



Onondaga County Legislature

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WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE REVIEW OF THE 2021 TENTATIVE BUDGET WAYS & MEANS DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES – NOVEMBER 9, 2020 TIM BURTIS, CHAIRMAN

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. May, Mr. Rowley, Mr. Ryan, Mr. Jordan, Mr. Williams, Mrs. Ervin
ALSO ATTENDING: Chairman Knapp, Ms. Cody, Mrs. Abbott-Kenan, Ms. Kuhn, Dr. Chase, Mr. Holmquist, Mr. McBride, Mr. Bush, Mr. Kinne; please see attached

Chair Burtis called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m.

COMPTROLLER: (3-5) Marty Masterpole, Comptroller; Phil Britt, Deputy Comptroller of Accounting; Pete Head, Deputy Comptroller of Auditing; William Ryan, Chief of Staff

Mr. Masterpole:

- Mandatory audit done on time; CAFR done on time; under COVID restrictions, March 16th sent staff home to work remotely for ~3 months; came back in June with modified schedule; full staff by Labor Day
- Proud of how hard staff worked during very difficult time; completing audits and financial statements remotely
- Worked with IT and Personnel to implement PeopleSoft (PS) payroll while under COVID restrictions
- Thank Phil Britt who oversees that side of office; Auditor in payroll accepted position as Comptroller of Cicero
- 1 hire during year - young CPA, who hit ground running
- Scanned all straight claims into PS; trying to go paperless; 30 unneeded file cabinets; modernize office
- 2020 budget vs. 2021 proposed – as CFO Morgan pointed out, it's snapshot of time of where we were
- Soon after COVID; conference call with county wide electeds; County Executive asked electeds to cooperate with 45 day hiring freeze; has penalized budget, because vacant positions in snapshot became proforma budget
- In proposed budget, there are 5 positions unfunded; roster positions there, but unfunded; asking for funding at 2020 levels to reinstate positions, or adjustments to positions
- Much like any new elected, setting framework for what they feel can be most successful; tough budget situation
- As amended, will request positions to be funded, or help frame department in way to be most successful
- Congratulations Kevin Holmquist on retirement; well deserved

Mr. Masterpole responded to Mr. Rowley's questions:

- Roster filled positions – 24 positions; if proforma passes as is, will have to let someone go; enough 101 money to pay 23 positions; close to 40 positions less than 10 years ago
- If funded at 2020 levels, can run affective office; if funded somewhere between today and 2020 levels, better off; would rather have negotiation of priorities from highest priority to lowest priority
- Deputy Comptroller Head has done excellent job with ROT audits; traditionally tax collection off 10%; if could audit every hotel every year, that's \$700,000; pick up additional 10%; need the staff to do it
- If office can pick up \$700,000 from one staff person at \$50,000 plus benefits, it would make a ton of sense
- What is criteria for approving expenditures out of grant funds? Does the Comptroller require grant document or approved budget amount to allow departments to spend out of grant budget?
- Part of modernization efforts; Secretary Lisa Maguire (doing 2 jobs) – working on scanning in grants, so when money funded out of grant, can check if money is there, and if it falls into criteria of grant
- Previously staff had to go through binders, filing cabinets to find information; making easier to look at
- Unusual spending this year, and Comptroller cooperated well making sure everything was appropriate

Mr. Masterpole & Mr. Britt responded to Mr. Jordan's inquisition regarding the below lines being higher:

- Compared to 2020 adopted, most lines show flat or slight reduction: Other Employee Wages up 100%; Supplies & Materials from \$6,500 to \$18,700 in 2020; 2021 is \$1,300 over; Prof Services has extra \$4,000 – \$5,000; All Other Expenses went from \$105,000 in 2019 to \$173,000 in 2020 modified, flat in 2021

Mr. Masterpole:

- Believe one thing in supplies was Johnson control work; no receptionist position; Civic Center closed to public, so chose to install card readers to doors coming into Comptroller's office
- Installed video conferencing button; same on both sides on 14th floor; lot of cost in supplies relates to that

Mr. Britt:

- 410 is Prof Services paid to Bonadio for single audit, CAFR and mental health piece audit
- Modified is up, because roll forward encumbrances to have money to pay before audit starts; every other year the modified will be more than adopted, because roll forward encumbrance
- Supplies – not here in 2019, but doing more with less; cut paper use, which is why 413 up; hoping to get another scanner to help automate, instead of printing
- Other Employee Wages - funds used for someone that worked for state and assisted audit division; also occasionally have summer interns; along with paperless initiative, have summer intern to sit and scan

Mr. Masterpole:

- Conversation and negotiation in budget, rather than presenting proforma; cut it from \$4,500 to \$1,400; fully support; there are areas where agree to negotiate and amend

Mr. Jordan asked that Mr. Masterpole give the committee an idea of where he can cut back. Mr. Masterpole agreed and said he would like to present his modified budget. **Mr. May requested that Mr. Masterpole put his requests in writing and send them over the Legislature.** Mr. Masterpole said it will be available today.

