



# Onondaga County Legislature

**DEBORAH L. MATURO**  
Clerk

**J. RYAN McMAHON, II**  
Chairman

**KATHERINE FRENCH**  
Deputy Clerk

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## WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FINAL REVIEW OF 2015 BUDGET – MINUTES September 30, 2014 DAVID KNAPP, CHAIRMAN

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mr. Jordan, Mr. Holmquist, Mr. May, Ms. Williams, Mrs. Ervin, Mr. Kilmartin  
**ALSO PRESENT:** Chairman McMahon, Mrs. Rapp, Mr. Ryan, Dr. Chase

Chairman Knapp called the meeting to order at 11:55 a.m.

**DECREASE      INCREASE**

### 1) 01 - AUTHORIZED AGENCIES – FINANCIAL

#### APPROPRIATIONS:

Decrease A659410 CNY Arts (formerly CRC) (50,000)  
Increase A659450 Syracuse Area Landmark Theater 50,000

Decrease A659410 CNY Arts (formerly CRC) (275,000)  
Increase A666500 Contingent Account 275,000  
(NOTE: *Symphoria*)

Increase A659980 Syracuse Jazzfest 75,000

Decrease A659870 Leadership Greater Syracuse (15,000)

Increase Appropriations 60,000

#### REVENUES:

Increase A590005 Non Real Prop Tax Items 75,000

Increase Revenues 75,000

**Net Local Share (\$15,000)**

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

### 2) 02 - AUTHORIZED AGENCIES HUMAN SERVICES

#### APPROPRIATIONS:

Decrease A658010 Hiscock Leg Aid Bur - Civil (8,275)

Decrease A658020 Hiscock Leg Aid Bur/Fam/Par/Ap	(64,743)
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Decrease Rec. Appropriations	(73,018)
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<b>Net Local Share</b>	<b>(\$73,018)</b>
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*A motion was made by Mr. Kilmartin, seconded by Mr. Jordan, to approve this item. AYES: 5 (Knapp, Jordon, Kilmartin, Holmquist, May); NOES: 1 (Ervin); ABSTENTIONS: 1 (Williams). MOTION CARRIED.*

**3) 03 - AUTHORIZED AGENCIES  
PHYSICAL SERVICES**

APPROPRIATIONS:

Increase A659710 Cooperative Extension Assn (NOTE: 4H Program)	20,000
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Increase Rec. Appropriations	20,000
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<b>Net Local Share</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>
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*A motion was made by Mr. Kilmartin, seconded by Mr. Jordan, to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.*

**4) 05-10 - FACILITIES MANAGEMENT**

APPROPRIATIONS:

Create 1 Grounds Supervisor, Gr. 11 (51,144 - 56,605)

Decrease A693000 Supplies & Materials	(25,000)
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Decrease A694100 All Other Expenses	(105,440)
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Decrease A674600 Prov for Cap Projects, Capital	(100,000)
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Decrease Rec. Appropriations	(230,440)
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REVENUES:

Decrease A590060 Interdepartmental Revenue	(220,070)
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Decrease Rec. Revenues	(220,070)
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<b>Net Local Share</b>	<b>(\$10,370)</b>
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*A motion was made by Mr. Kilmartin, seconded by Mr. Jordan, to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.*

**5) 15 - CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENT**

**APPROPRIATIONS:**

Abolish Line 18, 23 Correction Officer, Gr. 8  
(40,985 - 45,316)

Decrease A674600 Prov for Cap Projects, Capital (100,000)

Decrease A694950 Interdepartmental Charges (IT) (87,116)

Decrease Rec. Appropriations (187,116)

**Net Local Share (\$187,116)**

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

**6) 23-65-15 - COUNTY GENERAL OTHER ITEMS**

**APPROPRIATIONS:**

Decrease A695700 Contractual Expenses Non-Govt (25,000)

Decrease A695700 Contractual Expenses Non-Govt (585,000)

Increase A666500 Contingent Account 350,000  
(NOTE: CVB)

Decrease A668720 Transfer to Grant Expenditures (500,000)

Increase A666500 Contingent Account 500,000  
(NOTE: Landbank)

Decrease Rec. Appropriations (260,000)

**REVENUES:**

Decrease A590005 Non Real Prop Tax Items (260,000)

