

Onondaga County Legislature

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WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE REVIEW OF THE 2015 TENTATIVE BUDGET AUTHORIZED AGENCIES SEPTEMBER 16, 2014 DAVID H. KNAPP, CHAIRMAN

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. May, Mrs. Ervin, Mrs. Williams, Mr. Jordan, Mr. Holmquist, Mr. Kilmartin
ALSO PRESENT: Chairman McMahon, Mrs. Rapp, Dr. Chase, Mr. Plochocki and see also attached list

The meeting reconvened at 3:06 PM.

HISCOCK LEGAL AID SOCIETY – pg. 4-2, Lines A658010 / A658020: Susan Horn, President/CEO;
Suzanne Galbato, Board Chair

Ms. Horn presented the following:

Introductions: Susan R. Horn, President/CEO; Suzanne Galbato, Board Chair

*Addressing two programs that have been supported by the County for many years:
(Lines A658010 and A658020 in the Budget)*

The HLAS has been providing legal assistance through our Civil Program to individuals and families in need in our community since 1949 and has been an authorized agency of the County since the early 1950s.

We provide critically needed services to domestic violence victims, people facing homelessness due to foreclosure and eviction, to cancer patients, the unemployed and others in need. Most of our clients are working poor people with families and they live throughout our community. Last year, we served over 1,900 such clients, a continuation of the increased caseload we have seen for the past two years. Over 3,800 people were benefitted by our services. During times of economic crisis and unemployment, the need for our services increases. This year, we expect to serve well over 2,000 people in need.

Since 2004, the HLAS has been the primary provider of mandated representation to adults in Onondaga County Family Court, providing legal representation to approximately 2,000 individuals and families in such matters as custody/visitation, abuse/neglect, proceedings for orders of protection and termination of parental rights each year. As part of that program, we work closely with the Family Court Improvement Project, which is led by Judge Pirro-Bailey. We have initiated innovative programs, such as the Visit Host Program, to increase visits by parents with their children in foster care, with the goal of reducing time in foster care and re-uniting families. In addition, the Society provides representation to well over 600 people in parole violation matters, appeals and extradition cases.

In total, the HLAS serves close to 5,000 individuals and families in need in our community each year. We are grateful for your ongoing support for our Programs and services and urge you to approve the County Executive's recommendations.

Thank you.

In answer to Mr. May, Ms. Horn stated the increase of \$64,743 (**pg. 4-2 Line A658020**) was primarily made up of a small salary increase for staff and increased costs for such items as health insurance, rent, and overhead. It is a large program of over \$200,000,000; approximately 3% increase over last year. In answer to Chairman Knapp, Ms. Horn said that for many years salary increases have been limited to cost of living increases of about 3%.

Mr. Jordan said that looking at the detailed budget breakout in the course of 3 years, including next year, it looks like salaries and wages have increased 25% and asked why. Ms. Horn responded that the reason is added staff, largely the result of funding received from the NYS Offices of Indigent Legal Services. The goal is to improve the quality of services provided to mandated cases and caseload per attorney; caseloads per attorney are significantly higher than recommended. In answer to Mr. Jordan, Mr. Morgan confirmed that the increase was being funded through additional state revenues. Ms. Horn said that there were two different types of grants, a formula distribution grant through the Offices of Indigent Legal Services, which was primarily the funding that has helped them increase staff and a competitive grant opportunity that they are still working out, but is a separate issue. These increased funds come from a formula distribution to the County and go to both of their mandated providers, Hiscock Legal Aid and the Assigned Counsel program.

Mr. Jordan said that their expense and revenue statement shows state aid of \$12,000 in 2012, decreasing to \$9,400 in 2013 and it looks like that is continuing on. Ms. Horn responded that in the budget they submit, they don't itemize the money that comes from the Office of Indigent Legal Services, it passes through the County to them and is in their total budget revenue from the County on their form. The number he is referring to is a separate grant that they get directly from the Division of Criminal Justice Services. It is a very tiny grant that goes to their parole revocation program, and they are just a pass through because they contract this out to do alternatives to incarceration plans for a very small number of parole clients. Mr. Jordan said the grant funding she is speaking about would be encompassed within the County support line. Ms. Horn agreed.

Mr. Jordan said that in the same expense and revenue statement for 2014 they show almost \$60,000 in corporate and foundation funding, almost \$11,000 in individual donations, but nothing for 2015 or before and asked why they were not still soliciting for these funds. Ms. Horn responded that most of the private fundraising goes towards their Civil Legal Services program (**pg. 4-2 Line A65810**); she would have to look at both budgets to see, fundraising should be under civil, not sure which budget he is looking at. Mr. Jordan said that he was looking at the breakout book's expenses and revenues schedule, his impression was that it was an overall budget not just Civil. Ms. Horn asked if this was a form he received from the budget department as opposed to their form. Mr. Jordan responded that it came from the Finance department. Ms. Horn said that they project fundraising for 2015 and is not sure why it is not included, if it is not. If it is the Family Court budget, they don't include fundraising or foundations. **Ms. Horn said she would review the forms and perhaps provide further information.**

Ms. Horn noted for their information that Judge Hancock was a long-term member of their board of directors and a strong supporter of the Legal Aid Society. He passed away this year and left a small amount of money to them. His family also directed donations to them because Judge Hancock volunteered to work for the Hiscock Legal Aid Society into his ninety's, for the appeals program. He was an appellate judge and they have designated those funds to the appeals program. She is not sure if those funds are included in the line Mr. Jordan is looking at. Typically, private fundraising dollars go toward the civil program and wouldn't appear as revenue to the Family Court program. Ms. Horn said that she would review the forms and clarify further, if she is able to do so. Chairman McMahan said that Mr. Jordan has a top-secret book that the rest of the members don't have.

