

STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF ONONDAGA COUNTY LEGISLATURE

In the Matter of the
2014 Proposed County Budget

PUBLIC HEARING in the above matter conducted
at the Onondaga County Legislative Chambers, 401
Montgomery Street, Syracuse, New York before,
JOHN F. DRURY, CSR, RPR, Notary Public in and for
the State of New York, on October 3, 2013, 7:00 pm.

COUNTY LEGISLATORS PRESENT:

- 1st District BRIAN MAY
- 2nd District JOHN C. DOUGHERTY
- 3rd District CHESTER A. DUDZINSKI, JR.
- 4th District JUDITH A. TASSONE
- 5th District KATHLEEN A. RAPP
- 6th District MICHAEL E. PLOCHOCKI
- 7th District DANNY J. LIEDKA
- 8th District CHRISTOPHER J. RYAN
- 9th District ROBERT J. ANDREWS
- 10th District KEVIN A. HOLMQUIST
- 11th District PATRICK M. KILMARTIN
- 12th District DAVID H. KNAPP (Chairman Finance)
- 13th District DEREK T. SHEPARD, JR.
- 14th District CASEY E. JORDAN
- 15th District J. RYAN McMAHON, Chairman
- 16th District MONICA WILLIAMS
- 17th District LINDA R. ERVIN

Legislative Clerk DEBBIE MATURO

Reported By:
John F. Drury, CSR, RPR
Court Reporter 471-7397

Knapp

MR. KNAPP: If everyone could take a seat we'll get started. I'd like to call to order the public hearing for the Proposed 2014 Budget. Briefly I just want to make sure you see the exits in case there is any kind of emergency, we have a pretty good attendance tonight. In the back, and the front. (Pointing).

Before we get started we're would everyone rise for the pledge of the flag. (All joined in Pledge of Allegiance).

MR. KNAPP: Thank you. Just a reminder to check everyone's cell phones, make sure they're turned off or at least on silent mode so we don't interrupt any of our speakers. The purpose of this meeting tonight is to discuss our Proposed 2014 Budget. And so I would ask that the comments that are to be made concern the budget and not extraneous issues or certainly not political type issues. With that we'll get started. Mr. Chairman, do you have any preliminary comments?

INDEX TO SPEAKERS

SPEAKERS ORGANIZATION PAGES

5	RONNIE BELL	4 - 7
6	JASON ZEIGLER Assigned Counsel Panel	8 - 11
7	JASON SMITH	12 - 13
8	DAVE APPLETON	13 - 17
9	DAVID HOLDER Convention & Visitors	17 - 21
10	Mayor JOE SARACENI Vil Baldwinsville	22 - 25
11	Mayor BETH GREENWOOD Village of Tully	26 - 27
12	Mayor MARK OLSON Mayors Association	27 - 30
13	MARC STORNELLI Assigned Counsel	30 - 32

Bell

CHAIRMAN McMAHON: Not at this time Chairman Knapp, thank you.

MR. KNAPP: Are there any members of the Legislature that would like to make any comments before we get started with the public comment period? Being none we'll move into the public comments. We do have several speakers who have signed up. I have the cards here that you filled out before you came in, so I will call the names in the order that folks signed in, no particular order other than that. And we do have several, so I would ask that you keep your comments to three minutes or so and so we can make sure we get everybody in.

Up first is Ronnie Bell from Syracuse, New York.

RONNIE BELL: Thank you. Thanks for the opportunity to speak to you tonight during the public hearing. I'm Ronnie Bell, and I own my home on Stenard Avenue in Syracuse, part of the 15th Legislative District, since 1992. I am

Bell

1 current in all my tax payments. I speak
2 to you as a concerned resident of
3 Onondaga County and a life long
4 progressive democrat. I would like to
5 start with the hot button issues.

6 Number 1. I do not advocate the
7 Trash to Ash proposal because of its
8 potential harm to the air and water
9 quality due to the higher burn rate at
10 the Jamesville incinerator. Nothing
11 concerns our citizens more than the air
12 we breathe and the water we drink. We
13 must do everything to protect these
14 precious resources.