Decrease Rec. Revenues (260,000)

**Net Local Share \$0**

*A motion was made by Mr. Kilmartin, seconded by Mr. Jordan, to approve this item. AYES: 5 (Knapp, Jordan, May, Holmquist, Kilmartin); NOES: 1 (Ervin); ABSTENTIONS: 1 (Williams). MOTION CARRIED.*

**7) 23-65-18 - ONCENTER REVENUE FUND**

**APPROPRIATIONS:**

Decrease A694950 Interdepartmental Chgs (Facilities) (220,070)

Decrease Rec. Appropriations (220,070)

**REVENUES:**

Decrease A590005 Non Real Prop Tax Items	(220,070)
Decrease Rec. Revenues	(220,070)

**Net Local Share** **\$0**

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

**8) 25 - COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

**APPROPRIATIONS:**

Increase A666500 Contingent Account (NOTE: Tourism Incentive)	235,000
Increase A666500 Contingent Account (NOTE: Tourism Incentive)	25,000
Increase A666500 Contingent Account (NOTE: Tourism Incentive)	35,000
Increase A666500 Contingent Account (NOTE: Onondaga County Volunteer Firemen’s Association)	15,000
Increase Rec. Appropriations	310,000

**REVENUES:**

Increase A590005 Non Real Prop Tax Items	295,000
Increase Rec. Revenues	295,000

**Net Local Share** **\$15,000**

*A motion was made by Mr. Kilmartin, seconded by Mr. Jordan, to approve this item. AYES: 6; NOES: 0; ABSTENTIONS: 1 (Williams). MOTION CARRIED.*

**9) 27 - INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

**APPROPRIATIONS:**

Decrease A693000 Supplies & Materials	(175,000)
Abolish Line 11, 1 Applic Proj Lead, Gr. 34 (68,786 - 91,187)	
Create Line 11, 1 Applic Proj Lead, Gr. 35 (75,402 - 99,958)	
Abolish Line 6, 1 Data Proc Bus Manag, Gr. 31 (52,250 - 69,266)	

Abolish Line 17, 2 Programmer 2, Gr. 12  
 (54,463 - 60,293)  
 Abolish Line 19, 1 Network Coordinator, Gr. 10  
 (47,843 - 52,937)  
 Abolish Line 21, 1 Programmer Trainee, Gr. 8  
 (40,985 - 45,316)  
 Abolish Line 44, 1 Office Auto Analyst, Gr. 14  
 (66,719 -73,910)  
 Abolish Line 53, 2 Comp Equip Mtce Spec, Gr. 07  
 (37,685 - 41,650)

Decrease A694080 Professional Svcs (440,000)  
 Increase A666500 Contingent Account 440,000

Decrease A692150 Furn, Furnishings & Equip (170,000)  
 Increase A666500 Contingent Account 170,000

Decrease Rec. Appropriations (175,000)

**REVENUES:**

Decrease A590060 Interdepartmental Revenue (160,475)

Decrease Rec. Revenues (160,475)

**Net Local Share ( \$14,525)**

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

**10) 31 - DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

**APPROPRIATIONS:**

Decrease A671500 Automotive Equipment (22,194)

Decrease Rec. Appropriations (22,194)

**Net Local Share ( \$22,194)**

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

**11) 33 - WATER ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION**

**APPROPRIATIONS:**

Decrease A641020 Overtime Wages (200,000)

Decrease A644180 Prov for Sal & Wage/Ben Adj (340,316)

Decrease A694080 Professional Svcs (77,500)

Increase A666500 Contingent Account 77,500

(NOTE: Stormwater Permit Compliance)

Increase A694100 All Other Expenses 22,500  
(NOTE: Soil & Water)

Decrease A671500 Automotive Equipment (116,000)

Decrease Rec. Appropriations (633,816)

**REVENUES:**

Decrease A590039 Co Svc Rev - D&S (1,133,816)

Increase A590083 Appropriated Fund Balance 500,000

Decrease Rec. Revenues (633,816)

**Net Local Share \$0**

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

Chairman Knapp noted that this reduction decreases the sewer unit charge by \$6.27 -- \$22.34 new rate.

