

ACTION SUMMARY
Expanded Budget and Capital Committee #4
September 23, 2008
3:30 p.m.
Legislative Chambers

APPROVED

Present: 10 Legislators Chock; Kiefer; Proto; Robertson; Shinagawa; Koplinka-Loehr (arrived at 3:45 p.m.); Sigler (arrived at 3:54 p.m.); Mackesey (arrived at 3:55 p.m.); Hattery (arrived at 5:34 p.m.); Burbank (arrived at 5:55 p.m.)

Excused: 5 (Legislators Dennis, Herrera, McBean-Clairborne, Randall, and Stevenson)

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Shinagawa at 3:42 p.m. (5 members present).

Ms. Jayne distributed a draft memorandum for Legislators to review and comment on prior to sending it to Department Heads concerning questions posed and informal criteria used by Legislators for determining funding priorities. Mr. Shinagawa commented that the Legislature would be agreeing to sending out the memorandum, not the list of questions. He also recognized the list does not reflect the views of the entire Legislature.

Mr. Koplinka-Loehr arrived at this time (6 members present).

Human Services Coalition and Agencies

Ms. Schlather, Executive Director, reviewed the 2009 budget requests for the Coalition and the agencies. The Human Services Coalition has 3.8 full-time in Human Services Planning, 1.0 in the Health Planning Council, and 1.0 in Information and Referral. She noted that many agencies have experienced cuts from New York State and more are to come.

Mr. Sigler arrived at this time (7 members present).

Ms. Mackesey arrived at this time (8 members present).

OAR (Opportunities, Alternatives and Resources)

Ms. Schlather provided an overview of the 2009 budget submission. Ms. Dietrich answered specific questions.

Office for the Aging

Ms. Holmes, Director, gave an overview of the Department's 2009 budget requests. *Ms. Robertson and Ms. Kiefer requested that an over-target request be prepared for consideration that addresses the cuts by the State; Ms. Jayne commented that one is being prepared.*

Youth Services

Ms. Zahler, Director, provided an overview of 2009 budget submission by the Department, including OTR Nos. 28-32. *Ms. Robertson requested additional information concerning the program referenced in over-target request 30 (Anger management and crisis services to divert youth from court and foster care).*

Recess

A recess was held at 5:18 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 5:27 p.m. Mr. Shinagawa was excused at 5:18 p.m. (7 members present).

Resolution – Probation and Community Justice

It was MOVED by Ms. Kiefer, seconded by Ms. Robertson, and unanimously adopted by voice vote, to approve and submit the following resolution to the full Legislature for approval:

RESOLUTION NO. – APPROPRIATION FROM CONTINGENT FUND – TERMINAL-PAY REIMBURSEMENT – DEPARTMENT OF PROBATION AND COMMUNITY JUSTICE

WHEREAS, the Department of Probation and Community Justice had its Director retire effective July 25, 2008, and

WHEREAS, the Fiscal Policy of Tompkins County allows for terminal-pay reimbursement to the Department from the Contingent Fund, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Public Safety and Budget and Capital Committees, That the Director of Finance is hereby authorized and directed to make the following budget appropriation for 2008:

FROM:	A1990.54400	Contingent Fund	\$7,888
TO:	A3140.51000238	Probation Director	\$5,716
	A3140.58800	Fringes	\$2,172

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

* * * * *

Resolutions – OAR

It was MOVED by Ms. Robertson, seconded by Ms. Kiefer, to approve and submit the following resolution to the full Legislature for approval.

Mr. Hattery arrived at this time (8 members present).

Following discussion a voice vote resulted as follows: Ayes – 5 (Chock, Kiefer, Koplinka-Loehr, Mackesey, and Robertson); Noes – 3 (Hattery, Proto, and Sigler). RESOLUTION CARRIED.

RESOLUTION NO. – APPROPRIATION FROM CONTINGENT FUND – EXPANDED TRANSITION PROGRAM (RE-ENTRY INITIATIVE) – OPPORTUNITIES, ALTERNATIVES AND RESOURCES (OAR)

WHEREAS, OAR’s work in assisting clients with transitioning back into the community has always been a part of OAR’s mission but has increased substantially over the past two years in a cooperative effort with County agencies and other non-profits, and

WHEREAS, Opportunities, Alternatives and Resources (OAR) services has expanded from jail visitation to include a wide range of support and advocacy services for former and current prisoners, as well as for their families and friends, and

WHEREAS, OAR has participated in the re-entry process for 17 individuals and using lessons learned through this collaboration, has expanded its intensive transition work to serve an additional 28 clients since January, 2008, and

Action Summary
Expanded Budget and Capital Committee
September 23, 2008

WHEREAS, \$35,000 was earmarked in the 2008 Contingent Fund for OAR's work in assisting inmates of the Tompkins County Jail who are returning to the community, and

WHEREAS, OAR proposes using these funds for programming to continue expanding the number of clients assisted in transitioning into the community, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Public Safety and the Budget and Capital Committees, That the Director of Finance be authorized to make the following budget appropriation:

FROM: A1990.54400 Contingent Fund	\$30,000
(targeted for Re-entry Initiative)	
TO: A6316.54400 Program Expense	\$30,000

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

* * * * *

EXPLANATION:

Proposal to Use 2008 Contingency Fund for Expanded Transition Program

Opportunities, Alternatives and Resources (OAR) of Tompkins County requests \$30,000 OF THE \$35,000 earmarked by the Tompkins County Legislature in the 2008 contingency fund for OAR's work in assisting inmates of the Tompkins County Jail who are returning to the community.

