

BUDGET COMMITTEE
JANUARY 22, 2014
NOT APPROVED

Committee Members Present: T. Hopkins, K. LaForge, P. Curran, T. O'Grady, C. Crandall
(Absent: D. Fanton)

Others Present: M. Alger, S. Burt, D. Decker, K. Graves, D. Healy, C. Jessup, T. Miner, D. Pullen, B. Riehle, T. Ross, C. Santora

Media Present: No media present

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 3:40 p.m. by Budget Committee Chairman Theodore Hopkins.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Legislator Curran, seconded by Legislator O'Grady, and carried to approve the Budget Committee minutes of December 18, 2013.

Sales Tax Report

County Treasurer Terri Ross distributed the 2014 Allegany County Sales Tax Report reflecting receipts through January 17, 2014, totaling \$984,488.91. Receipts for the current period indicate an increase of \$67,252.87 (7.332 percent) from one year ago for the same period.

Sales Tax Quarterly Collections Report Cash Comparison

Additionally, Ms. Ross distributed a Department of Taxation & Finance Sales Tax Quarterly Collections Report comparing the counties of New York State for the quarter ending December 2013. Allegany County showed a 4.83 percent increase over the same time period of 2012. Ms. Ross also pointed out that Allegany County had performed better than many of its neighboring counties in that final quarter.

Department Budget Review Schedules

Legislator Hopkins requested that Ms. Ross schedule first-quarter budget reviews for the "Big Five" Departments (Department of Health, Department of Public Works, Department of Social Services, Office for the Aging, and the Sheriff's Office) for an upcoming Budget Committee meeting. Additionally, Ms. Ross described a variety of types of spreadsheets which could be provided to the Committee at its request.

Good of the Order

Chairman Crandall indicated that last year County Treasurer Ross shared a spreadsheet with Committee members that listed all of the towns in the County and their equalization rates

along with other tax rates such as village, school, and library. Chairman Crandall stated that the information was very useful, and it would be nice to resurrect that spreadsheet.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m. following a motion by Legislator Curran, seconded by Legislator O'Grady, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia Santora, Secretary to the Clerk of the Board
Allegany County Board of Legislators

**BUDGET COMMITTEE
MARCH 19, 2014
NOT APPROVED**

Committee Members Present: T. Hopkins, K. LaForge, P. Curran, D. Fanton, T. O'Grady, C. Crandall

Others Present: L. Ballengee, H. Budinger, S. Burt, D. Decker, K. Graves, D. Healy, C. Jessup, T. Miner, B. Riehle, D. Root, T. Ross, C. Santora, N. Ungermann

Media Present: No media present

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 3:35 p.m. by Budget Committee Chairman Theodore Hopkins.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Legislator Curran, seconded by Legislator O'Grady, and carried to approve the Budget Committee minutes of January 22, 2014.

Sales Tax Report

County Treasurer Terri Ross distributed the 2014 Allegany County Sales Tax Report reflecting receipts through March 19, 2014, totaling \$3,633,189.54. Receipts for the current period indicate an increase (\$108,179.94 or 3.069 percent) from one year ago for the same period.

Department Budget Review Schedule (for the "Big 5")

On Wednesday, April 16, 2014, the Budget Committee will hear First Quarter Reports from the "Big 5" Departments presented by department representatives.

- Department of Health
- Department of Public Works
- Department of Social Services
- Office for the Aging
- Sheriff's Office

Although the departments have already received this schedule, the Treasurer will send out a reminder.

Additionally, on Wednesday, July 16, 2014, semi-annual reports from the "Big 5" as well as semi-annual reports only from the remainder of the departments will be due.

Finally, on Wednesday, October 15, 2014, third-quarter reports from the "Big 5" are due. Also, at the Committee's discretion, a call back may be made to the other departments that might warrant additional information.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m. following a motion by Legislator LaForge, seconded by Legislator O'Grady, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia Santora, Secretary to the Clerk of the Board
Allegany County Board of Legislators

**BUDGET COMMITTEE
APRIL 16, 2014
NOT APPROVED**

Committee Members Present: T. Hopkins, P. Curran, D. Fanton, C. Crandall (Absent: K. LaForge, T. O'Grady)

Others Present: M. Alger, L. Ballengee, D. Decker, M. Gasdik, K. Graves, R. Hartwick, D. Horan, G. James, T. Miner, J. Nelson, V. Pettit, D. Rahr, B. Riehle, C. Santora, R. Whitney

Media Present: No media present

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at approximately 11:03 a.m. by Budget Committee Chairman Theodore Hopkins.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Legislator Curran, seconded by Legislator Fanton, and carried to approve the Budget Committee minutes of March 19, 2014.

Sales Tax Report

Deputy County Treasurer Jenna Nelson distributed the 2014 Allegany County Sales Tax Report reflecting receipts through April 16, 2014, totaling \$5,928,137.56. Receipts for the current period indicate an increase of \$272,104.32 (4.811 percent) from one year ago for the same period.

Department Budget Reviews (Big 5)

Health Department

Director of Public Health Lori Ballengee told the Committee that her Department is doing very well so far this year, saying that expenses are very low for the first quarter at around nine percent of what had been budgeted. She added that revenue is even better than indicated on the one-page summary because the Department is just now billing for the first quarter. She pointed out that Early Intervention (line item 4060) is up about \$82,000 in revenues thanks to its having become an agency for the County. She gave kudos to the EI Manager Linda Wilcox. She also told the Committee that when she budgets for the upcoming year, she is very conservative and allows for the unforeseen such as additional diagnoses of autism or public health outbreaks. Thanks to having that foresight, and thanks to not having those projections come to pass, the DoH is able to remain well within its budget. She added that she is constantly trying to find ways to drive more revenue.

On a different topic, Ms. Ballengee distributed a document showing the savings the County will realize when a contract between the County and Olean General Hospital for the performance of autopsies and blood descriptions is finalized within the next few weeks. She is hoping to have the contract presented at the May Human Services Committee meeting. She added that the Department will maintain a per diem contract with Monroe County for those autopsies OGH is uncomfortable performing such as communicable disease or potential homicide situations.

Department of Public Works

Superintendent of Public Works Guy James noted that as far as revenues go, the numbers for the first quarter are accurate and very close to projections. He added that in the appropriations category, his prediction is that electric and gas costs will run over budget as the electric costs for this building have used 45 percent of the budgeted amount during the first quarter, and the natural gas costs for this building have used 52 percent of the budget in the first quarter alone. Other County facilities have seen similar rises. He attributes this occurrence to the fact that electric rates have tripled which, of course, is out of our control. Legislator Fanton inquired whether DPW had ever investigated utility costs with MEGA (Municipal Electric and Gas Association [sic]) in Tompkins County which he had heard about through NYSAC. Mr. James replied that he hadn't looked into that particular organization but will pursue it.

That being said, Mr. James went on to give the Committee a "heads up" for the second quarter. Over the past weekend, the Jail's septic system had issues and the tank needed to be pumped several times because the lines from the septic tank in-line pumps corroded and failed and the system shut down. This is not a leach field issue, he added. So far, the cost of pumping the system (Thursday through Monday) is nearly \$22,000. He predicts that in addition to that cost, repairing the pumps and electricity, and additional pumping will result in a price tag of \$50,000 which has not been budgeted for, and for which he may return to Committee with a request for funds to cover those costs.

Department of Social Services

Director of Administrative Services Don Horan said he had neither good nor bad news to report. He added that expenses are a little "light" but will catch up in the second quarter because they are still cleaning out some of the bills that carried over from 2013. He noted that then expenses will go up, but don't see any surprises coming from those expenses. He added that the revenue looks short right now because it takes time to get March claims put together, but noted that it should be about \$900,000-\$1million that will go into that number. There has been no information from the State that reimbursement streams for the programs we're doing are going to change. He added that DSS is running constant and is looking okay for the first quarter. Additionally, he said that he has not yet seen any negative impacts from the State budget.

Chairman Crandall commented on the reimbursement schedule from the State, saying that it used to be that the cycle of reimbursement took several months and that the window has tightened up considerable. Mr. Horan noted that the State moved to a different system and is able to gather its information more quickly, resulting in an average of a three-month turnaround.

Office for the Aging

OFA Accountant Vicki Pettit took the lead on the budget discussion for the Office for the Aging. She told the Committee that OFA is in the same boat as DSS in that she has not yet vouchered the state or the feds thus far this year because she is still closing out the 2013 books, but will do so by the end of April. She added that State has not yet approved the AIP (Annual Implementation Plan) for this year (the document OFA submits to the State requesting Aging grants for 2014) as it is still being reviewed. Once it is approved, OFA receives NGAs (Notification of Grant Awards) from the State so it can go ahead and voucher the State for the grant money. OFA will be short on revenues by about \$6,700 because Transitions in Care went from \$26,900 to \$13,000, but Systems Integrations increased from \$15,800 to \$21,000. Ms. Pettit noted that most of the revenues in the first quarter (\$60,696) are the result of

contributions. However, she said, the budget is where it is expected to be, and despite not getting as much, OFA won't be spending as much. Legislator Hopkins inquired about "Systems Integration." Ms. Gasdik said that the funding, which is federal, began in 2012. OFA has not received any directives regarding how this money is to be used, and other counties are just spending it. Ms. Pettit said that \$21,000 was budgeted in 2013, and OFA spent only about \$15,000, so that money can be spent this year. Ms. Gasdik says it was never intended for a specific program, but we are using it for systems integration such as NY Connects as they are highly related, and which OFA believes is the intended use.

Ms. Gasdik reminded the Committee that the Senior Forum would be held the following day and that the Public Hearing would commence at 8:30 a.m.

Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Rick Whitney told the Committee that his area will definitely be over budget for fuel this year, noting that the Department had been budgeted less in 2014 than it had in 2013, which he said contributed to the shortfall. Thus far, the .1's are okay with the exception of the E-911 Dispatch, which had also been budgeted at a lesser amount in 2014 than in 2013, so he expects costs to exceed budget in that area as well. Sheriff's Office Accountant Randy Hartwick did not project any budget problems with electric costs this year. Sheriff Whitney said there had been some increase in calls since the State Police shut down its dispatch center in Amity. His guess is that once people realize they are not talking to a local law enforcement person, the 911 calls, even non-emergency calls, will pick up.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:42 a.m. following a motion by Legislator Fanton, seconded by Legislator Curran, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia Santora, Secretary to the Clerk of the Board
Allegany County Board of Legislators

BUDGET COMMITTEE
May 21, 2014
NOT APPROVED

Committee Members Present: T. Hopkins, K. LaForge, D. Fanton, T. O'Grady (Absent: P. Curran, C. Crandall)

Others Present: M. Alger, S. Ellison, K. Graves, D. Healy, T. Miner, D. Pullen, B. Riehle, T. Ross, C. Santora

Media Present: No media present

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 4:13 p.m. by Budget Committee Chairman Theodore Hopkins.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Legislator Fanton, seconded by Legislator O'Grady, and carried to approve the Budget Committee minutes of April 16, 2014.

Sales Tax Report

County Treasurer Terri Ross distributed the 2014 Allegany County Sales Tax Report reflecting receipts through May 21, 2014, totaling \$7,311,280.60. Receipts for the current period indicate an increase of \$307,943.12 (4.397 percent) from one year ago for the same period.

Community College Statistics

Ms. Ross then distributed a report illustrating the County's costs relative to County residents attending community colleges in the state. The first page (green sheet) gives a history of costs since 2008. It also shows that Allegany County paid out just shy of \$1 million to have its students attend community colleges. The second page (pink sheet) illustrates numbers of students enrolled in community colleges by town and the cost to the County; the flip side simply ranks the costs to the County by town from highest to lowest. It shows that Cuba is the largest expense, due most likely to its proximity to the Cattaraugus County campus of Jamestown Community College. The third page (yellow sheet) details which community colleges County residents attend while the flip side again ranks the colleges by number of County students enrolled, and thus, the largest cost to the County.

Finance School

Ms. Ross, at Legislator Hopkins' request, gave a brief overview of her time at Finance School the previous week. She distributed a document from The Department of Taxation and Finance Office of Tax Policy: "Analysis Sales Tax Quarterly Collections Report for the quarter ended March 2014," which showed which counties throughout the state have seen sales tax revenues decline and which have seen growth. The flip side of the document was a listing of County Property Tax levies for 2013 and 2014 and the change between the two documented

years. She added that there had been an Albany update which included information on reimbursements, property tax caps, sales tax fraud, etc. She said she had learned that they believe we should start seeing more revenues based on sales tax due to gasoline and counties have been asked to watch their quarterly reports. Ms. Ross said she didn't know how it can be done, but, she added, sometimes "energy" is broken out, so her office will look at that on a regular basis. Other topics included Medicaid growth and the stagnant economy. Additionally, she said that the pension fund is seeing a 13 percent return on investment, which will mean reduced costs for us. She said that for 2014, Allegany County paid 18 percent of workers' salaries, in 2015, that number should drop to 16.3 percent. It was stated that the state is not seeing as much growth in Tier 6 as it would like, but that is likely attributable to a lack of hiring. She also learned that if someone who was STAR- eligible had not filled out the exemption form, the State will still allow a correction. Finally, she said, the current "look back" for shared services is one-two years, but they are pushing to go back farther, so counties such as ours can include all the shared services we have been participating in for more than the two-year cap. She added that there would be regional Municipal Innovation Exchange meetings scheduled for each county, though she predicts that the meetings will be more "regional" than county specific.

Schedule 2015 Budget Work Sessions

Legislator Hopkins, with confirmation from County Administrator Mitch Alger, decided that scheduling the budget work sessions could be deferred until next month's meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 4:33 p.m. following a motion by Legislator Fanton, seconded by Legislator Hopkins, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia Santora, Secretary to the Clerk of the Board
Allegany County Board of Legislators

**BUDGET COMMITTEE
JULY 16, 2014
NOT APPROVED**

Committee Members Present: T. Hopkins, K. LaForge, P. Curran, D. Fanton, C. Crandall
(Absent: T. O'Grady)

Others Present: M. Alger, L. Ballengee, H. Budinger, S. Burt, D. Decker, M. Gasdik, V. Grant, K. Graves, D. Healy, R. Hollis, G. James, C. Jessup, J. Luckey, T. Miner, D. Pullen, D. Rahr, B. Riehle, T. Ross, C. Santora, D. Scholes, R. Whitney

Media Present: No media present

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 3:40 p.m. by Budget Committee Chairman Theodore Hopkins.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Legislator Curran, seconded by Legislator Hopkins, and carried to approve the Budget Committee minutes of May 21, 2014.

Sales Tax Report

County Treasurer Terri Ross distributed the 2014 Allegany County Sales Tax Report reflecting receipts through July 14, 2014, totaling \$\$11,101,316.59. Receipts for the current period indicate an increase of \$653,298.77 or 6.253 percent over last year at this time.

Semi-annual Reports

Department of Health

Health Department Director Lori Ballengee informed the Committee that DOH is in good shape. She commended her accountant David Rahr, saying he has been instrumental in capturing past revenues to which DOH was entitled. The Committee was also told that the expenses on the report are actual figures as of the end of June while the revenues are one (fiscal) quarter behind. She also pointed out that the Komen Cancer funding has returned after a brief absence. Ms. Ballengee is very happy with the current financial picture.

Department of Public Works

Superintendent of Public Works Guy James told the Committee that DPW revenues are accurate and close to projections. He did say that although appropriations were below the projected amounts due to increases in electric and natural gas costs to all facilities, there was no overrun that could not be covered by the DPW budget.

Department of Social Services

Social Services Commissioner Vicki Grant said that overall, DSS is on track and doing okay with no foreseeable problems. She added that some contract billing is a (fiscal) quarter behind at this time (because that is the process). She also said that block grant payments for 6119 (Child Care) are just starting to come in. She added that her area is down about five positions right now, so payroll will be okay and that the estimated Medicaid seems to be on target as well.

Office for the Aging

Before Office for the Aging Director Madeleine Gasdik began her budget presentation, legislator Hopkins reminded his colleagues that the Senior Picnic would be held July 31, and he encouraged them to let Ms. Gasdik know if they planned to attend. Ms. Gasdik then proceeded to say that OFA had been the subject of a fiscal audit last month, and she was pleased to report that the auditors could not find any errors to the penny! She commended Accountant Vicki Pettit on her diligence. Ms. Gasdik said that as regards the budget OFA is doing okay. Ms. Gasdik told the Committee that New York State had delayed the approval of everyone's (OFAs) Annual Implementation Plans which trigger the notification of grant awards (NGA) which then trigger OFA's ability to voucher. She added that although OFA's Implementation Plan was submitted in December, OFA did not receive approval until June, Thus, OFA is just now starting to voucher for their programs. So they are a little behind, she said, but Ms. Pettit is working toward getting all the vouchers submitted. OFA is running behind on meals, but that was expected as they didn't budget enough for this year. However, OFA has realized over \$200 per month on its phone bill, there have been some personnel cost savings, and the NGAs that have just been received will help cover the costs of the meals. She confirmed that OFA would be well within its budget (as it stands today, barring a huge influx of meal requests). The discussion finished up with a discussion about OFA vehicles. Ms. Gasdik says she may need to return to Committee in September to request another vehicle.

Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Rick Whitney noted that his budget is close, maybe a little under budget at this point. He added that his revenues are more than projected with an excess of approximately \$142,323. Additionally, he said that appropriations are accurate and close to projections at this time. The two new transport hires have not saved as much as had been projected, but that is because more transports have been necessary. It was still a good move in his opinion. Finally, it was noted that expected savings in other areas should make up for fuel and E-911 personnel budget shortfalls.

Review of Semi-annual Reports from Smaller Departments

Legislator Hopkins noted that each Committee member had copies of the other Departments' budget sheets to review. If there should be any questions, the particular Department Head can be invited to address them at the next Budget meeting, he said.

Legislator Hopkins invited Board of Elections Commissioner Rick Hollis to talk about his budget. Mr. Hollis told the Committee that BOE is low on revenues so far this year but should be okay at the end of the year because there are only two elections this year, and BOE had budgeted for three. He added, however, that there might be a state-wide governor's primary, but he would not know for sure until after August 1. There are also three towns that will have primaries: Amity will have a Superintendent primary; Friendship will have a Town Board primary; and Allen will have three-way race for Town Councilman.

Good of the Order

Legislator Hopkins, in consultation with County Administrator Mitch Alger, set the 2015 Budget Sessions for 9 a.m. on Wednesday, August 20 (before Committee meetings), and 9 a.m. on Thursday, August 21, and possibly one additional day (Friday, August 22) if necessary. It

was noted that Department Heads will need to attend to present their 2015 Budget requests. Mr. Alger said a more detailed schedule would be sent to the Legislators.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m. following a motion by Legislator Fanton, seconded by Legislator LaForge, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia Santora, Secretary to the Clerk of the Board
Allegany County Board of Legislators

**BUDGET COMMITTEE
AUGUST 20, 2014
NOT APPROVED**

Committee Members Present: T. Hopkins, K. LaForge, P. Curran, D. Fanton, C. Crandall
(Absent: T. O'Grady)

Others Present: J. Adams, M. Alger, R. Anderson, C. Braack, J. Budinger, D. Button, D. Decker, L. Edwards, D. Healy, M. Hennessey, B. Kelley, T. Miner, B. Riehle, T. Ross, C. Santora, K. Slep, R. Starks

Media Present: No media present

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Budget Committee Chairman Theodore Hopkins.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Legislator Fanton, seconded by Legislator Curran, and carried to approve the Budget Committee minutes of July 16, 2014.