**12) 38 - EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

**APPROPRIATIONS:**

Decrease A641010 Total-Total Salaries (16,246)

Decrease A691200 Employee Ben-Inter (9,461)

Create Line 2, 1 Comm of Emer Mgt, Gr. 35  
(75,402 - 99,958)

Abolish Line 1, 1 Comm of Emer Mgt, Gr. 37  
(90,629 - 120,144)

Decrease A693000 Supplies & Materials (1,700)

Decrease A641020 Overtime Wages (500)

Decrease Rec. Appropriations (27,907)

**REVENUES:**

Decrease A590012 Fed Aid - Public Safety (13,954)

Decrease Rec. Revenues (13,954)

**Net Local Share (\$13,953)**

***A motion was made by Mr. Kilmartin, seconded by Mr. Jordan, to approve this item. AYES: 6; NOES: 1 (Ervin). MOTION CARRIED.***

**13) 39 - FINANCE DEPARTMENT****APPROPRIATIONS:**

Abolish Line 38, 1 Account Clerk 3, Gr. 8 (40,985 - 45,316)

Abolish Line 39, 3 Account Clerk 2, Gr. 7 (37,685 - 41,650)

**Net Local Share****\$0*****A motion was made by Mr. Kilmartin, seconded by Mr. Jordan, to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.*****14) 43-50 - HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
PUBLIC HEALTH****APPROPRIATIONS:**

Abolish Line 39, 1 Phlebotomist, Gr. 4 (30,108 - 33,232)

Abolish Line 53, 1 PH Educator, Gr. 9 (44,522 - 49,246)

Abolish Line 90, 1 Outreach Worker, Gr. 4  
(30,108 - 33,232)

Decrease A694010 Travel/Training (10,000)

Decrease Rec. Appropriations (10,000)

**Net Local Share****(\$10,000)*****A motion was made by Mr. Kilmartin, seconded by Mr. Jordan, to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.*****15) 47 - LAW DEPARTMENT****APPROPRIATIONS:**

Abolish Line 14, 1 Admin Assistant, Gr. 9 (44,522 - 49,246)

**Net Local Share****\$0*****A motion was made by Mr. Kilmartin, seconded by Mr. Jordan, to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.*****16) 57 - METROPOLITAN WATER BOARD****APPROPRIATIONS:**Abolish Line 24, 1 Water Plt Lab Tech, Gr. 8  
(40,985 - 45,316)Abolish Line 26, 1 Water Plt Oper 1A, Gr. 8  
(40,985 - 45,316)Abolish Line 27, 2 Water Plt Oper 1B, Gr. 8  
(40,985 - 45,316)

Decrease A644180 Prov for Sal & Wage/Ben Adj	(10,546)
Decrease A694130 Maint, Utilities, Rents	(250,000)
Decrease A692150 Furn, Furnishings & Equip	(127,678)
Decrease A674600 Prov for Cap Projects, Capital	(170,721)
Decrease Rec. Appropriations	(558,945)

**REVENUES:**

Decrease A590038 Co Svc Rev - Home & Comm Svc	(558,945)
Decrease Rec. Revenues	(558,945)

**Net Local Share****\$0**

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

Chairman Knapp noted that the change decreases the increase in the water rate to \$.05 from \$.13, which was proposed.

**17) 65 - ONONDAGA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
(OCPL)**

**APPROPRIATIONS:**

Increase A695700 Contractual Expense (NOTE: Computers for Tully Free Library)	5,000
Increase A695700 Contractual Expense (NOTE: Computers for Lafayette Library)	5,000
Decrease A674600 Prov for Cap Projects, Capital	(30,000)
Increase A666500 Contingent Account (NOTE: Prov. For Capital)	30,000
Increase Rec. Appropriations	10,000

**REVENUES:**

Increase A590070 Inter Trans - Non Debt Svc	10,000
Increase Rec. Revenues	10,000

**Net Local Share****\$0**

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



**18) 69 - PARKS & RECREATION****APPROPRIATIONS:**

Abolish Line 61, 1 Mtce Carpenter, Gr. 7  
(37,685 - 41,650)

Create 3 Information Aide, Gr. 2 (27,491 - 30,323)

Increase A641020 Overtime Wages 10,000

Decrease A695700 Contractual Expenses (75,000)  
(NOTE: Jazzfest)

Decrease A671500 Automotive Equipment (53,000)  
(NOTE: Eliminate 2 Kubota and 1 Ford Interceptor)