OAR operates with a core staff of five paid employees and a number of volunteer drivers and interns. Our mandate has expanded from jail visitation to include a wide range of support and advocacy services for former and current prisoners, as well as for their families and friends. Our work in assisting clients with transitioning back into the community has always been a part of OAR's mission but has increased substantially over the past two years in a cooperative effort with county agencies and other non-profits. As part of the Interagency Reentry Program led by Jail Coordinator Jeff Potter and Community Coordinator Casey Monahan (DSS), OAR has participated in the reentry process for 17 individuals. Using the lessons learned through this collaboration, OAR has also expanded our own intensive transition work to serve an additional 28 clients since January of this year.

In 2007, OAR substantially increased the number of service units delivered in a variety of areas, and so far this year we have been successful in our efforts to further increase the number of clients served and the number of applications filed for a range of public assistance. These applications included Section 8 housing applications, Emergency Housing applications and DSS and Medicaid applications. In 2007, OAR assisted 4 clients with Social Security applications, 48 clients with Section 8, intervened to maintain housing for 74 clients, helped 4 clients make application to rehabilitation programs and 5 clients with referrals to assisted and supportive living situations. So far this year, OAR has assisted 167 clients with filing for assigned counsel, 18 clients with Section 8 applications, over 30 clients with DSS applications, 657 clients with Drop-In Center and office assistance, and met 1,503 requests for writing supplies and translation services. In addition, OAR has already bailed 51 individuals in 2008 and is on track to exceed last year's numbers.

OAR proposes using \$30,000 earmarked in the 2008 County contingency fund for programming to continue expanding the number of clients assisted in transitioning back into the community. We have found that a relatively small pool of money can have far reaching impacts on our clients' success in reentry. Staff time is the critical element in OAR's ability to provide effective support to our transitioning clients. At present OAR is fully staffed with 5 FTEs including 3 Client Service Workers cross-trained in all aspects of OAR's services. The rollover of unspent 2007 funds allowed us to achieve this increased level and quality of staffing and thus enabled us to expand the number of bail loans made this year, as well as the number of clients more intensively assisted with their transition back into the community. Through July of this year, OAR has assisted 28 individuals who are not currently served by the Interagency Reentry Program with their return to the community. These individuals require intensive assistance to make a smooth transition back into the community after incarceration, especially in the areas

of housing, employment and counseling, which have been identified by our clients and OAR staff as significant unmet needs.

With the increased number of clients served, costs have increased in a number of key areas: transportation, office supplies and, most crucially, staff time. We have been able to maintain full staffing thus far in 2008 due to unspent 2007 funds, but reductions in staff time may become necessary later this fall. The granting of our \$30,000 contingency request would allow OAR to maintain full staffing and continue to expand the number of clients served through the end of this year and into 2009.

BUDGET FOR TRANSITION SERVICES CONTINGENCY REQUEST

Performance Measure	Annual Goal	1st half of 2008	Amount
Increase housing intervention and application assistance for those transitioning back into the community	20	10	\$10,500
Increase the number of client referrals for counseling and employment	10	4	\$2,000
Increase number of clients receiving DSS benefits to assist in transition	28	12	\$13,000
Staff time to process increased bail numbers	85	51	\$4,500
TOTAL	64	26	\$30,000

It was MOVED by Mr. Proto, seconded by Ms. Kiefer, to approve and submit the following resolution to the full Legislature for approval.

Following discussion a voice vote resulted as follows: Ayes – 6 (Chock, Kiefer, Koplinka-Loehr, Mackesey, Proto, and Robertson); Noes – 2 (Hattery and Sigler). RESOLUTION CARRIED.

RESOLUTION NO. - APPROPRIATION FROM CONTINGENT FUND – BAIL FUND PROGRAM – OPPORTUNITIES, ALTERNATIVES AND RESOURCES (OAR)

WHEREAS, Opportunities, Alternatives and Resources (OAR), through its Bail Fund program, makes bail accessible for low-income individuals when available funds are the only barrier to release from the Tompkins County Jail pending trial, and

WHEREAS, additional funding is needed at this time to continue to increase the number of bails provided, and

WHEREAS, \$10,000 was earmarked for jail overcrowding by the Legislature, and

WHEREAS, OAR expects to exceed last year’s number of bails and with the addition of \$10,000 to the Bail Fund, OAR will be able to bail out nearly 85 individuals in 2008,

WHEREAS, OAR achieves a ninety percent return rate on its bails posted, with only very few forfeitures in the last six years, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Expanded Budget and Capital Committee, That the Director of Finance be authorized to make the following budget appropriation:

FROM: A1990.54400	Contingent Fund	\$10,000
TO: A6316.54400	Program Expense	\$10,000

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

* * * * *

EXPLANATION:

Proposal for Use of 2008 Contingency Fund for Bail Loan Fund

Opportunities, Alternatives and Resources (OAR) of Tompkins County requests \$10,000 earmarked for jail overcrowding by the Tompkins County Legislature in the 2008 contingency fund. These funds will be used to increase the number of individuals bailed from the Tompkins County jail while awaiting trial.