Sales Tax Report

County Treasurer Terri Ross distributed the 2014 Allegany County Sales Tax Report reflecting receipts through August 20, 2014, totaling \$12,535,288.50. Receipts for the current period indicate an increase from one year ago for the same period of \$725,336.02 or 6.142 percent.

Budget Presentations

Clerk of the Board of Legislators

Clerk of the Board Brenda Riehle told the Committee that the biggest change to her 2015 budget (Account 1010, Legislative Board) would be the request for \$12,000 for the purchase of new chairs in the legislative chamber. She added that there may be an account from which that amount could be taken out this year rather than next. She reminded the Committee that last year, when she had researched the cost of refurbishing the chairs, that came out to be between \$8,500 and \$9,500. However, there is also the OSHA requirement of the chairs having a five-legged base with casters that are suitable for the workstation flooring. The current chairs have only a four-legged base. Ms. Riehle added that more funding was necessary for conference fees and mileages because new Board members often travel to attend conferences and training sessions. Account 1040 (Clerk of the Board), she said, will be very similar to last year's Budget. Ms. Riehle's request for Account 1670 (Printing) was slightly below last year's Budget amount. The requested amount of funding for Account 1672 (Central Services-UPS) for 2015 has increased by about \$150. The level of funding request for Account 1673 (Central Services-Postage) remains the same for 2015. Account 1910 (Unallocated Insurance) is holding steady, according to Ms. Riehle. Account 1920 (Municipal Association Dues) saw a slight increase for 2015. Committee members briefly discussed the CS Fund, noting that the budget should not fall below our self-insured retention (SIR) deductible of \$250,000.

Clerk of the Board Brenda Riehle's proposed Budget for 2015 (A1010, A1040, A1670, A1672, A1673, A1910, A1920) was approved as presented on a motion by Legislator Hopkins, seconded by Legislator Fanton, and carried.

County Attorney

County Attorney Tom Miner indicated his most voracious need is for the law libraries and search engines which increase their prices annually and which need to be updated annually. He added that his office shares these libraries with the District Attorney's Office and the Public Defender's Office and his office receives some reimbursement from the Department of Social Services. Mr. Miner also indicated that his office has reached the amount of billable hours that it can maintain with the staff it has, so revenues (\$566,900) will be at the same level as last year. There was some discussion about a new process in the courts that deals with youth, ages 16-18, who have been previously prosecuted by the District Attorney's Office. This age group is now shifting to the County Attorney's Office. Legislator LaForge inquired whether this will increase the burden on County Attorney's Office. Mr. Miner conceded that this is a possibility since this group will now be treated as juveniles as opposed to going through the adult system. However, some of those potential costs can be billed to DSS, he said. County Attorney Miner's proposed Budget for 2015 (A1410) was approved as presented on a motion by Legislator Fanton, seconded by Legislator Curran, and carried.

District Attorney

District Attorney Keith Slep noted that the grant funding for the Crime Victims' Advocate Shannon Ozzella had been cut. He proposes funding that position via fines and forfeited bail. Mr. Slep explained that Allegany County was one of 13 programs that had lost funding. He added that the position is not a luxury, but a necessity, and that the role of that position has expanded considerably over the 14 years it has existed. He added that we have better luck applying for DCJS grants, and he is looking into funding from that source at this time. There was discussion regarding the change in ages considered juvenile offenders; it was Mr. Slep's opinion that although it wouldn't mightily impact his office, it will clog an already clogged family court system. There was also some discussion about CCA's (Cattaraugus Community Action) receiving a several hundred thousand dollar increase from the same funding source that had eliminated the funding to Allegany County. Legislator Healy suggested letting our State Reps know how unhappy we are about these cuts. Chairman Crandall suggested being attuned to other such cuts as we work our way through the budget process, and then send a letter to our reps saying that these cuts will affect Allegany County differently than they might affect other counties, due to our population, our size, and the poverty level that exists here. He added that we should not send a lengthy explanation, but a bulleted list of items about which we are concerned. District Attorney Slep's proposed Budget for 2015 (A1165, A1190) was approved as presented on a motion by Legislator LaForge, seconded by Legislator Fanton, and carried.

Public Defender

Public Defender Barbara Kelley noted that the major difference in her proposed budget is the establishment of a separate account to handle the ILS grant funding she had recently received to hire another Assistant Public Defender. She thanked County Treasurer Terri Ross for her help in establishing the accounts. She added that at a recent meeting, she learned that they have approved, within their grant, some of the expenses of administering them, so next time it comes up, she will write that into the grant. She added that the new attorney (which the grant allowed her to hire) had recently started. Public Defender Kelley's proposed Budget for 2015 (A1170, A1172) was approved as presented on a motion by Legislator Fanton, seconded by Legislator Hopkins, and carried.

Probation

Probation Director Robert Starks told the Committee that the grant for shared services expired at the end of 2013, so it does not appear in his proposed 2015 Budget. It had actually

served as a conduit to the Sheriff's Office to offset the cost for mental health services. Now the Sheriff has put this position (which is contractual) into his budget. He went on to say that the Probation Ignition Interlock funding of \$11,461 reflects the maximum amount of money the County could receive, depending on how many defenders are sentenced. Last year, he said, we received \$7,163. He added that he tried to keep as much of his budget at last year's level or tried to decrease the amounts a bit. He also said that Probation receives some grant funding through ACCORD to offset some of the costs of supervising sex offenders. He added that he just received another State grant proposal that he thinks ACCORD is going to apply for because if ACCORD applies as a non-profit, there's no matching fund requirement. This grant, should it be received, will help with domestic violence issues. Probation Director Starks' proposed 2015 Budget (A3140, A3142) was approved as presented on a motion by Legislator Fanton, seconded by Legislator LaForge, and carried.

Real Property Tax

Real Property Tax Director Joe Budinger told the Committee that most of the expenses in his area are fixed costs. He added that he is looking into ways to increase revenues, possibly by charging for maps. We've seen a precipitous drop in revenues over the years because tax maps can be accessed online. He said other counties allow people to look at the maps online, but require a fee, perhaps via PayPal, to print them. Real Property Tax Director Budinger's proposed 2015 (A1355) Budget was approved as presented on a motion by Legislator Curran, seconded by Legislator Fanton, and carried.

Information Technology

Information Technology Director Deb Button told the Committee that she was unable to make any cuts for 2015 because there had been a significant figure cut for 2014. She did say she hoped to cut Account 1610 (telephone) next year because of the work she had been doing combining bills and changing lines to get a cheaper rate. She added that she needed to observe the results of the changes for a while before determining any cuts. When asked about the \$24,500 fee she said these were the licensing fees for certain system software programs as well as for programs that, for instance, protect the County computers from spam, viruses, etc. The Information Technology Director's proposed 2015 Budget (A1680, A1610) was approved as presented on a motion by Legislator Fanton, seconded by Legislator Curran, and carried.

County Clerk

County Administrator presented the proposed 2015 Budget requests for County Clerk Rob Christman, noting that the biggest change in the proposed budget is an increase in revenues based on historical trend. Mr. Christman requested funding to purchase an image scanner for maps and large documents. He requested \$9,000 for that purchase to which the Budget Officer agreed to \$7,000 in the hope of having Mr. Christman seek out a better deal. Legislator Curran suggested having one or two contracts with vendors in relation to copy services vs. the number we might have at this time. Clerk of the Board Brenda Riehle gave a brief history of County copiers, saying many departments used to use Central Copying which is budgeted through her Office. Then Departments were awarded grants to purchase their own copiers which resulted in the variety of vendors. There was some discussion which indicated that it would take a "phasing out" period in order to do that as every year a different vendor offers an extraordinary deal and also that departments' copiers do not need replacing at the same time, necessitating individual contracts. However, this is an issue to be considered. County Clerk Christman's proposed 2015 Budget (A1410) was approved as presented on a motion by Legislator Hopkins, seconded by Legislator Fanton, and carried.

County Treasurer

County Treasurer Terri Ross indicated that there would be an increase in Treasurer's Fees for the upcoming budget year. She indicated that at this time, her Office charges the minimum \$5 for a County tax search, whereas some counties charge as much as \$25. She said she has surveyed a lot of other counties, but there seems to be no consistency in fee schedules. She would like to purchase two high volume printers used for checks because the current printers need to be replaced, and she would also like to purchase two computer monitors. She added that her actual department budget will go down about one percent.

As for Account 1362 (Tax Sale), Ms. Ross said the revenues against the tax sale are in the general budget, so you don't see everything that's here, but it is where the gain from the auction is seen.

In Account 1671 (Accounting & Auditing), Ms. Ross said the budget reflects the annual single audit that must be done to meet federal requirements. Additionally, we are required to do DEC solid waste and DOT audits which are absorbed by the Treasurer's Office. She added that they do receive some reimbursement from PIC and DSS because they are able to claim it on their state aid. She added that this is the year we will probably have to do the full actuarial for the OPEB (Other Post-Employment Benefits) again.

As regards Account 1950 (Taxes on Municipal Property), Ms. Ross said that the County pays town and school taxes on any municipal properties that are not used for County government, adding that there are a few such properties with nothing housed on them.

In Account 2495 (Community College), Ms. Ross said that this year, Allegany County will pass the million dollar budget line.