Mr. Masterpole responded to Mr. May's questions:

How is the payroll transition going in Comptroller's perspective? What happens to people who were spending time validating every paycheck?

- Validating still being done, but differently; Comptroller's are payroll auditors; someone handles reports to state for pension purposes, reporting to IRS; those are still being completed; done more effectively
- Staff concerns because of modernizing; will do job more effectively and efficiently
- Some hiccups with money coming over; having issues coming over to GL, but fixed and chased backwards
- More modern, but not more lean

Wondering if PS created bandwidth to do other things or to bring quality to other efforts?

- Yes; would like to expand with other things
- Think Comptrollers should be in towns and villages to help them get through COVID, audits, etc.; view office has not done enough outreach, because they did not have bandwidth in past

Would love to know what's going on, so if there is a no finding audit, then report to Legislature. Mr. May would like to know when audits are being performed, and a word or two on the findings.

- Thank you for recommendation; have interest in doing job; if Legislature has anything they want Comptroller's to look at, then please ask; will be prioritized
- Mr. Head will send an email when there's an audit with highlights, or if nothing found; will take 15 seconds, but did not want to do it before as a "look what I found"

Mr. Rowley asked Mr. Masterpole to reach out to the town assessor in Clay regarding sewer unit charges for commercial entities, particularly car wash businesses. Mr. Masterpole answered yes and said they will be doing a COVID audit immediately on what the costs are, what's being reimbursed (FEMA, doctor's offices, etc.), what is left in inventory, etc.

Mr. Jordan asked where the County is in terms of reimbursement for projects that have been done. Mr. Britt responded:

- Just got \$50 mil from debt for money up fronted, but there are several grants across numerous funds;
- Working with administration to review projects and reimbursement; have been some delays in state payments;
- Not a question of if the County has asked for reimbursement, but what the County has received

- Vast majority of projects are claimed very timely; in Social Services, the claim is submitted within 30 days, but state can slow payments; discussions with CFO and team to implement communication and review

Mr. Jordan requested a breakdown of where the projects are.

Mr. Morgan responded that he is responsible for that and added:

- Finance works closely with Mr. Britt, who's been a great partner; ensure they are on top of receivables
- Some misunderstanding that Finance drags feet with collecting receivable, but instances occurred, it was strictly as a result of state dragging feet and not reimbursing County
- On top of things; claims needing to be submitted are submitted; monitoring receivables on daily or weekly basis
- Certainly up to date on claiming; issue is state not paying, or withholding certain amounts

Mr. Masterpole replied to Mr. Ryan that the proposed proforma is ~\$27,000 short of actual filled positions, so if everything stays the same, then in March or April, he would have to show someone the door. Mr. Ryan asked how many filled positions were in the Comptroller's office in 2019, and Mr. Masterpole answered that there were no layoffs, but there were retirements that were not filled when he came in.

Mr. Masterpole stated that he agrees with Mr. Morgan's response regarding job duties and responsibilities.

BOARD OF ELECTIONS: (3-58) Michelle Sardo, Republican Commissioner of Elections; Dustin Czarny, Democratic Commissioner of Elections

Mr. Czarny:

- 2020 challenging year for every department; BOE had to deal with presidential primary that was cancelled, moved; special election cancelled, then moved and cancelled again; local primary and federal primary - June
- Huge 2020 presidential general election finished last week; going into post-election counts
- COVID – tremendous changes to election law with mail in ballots; new processes for department; as well as different rules for primary and general; also huge turnout; record registration rate
- At highest registered voters at any time since records in 1996; 308,000 registered voters; expect to grow after election; those not active will become active with affidavit process; 3,000 – 4,000 people affected
- Able to use grant money in 2020 election; Federal Cares Grant - dealt with most increased costs for primary; now Facebook CTC Grant Commissioner Sardo applied for, which will help defray costs for general election
- Shoebox and Cares grant – federal election; used to buy equipment to make it easier; have less inspectors
- Spend for temporary help needed for registration and turnout
- Budget looks over in 2020, but journal entries will move money from 103 and 102 lines to grant funding, which paid for almost all overtime used this year

Ms. Sardo:

- Savings for 2021 - reduce polling locations to 20; will not go back to those locations, as they are senior living and nursing homes
- Becomes more efficient with equipment; not as many inspectors, but need extra on hand
- Budget presented is reasonable; helping through next year; Executive budget meets needs for election process
- Met with congressional administration just before general election – they asked what was needed, said grant money; do not know where going for next year; will be in touch

Mr. Ryan asked if the overtime/comp time issues discussed last year was resolved, and is the increase in the 102 sufficient. Mr. Czarny:

- Comp balances for employees have not yet been approved for payout
- Overtime accrued in 2020 has been paid out through Cares and ITC grant money available this year only
- Overtime budget for next year believe is adequate, since it will be a local year; do not see as many registration forms, but there is a large increase each year; more people registering
- Overtime only used when near an election and have state or federal mandate to be able to hold election; made decision to go into overtime; most in May and after Labor Day
- This budget adequately reflects what is needed

