



# Onondaga County Legislature

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## WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE MINUTES – FEBRUARY 22, 2022 BRIAN F. MAY, CHAIRMAN

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mr. Ryan, Mr. Burtis, Ms. Abbott, Mr. Olson, Mr. Kinne, Mrs. Ervin  
**ALSO ATTENDING:** Chairman Rowley, Ms. Cody, Ms. Kuhn, Dr. Chase, Mr. Bush, Mr. Garland; also see attached

Chairman May called the meeting to order at 11:41 a.m. *A motion was made by Mr. Burtis, seconded by Mr. Ryan to waive the reading of the minutes of the previous committee meeting. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED. A motion was made by Mr. Burtis, seconded by Mr. Olson to approve the minutes of the previous committee meeting. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.*

### CONSENT AGENDA

#### 1. PARKS AND RECREATION:

- a. **2021 Transfer Resolution (\$127,190)** (*Sponsored by Ms. Cody*)
- b. **Amending the 2022 County Budget to Provide Additional Funds for the Purchase of Gasoline and Diesel Fuel to be Sold to the Liverpool Fire Department and Authorizing the County Executive to Enter into Contracts (\$12,000)** (*Sponsored by Ms. Cody*)

#### 2. TRANSPORTATION:

- a. **Authorizing the County Executive to Amend a Five Year Agreement with the State of New York for Snow and Ice Control on State Highways for the 2019-2024 Seasons to add 3.68 Additional Lane Miles and Amending the 2022 County Budget Accordingly (\$35,945)** (*Sponsored by Ms. Cody*)

*A motion was made by Mr. Kinne, seconded by Mrs. Ervin, to approve the consent agenda. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.*

### REGULAR AGENDA

#### 1. PERSONNEL: Brian Donnelly, Deputy County Executive; Carl Hummel, Commissioner

- a. **Confirming the Reappointment of Carlton Hummel as the Commissioner of the Onondaga County Department of Personnel**

Mr. Donnelly:

- Appointed to full term for Mr. Hummel; been in position since 2000, completed term of previous
- Led county through trying and difficult times with COVID:
  - Amount of work for COVID leave and special considerations; worked on work from home structure
  - Negotiated early retirement incentive with unions; negotiated number of labor agreements successfully
  - Conducting first department-wide County Career Fair in March 2022
  - Currently working on restructuring payroll processing for departments; looking at centralizing in Personnel

Mr. Olson asked if there will be something to give to municipalities, towns, and villages regarding the job fair.

Mr. Hummel responded yes; they will have materials ready very soon. It will encompass both civil service and current jobs available. They will be hitting community calendars, doing advertising, and sending out materials.

Mr. Ryan said there are a number of collective bargaining agreements that are expired, and he asked what the plan is to have those finished up in the coming year. Mr. Hummel:

- Sheriffs Captain's being negotiated; DSBA being negotiated; CSEA/Correction Unit is outstanding at the moment
- Depending on how those go over next few sessions will determine if they will be able to resolve, or if they have to move to mediation, fact-finding, etc.
- In middle of process with all, and too early to say if they will be able to settle without mediation
- CSEA/Corrections - cannot go into details; taken a couple different approaches; on 3<sup>rd</sup> approach; next session in early March; will see how it progresses

Mrs. Ervin asked what is happening with the Department of Labor investigation. Mr. Hummel:

- Cannot give details; county supplied investigator with mountains of information; investigator taking information on time worked by employees in question; they are reviewing
- Did not hear from investigator last week; should have closing hearing scheduled soon, but not sure when
- Personnel has been coordinating information for the investigator - information Department of Children & Family Services had in their systems, coordinated with information Personnel has in Kronos timekeeping system
- Personnel has been liaison between Department of Labor and County

Mr. Burtis thanked Mr. Hummel for the work he has done, and he asked for an overview of the amount of employees the county currently has, as well as funded versus unfunded positions. Mr. Hummel:

- Do not have stats; inching back up where fallen to last year; still below 3,000 fulltime employees; bring in 103 (temporary/seasonal) the number is over 4,500
- Hiring picking up over past couple months; Personnel able to hire, thanks to budget from last year; greatly appreciate and making huge difference this year; unfunded/funded would have to get from Finance (can provide)

Chairman May stated that they have been working with Finance to get a handle on those numbers, and that is a recent thing that was part of communication between Chairman Rowley and the administration.