15 Number 2. I do not advocate any
16 legislation that would restrict the
17 rights of Onondaga County workers to
18 receive back pay when contract
19 negotiations are not settled prior to
20 expiration. The rights of county
21 workers are already restricted due to
22 Taylor Law provisions, so it is
23 imperative that negotiations at impasse
24 resulting in arbitration or eventual

Bell

1 settlement go back to the contract
2 expiration date. Otherwise, management
3 is encouraged to bargain in bad faith.

4 Number 3. I advocate the creation
5 of a meaningful oversight board for the
6 Justice Center.

7 On Education:

8 Number 1. I advocate more OCC
9 funding in classroom/program initiatives
10 that create pathways to apprenticeships,
11 jobs for students and less funding for
12 capital projects, especially those that
13 compete with already existing County run
14 facilities.

15 Number 2. The \$7.5 million portion
16 of the Human Services budget that funds
17 Say Yes initiatives needs evaluation to
18 ensure its efficient and effective use.
19 I advocate similar programs for the rest
20 of the County.

21 Number 3. I advocate funding the
22 Imagination Library project throughout
23 Onondaga County as a partnership with
24 like minded foundations, corporations

Bell

1 and non-profits. This gives one book a
2 month to every County child from birth
3 to their entrance into kindergarten in
4 cooperation with the Dolly Parton
5 Foundation.

6 On Revenue:

7 Number 1. I advocate the creation
8 of an Onondaga County OTB authority to
9 create a new revenue stream for the city
10 and the County. It is disingenuous to
11 oppose government sponsorship when we
12 have the New York State Lottery
13 authority, bingo and casinos already in
14 place.

15 Number 2. I advocate using the
16 Onondaga County fund balance above the
17 credit rating cushion for more programs
18 and services for workers.

19 And 3rd and last. I do not advocate
20 any further tax breaks for Destiny USA
21 and Mr. Congel. I advocate incentives
22 for job creating businesses with
23 enforceable clawback clauses. Thank you
24 very much for your time.

Zeigler

1 MR. KNAPP: Thank you, Mr. Bell.
2 Next we have Jason Zeigler.

3 **JASON ZEIGLER:** Hi, my name is Jason
4 Zeigler, I'm an attorney, attorney in
5 private practice, and much of my
6 practice consists of accepting
7 assignments, court appointed assignments
8 from the judges throughout this County.
9 Pay for most of that comes through the
10 Onondaga County Assigned Counsel
11 Program.

12 As I would hope that most of the
13 county legislators are aware of at this
14 point, there have been numerous lawsuits
15 against this County and the Assigned
16 Counsel Program, really stemming from a
17 lot of behavior from the program itself.
18 Also the New York Civil Liberties Union
19 filed a lawsuit against the state,
20 alleging systemic deficiencies
21 statewide. This County was dragged in
22 as a defendant in that suit. That suit
23 is scheduled for trial this December.

24 What really prompted me to want to

Zeigler

1
2 come up here and speak with you today is
3 I think it's really the request of the
4 County Legislature, there is an audit
5 now ongoing in the Onondaga County
6 Assigned Counsel Program. As an
7 attorney that's had problems with
8 Assigned Counsel I would like to say
9 thank you, it's a step in the right
10 direction.

11 What prompted me to come up here
12 was, within days of the attorneys
13 meeting with people from the County
14 comptroller's office, the Assigned
15 Counsel Program began shredding a
16 voluminous amount of documents, this is
17 in front of people coming into the
18 office.

19 Keeping in mind that this is a
20 hearing over the budget, and public
21 comments for the budgets, I'm just going
22 to leave with this. And in 2004 the
23 raise for what attorneys were paid to
24 represent indigent defendants and
25 indigent family court litigants was

Zeigler

1 raised. It was the first pay raise
2 since 1980, somewhere in the '80s, I
3 don't know the exact year. This County
4 never increased the amount of money that
5 was given. Instead, rule changes were
6 made that was very restrictive on how
7 people practice. People have been
8 driven out of business trying to do this
9 work. Now it's not a question of
10 getting something for nothing it's a
11 question of being paid for the work that
12 you do. The money is still where we
13 were at years ago. Except the attorneys
14 have nowhere that's close to their
15 billing.