Chairman McMahan asked that Ms. Horn advise him where their funding comes from and where their budget is year to date. Ms. Horn said that all of their funds for the Family Court Appeals Parole Extradition Program (**pg. 4-2 Line A658020**) come from the County with a portion of those County dollars coming from the state and passing through them. Their contract is with the County for all of that representation. They expect to be within budget this year, always live within their means, no matter how difficult that may be. With respect to the Civil Program (**pg. 4-2 Line A658010**) the County allocation proposed this year is \$284,000, a relatively small portion

of their total Civil Legal Services budget, which is also about \$2 million dollars at this point. A significant amount of funding for the Civil Legal Services program comes from the state, in particular the Office of Court Administration, which for the last 4 years has set aside funding in their own budget for civil legal services programs throughout NYS. That is a big part of their funding, but they have multiple sources of funding for their civil program. It includes the City of Syracuse, the Emergency Solutions grant, which is part of Community Development Block grant and supports representation of people facing eviction, they are a United Way Agency and receiving funding from them, the Federal government that supports a portion of their Domestic Violence project, and funding from the interest on lawyers trust accounts. They expect to come in at budget for this program.

Ms. Galbato thanked the Legislature for their support of the agency and the fine work they do, which truly improves the lives of County residents that the agency serves, by providing high-quality legal services. They have a very active and engaged board in support of their mission and actively engage in fundraising, but need their help. They have continued this mission throughout this year, in support of the agency, especially with the Justice for All program. Many Legislators had the opportunity to attend their Justice for All presentation, and if they haven't she encourages them to do so, where they will hear from clients and the fine staff that served them, how the agency has directly affected their lives. On behalf of the board, she asked for their continued support.

ASSIGNED COUNSEL – pg. 4-2, Lines A695000 / A658030: Renee Captor, Executive Director; Sheldon Gould, Board President

Ms. Captor introduced herself and Mr. Gould. Mr. Gould said he is a practicing attorney in Onondaga County and has been on the Assigned Counsel system as a private attorney taking these cases for over 30 years. However, he didn't know the extent of the dedication and hard work of the staff until he joined the board 3 years ago. He admires the Legislature for supporting them all these years and admires the 160-170 private attorneys that represent people who need legal services throughout all the courts in this County, who might not otherwise be able to afford legal services, at rates that are anywhere from 1/3 to 1/2 of their normal rates, yet representing them with the same zeal and dedication. All of this is thankful to the County's generosity and the other sources of income they have.

Ms. Captor:

- Assigned Counsel coordinates representation of criminal defendants in all Onondaga County criminal courts
- Provides conflict representation for respondents and litigants in family court, parole matters, extradition matters and appeals
- Budget lines are split between the 2 different functions
- Past year provided representation in approximately 15k cases and processed payment on \$13k
- Staff of 5.5, administrative line low given the amount of paper processed each year
- Continue development of a self-invented online billing and information access program - ACPeep; doing major overhaul due to compatibility of different systems, keeping up with the times, grant funded by NYS, system seems to be model for NYS based on calls from other Counties wanting to look at it
- Expect to finish the year within budget, may need reallocation of lines

In answer to Mrs. Ervin, Ms. Captor said that the \$66,000 increase on the conflict line (**pg. 4-2 Line A658030**) was due to a substantial increase in the number of cases they are receiving, mainly from Family Court and to some extent the appeals. The increase is proposed to accommodate the increase in case numbers, about 18% over the prior year. She has a family court judge and a family referee in Family Court and has asked them to see what they can find out as to why this number is increasing.

Mrs. Ervin noted that they were not projecting much of an increase on the indigent defense line (**pg. 4-2 Line A695000**). Ms. Captor said that an increase is always appreciated, their numbers tend to be more static on that line. They increase every year, but not by such a substantial percentage. With respect to administrative, they do with what they have. Mrs. Ervin asked if the attorneys were still working within the numbers that they are able to pay them. Ms. Captor responded that the budget as a whole is within the budget parameters, case to case it would depend upon the case - something the looks plain vanilla can spiral out of control quickly and

something that looks complicated can end up being simple and straightforward. Mrs. Ervin said that some attorneys have complained and feel that there is not enough money in their budget in general, not that legislator's wants to give them more, but wonders how this is playing out. Ms. Captor responded that she requests more every year, the County Executive makes a recommendation, and they work with what they have. Mrs. Ervin said that they will talk further and Ms. Captor agreed.

Mr. Jordan said that he performed assigned counsel work many years ago and knows that there has been a push to go to a public defense system. He feels that some of the best trial attorneys in the County are Assigned Counsel program members, representation is not "bottle of the barrel" with an Assigned Counsel attorney. There are many outstanding attorneys, some that are the best in the County or the state, therefore it is a really good value for the money. Ms. Captor has a difficult job because attorneys always want the high rate, set at the state level. Ms. Captor responded that they are privileged to have some of the best attorneys, who wouldn't work for them on a fulltime basis, but are willing to take a couple of cases per year and judges tend to assign them the really difficult matters.

Mr. May said earlier this year, he had an opportunity to speak with Ms. Captor, learned much more about the program and was surprised by the entire process. It is well run and he was very impressed with system they are overhauling. A judge showed him how the system works right from his telephone; know where the money is going, how it is being used and that it is allocated appropriately.