Ms. Abbott thanked Mr. Hummel for the work he has done, and she asked him how he addresses recruiting people for positions in other departments besides the job fair. Mr. Hummel:

- When doing targeted approaches, work with departments, because they know types of people they need; Personnel only has the job spec, words on a page; departments also know avenues to best recruit
- Personnel helps with career fairs; can provide materials about civil service; lot of positions are civil service, and some will be tested; some in Health Department are training and experience (no test)
- Educate general public, because they do not know about civil service process and what is involved

*A motion was made by Mr. Burtis, seconded by Mr. Olson, to approve this item. Ayes: 5 Noes: 2 (Ervin, Kinne); MOTION CARRIED.*

2. **SYRACUSE/ONONDAGA COUNTY PLANNING AGENCY**: Dan Kwasnowski, Director  
 a. **2021 Transfer Resolution (\$361,482)** (*Sponsored by Mr. Burtis*)

*A motion was made by Mr. Kinne, seconded by Ms. Abbott, to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.*

3. **FACILITIES MANAGEMENT**: Archie Wixson, Commissioner  
 a. **2021 Transfer Resolution (\$601,199)** (*Sponsored by Ms. Cody*)

- Balance last year's budget shortfalls - 413 and 410 accounts
- Contracts bid mid-year including guards, trash service, janitorial accounts; prepared by Finance; did not expect to be greater than proposed; had to cover in Utilities, as projected Utilities greater than anticipated

*A motion was made by Mr. Burtis, seconded by Mr. Olson, to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.*

**4. HEALTH DEPARTMENT:** Dr. Indu Gupta, Commissioner  
**a. Providing for Various Personnel Changes** (*Sponsored by Dr. Chase*)

- Creation of personnel positions - Public Health Fellows; program funded by NYSDOH; \$5.8 mil from NYSDOH
- Could increase workforce in Health Dept. for at least 2 years; can have up to certain amount of fellows based on value
- Conversations with state (setting up rules) – based on qualifications created 3 tiers; Public Health Fellow 1, 2, and 3; 3 grades and 3 salaries; total of 12 in each series
- Will hire maximum of 12 at this point when receive; 100% grant funded including computers and anything else with personnel; when grant goes away, these go away
- Dealing with problem of public health structure and pandemic – learned that people are not ready; how do they create strong work force; that is principle behind this
- They can work in any department within Health Department and any other county government, because they will have those tools; win/win for everyone; may not all stay with County, but this will give the county the upper hand

Chairman May asked if this is recreating positions, or were they only talking about this program before. Dr. Gupta responded:

- Came late last year when NY unveiled program; there were nuisances, and they were debating whether to participate or not; many counties discussed it; concerned about sustainability of program
- With turnover, in good shape to accept money, then state has to approve plans; came here to receive money (\$5,859,670), but did not create positions at that time

Mr. Burtis thanked Dr. Gupta for doing a great job, and he asked if they are creating the 36 positions with one admin aide at the same time. Dr. Gupta responded yes. Mr. Burtis asked if the different levels of fellows are out there, and are they going to be hard to fill. Dr. Gupta answered:

- 1 and 2 are there; prefer 2, which is masters level, need less training and integrate well; masters level from Upstate or SU, send to different departments; important help throughout several years
- Doctorate level 3 will be hard; would love to have them (independent thinkers), but not too optimistic
- Public Health Fellow 1 and 2 - have received resumes from state in past; fresh group of individuals state will send, as they provide the fellows
- If anyone on the committee knows anyone qualified, send it to Health Department, and they will send to state
- Have to go through their own process and training through Cornell Cooperative to get started, then given to Health
- May not get all 8, but good point to start; (i.e.) Center for Forensic Sciences has level 1,2,3; do not hire all at same time

Ms. Kuhn asked if the \$5 million in the grant runs out if it is not spent. Dr. Gupta replied:

- ~2 years from now; whether extension or not, will have to see; gave state budget for all these individuals based on salary proposal, and it has been approved; the rest is in a restricted fund
- If after 8 (county hires) and want to go back to state with more need, then have to have state release funds; hoping will release it; beyond 2 years, based on state, as it is direct from federal government

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

**5. SOCIAL SERVICES – ECONOMIC SECURITY:** Sarah Merrick, Commissioner  
**a. 2021 Transfer Resolution (\$768,000)** (*Sponsored by Dr. Chase*)