16 We're hearing from representatives
17 of the County government that if
18 Assigned Counsel simply asked for the
19 money they need the County would give
20 it. The County acknowledging that this
21 is state mandated. Something the state
22 mandates when they have the funds. I
23 doubt that the Assigned Counsel is
24 willing to ask. As of right now the
25

Zeigler

1 bills are not being processed, it's the
2 end of the year and that's pretty
3 standard for anybody dealing with
4 Assigned Counsel.
5 I would like to put out there that
6 I'd be more than happy to meet with
7 representatives from the Public Safety
8 Committee to explain what is going on.
9 I doubt you get a clear answer from the
10 Assigned Counsel Program. And when
11 making determinations to the budget,
12 please keep in mind that the problem is
13 not necessarily do we have more cases
14 this year, it's that the money for the
15 pay raise in 2004 was never given. So
16 you have a problem that keeps repeating
17 itself because it's essentially the
18 program has been inadequately funded for
19 the last 10 years. I think I'm going to
20 leave it at that. Thank you for your
21 time.
22

23 MR. KNAPP: Thank you, Mr. Zeigler.
24 Next is Jason Smith.

25 **JASON SMITH:** Hello, my name is

Smith

1 Jason Smith, I'm from Onondaga County, I
2 live in North Syracuse, I am not
3 prepared for this, and most of the
4 people apparently here tonight are. I
5 hope you'll forgive me the ignorance I
6 have in this matter.
7

8 I read in the paper about the
9 computers, may not be much allocated for
10 computers. I would like to hope that
11 that gets returned, so to speak. From
12 personal experience, I have two
13 computers I work with, one is 14 years
14 old the other one nine years old. The
15 IT department explained that it will not
16 allocate for new computers until 2016.

17 My computer, if you take it out of
18 the budget this year I might get pushed
19 to 2017, and then further down the line
20 another issue where you want to take it
21 out to maybe 2018 or 2019. The
22 computers do not function well. And I
23 know others in our department don't
24 function either, they are of similar age
25 and poor functioning is probably a good

1 Appleton
2 term. So I ask that that be added back
3 in if possible, if there could be some
4 way and I would appreciate it. Thank
5 you.

6 MR. KNAPP: Thank you, Mr. Smith.
7 Next is Dave Appleton.

8 **DAVE APPLETON:** I'd like to speak
9 about this scam known as the City
10 Abstract. No less an authority than the
11 New York State Comptroller has condemned
12 this practice years ago and yet it has
13 continued. Last year, two years ago I
14 respectfully submitted a letter from the
15 Comptroller outlining his objections to
16 the Legislature; that was promptly
17 ignored.

18 Last year I respectfully submitted
19 the same letter again. Sunk into
20 oblivion. I have done the same thing
21 for the last two years in front of the
22 Common Council at their budget public
23 forums and never heard a word about it.
24 You continue this practice even though
25 it has been rejected by the head fiscal

1 Appleton
2 officer of the state. It allows the
3 city to hide their expenses under the
4 County. It obscures the true cost of
5 city government. The city residents
6 deserve to know how much their city
7 government costs them. When they pay
8 their County tax bill, roughly a third
9 of that I believe is the city abstract,
10 but that doesn't say that on the tax
11 bill or explain what the abstract is, it
12 just gives a County tax. People think
13 they're paying for County government
14 there.

15 Much of that is to reimburse the
16 County for expenses incurred by the
17 city. The city government should tax,
18 their people should be responsible for
19 that, and then they pay the County.
20 That's the way it's supposed to be done.
21 No one seems to be interested in
22 correcting this. So I wanted to come
23 before you once again and give you
24 copies of the Comptroller's letter
25 objecting to this practice.

1 Appleton
2 And those of you who are
3 representatives of the suburbs, you have
4 no business taxing the city residents to
5 collect money incurred by the city
6 government. You should collect from the
7 city, just like you collect from the
8 state government when you do a service
9 for them. You do not collect from the
10 state taxpayers all across the state,
11 you collect from whoever incurred the
12 debt.

13 If a private individual or company
14 tried this we would be accused of fraud.
15 And yet this practice continues and
16 increases, increases. This year I see
17 another 486,000 just under the SOCPA,
18 which is only one part of the city
19 abstract. That's almost half a million
20 dollars increase that should show up on
21 the city budget, it did last year, and
22 now it's just magically disappeared.

