

Finance & Personnel Committee
March 3, 2009
2:00 P.M.
County Office Building

PRESENT: Arthur Ospelt, Chairman; Legislators Shawn Doyle, Fred Beardsley, Dan Chalifoux, Paul Santore, Mike Kunzwiler, John Proud

STAFF &

GUESTS: Legislators Barb Brown, Louella LeClair, Mary Flett, Linda Lockwood, Lee Walker, Jack Beckwith, Morris Sorbello, Margaret Kastler, Milferd Potter. John Kruk, Mark See, Fred Maxon, Joe Taormina, Dr. Norfleet, Fran Lanigan, Phil Church, Donald Dodd, Mike Allen, Reuel Todd, Maureen Sullivan, Terri Somers

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 P.M. by Chairman Ospelt.

Minutes – February 2, 2009. Motion to approve the minutes as presented by Legislator Kunzwiler, seconded by Legislator Santore with all in favor.

CONSUMER PROTECTION WEEK

Juanita Williams from the Attorney Generals Office attended the meeting to discuss Consumer Protection. She noted that this is Consumer Protection Week and that Attorney General Andrew Cuomo has instructed his attorney's to go around NYS to provide information in hopes of preventing consumer fraud. She discussed local scams. She provided her card and indicated that their office is available at any time for information or presentations.

TREASURER'S FINANCIAL REPORT

County Treasurer John Kruk and Chief Accountant Mark See discussed the 2008 Annual Financial report summary for the County of Oswego. Mark stated that the fund balance is currently at 28.8 million. He noted that sales tax revenues increased \$1.7 million due to Wal-Mart opening in Granby as well as the removal of the gas cap. Expenditures have increased in part to workers compensation rates which were increased by the State.

Increased medical costs as well as Social Services also have raised expenditures He thanked the Department Heads and employees noting they have done a great job on getting data to the Treasurer's Office. He stated that it shows good management as well as planning. Mark reviewed the Financial Report with the members. (*The report is being made a part of these minutes*) John Kruk in closing stated that the County is doing very well. He indicated that we need to be cautious as we move forward.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

Phil Church, County Administrator discussed County affairs. He noted that the Legislature will vote today on Federal Stimulus money. \$1.2 million for Employment and Training Programs to help dislocated workers find jobs, retraining, etc. In terms of infrastructure projects, he explained that a list of projects have been submitted for Federal Stimulus Funding. . Currently he is adding greater detail and will be submitting through the governor's website. The top three projects are the Pineville Bridge, the Radio System and the Volney Sewer District. There are a variety of other projects such as runway projects for the airport. The latest figure show that we are in competition with 3,200 other projects. Phil stated that he will keep the committee apprised. Legislator Doyle questioned if the good financial shape of the county could hamper our receipt of monies for projects. Phil stated that the Governor's Office said every county will receive something. Criteria are based on geographic location and that projects must be "shovel ready". There was never any indication that a county would be left out based on finances. Phil also stated that we will not build up fund balance in 2009 like we did last year. The reason is sales tax is flat, and interest rates are down. The fund balance will be as a result of unexpended money from the departmental budgets. He stated that he has put out a directive to the departments echoing Chairman Leemann's points about not transferring money from personnel for equipment, and operations; mirroring state and federal cutbacks ; examining vacancies much more closely and again prioritizing capital projects that give us savings or create efficiencies, and cutting back on travel. Phil noted that he has received requests for over 10 million dollars in projects this year. There are some projects, that as badly as we want to do them, may be better off holding off on and making sure that we can use this fund balance wisely. Phil expects that our fund balance will go down 2 to 4 million each of the next two years until 2011 when the county will have new revenues coming in. We need to keep our fund balance healthy to protect our credit rating. With the radio system coming up, the higher our credit rating the better interest rates we will get on bonding for the system. Another thing to maintain the good position we are in is to put in a request to renew sales tax on taxable items. It is a three step process which we have done before. We need to pass a resolution to ask the state to consider

it. Get legislation passed this year allowing it and then it will come back to us in the fall to be adopted. This represents approximately 35 million which is budgeted. At the NYSAC meeting this year there was talk of having this 1% made permanent as every county is now doing it. It would save going back every two years to renew it. It is time to move forward with this and ask for the extension. Chairman Ospelt asked the Administrator if this should be brought up at the next meeting, with the Administrator stating yes. Chairman Ospelt stated that he is very pleased with the current state of the County.