Although the population at the Tompkins County Jail fluctuates, our community has seen an overall increase in the number of inmates boarded out to other counties over the past several years. In 2007 and so far this year, the numbers boarded out were modestly reduced due at least in part to the County Legislature's allocation of additional dollars to OAR's Bail Fund. **Boarding out costs the county over \$90 a day per person.** In 2006, OAR bailed out 48 individuals awaiting trial and in 2007 was able to bail out 71 people. County funding of increased staff time for doing bails, as well as County contributions to the Bail Fund itself, have contributed significantly to this sharp increase. Last year OAR circulated the \$20,000 in its Bail Fund to make 71 interest-free bail loans totaling nearly \$60,000. The provision of these loans saved both our clients and the county an estimated **5300 incarceration days.** This translates into a real economic benefit for Tompkins County, which would have paid over **\$400,000** to board these individuals out.

Additional funding is needed at this time to continue to increase the number of bails provided. OAR has bailed 56 individuals so far this year, and if the current pace continues, we should be able to exceed last year's number. We expect that with the addition of **\$10,000** to the Bail Fund, OAR will be able to bail out nearly 85 individuals in 2008, resulting in savings to Tompkins County of approximately **\$550,000.**

Information Technology Services

Greg Potter, Director, reviewed the Department's proposed 2009 budget and over-target requests (Nos. 75-77).

Mr. Burbank arrived at this time (9 members present).

Public Works Department and Divisions

Mr. Marx, Commissioner, gave an overview of the proposed 2009 budget submissions and asked each Division Manager as listed below to review their program areas:

- Mr. Richardson, Assistant Solid Waste Manager
- Mr. Nicholas, Airport Manager
 - *Ms. Chock asked that information concerning the level of security that is mandated at the Airport be provided. Mr. Whicher and Mr. Nicholas agreed to put the information together. It was noted the Division requested \$500,000 and received only \$200,000, which may require additional funds during 2009 and likely more for 2010.*
- Mr. Sczesny, Highway Manager
- Mr. LeMaro, Facilities Manager, noted he needs \$800,000 for deferred maintenance, requested \$300,000, and received only \$100,000.

Resolution – Airport

It was MOVED by Mr. Proto, seconded by Ms. Kiefer, and unanimously adopted by voice vote, to approve and submit the following resolution to the full Legislature for approval:

RESOLUTION NO. - AUTHORIZING AN INCREASE IN THE PASSENGER FACILITY CHARGE AT THE ITHACA TOMPKINS REGIONAL AIRPORT

WHEREAS, the Aviation Safety and Capacity Expansion Act of 1990 authorized the imposition of a Passenger Facility Charge (PFC) of \$1.00, \$2.00, or \$3.00 per enplaned passenger for use in connection with financing eligible airport-related projects that serve to enhance safety, capacity, or security, and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 452 on November 6, 1991, the Tompkins County Board of Representatives approved an application to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to impose a \$3.00 PFC, to be used to offset debt service associated with the construction of the new terminal building, and

WHEREAS, in August 1997 Tompkins County made application to amend the approved PFC application to include other eligible projects to minimize the airport's debt service burden, and

WHEREAS, on April 5, 2000, the Wendell H. Ford Aviation Investment and Reform Act for the 21st Century (AIR-21) provided for additional options of imposing a PFC of \$4.00 or \$4.50, and

WHEREAS, with the high cost of oil and consequent financial difficulties being experienced by the airport's tenant airlines, the airport wishes to change its PFC from \$3.00 to \$4.50 to further offset debt service and lower the airline rates and charges, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Facilities and Infrastructure and the Budget and Capital Committees, That the Passenger Facility Charge at the Ithaca Tompkins Regional Airport be increased from \$3.00 to \$4.50 and the Airport Manager be and hereby is authorized to make application to the Federal Aviation Administration for approval to execute said increase.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

* * * * *

Assessment Department

Ms. Coggin, Director, reviewed the Department's 2009 budget submission.

Department of Social Services

Ms. Carey, Commissioner, and Mr. Herden, Director of Administrative Services, provided an overview of the Department's 2009 budget requests. Ms. Carey reminded the Legislature that her appointment as Commissioner is up November 10, 2008.

Schedule for Voting Meetings

Mr. Koplinka-Loehr reminded Legislators to submit any action items they wish to have considered at the voting meetings to Norma Jayne of Administration.

Ms. Robertson requested that cost information concerning the options for the Lifelong and Office for the Aging proposed capital project be provided as soon as possible.

Other Business

Mr. Proto reminded Legislators attending the New York State Association of Counties conference not to take any action on behalf of the full Legislature.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Action Summary
Expanded Budget and Capital Committee
September 23, 2008