Mr. May asked Ms. Captor to describe how the process works from end to end in a few sentences, adding that the system used to support this process is very complex. Ms. Captor:

- Assignment is made by the presiding judge at time of arraignment, eliminates gap between time defendant appears before the judge and actually connects with a lawyer; due to funding from competitive grant will be providing representation at a significant number of arraignments, time lapse will be even shorter
- Attorney charged with notifying Assigned Counsel of assignment, they provide financial information for the client, process it and as soon as eligibility is made it appears real-time on the ACPEeper System – attorney can see this
- Notify attorney in writing via fax; system improvement will add email component replacing fax
- If client is eligible they are good to go, if there is a question it is referred back to the presiding judge who resolves the matter in a manner he sees fit
- Upon eligibility completion attorney does great legal work and doesn't contact them until case end, attorney submits an online voucher; user friendly system, staff available anytime if people have problems or need system training, particularly reached out to older lawyers with initial implementation, provide technical assistance to them through the process; information can be entered as they go or billed at the end, backs up to server 3 different ways each day, voucher submitted electronically, attorney hits submit and it appears on Ms. Captor's desktop
- Vouchers are electronically sent to all but 8 judges - including town and village, judges not wishing to approve electronically are sent paper, judge signs off on recommended payment amount, if electronic bounces back to Ms. Captor's desktop showing approval, Ms. Captor reviews it for error, i.e. \$4k voucher approved for \$4, then marks approved for payment
- Every other Tuesday vouchers are sent to the County for all services marked ready as of noon that day, pay people on Thursday and encourage them to pick up their checks to save mailing costs

Chairman Knapp asked if this was means tested and how it works. Ms. Captor responded that they have online guidelines that are updated each year and are a function of the federal poverty line number. The numbers are made available to all participating attorneys and judges. When the financial information comes in, it is compared to that schedule. Whenever possible they try to get documented verification of things such as income and make recommendation to judge. At that point, that is all they can do. They are trying to feedback more information to the judges within the system, i.e. provide over income dollar amount. In answer to Chairman Knapp, Ms. Captor confirmed that the presiding judge makes the call.

Dr. Chase asked how they can be assured that the judge is making a decision in a fair manner and everyone is given the opportunity to participate. Ms. Captor responded that they leave this up to the judges discretion, trusting in the integrity of the local bench is their insurance.

Dr. Chase asked if they take into account support staff such as investigators during the reimbursement process. Ms. Captor responded that they do not pay what would normally look like office overhead. In terms of investigators, social workers, and any type of expert, those fees are resolved between the attorney and the judge presiding at the time; make application, outside of Assigned Counsel program, to presiding judge within statutory framework, Assigned Counsel provides the form, judge tells them if they can have it and what they can spend for it, Assigned Counsel processes the bill at the end. Dr. Chase asked if the judge decides this for the DA's office. Ms. Captor responded that she was not sure, probably not, but the DA has a fixed budget each year.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION ASSOCIATION OF ONONDAGA COUNTY – pg. 5-2, Line A659710: David Skeval, Executive Director

Mr. Skeval introduces himself, Caroline Potter, Board President, and senior staff Diana Lamson, Jessi Lyons and Kristina Ferrare. Mr. Skeval presented the following along with a visual slid show:

Cornell Cooperative Extension has been part of Onondaga County for 101 years, with the same mission. To bring research based knowledge to the people of Onondaga County for the betterment of their lives, communities and the economy. The strength of our organization is that we alter programing as the needs of Onondaga County change but still serve the same function. Cornell Cooperative Extension of Onondaga County is a subordinate government agency formed under County Law 224. It also enjoys 501c3 status.

*CCE works across multiple subjects to perform its function. Our program areas include **Agriculture, Natural Resources, Nutrition and Health, 4H and Youth Development and Home and Garden.** Within these broad program areas are **35 different projects or programs** that often combine two or more of the major disciplines.*

A sample of some of our projects and their impacts:

Youth Urban Ag Project at Kirk Park. *This project was supported by the Syracuse City Parks and takes advantage of some great growing conditions alongside a community center where children gather. The purpose of this program was to start a farming project that the kids could follow through from start to finish and include elements of soil science, plant selection and healthy fresh grown produce. This program brings together elements of our Master Gardener Program, Community Development, Agriculture, Nutrition and Youth Development. The long term impact is more people being able to produce their own food and more youth seeking careers in agriculture. This project is helping to prepare the way to 4H Youth Development in the City of Syracuse.*

Dairy Accelerator Program: *Five Onondaga County dairy farms were accepted into this State-wide program to enhance the sustainability and profitability of dairy farms. The issues covered in this program covered farm succession planning, increased milk production and environment management. The impacts of this program include increased economic impact to the county, ensuring the next generation of farmers is in place to continue our food production and keeping farmland competitive with other land uses.*

Agriculture 101 series: *With increasing demand from people wanting to become agriculture producers and the County wanting these endeavors to be successful and sustainable; CCE Onondaga began an Ag 101 series educating new ag producers in the production of beef, poultry, swine and, sheep and goats. The program has been immensely successful with all most workshops filled to capacity and requiring repeat workshops. This year's focus was on the production of protein. The series will continue to include farm equipment operation, farm business, and the production of fruits and vegetables. This program provides several impacts; the recruitment of new ag producers, the development of diverse ag production in Onondaga, finding smaller scale production to occupy smaller niche on the landscape and, steering capital into successful ventures.*

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP Ed). *Our SNAP Ed program functions to improve the nutrition and health of our citizens that struggle economically. Our program and educators are some of the best in the State. New York State has remodeled the structure of the program so it will operate on a regional basis. Onondaga County is one of eight counties in the new Southern Tier SNAP Region. CCE has*

submitted a proposal to take the lead in the Southern Tier Region. If successful, this grant would increase our SNAP program resources by a factor of 4 and double our overall budget.

Invasive Program: Most notably our work with the County, Towns and Villages in preparing for the management of dying ash trees caused by emerald ash borer. We have continued to engage the municipalities on Onondaga County and residents. We have brought together the stakeholders to bear on this challenge. This effort started four years ago and has left us better prepared than most counties in the State. So, much so that Onondaga is being held up as the best example in the State. A recent development we have responded to is the infestation of hemlock wooly adegid in the Skaneateles Lake Water Shed. CCE Onondaga has already begun work with the affected towns and campus researchers to meet this newest challenge. CCE has already applied for its first in a series of grants to deal with hemlock wooly adegid.