23 This allows Mayor Miner and her
24 cronies to claim that they have not
25 increased the city budget. An easy

1 Appleton
2 claim to make if they're allowed to
3 slice off pieces of it and hide it with
4 the County. We deserve to know how much
5 our government is actually costing. And
6 all I'm asking you to do is to read this
7 letter and discuss it. It's roughly
8 one-third I believe of the County taxes
9 that the city taxpayers pay, I believe
10 goes to this Abstract and it should be
11 collected by the city. They should,
12 when people pay their city taxes, it
13 should show this is how much the city is
14 costing me. And this is how much the
15 County is costing me. This is deceitful
16 and it should stop.

17 And I would ask you once again to at
18 least discuss it amongst yourselves and
19 it would be nice to know if you had
20 discussed it, because as I say I've
21 tried to get some attention for this for
22 the past several years and I've heard
23 absolutely nothing. Did anyone even
24 talk about it? I will leave another
25 copy of the New York State Code with you

1 Holder

2 and I hope you take a few minutes to
3 discuss it amongst yourselves when you
4 have time. Mr. Ryan, I believe I gave
5 these to you last year so I'll give them
6 to you now.

7 CHAIRMAN McMAHON: Thank you
8 Mr. Appleton.

9 MR. KNAPP: Thank you, Mr. Appleton.
10 Next we have David Holder.

11 **DAVID HOLDER:** Hello, my name is
12 David Holder, I live in Fayetteville,
13 New York, I happen to work in downtown
14 Syracuse, serving the entire County. I
15 want to thank each of you for the time
16 you've spent or will spend helping me
17 better understand and really gain
18 appreciation for what's been proposed in
19 this year's budget. I know the CVB is
20 only a small part of the legislative
21 budget, the County's budget, but we play
22 a big role in driving the sales tax for
23 this area. I want to use tonight's time
24 to express three different items about
25 that role that we play.

1 Holder

2 First is the CVB program plans that
3 I presented last week during the budget
4 presentation are really based on three
5 guiding principles. The first is input
6 from our industry. The second is input
7 from our customers. And the third is
8 the professional expertise that we're
9 asked to bring to the table.

10 There are two documents that
11 incorporate each of these principles and
12 I've really had the opportunity to
13 present these in committee meetings at
14 earlier times this year. The first one
15 is last year's 2012 Destination
16 Marketing Analysis. It's a program that
17 you paid for out of the 2012 budget. It
18 was a great program that really forged a
19 new future for tourism for this area.
20 And we used it to create the 2013
21 Strategic Sales and Marketing Plan. I
22 urge you to take a look at both of these
23 documents, they are well founded. They
24 really depend on industry-wide input and
25 they target us to put us into aggressive

1 Holder

2 new ways of driving business into the
3 area.

4 Second item. The work with the
5 contingency account has been incredibly
6 helpful for us in the past. It's really
7 been a way that we've been able to come
8 in, introduce the CVB program at a level
9 of detail that did not necessarily have
10 a chance to do during budget presentation
11 and we're really appreciative of that.
12 It gives us a great way to communicate
13 with the Legislature and input from the
14 Legislature and really adjust this
15 program to make them stronger. And we
16 really appreciate that process. I
17 actually get a real weird thrill about
18 coming in here and making those
19 presentations.

20 I do have some questions and want to
21 make certain that we make the tourism
22 incentive allocation as strong as we
23 possibly can. I do hope that you can
24 understand that a month-to-month
25 approval process for tourism incentives

1 Holder

2 for tourism spending does create some
3 challenges for us based on our ability
4 to plan outreach and salesmanship. We
5 plan these out well in advance from
6 trade shows to sales missions to
7 cooperative marketing. Our partners
8 depend on those. We need to know fully
9 what our level of investment is going to
10 be and we need to know that in advance
11 to maximize our ability to gain cost
12 efficiencies but also to bring
13 cooperative partners to the table.

14 We actually start our sales planning
15 process in June. We've already had town
16 hall meetings and discussions with our
17 sales managers and directors of sales
18 from across the County getting their
19 input on where we need to go for those
20 programs. This is the stuff that guides
21 that program that I put in front of you
22 last week.

23 We then adjust the calendar, develop
24 it into a calendar system in August.
25 And after the budget is approved in

Holder

1
2 October and November we begin to make
3 those contracts with those different
4 organizations that we place those
5 advertisements with, or that we start --
6 that we need to have a trade show
7 presence with. So I do ask that you
8 consider that as you're moving forward
9 through the budget process.