In Account 8710 (Reforestation), Ms. Ross said the County pays school and town taxes on our County forest lands. If there is a plan to sell forest products, that amount will be placed in the budget when the sale occurs. Any forest sales will help offset the costs, she added.

The Debt Service Fund shows payments on the principal; she added that there is nothing left on the Debt Service Fund that is eligible for CHIPS funding which has increased the County share somewhat. It was pointed out that the Bridge Equipment Bond will end in 2015 and that another bond will be coming off in 2016, so we will continue to reduce over the next few years. The others are still several years away. County Treasurer Ross's proposed 2015 Budget (A1325, A1362, A1671, A1950, A2495, A8710) was approved as presented on a motion by Legislator Curran, seconded by Legislator Hopkins, and carried.

Veterans' Services Agency

Director of Veterans' Services Mike Hennessy, was proud to note that over \$30 million comes into Allegany County via veterans which is great pay back for a \$100,000 budget. He went on to say that he has continuously increased the number of contacts with veterans and veterans' widows; additionally, he has nurtured relationships with local VFWs and American Legions which help sponsor things for the Veterans' Office. Mr. Hennessy added that he has maintained the same level of funding for the past three years (except for salary) and has usually come in under budget annually. He is proud that he has not yet needed to return to the Board to request additional funding. Director of Veteran Services Hennessy's proposed 2015 Budget (A6510) was approved as presented on a motion by legislator Fanton, seconded by Legislator Curran, and carried.

Sealer of Weights & Measures

Weights & Measures Director Gilbert Green was not in attendance at the meeting; therefore, County Administrator Mitch Alger presented Mr. Green's proposed budget, saying some items had been moved around, but essentially the budget was the same. There was some discussion of a budget item of \$500 for a clothing allowance. Weights & Measures Director

Green's proposed 2015 Budget (A6610) was approved as presented on a motion by Legislator Hopkins, seconded by Legislator Curran, and carried.

Youth Bureau/STOP-DWI

Youth Bureau Director and STOP-DWI Coordinator Linda Edwards requested an additional \$500 this year for any computer-related issues which may arise as happened last year. Other than that, she said, the budget for 2015 is essentially the same. The major issue in this Cost Center, she said, is fine income, since they have no control over that. Ms. Edwards went on to say that the Youth Bureau budget for 2015 is also essentially the same as last year. She said there are no increases as she strives to stay lean on expenses and has been successful doing it. She said the OCFS reimbursement went up slightly this year, but she added, she cannot predict future trends. She went on to explain the changes in the acceptance of the OCFS funding as regards the towns and villages: in the past, OCFS allowed the County to bill it and the funding would go directly to towns and villages. This year, all the money must be paid by the County and then reimbursed by the State. Ms. Ross noted that in future budgets, you would see a \$10,000 increase in expenses, but would also then see the reimbursement. The only difference is that it has to flow through our budget. Ms. Edwards added that she had added \$500 of County funding as a line item instead of adding it later to be added to \$500 of OCFS funds for the Cattaraugus County AmeriCorps Program since we will be doing that annually now. Youth Bureau Director/STOP-DWI Coordinator Edwards' proposed 2015 Budgets (A3141 & A7310, A7212, A7327) were approved as presented on a motion by Legislator Fanton, seconded by Legislator Curran, and carried.

Historian

County Historian Craig Braack told the Committee that his proposed Budget for 2015 is the same as last year. Because of the simplicity of the budget, there was no additional discussion. County Historian Braack's proposed 2015 Budget (A7510) was approved as presented on a motion by legislator Hopkins, seconded by Legislator Fanton, and carried.

Community Services

Community Services Director Dr. Robert Anderson addressed the Committee with some help from Ms. Ross. She said that they have been making some changes to the Mental Health Budget to try to align their revenues from the program so it totally matches what their funding sources are to cover the program costs. This is the first year we are trying to make this happen. The Budget over all has stayed at about \$228,000 over the past 10 years, said County Administrator Alger. Dr. Anderson added that "most of what we do is reimbursed through state aid or revenue." He added that there are some things they are obligated to use County tax dollars for, the most significant being the Mental Hygiene Law in case they need to send someone to a psychiatric facility. Ms. Ross told the Committee that only five of the programs that fall under Rural and Mental Health require County funding of about \$228,000 overall annually. Community Services Director Anderson's proposed 2015 Budget (A4191, A4220, A4310, A4312, A4313, A4314, A4315 A4316, A4317, A4390) was approved as presented on a motion by Legislator Fanton, seconded by Legislator Curran, and carried.

Summary

County Administrator/Budget Officer Mitch Alger reminded the Committee that there is still work to do before the final Budget will be ready. He added that it is up this year, but he hopes that some of the revenues will offset this rise. Legislator Hopkins inquired whether the

Committee would wait until the scheduled September meeting to finalize the budget where such things as the Fund Balance might be discussed. Mr. Alger said that was the way he saw it occurring. Mr. Alger said he will review the budgets and send out a summary sheet of the changes he has made. There was some discussion of when the Tentative Budget might be released. Last year's Tentative Budget was released September 23 (2013), and that (approximately one week after the September Budget Committee meeting) seemed a reasonable timeline to the Committee.

Some additional conversation that occurred at the meeting included Ms. Ross saying, we hope to have an answer on the leftover money from the Court House Bond, and there should be enough in that to cover that payment in 2015 which would be about \$300,000. (That's one percent.) Gambling money is in the budget. There seem to be no restrictions on its use. Ms. Ross added that there is money in the Fund Balance for the CS Risk Retention Fund that could cover the General Fund shares. She added that most of the funds don't have a fund balance. When asked what the 1.5 percent shared services amount (required by the Governor for the rebate) would be, Ms. Ross said it would be just under \$450,000. Some of the pitfalls of the program were discussed, but it was also noted that the details are still rather sketchy at this time.

Good of the Order

Because of prior engagements, the Budget Committee decided to postpone the next day's afternoon Budget Review Session until Monday morning at 9 a.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m. following a motion by Legislator Fanton, seconded by Legislator Curran, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia Santora, Secretary to the Clerk of the Board
Allegany County Board of Legislators

BUDGET COMMITTEE
Special Budget Review
August 21, 2014

****NOT APPROVED ****

Committee Members Present: T. Hopkins, D. Fanton, P. Curran (Absent: K. LaForge, T. O'Grady)

Others Present: M. Alger, L. Ballengee, M. Gasdik, M. Healy, G. James, Y. Marks, V. Pettit, D. Rahr, B. Riehle, T. Ross, D. Scholes

Call to Order: Budget Committee Chairman Theodore Hopkins called the meeting to order at 9 a.m.

Health Department – 2015 Budget Review

Public Health Director Lori Ballengee and Accountant David Rahr attended the meeting to discuss their 2015 budget requests for the Health Department (A1185, A2960, A4010, A4035, A4037, A4043, A4046, A4050, A4051, A4052, A4053, A4054, A4056, A4060, A4070, A4071, A4072, A4074, A4189, and A4190).

Mrs. Ballengee stated that they have already ordered \$33,000 of flu vaccine this year; however, she has received \$113,000 in revenue in previous years for those vaccines. This doesn't count the \$12,000 they save by supplying County employees and their families with the vaccine at cost. Immunizations are why revenues are way up.

Mrs. Ballengee stated that the bulk of her budget is for expenses associated with the Special Education PHC (A2960) accounts. This program is run by the Education Department, and it ends up costing us about \$500,000 per year. Mrs. Ballengee noted that Rich Reynolds runs this program as inexpensively as possible; however, the schools decide what services the child should receive. Of the \$515,331 County support needed to run the Health Department, \$487,020 is for this Preschool Program, and this does not include the salaries for the two staff that work in the program. Mrs. Ballengee noted that the Preschool Program doesn't have to fall under the Health Department, but the County is required to provide it. In Cattaraugus County it falls under the Youth Bureau.

Mrs. Ballengee expressed frustration that the NYS DOH is starting to make things ineligible for the big base grant. Our base grant was raised to \$650,000 last year, and Mrs. Ballengee indicated that they have trouble getting enough expenses to meet that figure because so many things can no longer be covered. In addition, they cannot get reimbursed for fringe benefits on an employee unless it's specifically part of a grant. The reduction in their supply account also makes it more difficult to reach that \$650,000 amount. The Health Department is reimbursed at 100 percent up to \$650,000, and anything over \$650,000 is reimbursed at 36 percent.

Mrs. Ballengee stated that our transportation contracts with the schools probably save the County about \$500,000 per year, and other counties frequently call us regarding this program.

Legislator Dwight "Mike" Healy asked if the Health Department is mandated. Mrs. Ballengee indicated that parts of the department are mandated. Environmental Health is a mandated service, and if the County didn't have an Environmental Division, each town and village would be responsible for insuring those services are provided. Mr. Healy asked if the State would take over those areas. Mrs. Ballengee replied that the state is trying to cut costs itself, and she is confident that they would not entertain taking on that responsibility for Allegany County. She also stated that our staff work very hard with businesses and home owners on compliance and try not to force compliance whenever possible.

A motion was made by Legislator LaForge, seconded by Legislator Curran and carried to accept the Health Department budget as presented by the Budget Officer.

Office for the Aging – 2015 Budget Review

Office for the Aging Director Madeleine Gasdik and Accountant Vickie Pettit attended the meeting to discuss their 2015 Budget requests for the Office for the Aging (A6772, A6773, A6774, A6775, A6776, A6777, A6778, A6779, A6781, A6782, A6783, A6784, A6785, A6786, A6787, A6788, and A6789).

