The committee briefly discussed how the money is spent and reimbursed by the state. Committee Chairman Harris asked what the status is for the congregate meal sites. Ms. Geffers stated they have been slowing down for a couple of years, and they are now implementing the Go & Dine Program. Ms. Geffers continued there has been a lot of interest in that program, and they anticipate it will take off over the next year. Ms. Geffers noted as the population changes, they do foresee the congregate centers going away as the times are changing. Committee Chairman Harris stated that expenses go up every year, and it would be nice to compare the increase in their overall budget to the increase in their services being provided, adding Office for the Aging is one of the most important services the County provides.

Chairman Crandall stated they as Legislators take \$800,000 in local dollars to invest into the Office for the Aging who come back with \$2.5 million worth of services. Chairman Crandall continued it's a good investment, and they are getting three times their money, and to see a list of the services tied to the funds would be good. Administrator Knapp referenced the new software they are rolling out for the budget that will have that kind of data included stating it's something they can look forward to.

County Clerk – 2022 Budget Review

County Clerk Robert Christman attended the meeting to discuss his 2022 Budget requests for the County Clerk's Office (A1410).

2021 Budget

Mr. Christman addressed his 2021 Budget stating they are ahead of the curve, and their revenues are coming in more than he expected. Mr. Christman wrote the 2021 Budget during the pandemic, so his conservative numbers will be a benefit. Mr. Christman continued his expenses are less than anticipated, and looking at it now, they'll be ahead of the curve by the end of the year.

2022 Budget

Mr. Christman addressed his 2022 Budget stating they are still coming in with a profit for the County, adding a lot is transactions on auto sales, and he hopes between auto and mortgage tax they'll be good. Mr. Christman continued he didn't realize houses would be selling in a pandemic, so he's optimistic for 2022. Mr. Christman stated there is increase in his .1s for union contracts as well as the 90-day Intern position changing to a full-time/part-time position. Mr. Christman continued he isn't sure how overtime will work this year as they are now open to the public from 8:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Previously, employees were gone by 4:00 p.m., but now if someone comes in at 3:58 p.m., they have to stay as it is their duty is take care of the public. Mr. Christman briefly discussed some changes in their DMV process, noting he is cautiously optimistic that the changes they have made are moving in the right direction. Committee Chairman Harris stated the County Clerk's budget is one of the few departments that is a gain, so he has the admiration of the Board. Legislator Stockin stated he recently had family move back into the County, and among them they had four vehicles to register, and they said their experience in the DMV was the best experience they've ever had. Mr. Christman stated he will not take credit for that, adding he is blessed to have great deputies and great employees, and that is a tough department to be in.

Human Resources – 2022 Budget Review

Personnel Officer Bobby Budinger attended the meeting to discuss his 2022 Budget requests for the Human Resources Office (A1430). Mr. Budinger stated there is an increase in .1s as he put in for a part-time person that has already been approved, adding he is hoping the part-time position will offset overtime they'll accrue, especially for Saturday exams. Mr. Budinger continued there is a significant increase in A1430.409 (Fees) that includes a civil service software package they are looking to implement. Treasurer Ross asked what the anticipated amount is. Mr. Budinger stated just under \$30,000 for set up, and \$5,700 for maintenance. Mr. Budinger noted there is also an increase in his conference line as they haven't been to a civil service conference since 2019, and their new employee will also be sent to training.

