

Office of the Onondaga County Legislature

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DEBORAH L. MATURO
Clerk

DAVID H. KNAPP
Chairman

KATHERINE FRENCH
Deputy Clerk

**JOINT MEETING OF WAYS & MEANS AND COUNTY FACILITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES - MAY 13, 2020
VIRTUAL**

AUDIO/VIDEO

TIM BURTIS, CHAIRMAIN
WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE

DEBRA J. CODY
COUNTY FACILITIES COMMITTEE

WAYS AND MEANS MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. May, Mr. Rowley, Mr. Ryan, Mr. Jordan, Mr. Williams, Mrs. Ervin
COUNTY FACILITIES MEMBERS PRESENT: Mrs. Tassone, Ms. Kuhn, Mr. Bush
ALSO ATTENDING: Chairman Knapp, Mrs. Abbott-Kenan, Mr. Holmquist, Dr. Chase, Dr. Crabill,
Mrs. Tormey, Mr. Manning, Ms. Obernesser, Ms. Gaffney, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Donnelly, Ms. Velasco,
Mrs. Maturo, Mrs. French, Ms. McNamara, Ms. Lesniak, Mr. Paro and Mr. DeSantis

Chairman Burtis called the meeting to order at 11:40 a.m. and introduced Dr. Casey Crabill, President of OCC.

1. **ONONDAGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE:** Dr. Casey Crabill, President; Mark Manning, Senior VP and CFO
 - a. **Adoption of the Annual Budget for Onondaga Community College for the Fiscal Year September 1, 2020, to August 31, 2021, and Authorizing the County Executive to Enter into Contracts with Other Governmental Units in Which Appropriations and Revenues are Approved by the Adoption of the 2021 Budget**

Dr. Crabill introduced her staff, and presented the following:

Onondaga Community College Presentation to the Onondaga County Legislature May 13, 2020



Nidaa Aljabbarin has been selected to receive the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation's prestigious Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship.



The first class of OCC Advantage students enroll at OCC this fall.

- Scholarship will provide Ms. Aljabbarin with up to \$40,000/year for up to 3 years to complete a Bachelor's degree, and up to \$75,000 for graduate work; she plans to attend Syracuse University and hopes to become a physician
- First Advantage students graduating high school - program preparing students for college; first 2 classes are from East Syracuse Minoa (ESM) and Solvay High Schools; 154 students stayed with program since 9th grade
- If students stayed with program for all 4 yrs, then OCC raised money to cover their tuition for 1st yr at OCC; if they keep grades up, then OCC will cover their 2nd yr of tuition; idea to support families and get students read for higher education
- Program is now active at Onondaga Central, Jordan-Elbridge and LaFayette High Schools



OCC's PTK Chapter named
#5 in the world

Professors Buffy Quinn and Justin Fiene were
awarded a National Science Foundation Advanced
Technology Education grant totaling \$300,000.



- International Honor Society Chapter – about 1,700 chapters around the world; second year to be in top 5; recognized for scholarship and community service
- Grant – supports equipment for new drone technology GPS systems technician program just approved by NYS; OCC will be able to launch program in the fall and begin training for technical workers

New programs at OCC

Helping a community in need

The Lazer Response Fund

- Developing 2 additional health programs: (1) paramedic – in conjunction with Upstate; expect approval soon from Dept. of Education (2) developing health certificate and degree program linked to Upstate to train students entering Upstate programs including respiratory care and ultrasound technology
- Submitting for approval on electro-mechanical technology program – create technicians in broad range of electro-mechanical skills; working with local employers; series of skills beneficial to employers to make students marketable

Tuition

	2019-20	2020-21 Proposed	Change	
			\$	%
Tuition				
FT (per Semester)	\$2,495	\$2,545	\$50	2.00%
PT (per Credit Hour)	\$208	\$212	\$4	1.92%
Technology Fee*				
FT (per Semester)	\$150	\$190	\$40.00	
PT (per Credit Hour)	\$12.50	\$16.00	\$3.50	

* SUNY Online Learning Network Fee of \$11/credit hour was eliminated and now included in Technology Fee

Cost of Attendance

New Entering Full-Time Matriculated – Commuting Student

Per Semester	2019-20	2020-21 Proposed
Tuition	\$2,495	\$2,545
Fees:		
Technology Fee	\$150	\$190
Student Activity Fee	\$47	\$47
Recreation & Wellness Fee	\$95	\$95
New Student Program Fee (1x)	\$34	\$34
Program/Course Fees	Varies	Varies
Box of Books/Chromebook	\$448	\$432
	\$3,269	\$3,343
		+ \$74 or 2.3%
Financial Aid:		
Maximum Pell Award	\$3,098	\$3,173
Maximum TAP Award*	\$2,495	\$2,545
	\$5,593	\$5,718
Financial Aid Refunded in Excess of Charges	\$2,324	\$2,375