4H and Youth development: 4H has expanded its clubs, enrolled more youth and diversified its clubs and; is now back to 2008 levels, which we had set as our target. Partnerships with neighboring counties have proven effective and have paved the way for greater sharing across county lines. The future of Onondaga County 4H is very bright especially as we partner with City Parks and afterschool program to model our 4H to accommodate more children. 4H is more than a horse, chicken, robot, or the GPS project, it is about the public presentations, learning to work together, to organize a club...it is about developing youth into healthy, happy and productive adults.

Master Gardeners: The CCE Master Gardener program has 60 active volunteers that go through 2 years of training and then volunteer for community projects and, in turn, pass along the knowledge that they have acquired to others. The community projects include the youth farm program at Kirk Park, the South West Urban Farm, Ag in the Classroom and Ag Literacy Week. In addition to these projects, Master Gardeners are in our offices on a daily basis helping to man the Horticulture Hotline, providing gardening and landscape advice to homeowners.

Tree Stewards: Our CommuniTree Steward Program is one of our longest running programs, now in year 13. The program boasts an alumni base of 360 volunteers. Many of our volunteers have gone on to chair the Tree Commissions in their respective communities and run neighborhood park associations. A number of our Tree Steward Volunteers have developed a high skill level and have served in the effort to identify the presence of destructive invasive pests and can serve this function well into the future.

Save the Rain: We have continued with community education and planting site inventories to re-establish the forest canopy. The purpose being, to decrease storm water entering the combined sewer system. Our work has extended to training young adults to do the work of outreach, tree planting and tree maintenance. This has been accomplished through a partnership with the County, the City and the Onondaga Earth Core. The success of the training has led to the successful pursuit of an additional DEC grant to have OEC youth work to increase canopy in the Southwest Community. This expands the partnership to include SUNY ESF.

Skaneateles Lake Water Quality Program: This program serves to keep the main drinking water supply for the City Syracuse clean enough so as to avoid the necessity of a very expensive filtration plant. Our program works with residence to reduce chemical runoff, maintain septic systems and stabilize shoreline. It works with Ag producers in dealing with the business of environmental improvements. Most importantly, our program acts to identify threat on the landscape to the watershed and to bring municipalities, landowners, agencies and science to bear on the issue. The latest example of threats to the watershed being hemlock wool adegid, Asian clam and feral swine.

Our Strengths:

- Good at creating long lasting impacts
- Good at recruiting and maintaining volunteers – 240 active volunteers equivalent to 6 fulltime staff
- Good at multiplying dollars through grants and contracts – County funds projected to be 15% of their budget, expanded to cover over 50% of their budget with grants, contracts and NYS benefits

- *The benefit of New York State benefits.*
- *Communicating with and pulling together agencies and intuitions – i.e. Soil and Water, recently had 1 of the greatest ag outreach events in recent history largely thanks to Soil and Water*
- *Strong partnership with other agencies and not-for-profits*

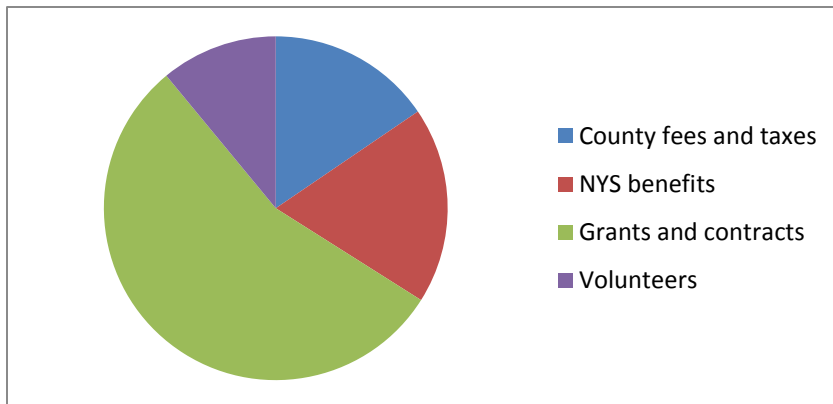
The Numbers

Direct Contacts (face to face engagement): 18,999
Indirect (radio, TV and articles): 443,600
Trees planted: 1,800
Embryology project 300 urban and rural youth
Ag Literacy 800 youth

Our request to the County Legislature:
 \$186,979 in appropriations (an increase in \$20,000).

CCE 2015 Budget Plan

County fees and taxes	\$	403,979	15%
NYS benefits	\$	482,000	18%
Grants and contracts	\$	1,435,552	55%
Volunteers	\$	286,500	11%
	\$	2,608,031	



The purpose of this request is to increase support to our 4H Youth Development Program.

Mr. Skeval said that he was informed, just prior to coming into the presentation, that their request for additional funding for the 4H program was not supported by the County Executive. He has conveyed the value and hopes that others can see the value, possibly working together after this session to find a way to come up with the funding, to stabilize and expand what they are doing for the 4H youth programming.

Mrs. Rapp questioned what they wanted to do with the \$20,000 increase that was not supported in their budget. Mr. Skeval reiterated that he just found out the increase was not supported. There are a couple of things, largely this was being applied to the 4H Youth Development program. It would be a combination of adding to material support, increasing a job classification to make the program run more efficiently and getting additional help. In answer to Mrs. Rapp, Mr. Skeval confirmed that there would be a partial hire.