Ms. Gasdik indicated that she is still waiting to hear how much Allegany County will receive from the Balancing Incentive Payment (BIP) Program Innovation Fund Grant awards. Ms. Gasdik indicated that these funds can only be used for personnel costs and technology. Ms. Gasdik indicated that some of the BIP funding will go toward the Meals-on-Wheels Program, noting that they are already over budget this year. When someone signs up for Meals-on-Wheels, the OFA has 10 days to complete a two-hour assessment consisting of 25 pages. Ms. Gasdik mentioned that they are also required to perform an annual visit and a six-month follow-up on anyone enrolled in the Meals-on-Wheels Program, and they hope to get those that don't really need the meals off the program. It is getting very difficult to balance the account used to finance the cost of the Meals-on-Wheels Program, and they are hoping that BIP can help them balance out. They had hoped to start receiving BIP the last quarter of this year, but it looks like it may not start until next year.

Ms. Gasdik stated that account A6787 (OFA – Single Point of Entry) a/k/a NY Connects is financed with 100 percent state funding, and she wondered if Budget Officer Alger should put the money he removed back in as there are no County dollars involved, and Mr. Alger indicated that he would fix it on his end. Accountant Vickie Pettit indicated that she can live with the other cuts that Budget Officer Alger made, and that she plans to shift some things that need County money to NY Connects.

Ms. Gasdik stated that it can be very difficult to find homecare providers, and they currently have a waiting list. There is no aide in the Canaseraga area. Some providers are more expensive although it's better than not offering any service. Ms. Gasdik also briefly talked about clients hiring their own aides that we would pay through a fiduciary, and the fiduciary would do all the training. We would pay the fiduciary, and they would promise to pay the aides. There are only certain clients that could do this. Jan and Bev's is much less expensive, at \$20.50 per hour, compared to the \$23 we pay a Consumer Direct Program through a fiduciary at \$14 per hour. Ms. Gasdik believes that the aides are paid for mileage; however, they are not paid for their travel time. They have been trying to find additional aides, but several entities are not interested due to the EISEP regulations as they are not able to make a profit with so many requirements.

Ms. Gasdik noted that with minimum wage going up, their part-time employees will cost them more. If BIP doesn't come through, the OFA will not be able to hire the two new people that they budgeted for. The State NY Connects Program will be putting in a new national phone, and Ms. Gasdik has added 2.5 staff to handle the increase in calls.

Ms. Gasdik stated that their insurance program keeps getting cut, and they really have a need in this area. In previous years, they put everything on hold to do insurance counseling for 2.5 months. They hope to have enough staff so that they will not get behind.

A motion was made by Legislator LaForge, seconded by Legislator Fanton, and carried to accept the Office for the Aging 2015 budget as presented by the Budget Officer.

Public Works – 2015 Budget Review

Public Works Superintendent Guy James, Deputy Public Works Superintendent Dean Scholes, and DPW Fiscal Officer Yvonne Marks attended the meeting to discuss their 2015 Budget requests for the Public Works Department (A1490, A1620, A3152, A8160, D Fund, DM Fund, and H Fund).

Mr. James expressed concern that Budget Officer Alger cut DM5130.204 from \$760,000 to \$380,000. Mr. James indicated that he had submitted for two plow trucks and two haul trucks. The DPW fleet is getting old, and as long as we are plowing certain roads, we need to have plow trucks that are reliable and in good shape. Mr. James stated that DPW's current plow trucks already have 200,000+ miles on them, and some have 250,000 on them. The average age of our trucks is 12-14 years old. It was noted that Cattaraugus County puts their vehicles on a 10-year rotation. Public Works Committee Chairman Dwight Fanton suggested we put enough money back in the budget to finance the cost of two plow trucks, and they can double as haul trucks. Budget/Ways & Means Committee Chairman Theodore Hopkins suggested having a special fund dedicated to DPW trucks and machinery where the Board would allocate a certain amount, and the Public Works staff would have to determine what needed to be replaced as they really know better than the Legislators what needs to be replaced. County Treasurer Terri Ross stated that she doesn't believe that they really need a separate account as they already have the separate Road Machinery Fund, and they've already provided a list of what equipment they would like to purchase; it's not like the General Fund. Committee members agreed to increase that account back to \$440,000.

In the DM5130.210 account, DPW planned to replace underground tanks at the Birdsall Highway Shop (District II) at \$20,000 per tank. The recommendation from the company that looked at them suggested replacing both tanks. The underground tank only passed marginally, and there are issues with the above ground tank as well. The above-ground tank was not installed correctly, and it is a fire and safety hazard. Committee members briefly discussed the situation with the tanks and agreed that they should be addressed.

Mr. James complimented DPW Fiscal Officer Yvonne Marks on putting the budget together stating that she does an awesome job with it and keeps them all in line. She is a watchdog with their accounts.

Mr. James noted that he had requested a truck tractor out of A8160.204 (Solid Waste – Motor Vehicles) for \$179,800, and the Budget Officer cut it back to \$99,800 so they won't be able to buy a truck. Mr. Scholes indicated that it was the second year in a row that they have put this item in the budget and that it's been cut. Mileage on the truck they want to replace exceeds 300,000. It's a very important piece of equipment that is used every day. There was a discussion that there is no point in leaving \$99,800 in this line item, and that they should either put it back up to the \$179,800, or also remove the \$99,800. Mr. James stated that we also need to figure out where we are going with solid waste system as that may help us make the decision on whether to add money back in or take it out. Legislator Hopkins stated that most likely we would still have transfer stations and be taking recyclables with this truck so it would still have a purpose; however, he hates to add more money into the budget. Legislator Fanton stated that he can't really see us getting out of the business. Legislator Hopkins suggested putting it back in for now, and possibly either taking it out or using more fund balance when we try to finalize the 2015 Budget. Committee members agreed.

Mr. James stated that for the bridges they submitted, budgets were figured using the County crews doing the projects with the exception of the Town of Burns' Narrows Road Bridge. We will be putting the abutments for that project out to bid, and prevailing wage will need to be used which has really driven up the cost. Mr. James wanted the Budget Committee to know that the Wirt Project on Hassard Road is classified as a culvert because the span length is less than the specifications for a bridge (20'). On County roads, we finance 100 percent of the cost, and on other roads we finance 85 percent. The town officials and residents would like the Burns Road to remain open. Last year the County spent \$1.3 million on bridges.

Mr. James stated that their total budget went up quite a bit, and at the direction of Mr. Alger, they submitted some items and projects to demonstrate the need, but some things can be held off a little. We are definitely up our 2 percent. Do we want to do six bridges? Mr. James listed several towns that also wanted to participate in the Bridge Program this year, but they had to be turned away,

and Mr. James hopes that they will remain unposted. Legislator Hopkins stated that we have to cut something, but we want to cut the right things.

A motion was made by Legislator Hopkins, seconded by Legislator Fanton, and carried to approve the Public Works 2015 Budget as presented by the Budget Officer with the discussed changes and notation that we will need to discuss these accounts more.

Sheriff's Office – 2015 Budget Review

Sheriff Rick Whitney and Accountant Randy Hartwick attended the meeting to discuss their 2015 Budget requests for the Sheriff's Office (A3117, A3020, A3110, A3111, A3112, A3152, A3510, and A3150).

Sheriff Whitney said that a lot of stuff was cut, but it looks like they are going to be under budget this year so hopefully they will be able to purchase a few things they will need next year out of this year's Budget. He hopes the Legislators will work with him when he makes requests to transfer something. The first concern that the Sheriff had was in account A3112.403 (E911 Dispatch – Maintenance Contracts – Maintenance Contracts). Sheriff Whitney stated that this account is for maintenance contracts, and those contracts are for fixed amounts, and they are what they are. Treasurer Ross stated that part of the problem was that the history for that account did not reflect that high of a cost. Sheriff Whitney confirmed that this is the first year for maintenance on the new CAD System. Committee members agreed to put the account back to \$71,200.

Sheriff Whitney indicated that Budget Officer Alger reduced A3112.411 (E911 Dispatch – Repairs to Personal Property) from his requested \$15,000 to \$9,000, and the radio system was under warranty, but those warranties expired, and one piece of equipment could wipe that out very quickly.

Account A3150.201 (Jail – Equipment) was reduced from \$9,500 to \$4,500, and Sheriff Whitney stated that this was to finance the cost of two new servers that IT Director Deb Button said they needed. Two of their current servers are running on 2003 software and it will no longer be supported. Budget Officer Alger said he would take a look at that.

County Treasurer Ross noted that it looks like both the Public Works Department (A3152) and the Sheriff's Office (A3150.215) budgeted for the same piece of equipment for the Jail kitchen. They will look into this further and get it straightened out.

The Sheriff indicated that the two positions that were added this year have helped cut down on overtime although he hasn't seen as much savings as he had projected. Compared to what our costs could have been, especially with a few employees going off on disability, they have saved a lot. The Sheriff indicated that he could probably use a few more on the day shift as well as on the C shift, and he believes it will drastically reduce overtime costs.

Public Safety Committee Chairman Dwight "Mike" Healy stated that when the security post in this building has been completed, he would like to see us get rid of the security in the other building. He has had some preliminary discussions with the Sheriff, and he believes that it should result in significant savings. Treasurer Ross expressed concern about being able to collect revenue for security reimbursement, noting that they will have to talk to the state to see how this might impact revenues. They may want security in the Courthouse.

A motion was made by Legislator Fanton, seconded by Legislator Hopkins, and carried to accept the 2015 Sheriff's Office Budget as presented by the Budget Officer.

Social Services Department – 2015 Budget Review

Social Services Commissioner Vicki Grant and Director of Administrative Services Don Horan attended the meeting to discuss the 2015 budget requests for the Social Services Department (A6010, A6055, A6070, A6101, A6106, A6109, A6119, A6129, A6140, A6141, A6142, and A6150).