* Maximum TAP is \$2,582; but cannot exceed tuition charges

Cost of Attendance

New Entering Full-Time Matriculated – Residential Student

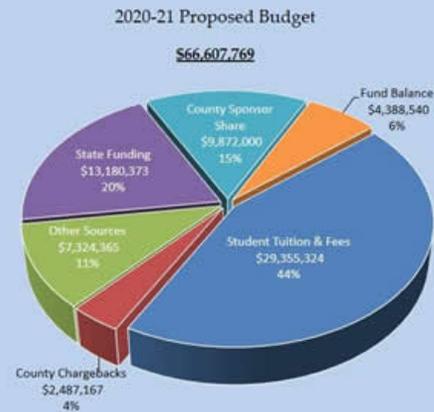
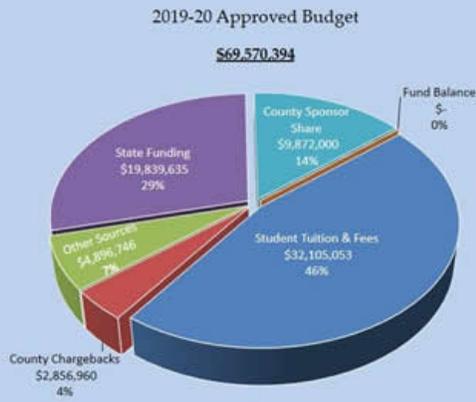
Per Semester	2019-20	2020-21 Proposed
Tuition	\$2,495	\$2,545
Fees:		
Technology Fee	\$150	\$190
Student Activity Fee	\$47	\$47
Recreation & Wellness Fee	\$95	\$95
New Student Program Fee (1x)	\$34	\$34
Program/Course Fees	varies	Varies
Books/Supplies	\$448	\$432
Housing (Triple)	\$2,735	\$2,735
Programming Fee	\$80	\$80
Meal Plan (14-Meal)	\$1,360	\$1,395
Total Cost for Semester – Triple / 14-Meal	\$7,444	\$7,553
Total Cost for Semester – Double / 14-Meal	\$7,844	\$7,953
Total Cost for Semester – Single / 16-Meal	\$8,444	\$8,558
Total Cost for Semester – Single / 19-Meal	\$8,544	\$8,658
		+ \$109 or 1.5%

2020-21 Total Maximum Financial Aid per Semester	
Maximum Pell	\$3,173
Maximum TAP	\$2,545
Total Maximum Aid *	\$5,718

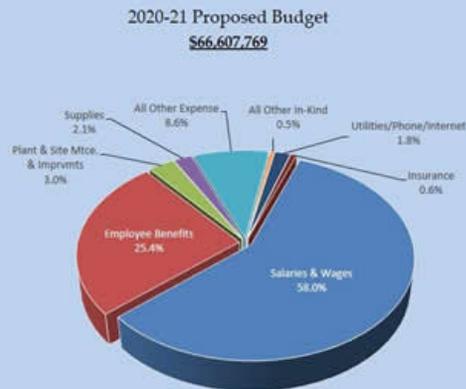
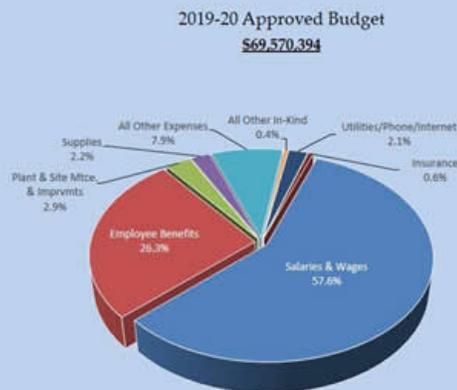
Financial Aid is \$125 higher than 2019-20

Note: 14-meal plan increased by \$33/semester; 16- and 19-meal plans by \$40/semester. (Meal plans include \$175 flex dollars.)

Sources of Revenue



Expense Categories



OCC Baked Goods IOU

Honorable Members of the Onondaga County Legislature will receive, when allowed, a delicious treat from our OCC Hospitality Program. With appreciation of the County's support and in accordance with this time-honored tradition.

Mr. Jordan:

- Thanked Dr. Crabill for her presentation
- Budget shows 13% decrease in chargebacks college receives, and 24% increase in chargebacks the county will pay to other counties; how did they arrive at those projections?

Dr. Crabill:

- Chargeback rate is determined by formula; formula then applied to expectation of number of out of county students likely to have based on general enrollment assumptions

Mr. Manning:

- Information chargebacks comes from county office based on what they anticipate paying other counties for students living in Onondaga County that go to school outside the county
- Chargeback rate remaining same as last year; expecting small decline in enrollment
- Projection of students in and out of county comes from Onondaga County, not OCC
- Mrs. Venditti was asked what the County anticipates paying out in the budget

Dr. Crabill:

- Track percentage of local high school students that come to OCC; percentage has stayed consistent at 18%
- Numbers in classes have declined locally

Chairman Knapp:

- Process for County – when local student goes to (i.e.) Cayuga Community College, they must apply through the Finance Department that they are a resident of Onondaga County, and also where they are going
- Finance then knows there is a student going to another county, and what the rate is for that county
- Number calculated at Finance, then it is sent to OCC

Mr. Jordan:

- Projecting chargeback revenues, but if the revenues are more, where does the excess revenue go?