Legislator Kunzwiler left the meeting at 3:00 P.M.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution Authorizing Budgetary Modification Department of Social Services Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Funds. The resolution is to accept an anticipated allocation of \$1,299,625 in federal Workforce Investment Act funding to provide employment and training services to eligible Adult, Youth and Dislocated Worker populations. Motion to approve by Legislator Santore, seconded by Legislator Proud with all in favor.

Resolution Authorizing Budgetary Modification Department of Social Services 13N Grant. To accept \$23,000 in federal funding awarded to CNY Works as a component of a grant to develop regional economic development strategies for the Central New York region. Motion to approve by Legislator Beardsley, seconded by Legislator Proud with all in favor.

Resolution Authorizing Budgetary Modification Department of Social Services – Gas Card Initiative. To amend the Social Services/Employment and Training budget to accept an allocation of \$6,250 in New York State Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funds to participate in a state funded initiative to provide gas cards to WIA program participants. Discussion took place regarding giving individual’s gas cards. There was concern with regard to individuals using the cards to purchase beer, cigarettes or other items other than gas. There was also a question of designating only one gas station for people to use. Fran Lanigan explained that individuals would have to come to the Fulton office. The station is across the street. She has discussed this with the owner and he stated that he would be willing to provide “gift certificates” designated for gasoline only. Legislator Beardsley questioned our right to tell people where they spend it. After a lengthy discussion a motion was made by Legislator Santore and seconded by Legislator Proud to approve the resolution. All in favor with the exception of Legislator Beardsley who voted no.

Resolution Increasing Authorization of Capital Project No. 189 – Remediation Pulaski Spill. This resolution will increase capital project

#189 for the remediation of the spill at the Pulaski Highway Garage. Motion to approve by Legislator Proud, seconded by Legislator Santore with all in favor.

Resolution Authorizing Budgetary Modification Department of Buildings and Grounds Repairs – Court Facilities. NYS Unified Court system has allocated \$190,000 to Oswego County for upgrades to the court facilities. The money spend by Oswego County will be reimbursed 100% by the State Unified Court System. Motion to approve by Legislator Santore, seconded by Legislator Proud with all in favor.

VACANCY REVIEW REQUEST

The following positions, which are vacant, were reviewed by the Committee Members;

New Business	Vacancy Date	Recommendation by Finance and Personnel Commit
A. Social Services		
1. Senior Caseworker - #601020082	02/09/09	Approved
2. Caseworker - #(not yet determined)	02/09/09	Approved
3. Caseworker - #60102104	02/04/09	Approved
4. Caseworker Aide - #60102079	02/27/09	Approved
B. Sheriff's		
1. Patrol Officer - #31110012	02/11/09	Approved
C. E-911.		
1. Telecommunicator - #36420053	10/02/08	Approved
2. Telecommunicator - #36420055	01/01/09	Approved
D. District Attorney's		
1. Assistant District Attorney - #12865012	03/31/09	Approved
E. Health		
1. Public Health Nurse (p.t.) - #40190904	01/28/09	Approved
F. Buildings & Grounds		
1. Cleaner (p.t.) - #16220902	02/23/09	Approved
2. Cleaner (p.t.) - #16230902	03/12/09	Approved

Motion to approve the above vacancies by Legislator Beardsley, seconded by Legislator Doyle with all in favor.

VACANCY REPORTS/EMPLOYEE COUNTS/EMPLOYEES ON LEAVES OF ABSENCE.

Director of Personnel Maureen Sullivan presented this report to the committee members. There were no questions.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 3:15 P.M. Motion by Legislator Chalifoux, seconded by Legislator Beardsley with all in favor.