Decrease A674600 Prov for Cap Projects, Capital (75,000)

Decrease Rec. Appropriations (193,000)

**REVENUES:**

Increase A590037 Co Svc Rev - Culture & Rec 25,000

Increase A590057 Other Misc Revenues 40,000  
(NOTE: Logging Revenue)

Increase Rec. Revenues 65,000

**Net Local Share (\$258,000)**

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

**19) 69-30 - PARKS & RECREATION  
GRANTS BUDGET****APPROPRIATIONS:**

Decrease A694080 Professional Svcs (35,000)

Decrease Rec. Appropriations (35,000)

**REVENUES:**

Decrease A590005 Non Real Prop Tax Items (35,000)

Decrease Rec. Revenues (35,000)

**Net Local Share \$0**

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

**20) 71 - PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT**

**APPROPRIATIONS:**

Abolish Line 18, 1 Typist 1, Gr. 3 (28,620 - 31,579)

Decrease A694080 Professional Svcs (15,000)

Decrease Rec. Appropriations (15,000)

**Net Local Share (\$15,000)**

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

**21) 73 - PROBATION DEPARTMENT**

**APPROPRIATIONS:**

Increase A641020 Overtime Wages 25,000

Create Executive Secretary, Gr. 26 (39,745 - 52,688)

Decrease A695700 Contractual Expenses Non-Govt (25,000)

Increase A666500 Contingent Account 25,000

(NOTE: Bail Expediter Program)

Increase Rec. Appropriations 25,000

**Net Local Share \$25,000**

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

**22) 75 - PURCHASE DIVISION**

**APPROPRIATIONS:**

Decrease A641010 Total-Total Salaries (133,351)

Decrease A691200 Employee Ben-Inter (75,343)

Abolish Line 11, 1 Buyer 2, Gr. 11 (51,144 - 56,605)

Abolish Line 12, 1 Buyer 1, Gr. 9 (44,522 - 49,246)

Abolish Line 13, 1 Purch Contr Clerk, Gr. 7

(37,685 - 41,650)

Increase A666500 Contingent Account 80,040

(NOTE: 1 Buyer 2, Gr. 11 (51,144 - 56,605))

Increase A666500 Contingent Account 69,677

(NOTE: 1 Buyer 1, Gr. 9 (44,522 - 49,246))

Increase A666500 Contingent Account 58,977  
 (NOTE: 1 Purch Contr Clerk, Gr. 7 (37,685 - 41,650))

Decrease A694130 Maint, Utilities, Rents (1,000)

Decrease A694100 All Other Expenses (4,500)

Decrease Rec. Appropriations (5,500)

**Net Local Share (\$5,500)**

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

**23) 79 - SHERIFF  
 SHERIFF - POLICE/CIVIL & CUSTODY**

**APPROPRIATIONS:**

Decrease A641020 Overtime Wages (2,408,323)  
 Increase A666500 Contingent Account 2,250,000  
 (NOTE: Overtime )

Decrease A693000 Supplies & Materials (750,000)  
 Increase A666500 Contingent Account 750,000  
 (NOTE: Supplies & Materials)

Decrease A671500 Automotive Equipment (754,788)  
 Increase A666500 Contingent Account 754,788  
 (NOTE: Automotive Equipment)

Decrease Rec. Appropriations (158,323)

**Net Local Share (\$158,323)**

***A motion was made by Mr. Kilmartin, seconded by Mr. Jordan, to approve this item. AYES: 5 (Knapp, Jordan, Kilmartin, Holmquist, May); NOES: 0; ABSTENTIONS: 2 (Ervin, Williams). MOTION CARRIED.***

**24) 81 - DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES  
 ECONOMIC SECURITY**

**APPROPRIATIONS:**

Abolish Line 18, 3 Personnel Aide, Gr. 6 (35,070 - 38,745)  
 Abolish Line 29, 3 Inc Mtce Spec, Gr. 9 (44,522 - 49,246)  
 Abolish Line 31, 3 Inc Mtce Wkr, Gr. 7 (37,685 - 41,650)

Abolish Line 49, 1 Clerk 1, Gr. 2 (27,491 - 30,323)