Mr. Manning:

- Trying to do best estimations from data; could find that the chargeback revenue is higher or lower; it's all part of the budgeting; continual monitoring of where OCC will be overall for revenue and expense
- If enrollment continues to go down, they will look at other expense areas to cut back
- Record all revenue and expenses; if net savings, then increase in fund balance; if spent more, then use fund balance

Chairman Knapp:

- In the past, did the money from chargebacks go to capital?

Mr. Manning:

- Two components of chargebacks:
- (1) chargeback revenue college receives - put in revenue budget
- (2) every community college allowed to charge \$300 to other counties per FTE (full-time equivalent); 30 credit hours
- Money collected is held on college's behalf; twice a year it is turned over to the County - approximately \$400,000; 2019 was \$363,000; money helps to pay debt service associated with bonds for capital projects
- \$300 is a statute amount; cannot charge any more or less

Chairman Burtis:

- How many credit hours does it take to be considered a full-time student?

Dr. Crabill:

- Every 30 credit hours is one FTE; traditionally a full-time student will take 15 credits a semester

Mr. Manning:

- Billing – if student registers for 12 or more credits, OCC charges them the fixed full-time rate
- (i.e.) 1 student takes 12 credits, and 1 takes 18 credits: charged same full-time rate; part-time credit hours include any student taking less than 12 credits

Mr. Jordan:

- Budget projects increase in overtime and travel/training; please elaborate on increases

Mr. Manning:

- Travel/training scheduled to increase, but will be first area to cut; increases due to programs with reaccreditation cycle; also additional travel for national conference
- Most recent faculty contract approved (in first year of 5 year contract) includes travel requirement reimbursement; faculty travel to high schools – 19,000 credit hours generated by students at local high schools taking OCC classes
- Overtime increase would be cut first if necessary; contractual CSEA overtime with facilities and campus safety; once exceed 35 hour work week, required to pay overtime due to the contract; fixed amount of full-time
- Instead of another full-time individual with salary and benefits, better to have overtime

Mr. Jordan:

- Showing increase in summertime student tuition revenue and decrease in fall and spring; please explain

Mr. Manning:

- Summer projection is flat enrollment; hoping to capitalize on that with Excelsior program – (i.e.) if student is getting 30 credit hours over 12 months, eligible for full tuition paid by NYS; summer can be safety net if fall had 15 credits, but dropped class in spring to 12 credits
- Flat summer projection at 11,000 credit hours

Mr. Jordan:

- 92% decrease in interest and earnings on investments

Mr. Manning:

- College used to only generate \$8,000 - \$12,000 in interest income; couple years ago, joined cash management group that helped put money into highest yielding areas – US Treasuries; 1.5%, but now 0.08% on renewal
- Based on interest environment, took more conservative approach for next year; always modest interest income
- Looking at putting money into local bank with 50-60 basis points on earnings; right now solely treasury bonds; 30,60,90

Mr. Jordan:

- Number of positions related to on campus housing including additional residence hall director; housing set up as not-for-profit corporation, it would seem the positions should be funded out of housing corporation, not operating budget

Dr. Crabill:

- They are; made decision couple years ago, for liability and oversight, that they should be employees of college, but bill Housing Authority to support the positions; show as funded, but paid for through billing arrangement with housing corp.

Mr. Manning:

- Included in revenue to offset expense; do not subsidize housing at all; probably make money, because they may not hire the hall director, but locked in fixed dollar amount including salary and benefits in chargeback

Mr. Ryan:

- Expense for salaries and benefits are going up; anticipating some leaving on an incentive or voluntary leave, so would that not be going down?

Mr. Manning:

- Current budget for 2019/2020 is salaries of \$30.7 million; next year going down about \$500,000 or \$2 million; benefits going down from \$18.2 million to \$16.9 million; other wages from \$9.1 to \$8.1 million

Dr. Crabill:

- Reduction is known now; incentives mentioned were made available as of yesterday with notification date of end of May

Mr. Ryan:

- Any additional savings will offset the other side and decrease the amount of fund balance used to offset budget

Dr. Crabill:

- Will look to this for savings to decrease amount to withdraw from fund balance

Mr. Manning:

- 58% of budget is salary and wages, versus 57.6% last year; percentage going up, but denominator is down
- \$69.5 mil budget last year is denominator and wages are numerator; next year's denominator going down to \$66.6 mil
- Salaries on page 3-3 of budget book

Mr. Ryan:

- Fund balance – no choice; usage of \$4.3 million keeps them in good spot relative to overall budget

Dr. Crabill:

- Keeps OCC at about 15% of budget left in fund balance; prudent fund balance is between 10-20%, so right in the middle
- Question wrestling with is how many years long is this problem?
- Comfortable with this now; whether will be comfortable a second year will depend upon the skill in minimizing how much of the \$4.3 million they will have to use

Mr. Ryan:

- Mindset – if potentially people are doing distance learning, will it be easier to do classes at OCC?
- Has Dr. Crabill heard anything, and are they anticipating anything?