- First, cover 2 Case Management upgrades; over 16 years ago created electronic case management system for department; backbone - allows for efficiencies and servicing people
- Need to do upgrades for more flexibility; move staff around to fit need; often times have programmer do it, but want to do it themselves
- Second, have programmer build an employment branch of status tracking system, case management system

- JobsPlus is the vendor that handles mandated employment program – they are using an antiquated access database system; need to have it incorporated in status tracking system
- Will create efficiencies for program, as well as getting more accurate data on effectiveness in employment area; state requires a lot of monthly reports; this would make it easier to provide information to state; onetime costs

Chairman May said it was nice to have the Medicaid boost to fund what would otherwise be capital plan items. Ms. Merrick said it was a benefit of COVID. Chairman May commented that the trick is to do what is right and create a sustainable solution.

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

**6. SHERIFF: Captain Paula Pellizzari**  
**a. 2021 Transfer Resolution (\$3,958,821) (Sponsored by Mr. Olson)**

**BUDGET:**

<u>Transfer From Account</u>	<u>Amount</u>
641010 Regular Salaries	\$ 729,111
694100 All Other Expenses	\$ 13,273
694130 Maint, Utilities, Rents	\$ 201,270
661180 Medical Payment to State MMIS	\$ 2,118,681
<u>Transfer To Account</u>	<u>Amount</u>
695700 Contractual Expense	\$ 3,062,335

<u>Transfer From Account</u>	<u>Amount</u>
641010 Regular Salaries	\$ 791,598
<u>Transfer To Account</u>	<u>Amount</u>
641020 Overtime Wages	\$ 791,598

<u>Transfer From Account</u>	<u>Amount</u>
641010 Regular Salaries	\$ 104,888
<u>Transfer To Account</u>	<u>Amount</u>
641030 Other Employee Wages	\$ 104,888

- Surplus in salary line due to number of vacancies throughout year that continue to increase; request to move money from salaries line, all other expenses line, and maintenance, utilities, and rents line; along with surplus in DSS budget
- 1<sup>st</sup> - deficit in contractual expenses line caused by unanticipated expense due to change by state in April 2020
- 2020/2021 state budget, state stopped doing 50% discount for people who would have been held at Justice Center, and by court order, they were held in NYS Mental Health Facility
- Up until April 2020, state discounted bill by 50%; due to state financial issues, stopped for all counties across state
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - deficit in overtime wages caused by increase overtime due to vacancies; settled 2 contracts including OCSPA and DSBA - caused pay in retroactive overtime to members, and increased amount of overtime pay moving forward
- 3<sup>rd</sup> - other employee wages 103 (part-time employees) caused by increase in hourly wage for special patrol officers (SPO); uniform members seen in Civic Center; wage increase from \$25/hr to \$32/hr

Mr. Kinne asked why the Utilities are off \$200,000. Captain Pellizzari responded that the utilities for Jamesville came in less than expected. There were changes with Solar City and the remote net metering, and they did not anticipate the savings.

Mr. Olson thanked Captain Pellizzari for this, as well as all the men and women in the department for their service. He asked if there is an effort by the Sheriff’s Department to work with the state on getting the 50% discount back. Captain Pellizzari answered:

- Sheriff’s office and county in negotiations; it has not been implemented at this point

- Ms. Rooney mentioned last week that the courts being closed resulted in these people being held for longer periods of time, which then resulted in a higher deficit; courts now being open will help; talks statewide about the discount

Captain Pellizzari replied to Mr. Ryan that the number will go down with people not being held in those institutions as long, since the courts are open; it will reduce what is owed.

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

**7. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:** Ann Rooney, Deputy County Executive, Human Services  
**a. 2021 Transfer Resolution (\$520,000) (Sponsored by Mr. Olson)**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – fire training trailer; mobile unit that Emergency Management (EM) will coordinate; make it possible for volunteer fire departments to have onsite training; will schedule through EM; boost training capabilities
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – vehicle replacement; 2013 Tahoe and 2003 Ford pickup; part of this funded by grant funding of \$26,000
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – continuity of operations planning; EM did good job, but need to be deliberate with planning; will be for all county departments; spearheaded through EM
- 4<sup>th</sup> – occupying former Army Reserve Training Center; main building and expansive garage; \$100,000 to house EM 50, mobile command vehicle; currently housed at DOT facility; difficult for accessibility