Mr. Jordan said they are proposing twice as much in the 103 line as 2019, and it is not a presidential year. Why would it be doubling? Mr. Czarny:

- 103 line deals with inspectors and temporary help; 2019 spent over what was budgeted in 103 line
- Not budget line submitted in 2019, but reflection of a cut, because assumption was no big local primary; there was a big primary; always assume a full county primary
- Submission less than full county primary; have temporary help in there to help keep overtime costs down; would not have to go to overtime; money in 103 assumes temporary help in office for registration deadlines

Mr. Rowley asked what happened in 2019, as there was a little over \$1 million to cover shortfalls in the grant budget, and do they expect this in 2020. Mr. Morgan answered that it was timing issues. If the grant revenue has not been received by the time they close the books, then that is where they are with timing. They did not put \$1 million into the budgets in 2019. Mr. Czarny added that they cannot submit for funding until after the election is certified, so they know what was spent. That is usually late November or early December. There is a full allocation for grant funds, and the grants should cover the shortfall. They are heading into a contentious absentee ballot count, which promises to be a long drawn out process.

Mr. Rowley asked how the voter rolls are maintained and purged, when does someone get dropped off the rolls, and how do they modify the formation of districts (reducing number of districts).

Ms. Sardo:

- Send out mail check cards every year; get ~14,000 – 15,000 back out of 300,000 sent out; send to everybody
- When returned undeliverable, then make inactive; send out another for confirmation, and if comes back, will be made inactive again; if inactive for 2 consecutive federal years, they are purged

Mr. Czarny:

- Max size of an election district is 1,250; legislation out there to increase election district sizes to 2,000; believe it will pass next year; when redistrict with lines drawn for state, will redraw the lines
- Some lines do not make sense with population shift; one line is 17 of 19 villages in one district; they can then move elections to November and save them money; as well as BOE time and money
- Could increase number of voters in election districts (ED), which would reduce inspectors, ballot styles (paper and cost of printing); huge advantage for final lines to re-craft
- Have not been able to change district lines since 2017; cannot do anything until redistricting done; will need leadership to help; will reform way committee structures are – can have as many people as want in larger ED
- Need leadership on both aisles that they are not losing members, just organizing in different way

Ms. Cody thanked the commissioners for making everyone feel comfortable with the integrity of the elections in Onondaga County. Mr. Czarny stated that Ms. Sardo and he view transparency as a key part of the job, and they have done a lot to put everything on the website. The IT Department has been incredible to work with on getting information out in a quick and timely manner.

Chairman Knapp asked if it is the intention to pay employees with comp time, or settle their account with cash. Mr. Czarny:

- Several employees would like to take some money out; not allowed to; when taking overtime only as comp, they were accruing so much; so little dead time now; June primary moved functions earlier
- Not enough dead time to take time off; once certify election, then office will be ghost town
- Some comp time will run down; some run risk of leaving county employment and not getting full pay out, because they are over 21 days; that is a concern

Mr. Morgan:

- Recall around budget last year, this became topic of conversation; specific to BOE budget
- Soon after budget adopted, went into review mode of comp time across county and policies in place with different departments, how it's earned, how it's preapproved, how used
- Point is, cannot pay out comp time without solid plans in place; not in same place year from now

- Hate to blame pandemic; made progress working with departments, but took back seat
- Reminder that CSEA contract allows for different treatment of balances; 3 options for managing existing comp time balances: (1) cash out upon request; (2) require employee to use time with ample notice; (3) let it remain
- Fully within letter of existing bargaining agreement; intend to carry out with commitment of reviewing entire county, as of how allow to earn and policies
- If option chosen is to pay some out, there are controls; will verify it is earned legitimately; in line with operations

Chairman Knapp asked if their staff ever goes out and proactively checks enrollment (knock on doors). Mr. Czarny:

- Not sure allowed to under election law
- Because it's federal year, will see large number of people drop off inactive rolls; inactive with 2 purge cycle
- Will create a drop; do not have anything in election law to allow staff to do that; even if it was
- Do scan all obituaries and county health rolls to take anyone off that is deceased; in next months' time will be spent cleaning up rolls before petition process; can only take off with piece of mail back

Chairman Burtis called for a recess at 10:06 a.m. The meeting reconvened at 10:17 a.m.

CFO PRESENTATION: Steve Morgan, Chief Fiscal Officer

Chairman Burtis stated that this will be going back over the CFO introduction received, and he thought it would be beneficial to go through each one with an opportunity to ask questions. Mr. Morgan's introduction given Friday was excellent.

Capital Improvement Plan

CIP 2021 -2026 Presentation

Presented to CIP Committee on 10/6/2020

Presented to Planning Board on.....