Dr. Crabill:

- Hearing from guidance counselors that students who had plans are rethinking for a couple reasons – (1) parents worried about kids going too far from home with uncertainty of health (2) uncertainty of market, people concerned about paying price of original school selected
- Could see students make decision to spend year with OCC to let things settle
- Yesterday enrolled 2 students originally planning on Cornell; if Cornell and OCC are online, then people looking at value of taking the classes at OCC

Mr. Ryan:

- Referenced partnership with Solvay and ESM; explain quickly, and what can be done to get other districts participating

Dr. Crabill:

- Noticed students coming to college were not quite ready including mental framework for studying, being independent, skills with English and Math, or not doing enough career thinking
- Approached high schools (ESM and Solvay) - looking at as college readiness program for 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grade
- Workshops every year where students come in and have to hit 3 benchmarks: (1) unexcused absences (2) grades (3) engagement outside themselves – club, sports, band, community service
- College success depends on showing up, doing their best and getting involved
- If students hit the benchmarks for 4 years, OCC raises money for their tuition through OCC's foundation
- Started with ESM and Solvay; now have Onondaga Central, Jordan-Elbridge and LaFayette involved
- Takes commitment of school administration and fundraising ability to support students coming through that pipeline

Chair Cody:

- Thank you Dr. Crabill for the great presentation
- Is there more adult interest for those that are home, unemployed, uncertain of their future with their job, or having more time to think about things? Maybe community college is the way to further their training for their field

Dr. Crabill:

- Yes; 2 tracks of thought
- (1) started addition of new programs; 14 new workforce related degree programs for adults looking to train or retrain for professional or paraprofessional roles
- Some rolled out in weekend program including Human Services - agencies serving people with (i.e.) addictions or disabilities cannot find people with basic level skills
- Built connection to Keuka College; takes students to bachelor's program; upward mobility for students as well as people working in Human Services field
- (2) more intense worker training in concert with companies
- Doing this with companies including Stickley, Feldmeier, and Bristol Myers Squibb; OCC is recruiting arm and training arm; able to do however length the company needs (averaging 8 – 12 weeks); more flexibility for students
- Goal - all worker training company related pieces should link to degree, so student can continue education, move up
- Usually uptick in adult student enrollment; depending on length of economic downturn, might see graduation uptick also
- Hard to say if adult students will come for a semester of intense training for a job or be there longer to finish a degree

Chairman Burtis:

- Enrollment assumptions – increase to part-time of 104 and full-time decrease of 489; understand it's a conservative look at downturn; hope they do not lose that many full-time
- High school senior enrolled and set to go someplace else; as a Dad, wondering what will happen; would it make financial sense to keep him home taking online classes here instead

Dr. Crabill:

- Assumption side – see increase in part-time and decrease in full-time related to expectation that people will want to grab job the minute they can; keep education going, but drop to part-time status
- Tuesday afternoon, learned that SUNY will be making marketing available to get message out across NY that if parents are worried about the fall, a great way to deal with it is to keep their kid home and send them to community college
- Will be getting help from state in pushing that message out

Mr. Jordan:

- Where does the revenue from the housing corporation show in the budget detail?

Mr. Manning:

- Page 3-3 on revenue offset to expense; included in \$6.495 million: \$2.6 million from stimulus funding, rent revenue, \$1.5 million from housing, auxiliary gives chargeback, as well as foundation

Mr. Jordan:

- Fees for Services Non-Employees showing ~\$300,000 increase; please elaborate

Mr. Manning:

- Increase associated with Starfish Hobsons, a retention alert system coming in for next year
- Can follow up on the rest, but contractual

Dr. Crabill:

- Secure federal funds through Title III grant fund

Mr. Bush:

- Wanted to give shoutout to Dr. Crabill and her staff; collaboration with high schools has been fantastic; relationship continues to grow; wonderful program in place encouraging kids to increase their academic skills and get college credit
- Thank you; positive impact on families and kids is enormous

Chairman Knapp:

- Share in Mr. Bush's point; LaFayette's program has been very successful
- Thank you to Dr. Crabill and everyone for putting together a budget that is responsible and forward looking at a time that is incredibly difficult

Dr. Crabill:

- County has been incredibly supportive in upgrading and capital standpoint; extremely grateful for continued support

Chairman Burtis:

- Thank you; as an OCC grad, have a lot of fond memories; it is a great community college; wish well going into uncharted waters; it is a responsible and conservative budget; appreciate it, and hopefully OCC will hold onto fund balance

Mr. Manning:

- Back to Mr. Jordan's question - part of increase of fees for services is the partnership on the paramedic program that they hope to have approval on for the fall with the Department of Education
- OCC will be registering and collecting revenue for Upstate Medical and college; revenue share agreement; will pass on the expense; factored into revenue; portion to Upstate for use of their staff for teaching is in fees for services

A motion was made by Mr. Jordan, seconded by Mrs. Ervin, to adjourn the meeting. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



JAMIE McNAMARA, Assistant Clerk
Onondaga County Legislature

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**WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE MINUTES - MAY 27, 2020
VIRTUAL
TIM BURTIS, CHAIRMAN**