*A motion was made by Mr. Burtis, seconded by Ms. Abbott, to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.*

**b. Authorizing FEMA Funds Appropriation for Onondaga County's COVID-19 Mandated Relief Efforts (\$2,957,412) (Sponsored by Mr. Olson)**

- Accumulate reimbursement FEMA expenses to one account; easier for process of reimbursement; seen over last 1.5 years that doing good job of getting 100% reimbursement

*A motion was made by Mr. Olson, seconded by Mr. Burtis, to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.*

**c. BOND: A Resolution Authorizing Improvements to the Army Reserve Center for use as an Emergency Operations Center in and for the County of Onondaga, New York, at a Maximum Estimated Cost of \$1,100,000, and Authorizing the Issuance of \$1,100,000 Bonds of Said County to Pay Costs Thereof (\$1,100,000) (Sponsored by Mr. Olson)**

- This is for Army Reserve building; Congressmen Katko introduced legislation on federal level that would allow county to build new Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at Electronics Parkway facility; this is county match
- Only pursue if federal funds come through
- Important to have command center at offsite location; convenient in basement of Civic Center, but in emergency effecting Syracuse, does not make sense to have EOC in basement of same building housing governmental operations
- Building has fantastic location and parking for all towns, villages, and anyone else that would have to occupy EOC
- Bonding only requested if federal funds come through

*A motion was made by Ms. Abbott, seconded by Mr. Olson, to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.*

**8. COUNTY CLERK:** Christopher Plochocki, Deputy County Clerk  
**a. Authorizing New York State Reimbursement for 2022 Expenses of the Recording Officer for the County of Onondaga for Administration of Mortgage Taxes (\$442,208)**

- Authorize state reimbursement for collection and distribution of mortgage tax; total reimbursement is \$442,208; up a

little over last year due to salaries

*A motion was made by Mr. Olson, seconded by Mr. Kinne, to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.*

## **9. FINANCE:**

### **a. Approving and Directing the Correction of Certain Errors on Tax Bills**

Mr. Kinne asked what happened with Delta Sonic (\$80,000) and Geddes Chemical (\$100,000). Ms. Togni responded that homeowners request a review of their units, which goes through WEP for verification. WEP then sends approval to the Finance Department to correct the incorrect units, and Finance makes the correction.

*A motion was made by Mr. Olson, seconded by Mr. Burtis, to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.*

### **b. Amending the 2022 County Budget to Make Surplus Room Occupancy Funding Available for use in Support of JazzFest 2022 (\$125,000) (Sponsored by Ms. Abbott)**

Ms. Abbott:

- Use and spirit of ROT for economic development and tourism; to have JazzFest back downtown to help businesses and restaurants; quality of life; festivals that provide richness to communities; great use of funds
- \$125,000 or 25% of JazzFest 2022 budget; \$10,000 set aside for Visit Syracuse to market
- Get people here for hotels to stay, generate more ROT, and drive sales tax dollars
- Partners in Syracuse Common Council have approved \$125,000 as well

Chairman May:

- Source of funds being ROT important; heard from hospitality industry over past week, when became news that JazzFest a possibility; nice symbol this summer of community coming back
- Allocate funds important to invest certain amount to ensure event is also drawing people into community
- Help make ROT more sustainable going forward; good move; JazzFest should be able to tag on to marketing

Ms. Abbott said about 35,000 people have attended in the past. Chairman May commented that Visit Syracuse believes they can make this event the centerpiece of summer entertainment from a jazz standpoint; there is a good synergy that may not have existed in the past. It is a one-shot deal to see how it goes.

*Mr. Olson made a motion to approve this item.*

Mrs. Ervin asked if they are doing this for JazzFest, what are they doing about other arts organizations that may need help. Ms. Abbott responded:

- There is a lot of ROT surplus; should be exploring and setting parameters; have done in the past
- Skaneateles Festival - \$35,000 given by county was huge; great for businesses
- Agree it is broader; should look at how to have equity in supporting arts, which drives quality of life and sales tax

Mrs. Ervin said JazzFest might be receiving money from the state, but how will it happen if JazzFest does not receive the money in time. Mr. Malfitano responded:

- Still have time to produce festival; would rather have money yesterday versus tomorrow; conversations happening with Assembly and Governor; will have answer soon; where monies will be drawn from is their decision
- Ask is in for between \$125,000 – \$250,000; if it happens, it will happen no later than April 1<sup>st</sup>
- Working closely with state officials; very supportive and want to see it happen; trying to locate source of state funding
- Size and scope of festival, and ability to draw in visitors and tourism to generate economic development, will directly correlate to money for festival; if have \$500,000 - \$650,000, will produce bigger fest
- Annual operating has been \$400,000 for 17 years; want to get to \$500,000 to be competitive with other area jazz fests
- One thing that makes competitive is big name talent and legends who come in, and festival is free of charge

- If county funding approved, will get step closer; will not stop fundraising
- Can work to scale based on state money (no matter when it comes in)
- Have to pay everybody on festival weekend; do not net 30, 60, 90; artists do not take stage without getting paid
- Would be great to get money by end of June, so they can wait for state

Mr. Ryan asked where the county ended up in ROT. Chairman May responded \$1.2 million. Mr. Morgan added:

- ROT at end of 2020 was \$1.4 mil; Legislature approved \$250,000 for Visit Syracuse and \$15,000 for Special Olympics
- Closing out 2021; extra 2% started in March of last year, projecting additional funds added; do not have final figure yet
- Commitment for 2021 on budget for ROT was \$4.8 mil; did not anticipate 2% bump in March; more surplus added
- Ended 2020 with \$1.4 mil, and peeled a little away to be at ~\$1 mil now; additional 2% is one factor; another is how many room nights; still calculating, but guess adding anywhere between \$1 mil to \$1.5 mil in 2021
- Most likely have a balance of over \$2 mil; surplus - anything brought in that was not committed to go out the door
- For discussion purposes, projecting \$2 mil at end of 2021 total

Mr. Ryan said he is hopeful as more requests (i.e. festivals) come in, that they have an open discussion about what they do to return economic development to their local communities.

Chairman May:

- This just one small example of how, due to serious fiscal restrictions on county, they are finding the county is sling-shotting forward with abundance of cash; hence proposal for an aquarium
- ROT – think it would be good to know where did the county pull back, where does the county need to be, what is left
- JazzFest comes at 11<sup>th</sup> hour and heard from community about maybe a better way, had good ideas; integrate marketing Syracuse as destination, but has not been done in focused way
- Look at future ROT investments strategically to make sure sustaining fund in positive way
- Treating JazzFest as authorized agency; do arts through CNY Arts - appropriate chunk of money to that group, who then evaluates where funds go
- There is a replacement of this resolution in front of the committee

Ms. Kuhn:

- Surplus of ROT, where arts get funded; festival is a moment, but arts are 12 months a year - museums, theater, music
- Put on the table for consideration to bump up CNY Arts; (i.e.) people go to a play, but also go to dinner or drinks
- Will help businesses impacted; CNY Arts 12 months a year

Mr. Kinne asked if they are positive it will be held downtown (heard some restaurant owners not happy it will be here), is this a commitment the county is making every year, and do they have a fairly large name act they are confident will bring in tourists. Ms. Abbott answered:

- It is a 1 year commitment; know there is intention to have it in Clinton Square
- Have not heard anything negative from restaurant owners, but know it was moved to OCC due to congestion
- Cannot speak on name acts; have to establish a budget to lure the acts

Chairman May said the budget will determine who the marquee act is, and he is sure Mr. Malfitano has acts lined up. He has proven he can get great names, including Aretha Franklin. Ms. Abbott added that she appreciates it is free, so it is accessible to everyone.

Mr. Burtis:

- Let's not forget JazzFest has long history here; others do as well and everything in air
- Hope to get back to a normal summer filled with music; get back to healthy and happy summer in CNY
- Agree being free is reason to approve this; way of creating a good situation for folks that might not be able to go to amphitheater or deal with what is there; or they might like jazz more; support this and happy with everything said

Mr. Bush:

- CNY Arts set up like clearing house, where events go to seek funding; county would help fund CNY Arts
- This seems like an end run around CNY Arts, who would analyze proposal and determine if it has economic benefits

for (i.e.) motels, restaurants

- Concerned that CNY Arts seems like it was open to anyone in community that had festival, arts or music for funding
- Not something to come to Legislature every time a group wanted to have festival or event; CNY Arts was put in charge for determining what was valid in community and worth spending taxpayer dollars

Ms. Abbott:

- Agree, but JazzFest has been gone since 2017; no one else has come forward yet; significant surplus, hopeful it will be to support arts community in other ways; festival in time crunch; JazzFest tradition for decades in community
- Do not see it as the same thing; post COVID, something exciting and accessible for people; happy to get behind