Veterans' Service Agency – 2022 Budget Review

Veterans' Service Agency Director Michael Hennessy attended the meeting to discuss his 2022 Budget requests (A6510). Mr. Hennessy distributed the FY2020 Geographic Distribution of Veteran Agency Expenditures to the committee for review. From 2019 to 2020, the Veterans population dropped by 258, and 129 Veterans died in 2020. In 2020, the Veterans' Agency's total expenditure increased by \$2,796,000. Mr. Hennessy expressed concern over the drop in the Veteran's population in the County, stating he has teamed up with State Senator and the Veterans Association, and they are going to have an enrollment on September 28 at the American Legion to try and get these young guys in. Legislator Barnes asked if once someone is separated from service, are they considered a Veteran. Mr. Hennessy stated, yes, they are; however, his numbers are Veterans receiving services, adding the numbers do not include approximately 350 widows that he also helps. Mr. Hennessy noted he is trying to get to the young Veterans. Legislator Barnes asked if a person ends active duty and comes to the County, are they supposed to register, adding he is a Veteran, but not signed up with the agency so is not considered in Mr. Hennessy's numbers. Mr. Hennessy stated that Legislator Barnes will always be a Veteran, but if he hasn't done anything through the agency such as compensation or medical, then he is not on their list. Mr. Hennessy noted that Legislator Barnes' discharge may be on file with them, but those Veterans aren't included in the count. Legislator Burdick asked why there are no Purple Heart County signs up yet. Mr. Hennessy stated he has discussed it with the IDA; however, he wants to first re-establish a flag pole at their building. Mr. Hennessy continued while the signs are great, he takes a lot of hits from Veterans because he doesn't have a flag pole.

Board of Elections – 2022 Budget Review

Board of Elections Commissioner Michael McCormick attended the meeting to discuss their 2022 Budget requests for the Board of Elections (A1450).

2021 Budget

Mr. McCormick addressed their 2021 Budget stating they weathered the storm pretty well, adding early voting worked out well, and they received two grants totaling \$100,000 for security and poll books.

2022 Budget

Mr. McCormick addressed their 2022 Budget stating they will have a primary and general election that will have federal and state implications, adding that election issues continue to ramp up, and he doesn't know if they have enough staff to accomplish everything that is required of them. Committee Chairman Harris asked if they have budgeted in anticipation of having an early voting site opened in Wellsville next year. Mr. McCormick stated, yes. Mr. Harris asked if they are going to continue to try for a variance to not have to use it. Mr. McCormick stated they will try, but from what he gathers, it's not in anyone's best interest as they want those sites available. Committee Chairman Harris stated they can make the claim on prior use and turnout. Mr. McCormick stated they can make the claim, but in a presidential year, they will need an early voting site, adding that people are getting accustomed to the early voting. Mr. Harris referenced no voting machines being included in the budget and asked when they can expect it. Mr. McCormick stated their office has discussed it, and each machine is about \$10,000 and they need 40, adding their current machines are fine, parts are available, and there are spare machines in other counties, so he doesn't see any reason in the next year or two to chase that down. Mr. McCormick suggested when the time does come, it be addressed using a capital reserve account. Committee Chairman Harris asked for a breakdown of A1450.404 (Maintenance Contracts). Mr. McCormick stated included in the \$72,800 being requested is the warranty for voting machines

with Dominion, the election management unit that tabulates the memory cards from poll sites and is used to upload results to the State Board of Elections, the contract with Tenex for e-poll books, as well as the contract with NTS Data who is responsible for maintaining voter files. Mr. McCormick continued that NTS uploads all of the current voter files, address changes, party enrollments, and signature verifications. Committee Chairman Harris asked why they are still budgeting \$20,000 for printing in 2022. Mr. McCormick stated that absentee ballots still need to be printed and mailed, adding it's a growing list so they took that into account. Legislator Barnes asked if the techs that maintain the equipment are full-time staff. Mr. McCormick briefly discussed the responsibilities of their techs noting they are part-time employees.

Employment and Training – 2022 Budget Review

Employment & Training Director Reita Sobeck-Lynch and Accountant Brian Thierman attended the meeting to discuss their 2022 Budget requests for the Employment & Training Center (CD1 Fund).

2021 Budget

Ms. Lynch addressed their 2021 Budget stating they are doing very well and are on target. Committee Chairman Harris asked if they have any vacancies. Ms. Lynch stated they have two vacancies; a Job Developer and an Account Clerk Typist, and they are planning to fill both. Mr. Harris asked if those positions are included in the 2022 Budget, and Ms. Lynch stated, yes.