AUDIO VIDEO

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. May, Mr. Rowley, Mr. Ryan, Mr. Williams, Mrs. Ervin

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mr. Jordan

ALSO ATTENDING: Chairman Knapp, Ms. Cody, Ms. Kuhn, Dr. Chase, Mr. McBride, Mr. Kinne, Mr. Kwasnowski, Mr. Manning, Mr. Donnelly, Ms. Sardo, Mr. Czarny, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Schwartz, Mrs. Tormey, Ms. Velasco, Mr. Frateschi, Mrs. Maturo, Mrs. French, Ms. McNamara, Ms. Lesniak and Mr. DeSantis

Chairman Burtis called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m. ***A motion was made by Mr. May, seconded by Mrs. Ervin to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the previous committee meeting. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.***

1. **COUNTY CLERK:** Brian Donnelly, Deputy County Executive
 - a. **Mortgage Tax Apportionment**

- Collections and distribution for mortgage tax; Oct 2019 – March 2020; \$4.54 mil collected, up 3% from April 2019 to Oct; up 23% from same time last year

A motion was made by Mrs. Ervin, seconded by Mr. Ryan, to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

2. **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:**

- a. **Accepting a Donation from Lions Club International Foundation for First Responders During the COVID-19 Crisis (\$7,500)**

Chairman Knapp:

- Through Pompey Lion's Club locally; foundation put up \$100,000 for NYS; local portion of \$7,500; specifically for meals for first responders and health care workers; many thanks to the Lions Club

A motion was made by Mrs. Ervin, seconded by Mr. May, to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

3. ONONDAGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE: Mark Manning, Senior VP and CFO

a. Adoption of Annual Budget for Onondaga Community College for the Fiscal Year September 1, 2020, to August 31, 2021, and Authorizing the Co. Executive to Enter into Contracts with Other Governmental Units in which Appropriations and Revenues are Approved by the Adoption of the 2021 Budget

Chairman Burtis said he appreciates OCC and everything that they do, including the budget. It is a conservative budget, and Chairman Burtis is hopeful OCC will have more students because of COVID. Mr. Manning said he appreciates the County's support of their operating budget and capital. He said Mrs. Tormey is on the line, and she extends her gratitude.

A motion was made by Mr. May, seconded by Mrs. Ervin, to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

4. SYRACUSE ONONDAGA COUNTY PLANNING AGENCY: Dan Kwasnowski, Director

a. Approving the Inclusion of Viable Agricultural Land within Certified Agricultural Districts Pursuant to Section 303-B of the New York State Agriculture and Markets Law

- Annual adds; 5 adds; 2 in District 1; 3 in district 3; all approved by Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board (AFPB)

Chairman Burtis stated it is for the towns of Onondaga, Camillus and Elbridge, and these are landowner requests.

Mr. May commented that SOCPA does outstanding work to support the AFBP in this process. Anything they can do to get viable land in the ag district is a positive for the industry and the community. The committee itself does outstanding work, they are very thorough and representative of those that need to weigh in on these decisions. Mr. May wholeheartedly recommends approval of items a and b. Chairman Knapp said that he wanted to echo Mr. May's comments and include Ms. Jamie McNamara and the staff that do a boatload of work with SOCPA; this includes mailing thousands of letters and taking minutes for meetings that go for several hours.

A motion was made by Mr. May, seconded by Mr. Williams, to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

b. Renewing with Modification Agricultural District No. 2, in the Towns of Marcellus, Skaneateles and Spafford

- 8 year review – look at adding and removing properties; led by landowner; do not ask anyone to be removed
- Send survey people fill out, and they decide if they want to still be in or not
- Adds are pretty straightforward, except for one property in Marcellus; all part of farm, typical ag district; all in realm of ag operation and make sense
- Marcellus property – discussion with AFBP; 48 acre wood lot; not associated with a farm; not farm operation; not timber/harvest (but want to this year); adjacent to ag district land
- Included addition because it's adjacent to active farmland, adjacent to ag district; in future a neighboring farm property could purchase as support land or buffer to more developed areas or natural resources
- Received yesterday – John Houser sent letter in coordination with town supervisor and town attorney; sent similar letter in 2018; town has ongoing drainage and runoff issue, which has been identified in their local hazard mitigation plan
- Town working with Soil and Water and farmers; seeing how to address drainage issues with steep slopes
- Contents of letter – continuing concerns with drainage and runoff; hate to see woodland converted to crop fields, especially since it has steep slopes and it's adjacent to Nine Mile Creek; major tributary
- General concern questioning if this ties town's hands in future; does it affect how they manage water shed, water bodies and residential properties
- AFBP discussed size of property; does not qualify for tax exemptions as a forestry property; not associated with farm; will not get full benefits of being in ag district, but a lot of properties are like this
- Do not think town will be upset, or that it will tie their hands in future
- Do not know if the committee needs to hold up process for this one parcel

Mr. May:

- New development for everyone; inclined to move forward, since work has been done; it qualifies; choice of landowner
- Some may recall town of Elbridge trying to unilaterally remove 300 parcels from Ag district; AFBP determined it was not their purview or right to do so
- Marcellus – humble opinion that drainage concern would apply to any piece of property in town, and they would have to deal with the landowner under any circumstances; landowner right to be in ag district; towns responsibility for drainage
- Do not see how it would get in the way or stop this; recommend taking a vote today