Chairman May:

- Concur with everyone here; last month restored Visit Syracuse a little bit; event today is JazzFest
- In county budget, there are authorized agencies paid directly by the county; (i.e.) the MOST, Landmark, etc.
- Other venues go through CNY Arts - county transferred authority and responsibility of spreading money through them
- This is an off-budget, one-shot deal for an event; it warrants a bigger question of what to do with ROT - invest in ways to ensure it contributes to sustainability of fund
- ROT by law it is economic development, by custom it is heads in beds; get people to travel and stay here
- Can all agree that arts should be looked at; restoring financial position in variety of areas; did with Visit Syracuse last month and should take a look at everything

***Mr. Kinne seconded the motion. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.***

## **10. COUNTY LEGISLATURE:**

### **a. Creating a Temporary Special Advisory Committee on Ethics (Sponsored by Mr. Rowley)**

Chairman May stated the sponsor requested to pull this resolution.

Chairman Rowley:

- Strong interest in ethics law passed in 1990; very well established; cognizant of legislators time
- Creating a local law, or modification, can be done quicker and more efficiently outside of committee process
- Spoke with Leader Ryan, caucus has ideas

Chairman Rowley responded to Ms. Kuhn that it will be a bipartisan discussion.

### **b. Acknowledging the Appropriation of Excess Revenues from the American Rescue Plan Act Funds for Fiscal Recovery from the United States Department of Treasury and the Settlement Payment from New York State and Authorizing the Execution of Agreements (Sponsored by Mr. Rowley)**

Chairman Rowley:

- Legal issue raised in August of last year; worked long and hard on it with County Executive and administration
- 2 pieces – letter in packet that speaks to legal issue clearly, and about what the charter says and what legislature responsibility is with appropriating money
- Major concern with pursuing this is to not set precedent that would carry over with future County Executive's
- Second part is resolution that goes back and cleans up the accounting
- Tells the Legislature how much money to be appropriated; establishes all money in first tranche of COVID relief plus worker's comp money has been duly appropriated; outlines the projects the money is being allocated to
- Some money committed, some money spent; no intention to claw back any money from organizations that received it
- County Executive and himself worked closely on this; satisfied with resolution
- All items in one form or another, can support personally

Mr. Kinne said he is disappointed, and he feels it does not go far enough. He will not be voting for it.

Chairman Rowley responded to Mr. Ryan that the \$29,225,115 has not been completely spent, and the

Comptroller can give a thorough accounting of what has been committed, what checks have gone out the door, and what they have in process for approval.

Mr. Ryan:

- Understand letter; like the letter, but have reservations in voting in favor; trying to clean it up, not claw back
- Reservations that some things may not have been fully appropriated had they come through legislative committee
- Need to move on from this; with Chairman 110%; glad letter reads as it does; wipe clean, then have remaining of first tranche, state money, and anticipation of second tranche
- Hope to have better communication going forward and more thorough vetting for legislative approval; everything that should be happening that did not before; work to see what has been paid and pending

Chairman May:

- Agree with everything; last August there was disagreement on how these appropriations were made; in response, changed budget authority to bring it back to Legislature as it was prior to COVID
- What this is, is an agreement that acknowledges the Legislature's position and County Executive's position, and agrees what has been done is done, appropriated, and that everyone is moving forward; getting back to normal
- Approving an agreement; not dollars or details, but agreement where there was previously disagreement
- Accomplishment; looking forward to moving on past situation and handling business as normally do

Ms. Kuhn said in doing this, it acknowledges it already happened, and it will not happen with the next tranche. There is nothing in here that says it was not a legal thing do, correct? Chairman May replied it is an agreement.

Mr. Burtis asked if Mr. Ryan is looking for more discussion after this, and Mr. Ryan said yes. Mr. Burtis stated this is the highest committee, and it is the correct committee for something like this to come to. This is the time to work on this, as this is a big piece of legislation. Mr. Burtis asked Mr. Ryan what is wrong with it. Mr. Ryan said \$5 million was taken out of ARPA for the CNY Arts film incentives, but the committee does not know what was spent. Chairman Rowley commented that the money is to ward production incentives to qualified film projects with the aim to stimulate the local economy, expand workforce opportunities, and increase the capacity of filming expertise.