Ms. Grant indicated that they are down in revenue for food stamps primarily because they have been doing a lot of online applications resulting in less revenue for us.

One of the biggest differences from 2014 is in personnel pay. Ms. Grant noted that employees are actually taking overtime pay, rather than carrying it over.

Mr. Grant stated that MAS (Medical Answering Services) took over the Call Center. When they first took over, there was a lot of confusion, but it is a little smoother now. MAS coordinates with the Call Center, but everything is still on a trial basis, subject to change. First Transit put on two vehicles and two drivers, and MAS isn't calling them so they may have to lay the new drivers off although things appear to be smoothing out a little. Ms. Grant suspects that they may be using out-of-county taxi drivers like they have been in the more metropolitan areas in other counties. Things that may save money in the urban areas, don't always work out as well in our more rural area.

Ms. Grant stated that account A6055 (Day Care Block Grant) has been going down, and that is just based on changing trends. The Bonadino contract was removed because they told us that we couldn't do that anymore.

For the A6101 (Medical Assistance) account, Ms. Grant indicated that they keep getting a timeline change on when NYS will be taking over. The number of Medicaid cases keeps going up due to the expanded eligibilities, yet we do not know how much we will get back. Ms. Grant believes that we should be ok with this account and noted that some of the positions allocated to Medicaid have not been filled.

Account A6106 (Adult Family Special Needs Homes) has been reduced since we have not had any cases in a few years.

Account A6140 (Home Relief), our Safety Net caseload is increasing, yet we have realized some savings due to some internal efficiencies DSS instituted.

For account A6140 (HEAP), Ms. Grant noted that we haven't received any HEAP money yet. HEAP is not starting until November 17 this year, and it will be ending December 31, 2014. It started on November 1 last year. We will probably see increases in other areas. Emergency HEAP cases won't be considered until January. If someone has an emergency prior to January, they end up hitting one of our accounts instead of HEAP, which won't be good for us. HEAP is funded 100 percent and what we take in, we pay out.

Overall the Social Services budget is down from last year, and the local share request is down 3.5 percent from last year.

Budget Committee Chairman Ted Hopkins asked why they don't they tie children not showing up for school to benefits the caregiver receives. Ms. Grant stated that some of this is political, but there is a huge difference between a parent not getting a small child to school, and an older child fighting with their parents about going to school. Committee members talked about putting children in PINS (Person in Need of Supervision). Legislator Hopkins stated that if a child is behind in third grade, he/she ends up being behind for life. Ms. Grant noted that is why Social Services participates on community coalitions such as Success by Six and other preventive programs in order to address such issues and, hopefully, preventing children and families from needing services later on.

A motion was made by Legislator LaForge, seconded by Legislator Curran, and carried to accept the 2015 Social Services Budget as presented by the Budget Officer.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the committee, a motion was made by Legislator Fanton, seconded by Legislator Curran, and carried to adjourn the meeting at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Rigby Riehle, Clerk of the Board
Allegany County Board of Legislators

**BUDGET COMMITTEE
AUGUST 25, 2014**

**** NOT APPROVED ****

Committee Members Present: T. Hopkins, K. LaForge, D. Fanton, C. Crandall (Absent: P. Curran, T. O'Grady)

Others Present: J. Adams, M. Alger, H. Budinger, S. Decker, K. Dirlam, J. Foels, G. Hanchett, R. Hollis, J. Luckey, R. Lynch, B. Riehle, T. Ross

Media Present: No media present

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m. by Budget Committee Chairman Theodore Hopkins.

Budget Presentations

Human Resources

Personnel Officer H. Bobby Budinger indicated that most of his budget had not changed significantly since last year. He did however note that he was expecting fewer revenues in 2015. Due to changes in reimbursements for Medicare Part D, and how they are calculated, he was expecting to see a great deal less. \$83,000 was budgeted for total revenues in 2014. Only \$53,000 will be budgeted for 2015. He did ask for an increase in his .424 (Legal Advertising) expense account. \$1,300 was budgeted for 2014, but he anticipated they would be going over budget and therefore is asking for \$2,200 for 2015. This account is used to place advertisements for examination announcements and classified ads for job openings. The Human Resources/Civil Service proposed Budget for 2015 (A1430) was approved as presented on a motion by Legislator Fanton, seconded by Legislator Hopkins, and carried.

Development

Development Director John Foels stated that the net change to his budget from the previous year would be zero. He did say that they may need to move funds around especially for marketing. Discussion ensued with the County Treasurer about possibly creating a new account for the marketing expenses. The Development proposed Budget for 2015 (A6430 and A6431) was approved as presented on a motion by Legislator Fanton, seconded by Legislator Hopkins, and carried.

Tourism

Allegany County Tourism Director Gretchen Hanchett remarked that it's difficult to predict what amount of revenue will be received from New York State in regards to the I Love NY monies. It was agreed that \$60,000 was a good estimate. The Tourism proposed Budget for 2015 (A6989) was approved as presented on a motion by Legislator Fanton, seconded by Legislator Hopkins, and carried.

Planning

County Planner H. Kier Dirlam remarked that the largest change in his budget is for the Comprehensive Planning School Grant Program which will help towns with their comprehensive plans. Because of this, his 2015 budget shows \$67,699 in revenues. He indicated that his office would need additional help with this. He expects those grant revenues to be fully spent by

this time next year. Keeping a separate account for this was discussed and it was determined this would be helpful to the Treasurer. Additionally, Mr. Dirlam asked to increase his personnel budget in order to add a support staff person two days per week. The Planning proposed Budget for 2015 (A8020) was approved as presented on a motion by Legislator Fanton, seconded by Legislator Hopkins, and carried.

County Administrator

County Administrator Alger remarked that the largest change in his Budget is under the personnel line items. This was due to the fact that a part-time Deputy Administrator was hired instead of having a full-time person. The \$57,000 for Fees (.409) is comprised mostly of fees for negotiations. The County Administrator proposed Budget for 2015 (A1011) was approved as presented on a motion by Legislator Fanton, seconded by Legislator LaForge.

The County Administrator noted that the Budget for Assigned Counsel (A1171) was difficult to put together. This is partly due to a grant that is currently showing in the Public Defender's Budget. Additionally there is the added cost of legal services when there is a conflict of interest in the Public Defender's Office. The group discussed the contract with Cattaraugus-Allegany Legal Services. The Assigned Counsel proposed Budget for 2015 (A1171) was approved as presented on a motion by Legislator LaForge, seconded by Legislator Fanton, and carried.

Legislator Fanton inquired about a change in Bus Transportation (A5630 and A5650) numbers. The group discussed the fact that numbers are decreasing due to the State taking over medical transport and discussed how much it was going to cost the County.

In presenting the Auditor (A1320) Budget, Mr. Alger explained that this is for Mr. Dibert who is able to sign off on all Department of Social Services prepaids.

Under the Budget (A1340) account, it was noted that sales tax is the largest revenue item. The group discussed funds received from gaming and also the Tobacco Settlement. The expenses consist of \$5,000 salary for Budget Officers.

The line item for telephone under the Land Acquisition and Lease Budget (A1622) was decreased to zero because the telephone was added to the County's system.

When discussing the Contingency (A1990) Budget, Chairman Crandall inquired why expenses don't show up as separate line items. Ms. Ross explained that the money is transferred out to another account and then expensed from there.

Mr. Alger indicated that the Budget for Beach and Pool (A7180) was primarily the same as the previous year. He did note there were a few maintenance items that were taken care of this year (dock, fence, etc.)

It was noted that the Snowmobile (A7185) Budget was basically just a pass through. Funds are received from the State and distributed to snowmobile associations.

The Wildlife Habitat Budget remains the same as in 2014.

The Conservation (A8730) Budget has increased by \$3,000. The increase constitutes an increase in contribution to Soil and Water Conservation.

A request for additional funds had been made by Cooperative Extension (A8751), but the committee indicated they would like to see their budget before they change the contribution amount.

The Agricultural Society (A8752) Budget will remain unchanged for 2015

The Blind & Visually Handicapped (A8823) Budget will remain unchanged for 2015.

The Risk Retention – Health (CSH) Budget was discussed, in particular the large increase in expenses. The new budgeted amount should more accurately reflect what the claims have been. This is another number that is difficult to predict as it depends on the usage by those who are covered.

The remaining County Administrator's proposed Budgets (A5630, A5650, A7180, A7185, A8720, A8730, A8751, A8752, A8823, CSH) were approved on a motion made by Legislator LaForge, seconded by Legislator Fanton, and carried.

Emergency Services & Homeland Security

Emergency Services Director Jeff Luckey explained changes that were made to his Budget for 2015. He had to increase his Budget to cover the cost of some books that they needed to purchase. He also explained that his department uses a tower in Wellsville for training, but that cost is shared with Fire Services. The group also discussed the EMT classes. Mr. Luckey indicated that sometimes they profit from the classes, and sometime they lose money. They get paid when students pass the class. Mr. Luckey questioned why money was taken out of his Personnel Budget. Ms. Ross explained that it was just moved over to Homeland Security. The Emergency Services (A3640) and Homeland Security (A3645) proposed Budgets were approved on a motion made by Legislator Fanton, seconded by Legislator LaForge, and carried.

Employment & Training

Employment & Training Director Reita Sobeck-Lynch remarked that she was pleased with her Budget. Discussion ensued regarding a change in Revenue Account (5031.00) which is for Interfund Transfers coming from the General Fund. Mr. Alger remarked that the County receives \$1 million in programs for \$30,000. Ms. Lynch verified that was correct, adding that around seven percent of her Budget comes from the County. She added that she doesn't anticipate any staffing changes in the coming year. The Employment & Training (CD1) proposed Budget was approved on a motion made by Legislator Fanton, seconded by Legislator Hopkins, and carried.