Mr. Plochocki said that he has enjoyed being a member of the CCE board and wishes he had more time to commit to it, than he already has. It has been a great learning experience and he has been impressed by all of the staff, how hard they work and just how much CCE does. From experience, he can say they are to be commended. Returning 4H to 2008 levels is something the Legislature can really see and point to. 4H is a big

program in many communities and the things CCE has done to stabilize and rebuild the program have definitely been noticed and he understands why they have asked for the funds requested.

Mr. Plochocki said in an apples to apples comparison, Onondaga County supports CCE less than other counties.

Mr. Skeval:

- Across Upstate NY counties with large urban centers, i.e. Monroe and Erie County, lack support of CCE, poorer rural counties have larger support
- Guesses there is a disconnect between agriculture, the rural community, and suburban communities; big part of the reason they have worked to build a relationship between suburban people and where they get their food
- Most people are 2-3 generations removed from the farm, ability to relate to where food comes from becomes more distant
- Sees many positive things happening in our urban environment, people seem to love agriculture and farming in the urban environment, credits work done at Kirk Park and the urban farm with bridging the gap between the consumer and producer of large quantities of food
- Need to realize how big our agriculture economy is, in contrast to counties that have less but do more to support CCE - Onondaga County is 10th in dairy production in NYS and 12th overall when combining dairy, poultry, and field crops with an economic impact of \$300 million per year, placing agriculture in the top 3 or 4 industries for Onondaga County; should be paying attention to this, last census shows slippage in dairy numbers; Dairy Accelerator program addresses needs like this

Mr. Plochocki thanked Mr. Skeval, adding that he believes they have made a good case.

Mr. May agreed that the significance of agriculture cannot be underestimated in this County. Earlier in this session there was discussion on the number of farms applying for farmland preservation grants. This is a big indicator, there were more than 20 farms thinking they are going to stay in business or build houses. If shovels go in the ground to build houses the land will never be in agriculture again. It changes the cultural fabric of the community and our economy, it is a one shot deal. This is important. He has had the opportunity to hang out with 4H kids at some of the events they have put together and appreciates the invitations. Through the budget process, he hopes they are able to support 4H more than they have.

Chairman Knapp asked that they highlight how the numbers breakdown for full disclosure, there is direct support and some money from WEP. Mr. Skeval said there was about \$142,000 from WEP. Mrs. Stanczyk said the number was \$141,979. In answer to Chairman McMahon, Mr. Skeval said that WEP funds can be spent the same way as direct support, the difference is that WEP funds are through contract; must write a report and send an invoice. By in large, most WEP funds are spent on Environmental programming. WEP has allowed them to put in line items for agriculture; haven't done anything for youth development yet. It is always good to have flexibility so that if a grant comes in during the year, there is a way to flex money in and out to accommodate it.

ONONDAGA COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT – pg. 5-2, Line A659720: Mark Burger, Executive Director; Craig Dennis, Vice Chairman; F. Spencer Givens, III, Board of Directors Chair; Daniel Hammer, Management Analyst

Mr. Burger presented the following:

Thank you for having us here today. I am Mark Burger, Executive Director of the District, and with me Craig Dennis, Vice Chairman and Chairman of the Board of Directors, F. Spencer Givens, III, also Daniel Hammer, budget analyst.

2014 was a very productive and diversifying year for the District. Here is a list of projects our highly qualified staff did for the County:

-For Office of the Environment, we:

- marked out and oversaw the cutting of 500 high-risk ash trees*
- assisted with the installation and monitoring of purple prism detection devices for EAB*
- Completed 450 MS4 outfall inspections for WEP*

- Seeded 3 work sites for County Parks
- Submitted two farmland protection grants on behalf of SOCPA and the Agricultural Council to permanently keep 525 ac. of prime farm land in agricultural production
- Responded with Health Department to investigate two manure runoff complaints and potential residential well contaminations
- Hydroseeded 45+ miles of road ditch for DOT
- We are hosting a Technical Large Animal Emergency Rescue class for Office of Emergency Management in October
- Provided boat support for Health Department to test water in Seneca River after the chemical treatment of water chestnut; and aquatic mapping of Otisco Lake

As you can see, the District was very busy providing critical support roles to 7 County departments.

Our highly qualified staff also:

- Worked with the 250 farms in Onondaga County. We planned, surveyed, designed, built, and funded **\$810,000** worth of non-point source pollution prevention practices on farms
- This money has supported **50** local companies with the purchase of goods and services on these projects
- Secured \$982,000 in **NEW** grant funding to continue the pollution prevention work on farms in 2015 (this is very important since Congressman Walsh's grant funding has expired)
- So, for every \$1 you invest in the District, we have returned \$8 worth of structural pollution prevention projects on the ground to your local farmers**
- Hosted and secured a \$137,000 grant for Onondaga Environmental Institute. This will produce a wetland management plan to address sediment and nutrient pollution in Onondaga Creek and Lake
- Provided 130 hours of technical assistance to residents in the community
- We are proud to report that over the last couple of years, we have also been able to reduce operating costs by ~ \$40,000 by making many organizational changes

The District operates a \$2 million annual budget. It is a challenge as much of our revenue depends on competing for "soft" grant money. Therefore, we are grateful for the opportunity to provide services for a fee to the County on the Stormwater Management program and the EAB project. It is this funding that is a necessity for the District to maintain financial stability in 2015!

The County Board of Supervisors created this District in 1944. We hope that in this short summary, you have seen the value and benefits that the District provides to the County.

Thank you for your time. I am happy to answer your questions and take your comments.

Mr. Burger:

- Packet (**on file with Clerk**) contains before and after pictures of this year's projects, letter from grateful farmer for support provided and annual operating budget as proposed for 2015
- Proud to note award winning farms, 2 farms in past 5 years won the NYS Conservation Farm of the Year award
- Partnered with CCE and Farm Bureau to host successful day on the farm for residents and neighbors

Chairman Knapp said that over 400 people attended the event at Smith's Tre-G Farm in Pompey, including Dr. Chase. It was great fun, and they have had much success with local farms receiving statewide awards.