2022 Budget

Ms. Lynch addressed her 2022 Budget stating there are no big changes, and the County's share is used for personnel costs and benefits. Ms. Lynch added that the DSS budget is a bit higher due to a computer needing to be replaced. Committee Chairman Harris asked why Employment & Training's budget always zeros out. Treasurer Ross stated they are in their own fund that is set aside from the General Fund. They balance out by using the \$60,000 from County money, noting if they didn't have that County share, they would be short. Committee Chairman Harris asked if there are any COVID related revenues expected in 2022. Ms. Lynch stated, no, they haven't seen any and she doesn't anticipate receiving any. Mr. Harris asked if they have any COVID related expenses. Ms. Lynch stated they track all of their calls for unemployment; however, she doesn't know that all of them are COVID related. Mr. Harris asked if they can find any COVID expenses for Employment & Training. Ms. Lynch stated they spent \$8,000 covering the call center. Mr. Harris asked if there was any overtime accrued. Treasurer Ross stated some of it was dependent on the day they had to cover the call center which was in operation on weekends. Ms. Ross noted they do have schedules of when employees were covering the call center so that information is easy to pull.

Economic Development/Planning/Tourism – 2022 Budget Review

Director of Planning H. Kier Dirlam attended the meeting to discuss his 2022 Budget requests for Development (A6430), Planning (A8020), and Tourism (A6989).

2021 Budget

Mr. Dirlam addressed his 2021 Budget stating Economic Development is okay. The conference line is showing a surplus as conferences haven't happened this year, and Dr. Clark is typically traveling around but hasn't been. Mr. Dirlam noted he does plan to submit a request to transfer the vast majority of those funds into the marketing line.

Mr. Dirlam stated Tourism was allocated less than half of what they expected to receive and typically get for I Love NY funds, which also means the County's match is \$30,000 different. Mr. Dirlam continued the non-matching funds is running low as they were used heavily because up until July they couldn't apply for any grants. Mr. Dirlam noted there are extra funds sitting in the matching account that they could discuss using.

2022 Budget

Mr. Dirlam addressed his 2022 Budget stating when he put together all of them, he looked back at 2019 to prepare his 2022 Budget, adding that many things throughout that look like increases are just re-setting them to what they previously were before COVID-19.

Economic Development

Mr. Dirlam briefly discussed various items that show increases, noting the biggest lift is in marketing, as their quote for Facebook marketing is \$6,000/month plus some backup work. Administrator Knapp stated there are a number of things going on with Planning, Development, and Tourism that aren't reflected in this budget, adding this is a submission of estimates based on what they have done in the past, and the Board is likely to see a very different tentative budget. Committee Chairman Harris asked if the new hires happen, will economic development no longer fall under Mr. Dirlam. Mr. Dirlam stated, yes, he would just be doing planning. Mr. Dirlam continued he has mixed feelings about the direction they are heading in, adding they have a team that is working well together; they just need more help. Mr. Dirlam went on to say the new plan is adding four people on the development side with the possibility of one of his people moving over while everyone else stays in planning. Mr. Dirlam stated this budget does not include additional office space for three to four new employees, adding other than salaries and office space it's close.

Planning

Mr. Dirlam stated there is a Planner position being discussed that could be offset by dropping a Planning & Economic Development Specialist. Committee Chairman Harris asked if in prior years all staff fell under planning, and Mr. Dirlam stated, yes. Mr. Harris asked if this budget is an accurate representation. Treasurer Ross stated the \$390,000 is for the Director, Assistant Director, Confidential Secretary, two Planning & Development Specialists, and the new positions of Planner, and an Account Clerk Typist.

Mr. Dirlam stated their equipment line increased a lot as they have never had a server on the County system, so they have no computers that are backed up. Mr. Dirlam continued he has been asking for this for a long time, and the estimated cost is \$10,000. Mr. Dirlam noted it bothers him they have no back up of any of the computers in their office with no shared drive. Legislator Hopkins referenced the budget request for Pictometry annual software maintenance stating they haven't heard anything about that for quite a while and asked if they are still using it and getting any return on it. Mr. Dirlam stated the \$2,000 gets access for an online viewer that they share with the assessors and anyone else interested in using it such as EMS, 911 Center, etc. Mr. Dirlam continued the issue is the photography is not relatively recent across the County. Mr. Dirlam briefly discussed the flights process and how the pictures are used, noting that \$2,000 is relatively cheap to make them available to everyone.