Planning Board adopted the resolution endorsing the CIP 2020-2025 on

As usually the focus of this CIP is on maintenance and environment (69% of funds). There are two projects extending sewer infrastructure. One of them increase the capacity of Oak Orchard WWTP and the other will provide sewer service to White Pine industrial park and surrounding areas.

Comparative information

Scope of Plan

(\$ in Millions)

	CIP 2020-2025	CIP 2021-2026	Increase/ Decrease	% Increase/ Decrease
Plan (\$)	\$661.9	\$670.6	\$8.7	1.3%
County Wide	\$332.5	\$269.9	-\$62.6	-18.8%
Special Funds	\$329.4	\$400.7	\$71.3	21.6%
Proposed Projects	53	47	-6	
New Projects	15	7	-8	

CIP 2009-14	\$757
CIP 2010-15	\$783
CIP 2011-16	\$822
CIP 2015-20	\$629

Main contributors for the decrease in County Wide Funds are:

1. Last year there were nine new projects and some proposed projects that got authorized (total of \$91M).
2. This year we have five new projects for a total of \$29.9M

Main contributors for the increase in Special Funds (Sewer) are:

1. Two major new projects (Oak Orchard WWTP upgrade and White Pine conveyances) for a total of \$80.5M

CIP request for expenses in the upcoming year (Local funds only)

	Total	Debt	Cash
Local Funds Requested last year for 2020	132.1	123.4	8.7
Local Funds Requested this year for 2021	50.37	43.4	6.97

Percentage of debt limit exhausted is 18.7%

Mr. Petrela:

- CIP 2021 – 2026; 6 year plan focusing on maintenance and environment; 69% of funds for this
- Usually CIP does not extend sewer, water or road infrastructure - 2 projects this year including increase capacity for Oak Orchard; other is sewer service for White Pines Industrial Park (forced main 24" pipe, 8 mil gal/day)
- Other projects maintain and improve assets already have
- 47 projects total and 7 are new - \$670.6 mil; 1.3% increase compared to last year (\$8.7 mil)
- Countywide fund decrease of \$62.6 mil; this year total is \$269.9 mil; last year was \$332.5; decrease due to new projects in CIP last year were authorized; when authorized, they disappear from 6 year projects
- Total projects authorized were \$91 mil; explains \$62.6 mil decrease
- Countywide funds – 5 new projects; sewer funds – 2 new projects; 7 total
- Sewer funds – increase of \$71.3 mil; 21.6%; 2 major projects (Oak Orchard and White Pine Industrial) together cost \$80.5 mil
- CIP financed by debt, cash, state and fed aid; local funds only – debt is \$43.4 mil and cash is \$6.97 mil; \$123.4 mil debt last year, which included steam project at \$75 mil; same ballpark without that
- Cash last year was \$8.7 versus \$6.97 this year
- Take care of minimizing debt; amount of debt percentage is less than last year; 54.2% borrowing, this year 48.2% borrowing; debt limit - exhausted only 18.7% of debt limit
- Authorize and issue all debt and debt proposed next year, then would be at 23.8%
- Projects in CIP – 42% mandated; funding source breakdown – 48.2% borrowing, 16.6% state aid, 13.2% federal aid, 22% cash capital

<u>List of new projects for 2021 - 2026</u>					
Pg.	<u>Department</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Total cost</u>	<u>Our cost</u>	<u>Year</u>
73	Parks	Build an African Savannah Exhibit	\$7,050	\$7,050	2023-24
74		Carpenters Brook Fish Hatchery building replacement	\$850	\$850	2023-24
		County Sports Complex	\$20,000	\$20,000	2022
78		Oneida Shores Facility Upgrade	\$850	\$850	2022-24
87		Veterans Cemetery Lawn Crypts	\$1,100	\$1,100	2021-22
120	WEP	Oak Orchard Wastewater Treatment Plant Major Upgrade Pr	\$62,905	\$62,905	2022-26
127		White Pine Industrial Park Conveyances	\$17,600	\$17,600	2021-23
	TOTAL COST OF NEW PROJECTS for 2021 - 2026		\$110,355	\$110,355	

New Projects:

- Parks Department – build African Savannah exhibit; do not have space in zoo for large African Savannah animals; will bring in more visitors, increase revenue, and improve identity of zoo; 2023 – 2024
- Carpenters Brook Fish Hatcheries – consolidate multiple buildings into 1 building; 2023 – 2024
- Sports complex in 2022 – will determine location; build several sports fields with necessary infrastructure; fulfill needs of community and bring people from other places; economic development
- Oneida Shores facility upgrades – (1) sewer to RV parks; septic tanks currently; sewer will bring more visitors (2) stabilize shore of Muskrat Bay (3) building there that performs functions – bathroom, office and changing room; replace with one similar to the one at Jamesville beach
- Veterans cemetery lawn crypts – use remaining space better; accommodate more graves
- Oak Orchard - major upgrade; extends 2022 – 2026; estimate in CIP; hired engineers to do study, followed by design; when have numbers, will be in CIP
- Upgrade and expansion accommodate needs for future development, including White Pine
- White Pine Industrial Park conveyances: pipe of 2' diameter; pump station at 8 mil gal/day; 1 requirement to make industrial park shovel ready; conveyance will serve industrial park and other adjacent areas