Chairman Knapp said that similar to CCE there are two funding sources from the County and asked for a quick breakdown. Mr. Burger responded that they have a \$37,500 cash appropriation from the Legislature and a \$37,500 special project for phosphorus reduction based on agriculture in the sewershed with WEP and WEP also has a \$45,000 cash appropriation. This year they received \$120,000 in base funding from Onondaga County to run their \$2,000,000 operation. In answer to Chairman Knapp, Mr. Burger confirmed that the funds were used to leverage a lot of money. NYS grants for \$982,000 would not have happened without the financial

support of the legislature, WEP and the agricultural councils; a huge multiplier in terms of funds received, able to turn over and put back out to the landscape for conservation practices. Mr. Dennis pointed out that the \$120,000 given by the Legislature picks up where the grants leave off, grants pay to put the projects on the ground but don't cover accounting, secretarial work or insurance. The funds the Legislature provides are put to good use.

Chairman Knapp said that Soil and Water has a team certified in the inoculation procedure for the emerald ash borer and will be able to assist the County with this process at a much lower cost than hiring outside. In answer to Chairman Knapp, Mr. Burger said that they have 3 NYS certified pesticide applicators and are ready to help. They just finished a 250 tree project for the Town of Dewitt, focusing on the park that surrounds their municipal building. Chairman Knapp said this was excellent, they are not only helping the County but the towns also. Mr. Burger responded that they are just like CCE, they take their programming out the communities in both the Skaneateles watershed and across Onondaga County.

ONONDAGA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION – pg. 3-36, Line A659560: Gregg Tripoli, Executive Director

Mr. Tripoli:

- Excellent year for OHA, each of the past 6 years have reached new levels of membership, attendance and outreach
- Expanded economic development with products they develop for their store and other retail stores; began new program last year partnering with for-profit retail manufacturers, able to combine outreach and bring Onondaga history to other parts of our country – showing how Onondaga County has contributed to our national identity and increasing market share for retail products
- Displayed wholesale catalog from large NYC retail manufacturer, 4 pages of the catalog contained products developed using OHA collections; Baltimore top 10 products of the summer selected one of OHA's products - helps bring Onondaga County story to larger audience, offers economic development engaging industries and entrepreneurs while earning revenue for OHA
- Repurposing St. Marie for the Skä-noñh – Great Law of Peace Center (the Center), finished first 2 phases, now finishing the design phase, hired King & King and Exhibits and More, construction budget based on development within the existing envelope; additional request for OHA funding through Facilities department, County owned facility

In answer to Chairman Knapp, Mr. Tripoli said the Facilities appropriation was for \$100,000. Mr. Fisher explained that this can be found in the surplus ROT resolution included in the side pocket of the budget. The contract would be with Facilities Management, which would oversee the spending of the funds as this remains County property. It is not in the main budget as the funds are being taken out of surplus room tax. In answer to Mrs. Rapp, Chairman McMahon said that the funds are from an existing surplus account and asked Mr. Morgan how much was in the account. Mr. Morgan responded that there was between \$300,000 and \$350,000. The resolution also includes \$50,000 for the Landmark.

Mr. Plochocki asked Mr. Tripoli to repeat some of what he stated at last week's Planning and Economic Development Committee, specifically with regard to matching funds for the museum. Mr. Tripoli:

- 1st 2 phases cost \$400k - \$450k, County appropriated \$150k
- Redevelopment budget for the Center \$500k, low amount for creation of a new museum
- Required to provide 1 to 1 match, went considerably beyond, held awareness raising events including Wooden Stick Lacrosse Expo at Onondaga Lake Park and drew several thousand, academic events drew standing room only crowds
- 1 local history story they hope to tell at the Center is much larger than our local area:
 - Over 1000 years ago this land was occupied by various Native American nations at war with each other throughout most of NYS
 - Across Onondaga Lake the peacemaker with Hiawatha came to bring the warring nations together, explaining 1 nation like 1 arrow can easily be broken but when you bundle 5 arrows together it is impossible to break them, convinced them to combine and form a greater confederacy; Confederacy became the most formidable enemy on the continent prior to European arrival, it's spiritual and central core was on Onondaga Lake where the nations came together
 - Nations uprooted a tree, literally buried their hatchets, planted a tree of peace, peacemaker put eagle on the top of tree for vigilance of the peace - this imagery became important to our founding fathers

- Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson used this argument to convince 13 independent colonies who did not want to come together that it would be in their best interest to do so; influence in the formation of our country and government has been formally recognized by the US government since 1987
- When creating our national emblem wanted to incorporate Native American imagery into the emblem, settled on imagery that can be seen on a dollar bill - eagle with 13 arrows in talon representing the 13 original colonies, imagery and national emblem came directly from Onondaga Lake
- This is a story most people who live here don't know and has major implications; our country was the 1st representative democracy in the west, as well as the 1st United Nations
- Story is emblematic of the stories they want to tell at the Center to increase pride in who we are, educate people about the contributions made to our country and global studies

Mr. Holmquist said this was a cool story and Chairman Knapp agreed.

Mr. May asked Mr. Tripli to talk about the \$100,000 request. Mr. Tripli responded that the first two phases were about bringing the project together, creating the partners, developing the design, determining what the story was going to be, how it would fit into the space, how it would relate, and creating a business plan for sustainability. Now they are ready to begin Phase III, which is the final phase, construction of the new museum facility within the existing envelope of the visiting center known as St. Marie among the Iroquois - construction fixed costs.