Elections

Elections Commissioner Rick Hollis was present to discuss his Budget for 2015. He stated that his Budget is largely dependent on the number of elections in a given year. He did indicate that his revenue from State Aid (3089.00) would need to be decreased to \$29,118. He said that his Conference Budget may be close as well as the Education/Schools account. Additionally, the Printing/Microfilming account is difficult to predict without knowing whether or

not there will be a primary. The Elections (A1450) proposed Budget was approved on a motion made by Legislator Fanton, seconded by Legislator LaForge, and carried.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:37 a.m. following a motion by Legislator Fanton, seconded by Legislator LaForge, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah M. Decker, Deputy Clerk of the Board
Allegany County Board of Legislators

**BUDGET COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 17, 2014**

**** NOT APPROVED ****

Committee Members Present: T. Hopkins, K. LaForge, D. Fanton, C. Crandall (Absent: P. Curran, T. O'Grady)

Others Present: M. Alger, L. Ballengee, H. Budinger, D. Hanchett, K. Monroe, B. Riehle, T. Ross, C. Santora, R. Whitney

Media Present: No media present

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Budget Committee Chairman Theodore Hopkins.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Legislator Fanton, seconded by Legislator LaForge, and carried to approve the Budget Committee minutes of August 20, 2014.

Sales Tax Report

County Treasurer Terri Ross distributed the 2014 Allegany County Sales Tax Report reflecting receipts through September 17, 2014, totaling \$13,954,511.36. Receipts for the current period indicate an increase of \$825,201.26 or 6.285 percent over last year at this time.

Budget Update

Budget Officer Mitch Alger distributed a summary sheet reflecting requested items and his responses to those requests. Among the requests for new positions in 2015 were three Dispatcher positions, a secretary going from part- to full-time in Planning, a third Assistant Public Defender, a Community Services Worker and two Aging Services Technicians in OFA, two part-time Technicians for the Board of Elections, and a change in funding for the Victim Services Coordinator in the District Attorney's Office. In his summary sheet, Mr. Alger recommended one Dispatcher for E-911 which is partially funded by DSS for approximately 50 percent of the cost; he okayed the increase to full-time for the Planning Department Secretary, the cost of which would be in the Planning Budget; the Third Assistant Public Defender was left in as it is fully grant-funded; in OFA, the Community Services Worker and one Aging Services Tech requests were left in the budget as they would be funded by a combination of BIP (Balancing Incentive Program) and NY Connects funding; the other Aging Services Tech position is actually a move from part-time to full-time and would be left in the Budget for 2015, contingent on BIP funding. The two BOE part-time Technician positions were left in the budget; those positions are currently unfilled. There was confirmation that these are charge-back positions. Mr. Alger retained the Victim Services Coordinator which would rely on Traffic Diversion Revenue for funding as the grant to fund it is no longer available, at least for 2015. District Attorney Keith Slep is also seeking alternative grant funding for this position.

Mr. Alger went on to review vehicle/equipment requests for 2015. Among the requests were a truck for DPW Buildings & Grounds, plus two plow trucks, two haul trucks, and a truck with lift frame; the Health Department, Mental Health, and OFA also submitted vehicle requests. Mr. Alger recommended the following for the Vehicle Capital Account: the DPW Buildings & Grounds truck, the requested vehicles for DOH and Mental Health, and one of the two requested vehicles for OFA. Mr. Alger also recommended that the DPW truck with lift frame and

two plow trucks be put in the DPW Budget. The second OFA vehicle and the two DPW haul trucks were not recommended. Legislator LaForge inquired whether BIP funding could be used to purchase the other OFA vehicle. Mr. Alger said he didn't think so, but would investigate further to confirm that belief. The Health Department and Mental Health vehicles will be purchased with grant funding, and the cost to the County for these programs will not increase due to these purchases. Mr. Alger also recommended assigning \$1,000,000 from the unassigned Fund Balance for the future landfill closing costs. This recommendation was referred to Ways & Means on a motion by Legislator Fanton, seconded by Legislator LaForge, and carried. **Refer to Ways & Means**

Mr. Alger went on to review the 2015 DPW Capital Projects requests. Six bridges are on the list: four town and two County. He told the Committee he would like to fund the County share of the Federal Bridge (\$699,400) as well as the cost of one of the two County Bridges (County Route 27B--\$335,000) with \$1 million of the unassigned Fund Balance. This, he said, is similar to what we have done in the past. But all the bridges on the provided list would stay in the Budget at this point. The rest of the funding would come from the levy, said County Treasurer Terri Ross.

Mr. Alger then went to the Summary of the 2015 Budget by Funds. He said that the summary he distributed assumes we have the same number as last year as far as the assessment. He added we know there will be an increase in assessed value, we just don't know how much at this point and don't want to put a number to it yet. The tentative number will be available at the end of the week. He went on to say that the important number on the summary is the balance to be raised by property taxes is \$29,968,327; that's up from \$29,349,498—which would make the tax rate 17.05 which would be an increase of 35 cents/thousand. It would be a \$618,829 increase in the levy over last year which equates to about 2.11 percent in the levy as well as a 2.11 percent tax rate change as well. This is within the cap, he said. You won't see a change in rate until we get the assessment rate. And although there will be a tentative number soon, the final number won't be available until the end of October or early November. By the time of the public hearing, and before the budget is released, we should have a good tentative number. Ms. Ross added that this summary is just that: it doesn't go into details, but shows where the revenues are coming from and where the expenses are. She said it remains a work in progress.

Following the Budget presentation by Mr. Alger and Ms. Ross, Sheriff Rick Whitney addressed the group to make a plea for reinstating the other two Dispatcher positions as requested. He turned the explanatory portion of his request to Lt. Dan Hanchett who told the Committee that as it stands now, with E-911 taking on the increasing responsibilities of the State Police calls, the Wellsville Police Department calls, and the DSS and SPCA after-hours calls as well as Environmental Conservation calls, he is short-staffed in the Dispatch Center. His first concern, he said, is public safety. With the continuous increase in responsibility, and thus, calls, his fear is that some calls will go unanswered. Right now, he said, he is using part-time dispatchers as a solution rather than as a strategy. What he desired, he said, is a strategy that would assure no open slots and no unanswered calls. In addition to the three full-time dispatchers, however, Lt. Hanchett also told the Committee that he would need to change the work schedule of the dispatchers, which would cover all the vacancies and decrease the potential for unanswered calls. It was noted at that time, however, that any change in the schedule needed to be negotiated with the Union before it could be considered because it is a mandatory subject of negotiation for current employees; any new hires could be hired under the

new schedule, however. The Committee then recommended that the Budget Officer review the request for possible reinstatement of the additional two Dispatcher positions on a motion by Legislator Fanton, seconded by Legislator LaForge, and carried. **Refer to Budget Officer Alger**

The other issue that Sheriff Whitney addressed was the need for upgrading the security system at the Jail. To that end he had requested \$250,000 be added to his budget to cover the cost of the upgrade. He told the Committee that all the "patches" the company could make to keep the system going had been made. If the system should fail and the Jail needs to revert to a key-based system, other, wider-reaching repercussions could be felt, such as the State's saying we can't house that many inmates, so we need to cut back. He was directed to bring that issue to the Public Safety Committee before any budgetary adjustments would be made. Additionally, perhaps if the Sheriff has a surplus at the end of the year, that surplus could be put toward the system upgrade.

Following Lt. Hanchett's statement that the employees at the Jail are dedicated to their duties, Chairman Crandall said he certainly would take every opportunity to express publicly his appreciation to the dedicated staff at the Jail and the way the Jail operates.

Discussion following the Sheriff's request included issues surrounding the fact that any large purchases (such as the Sheriff's request for \$250,000 to cover the \$250,000 quote received for a security system update) should be vetted through the Committee of Jurisdiction and not simply dropped into a proposed budget. Mr. Alger noted that any Department that had included such a large request would also have been denied until the issue had been properly vetted. The Budget Officer had recommended that the Sheriff's Office receive roughly \$400,00 more in 2015 than was appropriated in 2014 (not including the two Dispatcher positions).

Good of the Order

A follow-up Budget meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 25, at 11 a.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m. following a motion by Legislator LaForge, seconded by Legislator Fanton, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia Santora, Secretary to the Clerk of the Board
Allegany County Board of Legislators

**BUDGET COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 25, 2014**

**** NOT APPROVED ****

Committee Members Present: T. Hopkins, K. LaForge, D. Fanton, C. Crandall (Absent: P. Curran, T. O'Grady)

Others Present: M. Alger, L. Ballengee, H. Budinger, D. Decker, K. Graves, D. Healy, R. Hollis, J. Luckey, K. Monroe, D. Pullen, B. Riehle, T. Ross, C. Santora, R. Whitney

Media Present: B. Quinn, *Wellsville Daily Reporter*

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 11:10 a.m. by Budget Committee Chairman Theodore Hopkins.

2015 Tentative Budget Review/Update

Before reviewing the updated, but still tentative, Budget Summary, Legislator Hopkins canvassed the Committee to determine when the full Board should review the 2015 Tentative Budget. It was decided to have the tentative Budget available for review on Tuesday, October 14, at 10 a.m. Subsequently, Budget Officer Mitch Alger and County Treasurer Terri Ross distributed Budget workbooks to Committee members and other Legislators in attendance. The most impactful change from last week's budget briefing was the inclusion of the assessment number which is \$62,886,050 in taxable assessed value, a \$618,829 increase in levy over last year. That equates to a 24-cent decrease in the tax rate per \$1,000 of assessed value which is a 1.42 percent decrease from last year. Overall, total appropriations amount to \$121,200,909. Total expected revenues equal \$91,232,582, resulting in a balance of \$29,968,327 to be raised by real property taxes. The (total) appropriation includes the \$1 million in the Fund Balance for the County share of one County bridge as well as the County share of the Federal bridge. Ms. Ross went on to explain how the workbook was organized. When asked, Ms. Ross said that this Budget is within \$86,000 of the cap, not using the rollover. Using the rollover, it's about \$240,000, she said.