A motion was made by Mr. May, seconded by Mr. Rowley, to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

c. Acceptance of Funds from Empire State Development for the Preparation of an Update of the Onondaga County Comprehensive Plan, and Authorizing the County Executive to Enter into Contracts to Implement this Resolution (\$100,000)

- \$100,000 from state; 10% match requirement to total \$110,000 contract; SOCPA will provide at least \$90,000 of in-kind planning and GIS services
- This is to create an updated countywide plan, which is required by charter; long overdue
- Fortunate to receive the money to do the study and make better plan; large proponent of public participation; by the time it is in contract and working, hope will be to meet everyone face to face

Mr. Ryan commented that public participation is a good thing and asked what the plan is for going out to the towns and villages. Mr. Kwasnowski responded:

- Countywide plan – want to balance desire of getting buy in and identity from all communities, finding common interests
- How to communicate plan – working on profile of each community of town center, village, and what it means to them

- How to get out – open house meetings; publications; letting people come to them; have formal conversations with legislators, town supervisors, town council people, planning board members, etc.
- Visual of how community fits in the countywide plan; hopefully will have traditional open houses, but will rely on new website (done this fall); virtual approach will play strongly, and the consultant is key in this

Mr. Ryan commented that a lot of towns and villages have done updated comprehensive plans, and he is hopeful that the towns, villages and county can work together for a really good plan.

Chairman Knapp said that when Mr. Kwasnowski came on board, his team went on a roadshow through the entire county talking to each town supervisor, planning person and village mayor. The ground work is in place.

A motion was made by Mrs. Ervin, seconded by Mr. Ryan, to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

5. COUNTY LEGISLATURE: Deborah Maturo, Clerk

a. Standard Work Day and Reporting Resolution

- Next round that will have a couple tweaks before session; waiting on more data; 1 or 2 more names added

A motion was made by Mr. Ryan, seconded by Mrs. Ervin, to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

b. In Memoriam – Gerald Mingoelli, Jr.

Chairman Knapp:

- Legislator for 18 years 1976 - 1993; served as majority leader from '82 - '83; graduate of North Syracuse High School; attended Syracuse University Law School
- Major accomplishments including: helping to achieve landmark status for War Memorial and to adopt Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday as a County holiday
- Played football and baseball at North Syracuse; Batted 400 on Syracuse University baseball team
- Syracuse YMCA handball champion in '70s and '80s; leaves behind his children and grandchildren

A motion was made by Mr. Rowley, seconded by Mrs. Ervin, to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

6. BOARD OF ELECTIONS: Michele Sardo, Republican Commissioner; Dustin Czarny, Democratic Commissioner

a. Transfer from Supplies & Materials, Acct. 693000, to Professional Services, Acct. 694080, \$10,300

- Transfer \$10,000 to cover cost; NTS raised contract prices for registration software; when happened, took lower price on mail check cards (paid out of supplies and materials)
- \$10,000 will cover contract increase, that came out after budget was prepared, due to electronic poll votes
- Contract price of \$90,000 will be next 3 years; got approval for 30 day out on contract
- Problem is the vendor is the only vendor allowed to do registration in NYS; rumors of new vendors coming in on scene, which may be significantly more cost effective; have not been approved by state yet due to COVID
- Put in 30 day out to in case they want to get out of this contract to find a better vendor for the registration software
- Been with NTS since 2006; 3 year package; no escalator; this is price for next 3 years

A motion was made by Mrs. Ervin, seconded by Mr. Ryan, to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

7. FINANCE: Steve Morgan, Chief Fiscal Officer

a. A Local Law Amending Article VI of the Onondaga County Charter and Further Amending Article VI of the Onondaga County Administrative Code with Respect to the 2021 County Budget Cycle (Sponsored by Mr. Knapp)

- Local law looking to amend charter and code for 2021 county budget cycle
- With pandemic, largest revenue of sales tax very volatile throughout remainder of year and major expenditure accounts, the thought is to push budget cycle out 2 months
- This allows for more data and information to make better informed decisions with current year estimates and to build the 2021 budget; allows for a better spending plan for next year
- Various date changes required (1) currently Executive presents budget by Sept 15th; this would amend to Nov 4th; (2) 16 day review including veteran's day; (3) WMS report due by Nov 20th; (4) publication on Nov 26th; (5) public hearing Dec 1st; (6) budget adopted Dec. 3rd
- Pushes it not quite 2 months later in the year

Chairman Knapp commented that they've been talking about this for a while. Without this, the budget process would be starting in a week, and it would be difficult to put together an intelligent budget based on the current information. Product of give and take between the Legislature and Executive team, led by Mr. Steve Morgan. It was a collaborative effort with Ms. Darcie Lesniak, Leader Brian May and himself. It is for one year, and they can assess after; keeping it, going back to the way it was, or doing something in between.

Chairman Burtis said it makes sense, since they do not know where the sales tax received will end up, or where the feds and state will come.