Mr. May noted that the funds may be coming from surplus ROT. Mr. Tripli agreed. Mr. May said that OHA has a healthy reserve and asked if it was earmarked or planned for something. Mr. Tripli responded that the reserve is a safety net. Many arts and cultural organization build endowments and they draw interest from the reserve for operating expenses. In comparison to the size of their organization the reserve is very small, but is still a great thing to have. Over time they have consistently grown the reserve and hope to build it to a point where the organization will be self-sustaining.

In answer to Mr. May, Mr. Tripli said their annual operating budget was about \$1 million.

In answer to Chairman McMahon, Mr. Tripli said that the Center is a County owned facility that they manage under a license agreement that began on January 1, 2013.

Mrs. Rapp asked if Facilities would be doing some of the improvements. Mr. Fisher responded that if it is more economical to use in-house personnel they will, but Mr. Tripli has obtained pricing information based on the idea that the work would be done by general or subcontractors that aren't County. The County would probably have more of a construction management role, insuring that the work being done meets County standards and codes, and possibly saving on management construction costs. Mr. Tripli said that they are always looking for ways to save and would be open to the idea. As it is, OHA is almost general contracting the project itself; buying kitchen appliances, having them delivered and so on. The majority of the construction budget comes from the actual exhibit structure, which would probably not be applicable to a general contractor or Facilities, but there are some things that may be; thinks this is a great idea. Mrs. Rapp added that the funds are coming out of Facilities budget.

CNY ARTS – pg. 3-3 Line A659410: Stephen Butler, Executive Director, Catherine Gerard, CNY Arts Board President and Director of the Program for the Advancement of Research on Conflict and Collaboration at Syracuse's University's Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs; Carol Sweet, President of the Arts and Culture Leadership Alliance

Mr. Butler presented the following:

Thank you for providing this time for CNY Arts to speak about our budget request of \$1,171,514 in support of arts and culture organizations throughout Onondaga County. Today I am joined by Catherine Gerard, CNY Arts Board President and Director of the Program for the Advancement of Research on Conflict and Collaboration at Syracuse's University's Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, and Carol Sweet, President of the Arts and Cultural Leadership Alliance (ACLA). Ms. Sweet is here to answer any questions you may have concerning the request from the Alliance to continue

funding for arts and culture through CNY Arts. Ms. Gerard is here to answer any questions you have about the board's role in fiscal oversight.

CNY Arts' mission is to promote, support, and celebrate arts and culture by providing services and programs to benefit individuals, organizations, and the general public. To that end, CNY Arts offers substantial re-granting programs through contracts with government and private agencies. With our current contracts, by the year end, we will have distributed over \$1.1 million in regrants in Onondaga County, including the County's funding for arts. This year's budget request is a portion of the same percentage that has been recommended by the County Executive for the past several years for art, culture, and heritage groups; CNY Arts believes this allocation will contribute to Onondaga County's economic development efforts and respectfully asks for your support.

In the past several years, we have discussed the research of Dr. Ron Wright at Le Moyne College's Department of Business Analytics on the impressive economic impact and jobs created through arts, culture, and heritage organizations. The Economic Impact of the Arts Study concluded that local arts and culture organizations (based on data from 2010) put direct expenditures of over \$33,875,000 back into the economy while generating an additional \$99,000,000 in patron spending additional to ticket purchases – these are important dollars that help to promote the County's agenda including generating room occupancy tax, sales tax, and creating jobs. Tax revenue generated from government support was estimated in the study as a \$12 return for every dollar granted. The arts and culture industry creates over 1800 jobs and helps to support an additional 3,300 jobs through audience spending. As we determined for 2013-14, with the help of the Syracuse Convention and Visitors Bureau (SCVB), a zip code analysis of the arts and culture groups funded with county dollars demonstrates that 24.6% of attendees are from out of town. The out of town guests spend new dollars in our local economy on food, gas, and parking – sales tax generators – and on average includes 6.5% of these visitors that are overnight guests, who also help to generate room tax revenues. Again, these figures are in keeping with the Economic Impact study as well as the Syracuse Marketing analysis study provided to the SCVB that shows that 26.8% of our overnight guests visit, in part, for arts and culture events.

In early 2014, CNY Arts completed a six county regional assessment, ENGAGE, about arts and entertainment that reinforces how highly valued arts and culture are valued in Central New York. Out of 7200 regional responses to our public opinion survey, over 2700 of these came from Onondaga residents and an impressive 88% expressed their support and interest in arts and culture offerings. When asked the open ended question "What type of leisure-time activities do you particularly enjoy?" regional respondents told us Live Music (1st), Theater or Musicals (3rd), Movies and Film (4th) were all in their Top Four most enjoyable activities along with Hunting, Camping, and Fishing (2nd) and that the majority of residents are attending events 4 to 9 times each year with 74% purchasing tickets to live performances. However, our arts and culture organizations are more than an important economic driver for the County; they provide crucial community services to children and families and quality arts experiences. From the funded arts groups' two quarterly reports submitted to CNY Arts to date, we know that these organizations have already provided over 1960 events and shows, served over 69,212 youth and children, and provided over 48,815 free admissions to ensure access for the arts including the general public as well as underserved populations.

Some highlights include:

- *The MOST continues to bring in large audiences with 52,921 visitors in the first two quarters. Over 14,000 of those came from outside Onondaga County. The MOST was also awarded an Economic Development Grant to present Dinomania, which expects to bring in an additional 30,000 patrons in the 3rd and 4th quarters.*
- *Syracuse Stage presented The Glass Menagerie by Tennessee Williams, attended by over 7500 individuals.*
- *Symphonia launched their first complete season in 2013-14 with 58 musical performances. In the first two quarters of 2014 alone, these symphonies attracted an audience of over 9600 individuals to their events.*

Additionally, through the creation by the County Legislature of the Economic Development Fund, we have already learned that Light Work's Urban Cinematheque at the Everson Museum was attended by 1500 individuals, double the attendance of the same event last year. By combining Economic Development funds with the specific marketing recommendations from our expert panel, we hope to see significant results in the other Economic Development projects by the end of the year.

