

**COUNTY OF OSWEGO  
FINANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

June 1, 2010 – 2:00 p.m.  
County Office Building, Oswego, NY  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room “E”

**PRESENT:**

Leg. Arthur Ospelt, Chair  
Leg. Daniel Chalifoux, Vice Chair  
Leg. Fred Beardsley  
Leg. Shawn Doyle  
Leg. Kevin Gardner  
Leg. John Proud

**EXCUSED:**

Leg. Michael Kunzwiler

**MEDIA:**

**STAFF/GUESTS:**

Legs. Linda Lockwood, Amy Tresidder (arrived 2:00)  
Barry Leemann, Chairman of the Legislature  
Carol Alnutt, Personnel Director  
Frances Lanigan, Commissioner of Social Services  
Fred Maxon, Purchasing Director  
Don Forbes, Interim Fire Coordinator  
Dr. Dennis Norflett, Public Health Director  
Reuel Todd, Sheriff  
David Hall, Probation Department  
John Kruk, Treasurer  
Mark See, Chief Accountant  
Kathy Fenlon, Youth Bureau Director  
Richard Mitchell, County Attorney  
Philip Church, County Administrator  
Steve Loadwick, County Auditor  
Myron and Sue Pringle  
Paul Santore  
Wendy Falls, Deputy Clerk of the Legislature

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Committee Chair Ospelt called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

**1. Minutes of May 4, 2010:**

**Motion to approve:** Legislator Doyle

**Second:** Legislator Proud

**Vote:** Unanimous, motion carried

**2. Treasurer Report:**

John Kruk, County Treasurer distributed the Capital Reserve Analysis stating that there was nothing out of the ordinary to report. He also distributed the Sales Tax Analysis and reported that the county is almost \$500,000 ahead of the budget for sales tax for the year.

County Treasurer Kruk reported that the process for 2007 four year foreclosures has been started and initial notification went out on February 17, 2010 for 2009 two year foreclosures. He reported that there are 387 parcels on the four year list, mostly residences and 530 parcels on the two year list, which is comprised mainly of land and businesses. Treasurer Kruk stated that the numbers are not abnormal. He explained that the county takes title in January 2011 if taxes are not paid and then the property is auctioned off in the fall of 2011. Mr. Kruk explained that the property owners have an option of entering into an installment agreement, copy of which was distributed to the committee members. The agreement is basically a loan from the county to pay the taxes, and they are charged 12% interest on the loan. The installment is broken up into 4 payments and they have to be timely and the current taxes have to be paid up to date. The agreement cannot be entered into after the county takes title in January. Committee Chair Ospelt asked if this money is missing from the budget. County Treasurer Kruk stated the budget includes an amount for uncollected taxes.

**3. Administrator Report:**

**A. Variance Report**

The Variance Report was distributed by County Administrator Philip Church and explained that the variance is the balance left in the budget. The year to date variance is at 40.2% as of May 27, 2010. The average for the entire budget is 38.8%. Administrator Church mentioned that the report is available every couple of months. Leg. Doyle inquired about the Undistributed Benefits and Administrator Church explained that it was the moving of one fund to another.

**B. State's Home Rule Stalemate**

County Administrator Church commented that the State Senate's culture is a moratorium on home rule requests. He stated that this could be a possible problem next year with taxes. NYSAC sent a letter asking for local revenue measures be incorporated into the state budget.

**C. State's FFFS Cost Shift to County**

County Administrator Church reported that the State Senate is proposing to cut approximately \$100 million dollars from the FFFS mandated services in order to fund other, optional TANF programs, which would mean a \$500,000 increase in the tax levy. It was suggested a resolution be sent to State representatives opposing the shift in funds.

**Motion to send resolution opposing the shift in funds from FFFS:** Legislator Doyle

**Second:** Legislator Chalifoux

**Vote:** Unanimous, motion carried

**4. Resolutions:**

**A. Resolution Authorizing Budgetary Modification Department of Social Services**

Social Services Commissioner Fran Lanigan proposed resolution to transfer \$30,000 from Salary and Wages account to Additional Hours to assist staff in meeting increased demands in processing of applications.

**Motion to support request:** Legislator Proud

**Second:** Legislator Doyle

**Vote:** Unanimous, motion carried

**B. Resolution Authorizing Budgetary Modification Youth Bureau – Creating a Seasonal Position at Camp Hollis and Paying for it Through Grant Funds**

Kathy Fenlon, Youth Bureau Director recommended creating Group Activities Leader position for the season with grant funds received from Friends of Camp Hollis in the amount of \$2,692.

**Motion to support request:** Legislator Gardner

**Second:** Legislator Proud

**Vote:** Unanimous, motion carried

**C. Resolution Establishing Capital Project #60 – Camp Zerbe Study**

Director Fenlon proposed resolution establishing capital project #60 in the amount of \$68,332.00 for the Camp Zerbe Lodge study and accepting \$45,000 in Environmental Protection Act funding. \$23,332.00 will come from Buildings Renovation Reserve. The project will consist of a complete analysis to determine the feasibility of restoring the lodge and developing construction documents.

**Motion to support request:** Legislator Doyle

**Second:** Legislator Proud

**Vote:** Unanimous, motion carried

**D. Resolution Authorizing Budgetary Modification Department of Solid Waste – Safety Training Grant**

Solid Waste Director, Frank Visser recommended accepting a \$14,189 grant awarded by the NYS Occupational Safety and Health Hazard Abatement Board for training.

**Motion to support request:** Legislator Proud

**Second:** Legislator Chalifoux

**Vote:** Unanimous, motion carried

**E. Resolution to Set Salary and Appoint Interim Fire Coordinator**

**Motion to appoint Don Forbes as Interim Fire Coordinator for the County of Oswego:**

Legislator Proud

**Second:** Legislator Gardner

**Vote:** Unanimous, motion carried

Leg. Doyle stated that Mr. Forbes was an excellent choice for Fire Coordinator.

**5. Personnel:**

**A. Vacancy Reports/Employee Counts/Employees on Leaves of Absence**

Committee Chair Ospelt mentioned the savings of 575,701.59 due to the delayed hiring of vacant positions.

**B. Vacancy Review Requests**

Committee Chair Osplet requested the vacancy requests be combined in to one vote.

**Motion to support vacancy request:** Legislator Doyle

**Second:** Legislator Chalifoux

**Vote:** Unanimous, motion carried

Committee Chair Ospelt requested that the committee appoint someone as soon as possible without hold up for the open position in the Solid Waste department due to the death of an employee. The committee members were all in agreement.

**6. Change Building Hours:**

County Administrator Phil Church brought forth a request to have the hours changed in the County Clerk and County Treasurers office to 8:30 – 4:00 on a trial basis for the months of July and August. He also stated that the other department heads were polled and that it should include the whole building. Administrator Church stated he had a worry about customer service but no other opposition to the request. County Treasurer Kruk mentioned that counties around the area were polled and many of them have summer hours. He also commented that there is very little business in the building between 4:00 and 5:00 and would have no negative impact on the county.

**Motion to change hours for the whole County Office Building:** Legislator Proud

**Second:** Legislator Doyle

**Vote:** Unanimous, motion carried

**7. Adjournment:**

**Motion to adjourn:** Legislator Doyle

**Second:** Legislator Chalifoux

**Vote:** Unanimous, motion carried

Meeting adjourned at 2:21 p.m.