**Net Local Share** **\$0**

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

**25) 82 - DEPARTMENT OF ADULT AND LONG TERM CARE SERVICES**

**APPROPRIATIONS:**

Abolish Line 10, 2 Caseworker, Gr. 9 (44,522 - 49,246)  
 Abolish Line 15, 1 Sr. Caseworker, Gr. 10 (47,843 - 52,937)  
 Abolish Line 16, 1 Caseworker, Gr. 9 (44,522 - 49,246)  
 Abolish Line 17, 1 Clerk 2, Gr. 5 (32,313 - 35,681)

**Net Local Share** **\$0**

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

**26) 83 - DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES**

**APPROPRIATIONS:**

Abolish Line 22, 1 Admin Anal (Soc Svs), Gr. 11 (51,144 - 56,605)  
 Abolish Line 32, 2 Clerk 2, Gr. 5 (32,313 - 35,681)

**Net Local Share** **\$0**

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

**27) 87 - SYRACUSE/ONONDAGA COUNTY PLANNING AGENCY (SOCPA)**

**APPROPRIATIONS:**

Decrease A641010 Total-Total Salaries	(102,288)
Decrease A691200 Employee Ben-Inter	(57,793)
Abolish Line 18, 1 GIS Specialist, Gr. 11 (51,144 - 56,605)	
Abolish Line 19, 1 Research Tech 2, Gr. 11 (51,144 - 56,605)	
Decrease A694010 Travel/Training	(13,500)
Increase A666500 Contingent Account	13,500
<i>(Note: Travel/Training)</i>	
Decrease Rec. Appropriations	(160,081)

**Net Local Share** **(\$160,081)**

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

**28) 93-10 - DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
COUNTY MAINTENANCE OF ROADS**

**APPROPRIATIONS:**

Decrease A694950 Interdepartmental Charges (IT) (73,359)

Decrease Rec. Appropriations (73,359)

**REVENUES:**

Decrease A590070 Inter Trans - Non Debt Svc (73,359)

Decrease Rec. Revenues (73,359)

**Net Local Share** **\$0**

*A motion was made by Mr. Kilmartin, seconded by Mr. Jordan, to approve this item. AYES: 5; NOES: 0; ABSTENTIONS: 1 (Williams). MOTION CARRIED.*

**29) 93-20 - DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
ROAD MACHINERY FUND**

**APPROPRIATIONS:**

Decrease A671500 Automotive Equipment (225,000)

Decrease Rec. Appropriations (225,000)

**REVENUES:**

Decrease A590070 Inter Trans - Non Debt Svc (225,000)

Decrease Rec. Revenues (225,000)

**Net Local Share** **\$0**

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

**30) 23-85  
INTERFUND TRANSFERS/CONTRIBUTIONS  
(GENERAL FUND)**

**APPROPRIATIONS:**

Decrease A668710 Tran to Rd Mach Fund (225,000)

Decrease A668700 Tran to County Road Fund (73,359)

Increase A668780 Tran to Library Fund 10,000

Decrease Rec. Appropriations (\$288,359)

**Net Local Share (\$288,359)**

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

### 31) 23-75 - COUNTYWIDE TAXES

#### REVENUES:

Decrease A590001 Real Prop Tax - Co Wide (1,000,000)

Decrease A590083 Appropriated Fund Balance (171,439)

Decrease Rec. Revenues (1,171,439)

**Net Local Share (\$1,171,439)**

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

Chairman Knapp stated that the total decreases the levy is \$1 million. The decrease in use of fund balance is \$171,439, and the reduction the overall county tax levy to \$5.13/\$100,000, a 1.91% decrease.

*A motion was made by Mr. Kilmartin, seconded by Mr. Jordan to approve the Ways and Means Committee Report as a whole. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.*

Chairman Knapp stated for the record that the budget resolution has been presented for consideration by the Committee as a whole. Additionally, the following resolutions and local law were considered:

#### **RESOLUTIONS:**

1. Adopting the Annual Budget for the County of Onondaga for the Fiscal Year Beginning January 1, 205 and Ending December 31, 2015 and Authorizing the County Executive to Enter into Contract with Other Governmental Units in Which Appropriations and Revenues are Approved by Adoption of the 2015 Budget (Sponsored by Mr. McMahan)
2. Revising the Policy that Directs General Fund Accumulated Fund Balance in Excess of 10 Percent of General Fund Revenues to Debt Management and Reduction and to Prevent Fluctuations in the Real Property Tax Levy, and Amending Resolution No. 270-1999, as Amended (Sponsored by Mr. McMahan)
3. Revising the Manner of Holding Public Hearings in Connection with Considering Recommended Schedules of Rates to be Charged for Water and Water Service by the Onondaga County Water District, and Amending Resolution No. 174-1966 (Sponsored by Mr. McMahan)
4. Providing For Various Personnel Changes Related to the Adoption of the 2015 County Budget (Sponsored by Mr. McMahan)
5. Authorizing the County Executive to Enter into an Agreement with the State of New York for Snow and Ice Control on State Highways for the 2014-2015 Season (Sponsored by Mr. McMahan)
6. Authorizing the Execution of Agreements for Work to be Performed on the Bridge Street/Milton Avenue Streetscape Revitalization Project (Sponsored by Mr. McMahan)

#### **LOCAL LAWS:**

- a. A Local Law Relating to Certain Fees Collected by the Onondaga County Health Department Center for Forensic Sciences for Medical Examiner and Forensic Laboratory Services, and Further Amending Local Law No. 13-2006, as Previously Amended by Local Law Nos. 23-2008, 20-2009, 10-2011, and 9-2012 (Sponsored by Mr. McMahan)

Mrs. Ervin said that she voted against some things and abstained on some things because she feels strongly that too much is being put into contingency with this budget. It is not the legislature's job to do the job of the folks that need to do the job. Right now she is feeling uncomfortable that we are taking a lot of things that are not within our purview.

Mr. Kilmartin said that some of the efforts that the Republican Caucus made during the process were to try to place some items in contingency--whereby, during the remainder of this year and through next year, the legislature can review some of those items much more closely. Engage and work more closely with department heads and assistant department heads on the deployment of some of the projects that are held in contingency. It is a notice to the folks involved that they need to report back to the legislature, so that items can be scrutinized a little more closely and hopefully improve on them during the year.

Chairman McMahon said that the contingency accounts were used in the 2014 budget for the Sheriff's Department. In 2013 the Sheriff was piercing his budget by over \$2.5 million and the same thing occurred in 2012. Remarkably, then the sheriff was put to task -- holding his dollars in contingency, coming to Public Safety Committee each month, and the story has completely changed. The narrative is completely different. The legislature understands more how dollars are being used, and the Sheriff's Department will come in close to their budget line. If they come in over, it is because of costs out of their control at the jail. To go away from a proven method that is working, isn't responsible. Other areas of the use of the contingency account are areas where we are investing in ourselves – playing offense with CVB. We want to better understand what we are doing with the dollars. With the transparency issues, the contingency account is utilized. It is absolutely appropriate. The legislature's main job is budget and policy. By setting the budget, it doesn't mean that the legislature is done on this day--we are responsible for the decisions we have made. If there is even a little bit of people being uncomfortable with some of the different programs going on, it is important to keep funds in contingency because it gives a second bite at the apple. There was a proven track record of success in 2014's budget. Hopefully, 2015 will have the same success. Going forward, if people are living within their budgets, then the tool may not be needed.

Chairman Knapp noted it creates a lot more work for the legislature, and the committees in particular, by doing this. It is not something that is done on a whim or taken lightly. It increases the work load on the staff as well. It is one of the necessary evils, but has been effective.

Mr. May said that the way we are working together and starting to cooperate and collaborate on some of these issues, can't be measured. From the perspective of chairing the Public Safety Committee, it is working. We are starting to see results – working very well together with good, open lines of communication. It is tedious and time consuming; we have to be very careful in this process that the right things aren't held up with things put into contingency. He feels the results are proving that we are working together. Chairman Knapp said that it forces communication.

Mrs. Ervin understands that it was necessary with the Sheriff's Department, and working together is important, but this is now expanding it way beyond that and feels we are going in the wrong direction.

Chairman Knapp noted the budget public hearing is Thursday, October 9, at 7:00 p.m. in the Chamber.

Chairman Knapp thanked the entire legislative staff for the amount of hours put into the budget process. He thanked Mr. Morgan and his team, the County Executive's office, and the Comptroller's office.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



DEBORAH L. MATURO, Clerk  
Onondaga County Legislature