Mr. Burtis asked what it will take, as the Chairman has done a lot of work and communicated well. What will it take to get there?

Chairman Rowley:

- To Ms. Kuhn's point, fair to say the County Executive and himself will always agree to disagree on the issue
- Will not know truly who is right or wrong unless it went to court; this avoids all of that; acknowledge county section 607 very important; County Executive acknowledges he does not want to create precedent
- Extremely important that be established, and he has done that; worked collaboratively, County Executive met more than half way; funding items self-explanatory
- Do not know nitty-gritty details of what incentives paid to film companies, but know overall arching theory behind establishing all projects; think they are fine

Chairman May:

- Have tracking mechanism that requires them to report back on how money is being spent
- More information that is accessible, should the Legislature want it; from an accounting standpoint, have more visibility going forward and will have more information of these things
- Took budget authority away last August

Chairman Rowley responded to Mr. Ryan that the second tranche is all in the budget in contingency and consists mostly of the athletic complex and broadband.

Mr. Morgan:

- County Executive put 2<sup>nd</sup> tranche in 2022 proposed budget; Legislature put those funds in contingency

- There has to be process and dialogue to get funds out and put to work; what was brought over were the specific projects including multi-sports complex, broadband, veterans, and couple others
- \$61 mil was appropriated during the year - first tranche plus settlement received to initiatives and projects
- Second tranche of ARPA stimulus was brought over in 2022 budget
- Not all of the \$61 mil has been spent

Chairman Rowley:

- \$61 mil is all contained in this resolution; Legislature passed resolutions to approve projects prior to this; this identifies those resolutions and takes a step further to say the Legislature confirms all the funds designated are appropriated
- One thing to approve project, another to appropriate the money for the project
- Resolution speaks to all - first tranche and worker's comp money; second tranche in adopted budget in contingency
- Whole enchilada is ~\$105 mil in one project account; Comptroller accounting for it; Legislature can get details

Mr. Kinne:

- Thank you for information, but problem is this was done illegally; Legislature gave away power, which should not have happened, but it did
- How can anyone justify \$1 mil for project administration; how can anyone justify Carnegie Library renovations
- Nonprofit support and mental health makes sense, but probably not enough; men's homeless shelter great thing
- Film festival – if he had a dime for every constituent that complained; quantum computing for \$1 mil - how does that help improve community; how does that help those suffering addiction problems
- Wrong from beginning, and now slap on wrist; Legislature's job to be branch of government that watches how taxpayer money is spent

Ms. Abbott:

- CNY film money literally saved restaurants and businesses where she lives - Cedarhouse Bowling Alley was shutdown and about to go under; they came in, painted, renovated, and paid the owner to film scenes there; saved it
- See all around district 6, people from out of town eating at restaurants, buying groceries, and staying at hotels
- Had couple films in district; they offered to pay school district for parking spaces and other areas; which helped school with cleaning expenses to keep open; those expenses not reimbursed by state, and county does not give schools money

Mr. Kinne said he is happy it helped in her district, but there are other restaurants and businesses suffering.

After conferring with Mr. Yaus and Mr. Frateschi, Chairman May stated the item is considered.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



JAMIE McNAMARA, Clerk  
Onondaga County Legislature

### ATTENDANCE

COMMITTEE: **WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE**

DATE: **FEBRUARY 22, 2022**

NAME (Please Print)	DEPARTMENT/AGENCY
MARTY VOSS	OCDOT
FRANK MALFITANO	SYRACUSE JAZZ FEST
Mary Beth Togni	RPTG
Paula Pellizzari	OCSO
Patricia Gonzalez	Comptroller
Michael Pellizzari	OSCA
Andrew Hill	Speakers Bureau
M. S. [unclear]	CE
Isabelle Harris	CE
Kristi Sullivan	Fin Ops
Susan Dean	Fin Ops
Dan Mulvihill	Fin Ops
Rita Yaniasca	City Arts
Stephan Butler	City Arts
Charlie Peas	City Arts
Roger Aspin	ASM Global
Ben Yaus	Law Dept
Chris Plachocki	County Clerk
Sam Merrick	Social Services
Pan Kwasnowski	SOCRA
Jessica Allen	Finance
Rachel Burkut	FINANCE
Debra Wall	FINANCE
Shirley Gantz	Health
Carl [unclear]	Personnel

Erin Murphy  
IE Office

Kevin Sexton OCT