These are examples of the organizations that CNY Arts has taken on the responsibility of funding for the County at their request through ACLA and in partnership with the County. We have worked successfully with the arts community to create appropriate guidelines, applications, funding formulas, and a panel process for project support. Together these policies and procedures meet the critical review standards necessary to safeguard county dollars while providing a transparent system of grants-making and delivery to funded organizations. In this system, CNY Arts joins the over 2,500 local arts agencies across the country that deliver municipal arts funding to nonprofits.

In addition to re-granting, CNY Arts provides joint marketing, education, and opportunities to increase audiences through our partnership with local foundations and the SCVB including our calendar and directory, just one year old, is now generating 4,166 unique visitors monthly and 71.5% of those are new visitors. Data from the calendar will feed two different kiosk projects, one managed by the SCVB at locations throughout the county, the other initiated by the Connective Corridor. Both will encourage residents and out of town guests to partake in arts and culture offerings.

CNY Arts offers community based programs including: the annual On My Own Time exhibit in partnership with the business community and the Everson Museum which received a Private Sector Initiative Commendation in recognition of Exemplary Community Service from President Ronald Reagan, and the Michael Harms Theater Festival that provides performance, workshops and scholarships and is attended by over 200 high school students annually. In December, CNY Arts will premiere Dasher's Magical Gift, a new arts education ballet that will be presented to over 6000 students and families in the Civic Center's Crouse Hinds Theater. These programs represent just some of CNY Arts' services to our County's residents.

In 2015, CNY Arts will continue to work with the SCVB to expand the use and availability of our free collaborative social marketing system. We have launched a mobile web app to allow access to arts event information for users on the move, and have a suite of feature enhancements in the pipeline to improve ease of use. Our goal with this marketing system is to increase the earned revenue of local arts agencies by increasing access to arts event information. We will pursue that goal regionally through our work with the New York State Council on the Arts and the Central New York Regional Economic Development Council Arts and Tourism sub-committee. CNY Arts will also continue to host public forums and workshops to engage constituents and stakeholders, while meeting their needs to develop best practices and enhance the state of the arts. Using the results from ENGAGE, with the guidance of a nationally recognized consultant, CNY Arts has developed a ten-year cultural plan. In 2014-15 we will take the first steps in executing this plan.

CNY Arts is grateful for Onondaga County's past support and looks forward to continuing our long-term relationship. County support helps leverage supplemental resources from individuals, foundations, and corporations and helps ensure that our programs can continue and grow. Again, my thanks to the Chair and the Ways and Means Committee for giving us this opportunity to speak.

Mrs. Ervin asked the process for a new agency wishing to receive funding, Mr. Butler:

- CNY Arts website <http://cnyarts.org> contains grant systems and online application
- Can apply to NYS Decentralization Program and Onondaga County Project Support Program –specifically designed for new agencies or agencies who have not traditionally received County funding
- Constantly work with ACLA to ensure new or agencies they have not heard about before are aware of these opportunities
- Have a public relations consultant and publish press releases for each grant cycle in the newspaper, news letter sent to 5k through social marketing system, another 4-5k people signed up for information they send out, also work with a number of list serves, i.e. ACLA and IDEAS
- Grant applications increased 25% last year from previous year, were able to fund most applications with additional dollars

In answer to Mr. Plochocki, Mr. Butler confirmed that Mike Intaglietta is the Director of Operations. Mr. Plochocki noted that he had all his questions answered by Mr. Intaglietta, at a recent fundraiser for Baltimore Woods.

Chairman McMahan said that he appreciates the partnership. Over the last two years significant gains have been made through collaborative efforts, the Symphony being one. Without the collaborative efforts of many

people in the room, he doesn't believe there would a symphony. Second, the systematic and structural changes made to funding really meet the function of ROT dollars, with organizations becoming less dependent on an operating subsidy via Economic Development grants. Hopefully, this a model they will implement with other funding sources so that these organizations are making money from events, which draws people from outside of the community, instead of the old traditional model where organizations get their money each year, become lazy and lack innovation. The way in which CNY Arts has been funded for the past two years has been highly effective and part of the reason why our ROT dollar percentage continued to grow.

Chairman McMahan said he believes the Legislature will again fund the arts using the model similar to the past two years, noting that this is not the way it looks in the budget now. Mr. Butler said this was fantastic and they would totally agree with that. He thinks that arts groups are learning about economic development, and what really goes into that, as opposed to a simple allocation.

Ms. Sweet thanked the Legislature on behalf of the arts and cultural community.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



KATHERINE M. FRENCH, Deputy Clerk
Onondaga County Legislature

ATTENDANCE

COMMITTEE: 2015 BUDGET REVIEW OF PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

DATE: September 16, 2014

NAME	DEPARTMENT/AGENCY
PLEASE PRINT	
David Skend	CCE Onondago
Diana Lamson	" "
Kristina Forester	CCE Onondago
Cashin Potter	CCE Onondago
Jessi Lyons	" "
Steve Butler	CNY Arts
Carol Sweet	ACSA
MARK Burger	On Cdy SWCD
SPENCER Givens	" BOD
Craig Dennis	" BOD

ATTENDANCE

COMMITTEE: 2015 BUDGET REVIEW OF PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

DATE: September 16, 2014

NAME	DEPARTMENT/AGENCY
PLEASE PRINT	
Jim Mahoney	County Leg.
SUSAN HORN	Weslock Regd Aid
James Samell	Weslock Regd Aid