Tourism

Mr. Dirlam stated he built the Tourism budget based on the 2019 Budget, noting they have no idea what the state is going to do, so the \$68,000 is to make sure they have enough in the budget in case they come through.

BREAK

The committee took a break for lunch from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Public Works – 2022 Budget Review

Public Works Superintendent Justin Henry and Fiscal Manager Jen McMahon attended the meeting to discuss their 2022 Budget requests for the following cost centers: Public Works Administration (A1490), Buildings (A1620), Traffic Control (A3310), Solid Waste (A8160), Traffic Control (A3310), County Road Fund D, as well as Road Machinery Fund DM.

2021 Budget

Mr. Henry stated their 2021 Budget looks good with no red flags. Mr. Henry continued a key thing to note is solid waste revenue that is considerably higher than they budgeted for which can be attributed to tag fee sales as well as the tag fee increase that was approved in January. Mr. Henry briefly discussed additional revenue received that has exceeded their projections. Committee Chairman Harris asked for a general overview on 2021 projects. Mr. Henry stated they are currently finishing the New Hudson bridge, and they will have one more bridge project left for the year on County Route 5C. As for paving and highway, County Route 12 should be finished in 1 to 2 week's weather pending. Mr. Henry noted they are also currently paving County Route 15 and should be done next week.

2022 Budget

Mr. Henry addressed his 2022 Budget noting the following equipment requests for Solid Waste:

- (2) 30-yard closed top recycling containers at approximately \$22,000/each
- (1) 40-yard open top container at approximately \$10,000
- (2) 50-yard open top containers at approximately \$23,000/each
- (1) T800 Kenworth tractor trailer at approximately \$80,000

Mr. Henry stated the Kenworth tractor trailer will be used to haul garbage and leachate, adding they could take half of the cost out of the Solid Waste post closure fund. Mr. Henry noted the containers will be replacing obsolete equipment.

Mr. Henry noted the following Road Machinery equipment requests that will be replacing current inventory:

- (1) Haul truck at approximately \$170,000
- (1) Loader at approximately \$240,000
- (1) Plow truck at approximately \$240,000
- (1) Trailer at approximately \$85,000

2022 Capital Bridge Projects

Mr. Henry noted the following bridge and culvert capital projects included in his 2022 Budget:

- BR #09-09 CR 16, Birdsall with an estimated cost of \$300,000
- BR #20-17 Higgins Creed Road, Hume with an estimated cost of \$350,000
- BR #25-03 Watson Road, Ward with an estimated cost of \$350,000
- Culvert #11-33 CR11, Almond with an estimated cost of \$350,000
- Culvert #16-26 CR 16, Angelica with an estimated cost of \$400,000
- Culvert #26-05 CR 26, Belfast with an estimated cost of \$400,000

Mr. Henry noted the total after the town share is approximately \$2,045,000. Committee Chairman Harris asked if there are any bridge projects for 2022 that utilize federal funds. Mr. Henry indicated they have two submittals in and should hear back next year.

2022 Non-Bridge Capital Projects

Mr. Henry distributed and briefly discussed several 2022 Public Works Capital Project requests noting the request to update current storage facilities at the Court Street Campus that would allow for future expansion of storage needs and create more parking space. The initial funding totaling \$285,000 that is being requested would cover the demolition and replacement of the current storage building, installation of the road access and parking, as well as the installation of stairs to allow employees to safely travel between the parking lot and the County Office Building. Mr. Henry noted the \$285,000 quote is if Public Works did the work.

2022 CHIPS Funding

Committee Chairman Harris referenced the increase in CHIPS funding being budgeted for in 2022 compared to 2021. Mr. Henry stated they received \$1.5 million more than the typically received amount, and of that, \$933,000 was an overall increase to the funding that they hope to maintain. Mr. Henry noted the remaining \$600,000 was the 20 percent withhold during the pandemic that was finally distributed.