Projects to be authorized in Winter 2020 (DEBT ONLY)

	Projects by Department	Borrowing to be Authorized
	Corrections	
1	Physical Plant Improvements and Security Upgrades(2018-22)	\$368,000
	Sub Total	\$368,000
	E-911	
1	Next Generation 911 (NG-911) Telephone System Replacement/refresh (2020-2021)	\$2,350,000
2	Repave E911 Center Parking Lot (2021)	\$344,000
	Sub Total	\$2,694,000
	Facilities	
1	Carnegie Library Rehabilitation (2021-2022)	\$4,101,000
2	Oncenter Rehabilitations (2021-2025)	\$500,000
	Sub Total	\$4,601,000
	Parks	
3	Oneida Shores Park Shoreline Rehabilitation	\$300,000
4	Parks Various Infrastructure Rehabilitation and Improvement	\$2,160,000
5	Veterans Cemetery Lawn Crypts (NEW)	\$100,000
	Sub Total	\$2,560,000
10	GENERAL FUND TOTAL (Excludes DOT, Library and OCC)	\$10,223,000
	Library	
1	Mobile Library Outreach (2021)	\$260,000
2	Petit Branch Library addition and improvements (2021)	\$1,000,000
	Sub Total	\$1,260,000
12	COUNTY WIDE FUNDS TOTAL	\$11,483,000
	WEP	
1	Harbor Brook Miscellaneous Culvert and Channel Improvements	\$200,000
2	Metro WWTP 1978 Plant Annex Asset Renewal	\$4,000,000
3	Route 481/298 Industrial Corridor Sewer Improvements	\$6,250,000
	Sub Total	\$10,450,000
15	ALL FUNDS TOTAL	\$21,933,000

Projects seeking authorization this winter:

- Corrections – physical planned improvements and security upgrades; ongoing project; Legislature authorized 3 times for project; \$350,000 – \$400,000 per year; large number of scope elements
- Improvements for exterior and interior; group based on priority; \$368,000 for 2021; \$322,000 for 2022; only seeking authorization for 2021
- E911 – next generation telephone system replacement and refreshment; got money in Dec 2019 for engineering study; existing system needs to be replaced; technology has life cycle of 5 years (capital assets); Verizon servicing now, is getting out of business; engineer will find new system and ensure it's supported by service
- E911 – repave parking lot; 43,000 sq. ft.; 3 decades old; repave and put in new conduits underneath for cables for future needs; \$344,000; 2021
- Facilities – Carnegie Library rehab; make building usable space
- Oncenter rehab – ongoing project; every year \$500,000 in budget as debt to help with improvements
- Parks
 - ▶ Oneida Shores shoreline rehab – 4 years; 2021 – 2024; 2021 boat launch ramp replaced; currently precast and broke; replace with cast in place; got money last year \$320,000; need another \$300,000 to finish
 - ▶ Install pay gates for boat launch; 2022
 - ▶ 2023 – have weigh station for fishing contests
 - ▶ 2024 – ramp near retaining wall that needs replacement
 - ▶ Various rehab and improvements includes all parks and sources of infrastructure (i.e. roads, roofs, HVAC)
 - ▶ Page 80 of CIP shows scope for each year; detailed with cost estimates
 - ▶ Veterans Cemetery lawn crypts; \$100,000 to do study; whole project is \$1.1 mil
- OCPL – Bookmobile; serves outreach and communities not close to libraries
- Petit Branch Library addition and improvements – Westcott; addition is community room; people asked for this to host activities; improvements are indoor and outdoor; most money for community room
- WEP – Harbor Brook; flood district; 110 year old culverts and channels; got \$200,000 in 2019, addressed and prioritized; need another \$200,000 for more ; infrastructure old

- Metro WWTP – asset management system called Maximo; used to determine assets with highest likelihood of failure and worst consequence of failure, which determine highest risk factor items - part of 20 year plan
- 6 year plan are items that come first; would like to do all projects like this; instead of being reactive, be proactive and determine in advance what is coming
- Route 481, 298 corridor sewer improvements - serves area with Ultra Dairy, INFICON and Fulton Boiler; existing conveyance and pump station full capacity; new conveyance and pump station will offer expansion and development improvements
- Total ask for authorization – \$21.9 mil: \$10.5 is WEP; \$11.5 is countywide; last year asked for \$50.4 mil with WEP at \$11.5 and \$37 in countywide
- Rest of projects have been there; presented before; can go through them again

Mr. Morgan responded to Mr. Rowley that the \$21.9 million will come over in separate resolutions for each department. Mr. Rowley asked Ms. Primo what the plan is for Carnegie. Ms. Primo:

- Historic and underutilized for years; County Executive's desire to make public use of it; plan delayed, but back on track
- Week and half ago – Mr. Wixson and Ms. Lyons met with city to go through building; coming closer to having an agreement with city on what space they will need
- Continue effort to move county and city departments that work together - ways to work better
- Departments include: SOCPA, Community Development and Economic Development
- Economic Development located in Armory Square; lease extended; looking to move out of building; beautiful office space, but more than needed and expensive
- City has flat iron building by city hall that is in need of rehab; city thinking of doing something different; those county departments they want to move to Carnegie are currently there
- Anticipate bringing this to Legislature in January with a plan, reason for it, and money needed to do rehab to make space great for these departments

Mr. May asked if the city offices pay rent in outside space, and Ms. Primo answered no, but they would be in Carnegie. They anticipate some money from the building they are currently in would help to pay for it (selling or leasing). Ms. Primo clarified to Mr. Ryan that it would be Community Development from both city and county, Economic Development from both, and Planning from both (both IDA's). Ms. Primo said the county's Economic Development is currently paying rent.

Mr. Ryan asked for more information regarding the sports complex. Ms. Primo:

- Aware of great desire locally for more opportunities and locations for youth sports (but not just youth); looking at soccer and lacrosse; have lot of kids, teens and young adults traveling for practice space and tournament play
- Looking to provide local space to accommodate their needs; capture big market for tournament play; some is in this region (i.e. Oswego); but all over state and northeast
- Keep local people here, provide better facilities, provide space for tournament play, and bring in more tournament play
- Economically makes sense
- How can create facility in reasonable budget to accommodate all sorts of things, but cannot; different sports require different fields or courts; build for one, then elbowing out different sport; focused on soccer and lacrosse
- Fields needs for soccer and lacrosse are similar and lot of interest locally
- Primarily outdoor facility, but looking at artificial turf for longer season; may do indoor bubble to help with practices and games during winter
- Right now not sure if solely public or private; makes sense to be public/private

Mr. May stated he would like to see the facility be a public/private venture, even if the county were a major staple. There are people in the business locally. Ms. Primo agreed, and said that is what they are finding. Mr. May said if they can serve all in one shot, that would be really nice, and they can leverage the assets the county has for a massive outdoor venue. It would be great for the community and economy.

Mr. Bush asked Ms. Primo if they did an assessment on how a taxpayer supported complex will affect privately run facilities that are struggling with COVID. Ms. Primo replied:

- Done assessment of what available in area; what proposing is not available in the area, which is predominately outdoor multi-field facility

- Understand there is nothing that meets needs of lacrosse and soccer leagues and tournaments currently
- Do not anticipate this will put anyone out of business
- Idea of bubble is not emphasis; will support what is in need of area; maybe enough interest in these sports to support facility in Mr. Bush's area, as well as the one being proposed

Mr. Ryan asked if there was an assessment on the return on investment with the building and anticipation of people coming from other areas. Ms. Primo:

- Yes; not just meeting needs of people locally, but also being magnet for tournaments, games that are currently played outside of area; big tournaments throughout state and northeast - would have a good chance of capturing if had facility
- Youth sports – people come with families and siblings; i.e. sister playing in lacrosse and brother bored, so parent takes brother to mall, to eat, to stay at hotels; make sense for people to come to community and enjoy what have here

Mr. McBride asked about the management structure for the facility, and Ms. Primo answered that it is premature. When they come to the Legislature, they will have more specific answers including a plan for how it will be managed (work out with whoever they will hire, if they go in that direction).

Ms. Primo replied to Ms. Kuhn that they did an analysis that they will share with the Legislature.

County General (3-28) / ROT (2-3) / Debt Service Funds (3-33) / County Wide (3-34) Employee Benefits / Insurance (3-80)

Mr. Morgan:

- Wanted Legislature to be fully aware and clear on how the budget was developed
- Proforma pushed out to departments – limit to overall direct appropriations, but clear that departments could move money within those lines with justification; as long as it is supportable; nothing jammed down their throats
- Directions clear that budgets could be modified within lines
- No layoffs in this budget; not abolishing any positions; if there is a point with not enough money to pay staff, there are ways to address that; layoffs is not the policy; no misunderstanding that there are potential layoffs in budget
- Started process – unfunded every vacant position as of pay period 13; plus retirements vacated throughout year; any issue going forward are positions that were filled and now unfunded

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- Contractual service expense line - \$5.2 mil for village infrastructure; \$1.2 mil for Visit Syracuse
- Transfer to grant – \$6.8 mil for COVID response; \$250,000 for Landbank
- Decrease in revenue related projected decrease in ROT
- Oncenter revenue fund – proposed amount for operations is \$2 mil; does not include traditional \$250,000 for capital expenses; took year off from that this year and next
- Conversation about management company running multifaceted sports facility
- ASM an agent of county; subsidy not to ASM, it is to county asset; any discussion of not funding at full amount, will be back to close that gap; understand any reduction to subsidy to Oncenter, it will come from somewhere (general fund)
- Dollars for 2020 is contractual obligation to maintain facility; yes for ASM run facility