10 In consultation with this
11 Legislature we have made numerous
12 changes in recent years to make our
13 program as strong as it can be. They've
14 resulted in increased spending by our
15 visitors coming into our County. We're
16 going to continue doing that. We depend
17 on input from across the breadth of this
18 area and even from our, certainly our
19 Legislative delegation. We need that
20 input to guide us even further. Thank
21 you for tonight's time, I'm very
22 grateful as always for your support for
23 this industry, for the businesses that
24 depend on tourism, and certainly for the
25 Convention Visitors Bureau, thanks a lot.

Saraceni

1
2 The VIP money that villages receive
3 is used wisely and efficiently. The
4 return on investment, and it should be
5 looked at as an investment, the return
6 on investment for Onondaga County
7 infrastructure in villages is typically,
8 especially when you're focused on
9 sewers, around two years. The more
10 efficient you make that system the less
11 burdensome villages are on the
12 infrastructure of the County. It's very
13 important that that be recognized.
14 I also wanted to stress while I was
15 here the importance of cooperation
16 between the County and villages as an
17 economic, and villages being economic
18 engines. In 1988 Nick Pirro, Dan O'Hara
19 as the mayor then; Nick Pirro the County
20 Executive, the Comptroller for Onondaga
21 County, how could I forget the Governor
22 named Cuomo was there. And they talked
23 about limitless possibilities if we all
24 just worked together to help improve our
25 infrastructure.

Saraceni

1
2 MR. KNAPP: Thank you, Mr. Holder.
3 Next is Mayor Joe Saraceni.
4 **MAYOR JOE SARACENI:** Hi, thanks for
5 having me again, my name is Joe
6 Saraceni, I represent the Village of
7 Baldwinsville, one of 15 villages in
8 Onondaga County. I had some remarks
9 prepared for tonight but I couldn't
10 condense it down into three minutes so
11 I'll just speak off the cuff.
12 I will not be Mayor as of next
13 March, so I'll take this opportunity
14 again to thank you. I'll be commenting
15 on VIP monies and the importance of
16 villages in Onondaga County. Villages
17 are an integral part of the
18 infrastructure of Onondaga County.
19 Villages are as old as the city of
20 Syracuse. The village of Baldwinsville
21 was actually incorporated the same year
22 as the city of Syracuse, so our
23 infrastructure is just as old as the
24 city's. So I can certainly sympathize
25 with the city's infrastructure issues.

Saraceni

1
2 And now if you look at the ribbon
3 cutting ceremony today, it was the Paper
4 Mill Island project and the Lock Wall.
5 That was the County and a village
6 working together to try to turn around
7 brownfields to create economic engines.
8 And to this day if you go to
9 Baldwinsville, if anybody has ever been
10 to a concert in Baldwinsville, on Paper
11 Mill Island on any given weekend that
12 wall is stacked three boats deep.
13 Millions of dollars worth of boats
14 coming into Baldwinsville, people
15 spending money in the shops in
16 Baldwinsville. People going to
17 concerts, enjoying what was once a brown
18 field. But because of the partnership
19 that existed between Onondaga County and
20 that small village, a village of only
21 7,000 residents, it had a tremendous
22 impact on that community.
23 Another program that I wanted to
24 point out and have worked well in
25 cooperation between Onondaga County and

Saraceni

1 the village is Facade Infrastructure
2 Program. Since 1990 over \$540,000 has
3 been poured into the village of
4 Baldwinsville to help Baldwinsville
5 clean up its act. We had to take a long
6 look in the mirror and say you know
7 what, we're a blighted community. We
8 reached out to Onondaga County. And
9 it's a federally funded program that the
10 County administers. But because of that
11 if you look at Baldwinsville today and
12 compare it with what that village looked
13 like, I grew up in the village, and it's
14 night and day.

15 And you know, in 10 years our
16 property tax values increased 50 percent.
17 That's not just good for Baldwinsville,
18 that's good for Onondaga County. So I
19 wanted to thank you again for giving me
20 the opportunity to speak and reinforce
21 the importance of Onondaga County
22 working with villages, specifically on
23 infrastructure projects. Thank you.

