



Inclusion Through Diversity

Marcia E. Lynch, Public Information Officer
607-274-5555, Office
607-227-2152, Cell
October 2, 2013
TWO PAGES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Third Night of Budget Review Includes Human Services Discussion

Legislators acting as an Expanded Budget Committee, in their third night of review of County Administrator Joe Mareane's recommended 2014 County Budget, heard seven more presentations from County departments and agencies.

Presenting tonight were the Airport, Board of Elections, and Solid Waste Management Division, along with Cooperative Extension, the Human Services Coalition and Coalition community agencies, and Tompkins County Area Development.

Most presenters had either no over-target requests as part of their proposed budgets, or requests that were recommended all or in part by the Administrator.

For the Human Services Coalition, the Administrator included in his budget more than \$45,000 in over-target spending to support Coalition operations, capacity-building workshops for non-profits, and maintenance-of-effort funding for the 2-1-1 help service to replace lost state funding and local funding through the United Way. He did not, however, recommend \$5,000 requested as a match for private and City contributions to support administration of the local Continuum of Care program addressing homelessness.

For community agencies funded through the Human Services Coalition several requested OTRs were not recommended as part of the budget, but Administrator Mareane supported a new approach--\$25,000 in one-time funding to underwrite a Human Services Coalition Agency Reserve Fund, to enable the Coalition to address such requests, and other emerging needs throughout the year, through its internal review process without requiring legislative approval. (The Administrator declined to include in the budget requested over-target funding for four programs—\$6,206 for Neighborhood Legal Services; more than \$18,000 (split between target and one-time funding) for Southside Community Center; \$7,500 in one-time funding for the Samaritan Center; and \$5,000 in one-time funding for local food pantries.)

For Cooperative Extension, three over-target requests are recommended in the Administrator's budget— one that would provide a cost-of-living adjustment for staff to partially restore pay reductions over the past four years, recommended at about half of the over \$18,000 requested.

Tompkins County Area Development would receive \$218,000 in support under the recommended budget--\$68,000 in target funding and \$150,000 from local room tax reserves, in line with a workgroup recommendation that the County fund approximately one-third of TCAD's budget, in part through room tax, through 2018. TCAD president Michael Stamm thanked the County for its significant commitment to support TCAD, and told Legislators the agency has embarked on a capital campaign as part of achieving a balanced revenue model. He said the agency is confident about the approach going forward, and is actively leveraging the County's commitment to generate commitments from the private sector.

The next Expanded Budget Committee session will take place October 8. All Expanded Budget sessions begin at 5:30 p.m. at Legislature Chambers in the Governor Daniel D. Tompkins Building, 121 E. Court Street (Second Floor).

The 2014 Recommended Budget, with total expenditures of \$170.2 million and local dollar spending of \$81.6 million recommends a 3.54% rise in the tax levy and would increase County property taxes by \$21 for the owner of an average \$163,000 home.

The 2014 Recommended Budget and other budget information are available for review at the budget page of the County web site at www.tompkins-co.org. (Click on “County Budget” to be redirected to the budget page, or use this direct link: <http://tompkinscountyny.gov/ctyadmin/Budget/index>.)

Contact: James Dennis, Chair, Budget, Capital, and Personnel Committee, 387-4058; County Administrator Joe Mareane, 274-5551.

- END -