

Budget and Capital Committee
April 14, 2008

APPROVED 4-28-08

**Budget and Capital Committee
April 14, 2008
3:30 p.m.
Scott Heyman Conference Room**

Present: N. Shinagawa, M. Hattery, P. Mackesey, J. Dennis
Excused: K. Herrera
Staff: S. Whicher, N. Jayne, M. Lynch, County Administration; D. Squires, Finance; L. Holmes, Office for the Aging, B. Grinnell-Crosby, Health Department; M. Pottorff, Legislature Office
Guests: K. Schlather, Human Services Coalition

Call to Order

Mr. Shinagawa called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

Changes to the Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda

Approval of Minutes

It was MOVED by Mr. Dennis, seconded by Ms. Mackesey, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to approve the minutes of March 24, 2008 as corrected. MINUTES APPROVED.

Chair's Report

Mr. Shinagawa had no report.

Finance Director's Report

Mr. Squires distributed a Contingent Fund report dated April 14, 2008 showing a balance of \$787,601. He reported on sales tax receipts for the first quarter and said he is confident the County will end up with a good result. The auditors are concluding their third week and should be concluding their work soon. He noted the County experienced a good year in 2007 in terms of fiscal stability with year-to-year comparisons of various accounts. The only area of concern in the General Fund is because federal and state income went up in DSS at a faster rate than expenses, when it is usually near the exact proportion. Mr. Squires also reported on the General Fund and said a total balance decline of \$1 million was expected, however, the balance only went down by \$200,000.

Report from the County Administrator

Mr. Whicher distributed copies of a letter he received from CIO-OFT (New York State Chief Information Officer – New York State Office of Technology). The letter commends Tompkins County public safety leaders for their foresightedness and for requiring that County infrastructure be constructed to CIO/OFT Statewide Wireless Network (SWN) standards which sets the stage for co-locating public safety infrastructure to the benefit of the County, SWN, and

other public safety stakeholders. The letter also states CIO/OFT's willingness to partner with Tompkins County and a commitment to finalizing an agreement.

Mr. Whicher also reported he is working with the Board of Elections on storage of the 52 new voting machines. He does not think the County can store these machines in the Old Library because of leaks in the roof in that building. It would cost \$25,000-\$40,000 per month to pay rental expenses on a facility or the County could choose to construct a building on the Bostwick Road site. He said this was discussed by the Government Operations Committee and they directed staff to proceed with exploring construction of a building. He said plans will be brought forward for preliminary approval; he noted this would require a modification to the Capital Program.

Mr. Whicher reported Jail boardouts are running close to what they were in 2007, but noted there is a higher number of females incarcerated than usual.

Report from the Public Information Officer

Ms. Lynch had no report.

RESOLUTION NO. – APPROPRIATION FROM CONTINGENT FUND FOR GREEN FLEET PURCHASES

It was MOVED by Ms. Mackesey, seconded by Mr. Dennis, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to approve the following resolution and submit to the full Legislature.

WHEREAS, the 2008 Budget includes \$50,000 in the Contingent Fund for the purpose of supporting the marginal cost of the purchase of "green" vehicles that would reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and

WHEREAS, the Green Fleet subcommittee of the County's Sustainability Committee developed a procedure for reviewing applications for use of this fund, and the procedure was reviewed and approved by the Government Operations Committee, and

WHEREAS, the Green Fleet subcommittee reviewed and analyzed three proposals submitted for use of the funds in accordance with that procedure, and

WHEREAS, two proposals are being recommended by the Green Fleet subcommittee and the County Administrator for funding at this time, and

WHEREAS, additional applications may be made throughout the remainder of the year and will be evaluated by the Green Fleet subcommittee and the County Administrator in the same manner as those submitted to date, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Health and Human Services and the Budget and Capital Committees, That the amount of \$8,542 be appropriated from the Contingent Fund to allow the purchase of two hybrid vehicles by the Health Department,

RESOLVED, further, That the Director of Finance be directed to make the following budget adjustments:

<u>Revenue Acct</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Approp Acct</u>	<u>Title</u>
1990.52231	Contingent Fund - Vehicles	\$4271	4016.52231	Vehicles
1990.52231	Contingent Fund - Vehicles	\$4271	4090.52231	Vehicles
4095.43401	PH State Aid	\$2403	4016.52231	Vehicles
4095.43401	PH State Aid	\$2403	4090.52231	Vehicles

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

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Discussion – Retreat

Ms. Jayne walked the Committee through the proposed format and agenda for the April 29 Legislature budget retreat. In addition to providing a refresher on terminology used in the information, she also provided an explanation of the assumptions used to producing the figures that will be presented. A very preliminary estimate of a projected tax levy increase was reported to be approximately 12 percent. A significant contributor to the shortfall is due to revenue losses as a result of the recently adopted State Budget. There is also a potential loss of federal and state funds in the highway and workforce development areas.

Mr. Hattery requested that one of the scenarios presented at the retreat be at zero percent. The Committee agreed scenarios developed will be at 0%, 3%, 6%, and 12%.

Mr. Hattery said the County needs to have a public information plan/press release to let the public know what the County will be dealing with in putting together its budget as a result State budget. One-third to one-half of the shortfall the County is looking at is being generated by reductions in State aid and shifts from the federal government to County government.

Ms. Jayne reviewed and explained numbers contained in the General Revenue summary. Mr. Dennis asked how much is spent annually on Jail boardouts/overcrowding. Mr. Squires responded between \$500,000-\$600,000; it was noted this amount is solely to pay boarding costs, and not staffing or associated costs.

Mr. Squires reported interest rates have declined by approximately 50 percent; this will represent approximately \$400,000 in a loss of revenue to the County. This was noted as one example of how figures in the document are tentative and are constantly changing as new information becomes available. Mr. Whicher suggested the Legislature also have a presentation and review the Capital Plan at the retreat.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Michelle Pottorff, TC Legislature Office