Committee Chairman Harris stated there is a \$2.2 million increase in expenditures from 2021 to their 2022 proposed budget and asked if half can be attributed to SALT revenue and the rest in projects. Ms. Ross stated they are up \$3.2 million in expenses which can be attributed to equipment requests and the six bridge projects, adding the revenue changes are worth \$3.1 million, so Mr. Henry's entire projection is up \$91,000. Ms. Ross stated to keep in my mind they haven't looked at the General Fund yet to see what they can do to offset those increases.

Real Property Tax – 2022 Budget Review

Real Property Tax Director Joe Budinger attended the meeting to discuss his 2022 Budget requests for the Real Property Tax Department (A1355). Mr. Budinger stated his budget remained the same as 2021; however, he does have a reduction in salaries from replacing former employees with lower grades.

Legislator Stockin asked if he has any idea what the overall base assessment is for the County. Mr. Budinger stated it is up, noting they typically pick up a couple percents. Committee Chairman Harris asked when that gets included in the budget. Treasurer Ross stated within the next couple of weeks. Legislator Barnes stated recently the housing market prices have increased considerably and asked if anything is in the works for a revaluation to get things updated. Mr. Budinger stated they usually receive something from the state and assessors and usually have

three done per year, for example Scio picked up quite a bit of assessment from their recent revaluation. Mr. Budinger continued they also receive a report from the state early in the year that shows trends of agricultural, vacant, and residential, and this is the first year in the last 10 years where he has seen the County projected to go up 3 percent in housing. Legislator Barnes asked what the lowest is a town can be. Mr. Budinger stated there is no bottom, adding the County is usually over 90, but currently, we're sitting right on that threshold. Legislator Barnes asked how far spread a revaluation is required to be. Mr. Budinger state there is no requirement; however, they typically want one every 5 years. Legislator Fanton stated he recently talked to the Wellsville assessor who indicated they are 4 years away from doing another revaluation, and they'll be under 80 percent this year. Ms. Ross stated we have a couple of towns in the low 70s, and when she gets the list for equalization, she always gives it to the Board so they can see what every town is at.

Information Technology – 2022 Budget Review

IT Director Keith Hooker attended the meeting to discuss his 2022 Budget requests for Information Technology (A1680) and Central Service Telephone (A1610). Mr. Hooker stated his 2021 Budget has been going well, and everything is coming around as he projected.

2022 Budget

Mr. Hooker stated he added conferences back in to his 2022 Budget, re-appropriated some money from fees to contracts based on billing, and is also asking for a new employee. Committee Chairman Harris asked if a server is the responsibility of the department that utilizes it and does IT assist with the procurement of it. Mr. Hooker, stated, yes, it is the departments responsibility, and IT assists with procurement and installation, as well as maintenance so it continues to operate. Mr. Harris asked how many departments have their own dedicated servers. Mr. Hooker stated just about every department, although, some share and some need their own. Mr. Harris asked if any departments utilize their own cloud based backup. Mr. Hooker stated no; however, some have cloud based software which should take care of their own backup, but none have cloud based backup for things stored at the County.

Clerk of the Board – 2022 Budget Review

Clerk of the Board Brenda Rigby Riehle attended the meeting to discuss her 2022 Budget requests for the following cost centers: Legislative Board (A1010), Clerk of the Board (A1040), Central Services – Printing (A1670), Central Services – UPS (A1672), Central Services – Postage (A1673), Unallocated Insurance (A1910), Municipal Association Dues (A1920), and the CS Risk Retention Fund. Mrs. Riehle stated her 2021 Budget is on target, and she has no concerns.

2022 Budget

Mrs. Riehle stated A1010 (Legislative Board) shows a substantial increase, adding she did request \$22,000 in office equipment; however, \$17,000 could be cut as she thinks computers will be ordered in 2021. Mrs. Riehle continued she also requested a \$6,000 increase in conference expenses as there is a new Board coming in, and with more Legislators than ever attending the NYSAC Conference, she believes they're going to need those additional funds.