24 MR. KNAPP: Thank you, Mayor. Next
25

Greenwood

1 we have Mayor Beth Greenwood of Tully.
2 **MAYOR BETH GREENWOOD:** Hello. Thank
3 you for giving me the opportunity to
4 speak. I am Beth Greenwood, I'm the
5 Mayor of the Village of Tully, to the
6 very opposite of the County down south.
7 I just wanted to echo and saying from
8 the side of the villages, we really do
9 appreciate the County's help with the
10 Village Infrastructure Improvement
11 Program.

12 As the proud owner of our very own
13 water and sewer systems, both being the
14 independent little corner of the world
15 that we are down there. We understand
16 the amount of time and energy and funds
17 it takes to maintain the infrastructure
18 and to support the kind of development
19 that the County is looking for,
20 focussing on the smart growth, keeping
21 infrastructure in place, and supporting
22 what's already there and preventing
23 sprawl.

24 As we're currently looking with our
25

Olson

1 town at your Comprehensive Plan and
2 focussing on development we have taken a
3 very good hard look at our own
4 infrastructure and we are really
5 considering that as a very important
6 investment for ourselves at this point.
7 And we really appreciate the County
8 giving us the opportunity to continue to
9 work with the town and the County as we
10 focus our development and sprawl from
11 happening down south. Thank you very
12 much.

13 MR. KNAPP: Thank you, Mayor. Next
14 we have Mayor Mark Olson.

15 **MAYOR MARK OLSON:** Good evening. My
16 name is Mark Olson. On behalf of the
17 Mayors Association of Onondaga County, I
18 would like to thank you, all of you
19 sitting in this room tonight for helping
20 villages out. We talk about quality of
21 life in the villages. Every mayor in
22 this room tonight has worked hard about
23 increasing and making better quality of
24 life of our residents. And everybody in
25

Olson

1 this room from the County Legislature
2 does that every day also. So I want to
3 thank you for the collaborative effort.
4 Let's think about what's happening today
5 in the last few days.

6 The federal government shut down,
7 the state government is a mess. And
8 here we are at the County the village
9 and the town working together to find
10 solutions to our problems. And we have
11 problems, everybody in government does.
12 But together if we work and we find
13 solutions we will all succeed. And this
14 VIP Improvement Fund has helped villages
15 improve and will continue to help
16 villages improve. But we need help.

17 We've submitted close to \$27 million
18 in extra capital projects that need to
19 be done. But we know it's going to take
20 time. But the partnership between the
21 County and the village and the Mayors
22 Association is what's going to move
23 these things forward. So I just want to
24 thank all of you. Mayor Donovan was the
25

1 Olson

2 president of the Mayors Association for
3 eight years, he left last week and as my
4 first official duty I've got to thank
5 Mayor Donovan for this, one week in and
6 I get to speak in front of the County
7 Legislature. So I do want to thank you
8 all very much for all that you have done
9 for us.

10 One thing I also wanted to point out
11 is that 90 percent of the village
12 residents live -- or 90 percent of the
13 County is village residents. So we play
14 an important role in what happens in the
15 County. In this structured program that
16 was done in 2010, while it was a benefit
17 for the County and for the city and the
18 villages it had to have some tweaking.

19 And I take or I'd like to thank
20 Travis, Matt, Derrick, Kevin, Mayor Plat
21 and Mayor Donovan for recognizing that
22 and coming together and meeting and
23 talking about it. Not just saying we'll
24 see you in 2020, and that's it. We're
25 talking about it and working through it.

1 Stornelli

2 If we continue to talk and work through
3 these issues everybody in this room will
4 benefit. So I want to say thank you
5 again, I know it's a lot, but we do
6 appreciate this extra effort that you
7 had because you didn't have to do it.
8 But it will be a return for the County.
9 And thank you very much.

10 MR. KNAPP: Thank you, Mayor. Next
11 is Marc Stornelli.

12 **MARC STORNELLI:** Good evening
13 everybody, thank you for your time.
14 I'll be brief. I've been in Syracuse
15 all my life, family came here in 1928
16 I'm a private practice lawyer, and I get
17 the bulk of my clients from the Assigned
18 Counsel Program. I represent a
19 population of people who can't afford to
20 retain their own counsel. And as such
21 I'm constantly driving all over the
22 County to various justice courts.