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- Not proposing any dollars; usually park money for potential wage settlements or adjustments; proposing \$0

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- First line is real property taxes including levy; as well as estimates of deferred uncollected and prior year collections
- Levy increasing roughly \$6.7 mil with assessed value of properties increasing 4.5%, allows dropping tax rate by \$.01
- Tax levy still \$2.4 mil under the allowable levy limit under property tax cap; worse comes to worse can tap into \$2.4
- County share of sales tax projecting \$22 mil less; based on negative 7 % growth this year and positive 4% growth 2021

Mr. Morgan responded to Mr. May's questions:

- (3-30) All contracts up at end of this year; only contract close to agreement is CSEA; if something approved and ratified by this body, will work with departments, then shift money around; will come back; no money in contract settlement
- Basis of \$4.8 mil ROT projection is what seeing this year; hopes that there will be measured recovery next year; this year projected to end at ~\$3.5 mil in collections for \$7 mil budget
- 3rd quarter payments just came in; trying to use different periods this year to see where will be next year; will it be full shut down or partial shutdown; trying to project is difficult

- Assuming \$1.2 mil per quarter – that's what was brought in 1st quarter; roughly will end up bringing in 3rd quarter; 2nd quarter for ROT abysmal; hoping \$1.2 mil carries through 4th quarter; expect next year; does not factor 2%
- By chance Governor signs it and collects, would help to bring back to baseline projection of \$7 mil; will look for Legislature approval; give to agencies dramatically reduced or eliminated funding for next year

Mr. Ryan asked if there are any raises in the budget for non-bargaining employees. Mr. Morgan:

- Step advance for Commissioner of Facilities and DOT - recognizing level of work positions are responsible for; ultimate bottom line about \$5,000 for each position; grade change and step advance for position at WEP (recruitment tool for engineering position) vacant funded

Mr. Rowley stated that no one in the caucus does not want to fulfill contractual obligations and asked if there is any wiggle room inside that in terms of operational goals (flat fee or share profits). Mr. Morgan:

- Flat fee with incentive on top based on certain measurable criteria; small portion that Mr. Donnelly works with ASM to develop KPIs in beginning of year; evaluate at years conclusion (fraction of incentive); other piece based on occupancy of facility and expenses
- Employees are ASM's employees; Facilities supports Oncenter, but ASM employees run operations

Chairman Knapp said the 2% has been on the Governor's desk and asked if he has 45 days to sign, then it automatically becomes law. Mrs. Tarolli answered that it depends on when it was delivered. Sometimes frames flip at the end of the year when the Legislature goes out. She said she is not sure, but can check into it.

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- Interfund transfers; general fund local dollars transferred to other general fund supported funds including county road, road machinery, OCC and OCPL
- Legislature reviewed and approved OCC; massive decreases with county road and road machinery; majority is eliminating cash for capital; not reoccurring theme
- Shift back to infusing larger amounts of cash for routine road work; squeeze where we do not want to
- Same line of thinking is vehicles; shored up DOT over last few years for plow trucks, but need regular replacement
- Not where want to be with vehicle replacement; otherwise in a year where need to replace a ton; 2022 – hoping to be back to regular replacement schedule
- OCPL – used fund balance; only transfer what needs; held line on proforma

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- Debt service – interfund transfer down \$765,000; fairly in line with adopted budget; amount charging departments

Mr. Kinne said city libraries were decimated and cannot provide services, but they are paid through the abstract. Mr. Morgan is not aware of them being decimated, and he is not sure if they are open. At this time, the decision was made to reduce those costs. Until the pandemic lets up, Mr. Morgan is not sure when the move to open branch libraries will be. Mr. Kinne said there is \$3.5 million dedicated to city libraries to be open, but they are not. Mr. Morgan said point taken. Chairman Knapp asked if the libraries are closed due to the pandemic, or are the employees furloughed. Chairman Knapp said they will follow up on that. Mr. Morgan commented that the Central Library is closed, and they support the outlying libraries. The city abstract is done and taxes are levied and collected. They do not charge the abstract throughout the year; it is done with adopted budget.

Page 3-34

- Finance countywide allocations – all other expenses pay community college chargebacks; bump based on what seeing
- Certiorari proceedings – typically budget \$200,000
- Sales tax to city and schools – their share in 2021; reduction based on projections of sales tax
- Decrease in interest and earnings on investments – getting traction and positive movement on interest rates and investments, but back to previous pandemic levels; account for reduction

Finance Department (3-64)

- Non real property tax under total appropriations zeroed out; typically ROT share for Finance - sacrificing admin dollars typically take to support operations; reduction also in Law and Comptrollers; prioritizing Oncenter and other partners