Executive Session

Budget Officer Alger requested an executive session to discuss the employment history of a particular person. The Committee entered executive session at 11:20 a.m. on a motion by Legislator Fanton, seconded by Legislator LaForge, and carried. The Committee exited executive session at 11:40 a.m. on a motion by Legislator Fanton, seconded by Legislator Hopkins, and carried.

Following executive session, Legislator Hopkins commended both Mr. Alger and Ms. Ross for their hard work as well as the Department Heads who work diligently to keep their costs down.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:42 a.m. following a motion by Legislator Fanton, seconded by Legislator LaForge, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia Santora, Secretary to the Clerk of the Board
Allegany County Board of Legislators

**BUDGET COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 15, 2014**

**** NOT APPROVED ****

Committee Members Present: T. Hopkins, K. LaForge, T. O'Grady, C. Crandall (Absent: P. Curran, D. Fanton)

Others Present: M. Alger, S. Burt, D. Decker, M. Gasdik, V. Grant, K. Graves, D. Healy, T. Hull, G. James, C. Jessup, T. Miner, K. Monroe, D. Pullen, D. Rahr, B. Riehle, D. Root, T. Ross, C. Santora, R. Whitney

Media Present: No media present

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. by Budget Committee Chairman Theodore Hopkins.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Legislator LaForge, seconded by Chairman Crandall, and carried to approve the Budget Committee minutes of August 21 and 25, and September 17, and 25, 2014.

Sales Tax Report

County Treasurer Terri Ross distributed the 2014 Allegany County Sales Tax Report reflecting receipts through October 15, 2014, totaling \$16,079,230.40. Receipts for the current period indicate a small decrease from one year ago for the same period, but the year-to-date figures continue to show an increase, currently of \$814,580.70 or 5.336 percent over last year at this time.

"Big Five" Department 3rd Quarter Reports

Health Department

Deputy Public Health Director Tom Hull and Health Department Accountant Dave Rahr presented the Health Department's third quarter budget review figures. Mr. Rahr indicated that the Health Department is on track with revenues for this year. He said the Department files its revenues quarterly for the most part, and they are almost dead on point there. He anticipates no major issues there. On the expense side, he said, the Early Intervention director anticipates coming in nearly \$100,000 below budget if things hold steady. However, if one needy (e.g., autistic) child comes in at the end of the year, that could spike the cost. Mr. Rahr said his main concern is the general supplies line item which is where vaccines are paid. He said we are approaching that budget limit, and we may need to come back to move money between accounts to cover a shortfall. He indicated that COLA monies may be able to be re-appropriated into there, or because the Department has been without its nurse practitioner almost all year, some of the salary could be moved to cover those costs. The only request would be to transfer money, not for additional monies, he said.

Department of Public Works

Superintendent of Public Works Guy James addressed the Committee saying, the revenue accounts includes the CHIPS payment, the Court System contract, and FEMA aid. In appropriations, he said, he projects that DPW will be over on the electric and natural gas costs for our facilities, but he believes DPW can cover that shortfall. He added that DPW is looking

pretty good at this point, and Mr. James believes it will be fine for the rest of the year. He wanted to publicly acknowledge Yvonne Marks for her diligence in preparing the budget and for always seeking ways to save money. This is important, he said, especially because DPW has the second largest County budget with \$13 million in appropriations and \$5.5 million in revenues.

Department of Social Services

Commissioner of Social Services Vicki Grant told the Committee that DSS is doing well. She may be under budget mostly because there remain some empty positions. She said she does not anticipate filling them at this time, but that ultimately will depend on what happens with Medicaid changes. HEAP comes at the end of the year, so you see a small number at this time, but that will be used. Revenues, she said, are always a couple months behind. She added that a lot of DSS contracts are not paid until January or February. Overall, she reiterated that the Department is doing well. Chairman Crandall noted that he and County Administrator Alger had met with Senator Catharine Young, telling her that the State's Medicaid changes which seem to be a big-scale cost-savings effort across the State, actually hurt the small rural areas such as Allegany County. He suggested we keep track so we can back this up with a cogent report.

Office for the Aging

Office for the Aging Director Madeleine Gasdik told the Committee that OFA revenue accounts are doing pretty well. The drawdowns are lagging a little as always, she said, because OFA has to prove it spent the money before they can apply for reimbursement. Ms. Gasdik added that OFA had had some increases in its nutrition programs. The Nutrition Services Incentive Program (NSIP) grant gives OFA 65 cents for every meal it serves and because OFA served so many meals this year, it saw a huge increase in that cost center. And on the long-term home health care meals, Medicaid pays for those meals and that has gone up a lot this year as well. Our revenues are more than the budgeted amount with an excess of approximately \$670. On the appropriations side, OFA had been concerned because it was running a shortage in the Meals-on-Wheels Program, but with the increase in EISP and savings in personnel costs, it looks as if OFA can maintain the status quo with meals for the last quarter and won't be asking for any more money. When asked, Ms. Gasdik said the support from the Senior Foundation is counted as a contribution which is earmarked specifically to help offset the cost of the Meals-on-Wheels Program.

Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Whitney told the Committee that revenues are up quite a bit from what was budgeted, in part due to the 911 surcharge which the Sheriff indicated he wasn't expecting and which, he said, accounts for about half of the overage in the revenues. On the appropriations side, he said, he is a little over budget, and most of that is the 911 Dispatch. Overall, the Sheriff added, it looks as if there will be a little left over. He added that he is hoping to make some budget transfers at end of year in order to buy needed items. He did caution the Committee that all it would take to use up any of the surplus would be one local prisoner with cancer that would use the budget overage in a heartbeat. But barring such an event, the Budget still looks pretty good. When asked, he said the 911 surcharge must be used for 911 which will help offset the overage.

Overtime Review

Before County Treasurer Terri Ross distributed several graphs depicting County-wide overtime, she told the Committee that she had run a County-wide report to see where we are in regards to this year's Budget. She noted that Allegany County has received about 77 percent of

projected revenues, and about 79 percent of the year has elapsed, so we are on track with that. Additionally, the County has spent about 67 percent of its Budget to date. Moving on to the graphs, Ms. Ross said that we have spent nearly \$1.3 million in overtime through September. The first graph, she explained, shows County-wide overtime by month in the form of a bar graph for the years 2012, 2013, and 2014. The back page features a line graph which shows the peaks and valleys per month for that same time period. She went on to say that she then took the top five Departments that log overtime and created individual graphs. The Jail is the biggest, followed by Sheriff Admin, Department of Social Services, 911, and Jail PT. She pointed out that when she ran these reports, there appeared a big spike in overtime in September 2012. She said that is explained because some retirees came back to work part-time and the way the system works caused a spike that month. However, she added, the aggregate numbers are correct. She said there are peaks and valleys in each of the above-named departments. Overall, she said, you can see that from 2012-13, overtime increased less than \$10,000. At this point, she added, the Budget is at approximately \$1.3 million which reflects nine months of the year; if that trend continues, we will spend less on overtime in 2014 than we did last year. She also explained that the charts are based solely on dollar amounts, not hours worked.

Good of the Order

Chairman Crandall distributed a press release that touted Allegany County for receiving an improved bond rating from Standard & Poor's Rating Service. S&P assigned its "A+" long-term rating to Allegany County's Series 2014 General Obligation Refund Serial Bonds, with a stable long-term outlook. This long-term rating reflects and takes into consideration the County's

- good and adequate management with standard financial policies and practices;
- strong budgetary flexibility, with a history of available reserves above 20 percent of expenditures;
- strong liquidity to cover debt service and expenditures;
- strong budgetary performance, with stable operational results; and
- strong debt and contingent liabilities, with limited future debt plans.

the rating will apply to the present refunding of the County's 2006 Public Improvement (Serial) Bonds for the Public Safety building. This refunding was recently approved by the Board of Legislators and is estimated to save over \$900,000 in interest over the remaining life of the bond.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m. following a motion by Legislator LaForge, seconded by Chairman Crandall, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia Santora, Secretary to the Clerk of the Board
Allegany County Board of Legislators

**BUDGET COMMITTEE
DECEMBER 17, 2014**

**** NOT APPROVED ****

Committee Members Present: T. Hopkins, K. LaForge, P. Curran, D. Fanton, T. O'Grady, C. Crandall

Others Present: M. Alger, S. Burt, D. Decker, K. Graves, D. Healy, C. Jessup, T. Miner, B. Riehle, D. Root, T. Ross, C. Santora,

Media Present: D. Donohue, *Olean Times Herald*

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 4:07 p.m. by Budget Committee Chairman Theodore Hopkins.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Legislator Fanton, seconded by Legislator Curran, and carried to approve the Budget Committee minutes of October 15, 2014.

Sales Tax Report

County Treasurer Terri Ross distributed the 2014 Allegany County Sales Tax Report reflecting receipts through December 17, 2014, totaling \$18,744,214.57. Receipts for the current period indicate an increase of \$833,518.31 or 4.654 percent from one year ago for the same period.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 4:07 p.m. following a motion by Legislator Fanton, seconded by Legislator Curran, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia Santora, Secretary to the Clerk of the Board
Allegany County Board of Legislators