



Onondaga County Legislature

JAMIE McNAMARA
Clerk

JAMES J. ROWLEY
Chairman

TAMMY BARBER
Deputy Clerk

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WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE MINUTES – JULY 25, 2023 BRIAN F. MAY, CHAIR

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Burtis, Mr. Knapp, Mr. Kinne, Mrs. Ervin

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mr. Ryan, Ms. Abbott

ALSO ATTENDING: Chairman Rowley, Ms. Gunnip, Dr. Chase; also see attached

Chair May called the meeting to order at 11:36 a.m. *The minutes of the previous meeting had been distributed, and there were no objections to waiving the reading. There were no corrections to the minutes, and the minutes were approved.*

1. **SHERIFF’S OFFICE:** Chief Melissa Berlinski

a. **Amending the 2023 County Budget to Provide for the Appropriation of General Fund Balance for Providing Correctional Health and Offsite Mental Health Services at the Justice Center and Jamesville Correctional Facility (\$3,187,555)** (Sponsored by Mr. Olson)

D79 Sheriff's Office Contracts 2023	2023 Budget	2023 Estimated	2023 Est. Deficit
Neighborhood Watch	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -
Trinity Food Service	\$ 1,787,328	\$ 1,347,499	\$ (439,829)
NY CCS Correctional Health	\$ 11,530,973	\$ 12,306,864	\$ 775,891
NY CCS (Hillbrook MH Amendment)	\$ -	\$ 26,551	\$ 26,551
NYS OMH Prior Year & 2023	\$ -	\$ 2,597,508	\$ 2,597,508
NYS OPWDD Prior Year & 2023	\$ -	\$ 227,433	\$ 227,433
	\$ 13,328,301	\$ 16,515,856	\$ 3,187,555

- Discrepancy with last year’s projections for correctional health care; previous administration’s budget
- End of 2022, RFP sent out for correctional health – not happy with Proactive, previous contractor
 - Wellpath and CFG Health Systems bid
 - Went with Wellpath and new contract signed
 - Increase in cost
- Mental health & persons with disabilities – costs absorbed by Sheriff’s Department at ~\$2.5M and \$227,000
 - Usually split cost with state; state would reimburse county 50%, but state ended the program
- Total deficit of \$3,187,555

Questions/Comments from the committee:

- Mental health – not an increase in costs or experiences, but county lost reimbursement
 - Correct, that was big portion of it; some is increased costs
 - Wellpath did bid to absorb the cost and rebill county, but it would have been same bill plus admin service fee
 - County chose to take burden on instead of paying service fee on top of what already paying
- Does the county have guarantees or standards in the new contract?
 - Yes, have contract administrator – Ms. Karen Buck
 - She holds their feet to the fire and ensures everything is met
 - She assesses what is owed back, and there is penalty if they do not follow the contract

Mr. Knapp made a motion to approve this item.

- Ms. Buck has been doing this through three providers, correct?
 - Yes
- Is there any choice to do this?
- It was done last year and have no choice with additional mental health expense; also passed budget prior to new contract

Mrs. Ervin seconded the motion. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

- Half due to increased costs and half NYS
- Back to square one plus new unfunded mandate of 100% of healthcare costs

2. EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS (911): Julie Corn, Commissioner

a. Authorizing the Onondaga County Department of Emergency Communications to Accept the Gift of a 911 Center Recruitment Video (~\$8,000) (Sponsored by Mr. Olson)

- Offered recruitment video from long time vendor
- 911 centers across country struggling with hiring, county no different
- Opportunity came to county, which was done for other customers with success
- Shot footage, which was very good
- Need permission to accept this offer

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

3. DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING: Steve Morgan, Chief Fiscal Officer

a. Authorizing Execution of Intermunicipal Agreements for a Planning Grant Program with Local Municipalities (Sponsored by Mr. Burtis)

- Should have been addressed when the Legislature approved the planning grants item 2 months ago
- Failed to include authorization for the IMA with municipalities

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

4. COUNTY LEGISLATURE:

a. Calling for a Public Hearing on the 2024 County Budget (October 5, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.)

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

5. FINANCE: Don Weber, Director of Real Property Tax

a. Increasing the Income Limitation Relative to Partial Exemption from Real Property Taxes for Persons 65 years of Age and Over

- Property tax exemption for senior citizens
- Existing exemption – NYS allowed municipalities to increase income limits for first time since 2006
- Exemption same, but increases allowable limits
- Already set public hearing for this

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

b. A Local Law Amending Local Law No. 5-1998, as Amended by Local Law No. 1-2001, Local Law No. 10-2003, Local Law No. 1-2004 and Local Law No. 15-2006, to Increase the Maximum Income Eligibility Levels for the Partial Real Property Tax Exemption to Persons with Disabilities Whose Incomes are Limited by Reason of Such Disabilities

- Similar exemption, but instead of seniors, it is persons with disabilities on limited incomes
- Same thresholds and incomes allowed for property tax exemption

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

The meeting was adjourned at 11:47 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



JAMIE McNAMARA, Clerk
Onondaga County Legislature

ATTENDANCE

COMMITTEE: WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE

DATE: JULY 25, 2023

NAME (Please Print)	DEPARTMENT/AGENCY
Julie Corn	E 911
Donald Weber	Tax
Ben Yans	Law
MEUSSA BERLINSKI	OCSD
Jeremy Yano	OCSD
Jason Dean	Finance
Jim Beebe	Leg
Darcie Lesniak	Leg
John DeSantis	Leg
Tim Fratocchi	Leg
Steve Morgan	CFO
Brian Donnelly	CE
Dan Romeo	