23 And the Assigned Counsel Program
24 right now is so underfunded that I don't
25 get reimbursed anymore for travel and

1 Stornelli

2 mileage. I used to get reimbursed about
3 eight or nine years ago, ever since then
4 there hasn't been enough money in the
5 budget to reimburse for travel and most
6 types of postage.

7 I just briefly want to let you know
8 that as an assigned counsel lawyer there
9 is a lot of things I do for the people
10 of this County, especially my clients
11 that you might not otherwise understand.
12 Just looking at the normal thinking of a
13 lawyer's typical duties, besides going
14 to court and talking to District
15 Attorney's office and doing a little bit
16 of research there is a lot of things I
17 do with substance abuse issues and
18 people that have mild emotional and
19 mental health issues. There is a lot of
20 programs out there that people need
21 referrals into.

22 And also a lot of my clients I have
23 to do things for them that, for lack of
24 a better word, seem more like babysitting
25 than the practice of law. But it's

1 Stornelli

2 necessary for them because things have
3 to be repeated to them or they can't
4 read or write or they forget things and
5 lose things. And in order to be a
6 competent lawyer I have to help them in
7 many different ways that you might not
8 understand as being part of the typical
9 lawyers duties. Which is why I'm here
10 to advocate for much more funding for
11 your local Assigned Counsel Program.

12 I just, most, 90 percent of my
13 client are Assigned Counsel I have a
14 very small percentage that are retained.
15 So I mostly help the people, as I said
16 that can't afford a lawyer. And there
17 is a lot more that goes into helping the
18 indigent than you might understand from
19 a typical lawyer.

20 So like I said, I'll keep it short
21 and sweet, and I just ask you to
22 consider much more funding for the local
23 Assigned Counsel Program. Thank you.

24 MR. KNAPP: Thank you, Mr. Stornelli.
25 That is the last of the speakers who

1 Chairman
2 signed in ahead of time. Is there
3 anyone else who would like to come
4 forward and say a few words? Being
5 none, I declare the public comment
6 period is closed.

7 Are any of the Legislators, any of
8 you that would like to come forward and
9 say a few words? Mr. Chairman, would
10 you like to say any final words?

11 **CHAIRMAN McMAHON:** Thank you,
12 Chairman Knapp, and thank you to all of
13 our members who have put a lot and time
14 to date in this process, and the
15 executive team and comptroller's team.
16 We heard a lot today to consider, some
17 of the issues brought up here are in our
18 budget, marked in our budget for policy
19 issues that are to be addressed later
20 on. But thank you everyone for coming
21 out tonight and this is an important
22 part of the process. Thank you.

23 **MR. KNAPP:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
24 Before I close the meeting I would like
25 to add just a few things. Our County

1 Chairman
2 Chief Financial Officer Steve Morgan and
3 his team I would like to thank them for
4 the level of communication they have had
5 with us through this process and putting
6 everything together very succinctly for
7 us. Thanks very much, Steve.

8 Also like to thank Bob Antonacci
9 from the Comptroller's office for all
10 his help in analyzing the budget. And
11 of course the County Law Department for
12 their thoughtful advice.

13 And honestly, we couldn't do any of
14 this without our clerk of the
15 Legislature, Debbie Maturo and her
16 staff: Sue Stanczyk, Darce Lesnyak,
17 Catherine French, Jamie McNamara, Kim
18 Memory and Patrick Mocete and Bill
19 Kinne.

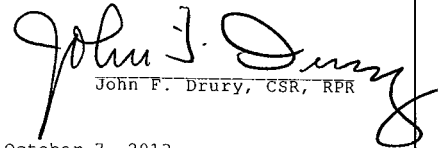
20 These folks, especially have to
21 single out one would be Sue Stanczyk,
22 stays nights, weekends. Very, very
23 condensed period to put together \$1.22
24 billion budget is a herculean effort
25 too. So I want to thank all the staff

1 chairman
2 for all their help. With that, the
3 meeting adjourned. Have a nice evening.

4 * * * *

5 C E R T I F I C A T E

6 This is to certify that I am a
7 Certified Shorthand Reporter and Notary
8 Public in and for the State of New York,
9 that I attended and reported the above
10 entitled proceedings, that I have
11 compared the foregoing with my original
12 minutes taken therein and that it is a
13 true and correct transcript thereof and
14 all of the proceedings had therein.

15 
16
17 John F. Drury, CSR, RPR
18

19 Dated: October 7, 2013
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