A motion was made by Mr. Rowley, seconded by Mrs. Ervin, to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

b. Amending Resolution No. 372-1967, Regarding the Imposition and Disposition of Sales and Compensating Use Tax Pursuant to Articles 28 and 29 of the Tax Law of the State Of New York (Sponsored by Mr. Knapp)

- 1967 resolution allowed for phase out of sales tax charge on residential energy as of 1982; since then, residential energy purchases exempt from sales tax from county
- This would allow funding for significant, yet unknown, decrease in largest revenue source - sales tax; working hard to forecast and project what gaps will be, and how it will impact county

- One tool identified was ability to remove exemption on residential energy purchases; 20 counties in state currently charge and levy sales tax on residential energy including Cortland, Cayuga, Suffolk, Tompkins, and Westchester
- Chart attempts to give committee idea of what it would mean to the average household; estimated what the average energy bill in household is - \$150; sales tax only on delivery and commodity, not on additional charges and fees
- Estimating monthly energy bill of \$150/month and \$1,800/year - results in \$6/month and \$72/year in sales tax generated
- For counties that charge, they gathered data of taxable sales; categorized in 4 ways: average of upstate counties, surrounding counties, upstate counties with population greater than 100,000, and just Erie County
- Got per capita sales amount for each scenario, then used that to project what our county gross collections and ensuing county share of those collections would be; range from \$9 mil - \$13 mil annually
- No home rule required, as it already exists; can go straight to resolution to levy tax and remove exemption locally
- Projection standpoint – did number of things to date to address the unknown gap to ensue in lag in sales tax collections
- Reduced spending to tune of \$25 mil already in austerity and locking money in various non-salary accounts, contract reductions, hiring freeze, temporary staff reductions, cash for capital in DOT
- Looking to this in addition to stimulus money passed related to enhanced Medicaid funding estimated at \$5 mil; believe coming to county to help fill that hole; looking at additional sales tax revenue to assist as well
- Other items in play continue to monitor and determine for end of year; talk at federal level for another stimulus bill aimed at state and localities, which would be huge for NY:
- Major pressure besides sales tax is potential reduction in state aid; state made clear that if there is no federal help, there will be cuts to aid for local schools and municipalities; est. of ~\$35 mil in reduced state aid for 2020
- Numbers from NYSAC; estimates of almost \$60 mil to potentially be cut as result of their own fiscal pressure; state budget passed gives Governor control to reign in and reduce aid to locals, if they do not meet their own revenue marks
- First marker was April – waiting to see what happens with next stimulus bill before enacting cuts; between potential state aid cuts and sales tax, could be up to \$100 mil in lost revenue that will have to be addressed this year
- This potential sales tax would be a welcome addition and another tool in tool box to dip into to address shortfall

Chairman Burtis:

- Appreciate effort to enhance revenue; appreciate they can do something now; do not have to go to state; concerned about hole in revenue since the start, also about health of community, and how well the county is doing
- Did not realize the county would stop; effected in negative way
- Do not like to raise tax; not something take lightly, but in position to do something do not like and approve the resolution
- Today is the day; need to do what they can to fill the hole of revenue loss
- In a tunnel – it's dark; just want to know where we stand, so they can make better decisions; no light at the end
- Prudent thing to do; need to do everything can for fear this could go on for a period of time; appreciate everything the county is doing with austerity measures; some will talk about using cash and savings, but this is a good first move
- Hopefully it will not affect residents in too much of a dramatic way

Mr. Rowley said there is no sunset clause, and asked if this is a permanent change to sales tax. Mr. Morgan said correct.

Mr. Rowley asked if the first quarter projection of \$12 million surplus is a starting point. Mr. Morgan answered:

- Yes; went through normal process and looked at major revenue and expenditure items; not supply accounts
- Also took austerity into account; other pressures in budget as well
- When cutting expenses, do not get 100% benefit out of it, because of reimbursement from various areas
- This is assuming sales tax at budget, which would require a 3.6% growth in sales tax; baseline, and for different sales tax scenarios, this is what the impact would be on overall projection
- Also factored in an estimated sales tax reduction; items they are counting on – (1) \$5 million federal stimulus, (2) this sales tax and (3) possibly another federal stimulus package
- There is fund balance, and that may be a tool that has to be used
- Retirement incentive – tracking it and those responses are due by the end of this week
- Will have idea of those people intending to take the incentive; doing work now, and will ramp up with knowing who's leaving and which positions need to be filled; with that, this will be potential savings this year

Mr. Morgan replied to Mr. Rowley that the baseline includes all of the austerity measures.

Mr. Rowley said he's hearing from the Governor that the state aid reduction is 20%, but they are estimating 35%. Mr. Rowley is wondering where they got that number. Mr. Morgan answered that NYSAC put out a report, and they estimated on a low to high end from 10% to 50% reduction in state aid. Mr. Morgan said he went half way based on the estimates.