- Interest and earnings took hit to support Finance Dept.; appropriations down \$328,000; in regards to success of financial operations division - rolled in all department finances; Parks slated to go next year; WEP on its own
- Ability to provide financial operation support has been possible with Mr. Britt - strong asset and brought operation forward; now Ms. Smiley running it; seen process improvements and efficiencies
- Allows to operate at high level with fraction of staff started with; lot of accolades to Ms. Smiley
- Budget - no one in office anymore; ability to push out over a billion dollar budget with Mrs. Venditti, Mr. Morgan and couple other people is unbelievable
- Mrs. Venditti deserves credit on streamlining process to put document together; hats off to her
- Continue to see process improvements; working with Comptrollers and much reduced resource basis
- Real property tax – Mr. Weber fantastic there; eTax software with 44 jurisdictions using it; free to villages, towns and districts; city implemented and county helped pay for it; allow county to operate more efficiently; verses dump on paper
- Department took on Onondaga schools tax collections; online payments – collected \$11 mil online since implementing eTax; constituents can pay taxes online in first instance, but can also pay delinquent taxes online
- Final consolidation for Financial Ops - proposing to pull in Parks finance people next year; only one left is WEP and electeds; Sheriff support; still have DA and Clerk
- Approach from functional perspective; brought people in and combined finance folks, instead of doing same work, built division based on functional areas; group of people work in functional areas and support county
- Procurement, payables, receivables, grant management, etc.; everyone cross trained, so work does not pile up
- Some people crank requisitions all day long; know system
- Applaud employees that embraced it; not only changed physical location of employees, but they are also doing different things; employees seem to be happier with structure; no worries about taking time off, as someone else can fill in

Mr. May said the savings in workers comp is noteworthy this year, and he asked what Mr. Morgan contributes the success to. Mr. Morgan:

- Big thing driving workers comp is sale of Van Duyn - number of claims from that facility were astronomical
- Stopping new cases from that sale was huge
- Worked with third party Pomco, United and walked away from workers comp: had to shift to TPA
- Had monthly meeting with internal folks and Pomco to review multiple settlements; where financially made sense, settled and got off books
- Safety and loss programs - get in with departments; work with department heads to have appropriate safety protocols in place; i.e. pre-job briefing about hazards, or mitigation in place to be safe; various other training
- Area of success; Mr. Stanczyk did phenomenal job in that area; no background, but dug in and has handle on it

Mr. May said they are fully executed with payroll in PeopleSoft, and he asked Mr. Morgan for his perspective. Mr. Morgan:

- Paycheck is showing up and right amount; been fantastic; Finance not the lead, but involvement working with team, Mr. Masterpole and IT: interface with general fund working
- Been a success; going forward, no reason why cannot look at similar administrative structure with Finance to processing payroll; maybe look to centralize and breakdown in a functional area; worth a shot to move forward
- Work out kinks of new system; ways to utilize and harness strength of system; more efficient operationally

Mr. Morgan replied to Mr. Rowley that there are 60 filled positions, and they laid off 4 people. Mr. Rowley asked what is in their grants budget. Mr. Morgan:

- Continuation; not sure how likely it will be; \$1.9 this year was shared services matching funds from state
- Plan submitted in 2018, implemented in 2019, was paid this year; majority was first time doing Medicare Advantage combination with city and city school district; \$6 mil is anticipated state sharing savings for plan implemented this year
- Almost all related to joint competitive process with city and city school district; see dollar amount in handout distributed
- Phenomenal pricing with United; matching dollars if they come in; fearful that the state may preclude them from matching funds going forward; if do, will have budget support there
- Grant – understand how grants work; may be misunderstanding that once budget adopted and grant appropriated, it gives authorization to spend, but if money does not come in, then money appropriated does not get spent
- Need to have confidence that they are managing finances in Executive branch; budget for grant, not spending money; would require an equity transfer

Mr. McBride thanked Mr. Morgan and his team for helping out the town of Onondaga.

Chairman Burtis commented that he found Friday's meeting was very helpful, and it provided a great foundation to start with. He said there has been great attendance, which is a testament to everyone, and thanked everyone.

Mr. Ryan requested the percentage of dollar decrease for each department on the 101 line as compared to last year's adopted budget. Mr. Morgan said ok.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:37 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



JAMIE McNAMARA, Clerk
ONONDAGA COUNTY LEGISLATURE

ATTENDANCE

COMMITTEE: **WMS 2021 BUDGET REVIEW –Ways & Means Depts**
DATE: **NOVEMBER 9, 2020**

NAME (Please Print)	DEPARTMENT/AGENCY
Christina Whiteside	
Kristi Smiley	Fin Ops
Phil Britt	Comptroller
John Hayes	"
Prin Donnelly	CE
Yvette Velasco	LAW
Michelle Sardo	BOE
Tubie Corn	911
Kevin Spraker	911
DAN VADALA	CSEA
MB Primio	CE
MARLY VOIS	DOT
ARCTE WIXSON	FM
Frank mento	WEP
Rustan Petrele	WEP
Brian Kelly	Parks
Mark Nicotra	PARKS
MATT KEARNEY	OLSD CORRECTIONS
Mark Canten	OCPL
Wendy Tarrow	LAW
Ted Fox	PARKS