



Inclusion Through Diversity

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TWO PAGES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Youth Services Funding Discussed as Part of Latest Budget Review

Budget requests from the County Youth Services department were among those examined by legislators tonight, as the Legislature's Expanded Budget Committee continued its review of the 2014 County Budget, recommended by County Administrator Joe Mareane.

Along with Youth Services and the Recreation Partnership, Legislators heard presentations from the Highway Division, Workforce Development, and the County Attorney.

Youth Services was the only area reviewed tonight where over-target requests were submitted, but not recommended as part of the Administrator's budget. County Administrator Mareane recommended two of five requests submitted: \$10,217 to raise Cooperative Extension Rural Youth Services program managers' salaries to meet Living Wage standards and \$30,000 to support intermunicipal collaboration to provide career preparation for youth, in communities served by the Ithaca City School District—that allocation requested as target, but recommended as one-time.

Also recommended was a \$1,200 over-target request to support a 3% increase in the County's contribution to the intermunicipal Recreation Partnership.

Not recommended were the requested use of over \$20,000 in one-time rollover funds targeted toward replacing some expiring grant funds to support the Youth Development Survey, transportation for rural youth, and the Advocacy Center's Youth Services program. The administrator also did not recommend \$20,000 in one-time funds for the 4-H Urban Outreach program and nearly \$21,000 in target funding to support the One-to-One Big Brothers Big Sisters program.

For Big Brothers Big Sisters, Youth Services Director Amie Hendrix said the funding would enable the program to initiate and provide additional mentoring services throughout Tompkins County. While considered a very worthwhile program by the Youth Services allocations committee, she said the program did not outrank other priorities in the competition for limited dollars. For the 4-H Urban Outreach program, lack of the requested funding will hamper the program's plans to pilot an expansion to serve to serve more youth in the City and Town of Ithaca, Hendrix said.

From other presentations, Highway Director Jeff Smith told Legislators he has strived to keep local cost stable between 2013 and 2014, reporting that a slight increase the State's Consolidated Highway Improvement Program balanced a slight increase in the cost for snow and ice control, with salt prices remaining stable, while the cost of asphalt, gas, and diesel are all rising. The proposed highway project list for next year includes about 19 miles of road, which does not include work supported by \$1.2 million in capital funding to be allocated each year, committed to major road reconstruction projects.

Among the 2014 goals of the Workforce Development, supported mostly through federal funds, is to provide increased emphasis on information for career decision making for youth through its Youth Development Council, as part of the effort to retain and attract more young adults to the workforce. Regarding potential impact of the federal shutdown, Workforce Investment Director Julia Mattick said the program is currently supported through first-quarter federal funding which should last through mid-November, but that operations would be affected if the situation persists after that time.

The Expanded Budget Committee will next meet on October 16, the last scheduled session for presentations before Legislators begin to make recommendations. 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 Legislature will also hold its annual public information meeting on the budget on October 17, 7:00 p.m., at Legislature Chambers, an opportunity for citizens to learn about and discuss the recommended budget.

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 <http://tompkinscountyny.gov/ctyadmin/Budget/index>.)

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

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