Mr. Morgan responded to Mr. Rowley that the \$5 million is part of one of the original stimulus packages passed. It enhanced the FMAP rate for Medicaid by ~6.2%. The estimated value the county got from NYSAC and state was \$5 million. It was originally valued at more based on an annual amount, but this enhanced FMAP only exists while a national federal emergency is declared. This is 6 months of enhanced aid, so it could be reduced, if it were to end, or increase, if it were extended.

Mr. Rowley asked what the access over 10% of fund balance is. Mr. Morgan answered that the CAFR is almost done for 2019, so it has not been reported out. The general fund ended at almost \$7 million in the good. There is about \$11 million over the 10% goal. There is \$79 million in fund balance.

Chairman Knapp:

- This is not on top of list of what people what to do; county in difficult times; FMAP federal dollars on Medicaid – fight between county, state and fed; state trying to grab money before getting to county
- Happened with other stimulus that went to state, and they kept it; Monroe received because population over 500,000
- Hearing state not happy that county worked out deal to get funds directly from feds; if county receives \$5 million from feds, state looking to decrease funding to county by that amount
- In 2018, state did away with aid funding, but brought it back taking it from local sales tax; towns and villages getting local sales tax to tune of \$2 mil this year

- In 2020 budget, state created fund for distressed hospitals and nursing homes, but are charging local and county sales tax dollars; costing additional \$2 mil; \$4 mil will be coming out of sales tax dollars; on top of what state decides to do
- This is one of few arrows in quiver that can be acted on immediately, because it is already authorized by state
- For 2021 budget, everything on the table with property taxes; going that route now would not help this year
- Fund balance will be in play; last thing want to do is impellent something like this, but not a lot of choice

Mr. May:

- Looking at illustration of possible revenue scenarios, and looking at high level presentation of cuts by budget category across county government to see where it stands; had to be a ton of work
- Talked about making allowance for full and robust budget process in the fall; even moving it to sort out everything
- Personally would like to understand the financial picture better than now
- It would be nice to see a few balance sheet scenarios, where they can see: (1) how functional areas are being impacted, (2) how they can be helped, (3) which functional areas being impacted and (4) how
- With respect to COVID process, how has that impacted budgets in general; county is paying for things they need to do
- Would like to understand that better as well
- Where in this high level projection is there any fund balance used or portrayed, or isn't it?

Mr. Morgan stated there is no use of fund balance. That will be a last resort, and it will be used to plug whatever hole remains after all the other tools are employed. It is usually the balancer.

Mr. May asked if it is possible to get a slightly better picture across the functional areas across county government, and what the financial picture looks like. Mr. Morgan responded yes:

- Not sure if it will be helpful; everything is on lockdown
- From spending perspective, aside from program areas like Children and Family that are putting negative pressure on budget, things are below budget
- County is at a hiring freeze and projecting almost \$10 million in salary and wage savings; almost \$10 million in non-salary accounts
- From a functional perspective, departments are in a holding pattern where they can still conduct business
- From a COVID perspective, \$4 - \$5 million in responding to that; had ability with grant dollars to spend, and submitted initial application to FEMA; working with them to start reimbursement process; running through grant; anything not reimbursed will have to determine where it comes from - not burdening departments with FEMA expenses
- \$12 million in projected general fund surplus, not a ton of moving pieces other than austerity and 2 or 3 program accounts in Children and Family; everything else below budget based on tightening done with austerity
- Tried to allocate austerity amounts based on each department's share of overall budget; supplies and materials -froze over \$1 million, allocated mostly based on particular department's budget compared to the overall county
- Some areas could not do that with concerning contractual expenses; focused those freezes in bigger human services departments with higher contract dollars; hiring freeze across county
- Areas they are beefing up staff and allowing expenses are in response to pandemic including (i.e.) Emergency Management and Health Department; rest of the county is being squeezed and put into austerity for savings

Mr. Rowley asked if the \$25 million baked into the baseline projection is about a 30% budget cut, and Mr. Morgan responded yes, the general fund budget is about \$1 billion.

Mr. Rowley asked if there are other cuts in their pocket that they are looking at, and Mr. Morgan said yes. The biggest expense is people. Mr. Rowley does not want to go down that road, but wanted to make sure they are looking at that. Mr. Morgan stated that they are waiting on the results of the retirement incentive, which will play a big role in the picture. When they know the numbers, what the backfill of positions will be, an overall savings for this year and a projection for next, then that will be placed in the analysis. When they have all the pieces together and have to go to the involuntary separation route, then unfortunately that may be the route they go.

Mr. Rowley stated that he views this imposition of sales tax on residential energy a regressive tax, and it is bad timing. Mr. Rowley has constituents who have lost their jobs, have a retail shop or karate studio that they will lose, and it is tough for him to look them in the face to tell them the county will be raising the taxes on their residential energy bill. Mr. Rowley is willing to do this if it is temporary, but not on a permanent basis.

A motion was made by Mr. Ryan, seconded by Mr. Williams, to approve this item. Ayes: 4 Noes: 1 (Rowley) Abstentions: 1 (May); MOTION CARRIED.

A motion was made by Mr. Ryan, seconded by Mrs. Ervin, to adjourn the meeting. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:54 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



JAMIE McNAMARA, Assistant Clerk
Onondaga County Legislature