Mrs. Riehle addressed her A1040 (Clerk, Legislative Board) stating most lines items remain the same, although, there is a slight increase in personnel costs and postage. Mrs. Riehle continued the postage account reimburses itself, but even with chargebacks, they're still having trouble staying within the Central Service Postage budget. Committee Chairman Harris asked if the Public Information Officer stipend comes out of her budget or the County Administrator's. Mrs.

Riehle stated she included it in her budget. Mr. Harris asked if that is the best place for it. Treasurer Ross stated it's not a bad place for it; however, it should probably be in the A1340 budget where the Deputy Budget Officer stipend is. Administrator Knapp stated a lot of that will depend on how they move forward with other conversations regarding economic development, branding, and getting the County's image improved.

County Attorney – 2022 Budget Review

Administrator Knapp addressed the County Attorney's 2022 Budget requests for the County Attorney's Office (A1420) stating the County Treasurer put this budget together for them, and it's just an estimate and not reflecting what that office has experienced in the past. Interim County Attorney Tom Miner stated they do have a new hire, Third Assistant Aaron Moore, who is handling juvenile delinquents and persons in need of supervision (PINS), adding he hopes to be filling the Board in soon on a Second Assistant.

County Treasurer – 2022 Budget Review

County Treasurer Terri Ross attended the meeting to discuss her 2022 Budget requests for the following cost centers: Treasurer (A1325), Tax Sale and Redemption (A1362), Auditing (A1671), Taxes on Municipal Property (A1950), Community College (A2495), County Reforestation (A8710), and Debt Service Fund.

2021 Budget

Treasurer Ross addressed her 2021 Budget stating there are no big red flags on expenses or revenues. Ms. Ross continued the one questionable component is the tax sale, adding they included \$500,000 in anticipation of doing both years; however, it's not going to happen as the Governor extended the moratorium on foreclosures and evictions until January 15, 2022. Ms. Ross stated after that announcement she immediately got in touch with our counsel for tax foreclosure, and there is a loop hole that requires the County to do a lot of work, but they are going to take that chance and try to get everything accomplished to give these people a last date of redemption which has been moved from January 15, 2022, to January 31, 2022. Ms. Ross briefly discussed the hardship declarations that are required to be included with the bills being sent out. Ms. Ross stated if they don't receive hardship declarations back, then they will have properties they are able to sell next spring, adding their goal is to have a quick turnaround and will sell both sets of parcels that owe back to 2018 and 2019. Ms. Ross continued that puts one year in limbo, and those people will get three years as they don't have the time to get the searches done, and counsel doesn't have the time to review them. Ms. Ross went on to say they are hoping in January 2023 they are back on a normal pace. Ms. Ross briefly discussed the plans for the tax sale in spring 2022 and the possibility of holding an online auction. Committee Chairman Harris asked if the rule was ever changed on which tax year you pay first. Ms. Ross stated, no, it's still the most current year first. Mr. Harris asked if there is any idea how many parcels haven't been paid since 2018. Ms. Ross stated she doesn't have that number, adding 2018 is ready to go, they are just waiting for an auctioneer. Ms. Ross continued that 2019 is scheduled to be advertised within the next two months, and between the two, there are 400 total when normally they have 600 to 700.

2022 Budget

Ms. Ross addressed her 2022 Budget stating there is an increase in salaries due to a part-time position being made full-time as well as the new position that was approved last year. Ms. Ross noted this increase can be adjusted because they went from the Deputy II to a Confidential

Secretary. Ms. Ross briefly highlighted additional changes, noting Community Colleges was left the same as they have been fortunate to stay within the \$950,000.

County Administrator – 2022 Budget Review

County Administrator Carissa Knapp discussed her 2022 Budget requests for the following cost centers: County Administrator (A1011), Assigned Counsel (A1171), Auditor (A1320), Budget (A1340), Land Acquisition or Lease (A1622), Contingency (A1990), Bus Transportation (A5630), Beach & Pool (A7180), Other Recreation (A7185), Historian/Records Storage (A7510), County Reforestation (A8710), Wildlife Habitat & Stream (A8720), Conservation (A8730), Cooperative Extension (A8751), and CSH Risk Retention Health Fund. Administrator Knapp stated she added the Deputy position back in to her budget after cutting it last year. Ms. Ross noted there are not a lot of changes to A1011. Administrator Knapp stated that is subject to change as they look at adding more positions under her.

Committee Chairman Harris asked if there is any change from prior years in PILOTS. Ms. Ross stated there is a little bit of an increase based on schedules, and anything in the budget with a dollar value pays the County nothing, noting there are only five. The committee briefly discussed other existing PILOTS that affect the County; however, we aren't a part of the payment schedule.

Sales Tax

Treasurer Ross stated sales tax was increased to \$23.5 million which is up about \$1.7 million compared to 2021. There is some room to increase it again as the payment in September is up over \$300,000, so they are continuing to see it increase.

Contingency

Committee Chairman Harris referenced Contingency showing \$750,000 budgeted and asked why there is \$100,000 split out. Ms. Ross stated at the time the budget was passed, the Board hadn't decided what positions would be granted so they left it there. Ms. Ross briefly discussed positions that were requested at the beginning of the year noting the District Attorney's Office positions took the majority of that money. Ms. Ross continued the \$750,000 for this year is based on \$100,000 for positions, adding there are a lot the Board may want to pull from the department's budget until they decide what they want to fund. Ms. Ross continued there is a lot of talk about money for economic development beyond salary requests that is not in their 2022 Budget request, so that is included in this as well in order to cover it should the Board choose to go that route. Chairman Crandall stated there is always a feeling that the Board puts this money in Contingency and just spends it as a slush fund when that is not the case. They have always been conservative, and they need to have those funds there for the last hour items that pop up, and they need the funds to cover it. Legislator Hopkins stated as they enter into the final stages of the budget, it would be helpful for them as Legislators to see what the Contingency money is being planned for so they can keep in mind what it's earmarked for and not dip into those areas. Ms. Ross stated if they want to see it for an ideas fine, but to stick with it and hold someone to it is not something they are able to do. Legislator Decker stated every time they come up with something, they talk about Contingency and have really good discussion, and he recalls times they've found ways to come up with other money.

Wellsville Airport

Administrator Knapp noted they did receive a request from the Wellsville airport; however, it is not included as these submissions are strictly for department head requests.

Retirement

Committee Chairman Harris asked to briefly touch on retirement. Ms. Ross stated it is reflecting an increase based on information she had prior to getting numbers, adding it will be adjusted a little bit. Ms. Ross continued the payment for December 2021 has increased by 13.7 percent, so for 2022, she put in a 14 percent increase which will be for the 2023 bill.

Fleet

Ms. Ross stated they looked at a hybrid approach for fleet and for some vehicles it made more sense to buy them out. The IT Department bought out a van that was under \$3,000, and after looking at Public Works, they are purchasing two trucks that were on lease that were under \$1,000 to purchase with limited miles, and Mr. Henry thinks he can get 8 to 10 years use out of them. Ms. Ross noted future requests for the Sheriff's Office as well as Office for the Aging. Legislator Barnes asked if the County has looked at electric vehicles stating it seems a vehicle that doesn't leave the County very often would be ideal to be electric to show their support for climate change. Administrator Knapp indicated that they have not specifically shopped for one, but the conversation has been brought up as well as putting in some charging stations.

County Historian

County Historian Craig Braack attended the meeting and addressed his 2022 Budget stating it is the same request as past years. Mr. Braack announced he is back to work on a part-time basis, and he is very happy with whatever can be approved in his budget request. Committee Chairman Harris stated he is happy to see Mr. Braack doing well. Legislator Fanton referenced Public Works requesting another storage unit here at the County Office Campus and asked if he agrees it's needed. Mr. Braack stated a resounding yes adding it would be greatly appreciated as going down to the Landfill was a 3-mile drive each way and a pain for all employees involved so anything onsite would be tremendous.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m. following a motion by Legislator Stockin, seconded by Legislator Fanton, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Meghan Washer, Confidential Secretary
Allegany County Board of Legislators