

**ALLEGANY COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

January 13, 2014

CALL TO ORDER: The meet was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Chairman Curtis W. Crandall

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG: Chairman Crandall led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

LEGISLATORS PRESENT: Chairman C. Crandall, S. Burt, P. Curran, D. Decker, D. Fanton, K. Graves, M. Healy, T. Hopkins, C. Jessup, K. LaForge, A. McGraw, T. O'Grady, D. Pullen, D. Root, N. Ungermann, Jr.

OTHERS PRESENT: M. Alger, K. Dirlam, J. Foels, T. Miner, J. Ormond, N. Pullen, P. Reagan, B. Riehle, T. Ross, J. Wood

INTRODUCTIONS:

Chairman Crandall welcomed everyone and requested that we go around the room and introduce ourselves. In addition to the Legislators, several Department Heads, and a few County employees, two guests were in attendance from the Industrial Development Agency (IDA) – Jack Wood of Allentown and John “Jack” Ormond of Cuba.

Chairman Crandall indicated that these “coffee and donut” sessions first began in 2006 when he became Chairman. One of those first meetings back in 2006 generated a list of 82 different thoughts, bulletins, suggestions, etc. Chairman Crandall reiterated that we are beginning a new four-year cycle, and he would like to use this opportunity to get additional ideas, thoughts, and questions out. We won't be looking for specific motions or actions tonight, and there is no need for toe-to-toe debate. This is the time to just get the ideas out. Chairman Crandall opened the floor up to anyone that would like to present something.

Bridge Program

Legislator Philip Curran distributed copies of a *2014 Bridge Program* proposal. Legislator Curran stated that he doesn't believe the government method of construction is a very viable method in this day and age. Legislator Curran referred to the practice of employees congregating at a specific shop at the start and end of the day, noting that in the private sector there is no interim travel. Legislator Curran stated that the time between the shop and worksite is never charged to the job, and he thinks it would be quite a headache to keep all of that sorted out. Legislator Curran shared the following statistics:

- We have 307 bridges in Allegany County.
- Public Works can replace or repair only 4-5 structures per year.
- Public Works is responsible for the regular maintenance on County bridges.
- Public Works is also responsible to make sure the towns and villages are in compliance with Highway Law Section 238, paragraph d (1 thru 10) which explains the responsibilities the towns and villages have in maintaining their bridges.
- Public Works currently produces a list of bridges to be repaired or replaced a full year in advance, which allows the towns and villages time to budget the costs.

- Allegany County currently keeps all the sales taxes collected County wide, and pays some of it back through various programs. One such program is the Bridge Program. Currently we share the construction costs with the towns on an 85 percent County share and 15 percent town share.
- Public Works has five projects scheduled for the 2014 construction season. Three town bridges and two culverts under a County Road. Total preliminary estimates for the town bridges is \$762,000, and the towns' share totals \$114,300.

Legislator Curran indicated that he has a 4-Point Proposal as follows:

1. Double the funding for bridge construction. Use funds from contingency for the first two to three years. As the dump goes offline, we can use the savings from being out of the Landfill business to finance the Bridge Program.
2. Allow Guy James to develop a five-year building plan, allowing us to arrange more efficient budgeting at both County and town levels.
3. All construction will be sent out to bid. Public works will also be required to bid, and all jobs will be let to the lowest qualified bidder.
4. With the additional funding, we should be able to build or refurbish at least twice as many bridges.

Legislator Curran indicated that we have been told that the County can complete these bridges less expensively than the private sector, and this would provide a good opportunity to find out if this is true. Legislator Curran mentioned the difference in hours that the private sector can work, noting that he has received some complaints. Legislator Curran stated that a few bridges took 11 months to complete, and some were done very quickly. Legislator Curran presented the following advantages:

- We are using Allegany County dollars on Allegany County infrastructure.
- We will actually see if the government-run construction model is more or less efficient than the private sector.
- If it proves out that the private firms are more effective, we can turn the County construction crew into a Bridge Maintenance Program.
- If it proves out that our bridge crew is more efficient than the private sector, we will be able to use the crew in a more effective manner.
- We will be completing twice as many bridge projects every year.

Legislator Curran asserted that perhaps the biggest benefit of all is that we will not have legacy costs with the additional bridges we might be able to do. Legislator Curran asked the other Legislators if they believed his proposal was viable.

Legislator Timothy O'Grady stated that \$1 million is a lot of money, and we have five projects this year. Perhaps we could pick one project and try bidding that competitively. This might be a good way to help the County catch up on projects. Legislator Ungermann referred to some of the savings that the Town of Birdsall was able to realize with the repairs they did to their Hiltonville Bridge. Legislator Ungermann indicated that he believes the towns ought to have input on what they want done, but they have not been able to use the Bridge Cost Sharing Program unless the County does the work. Chairman Crandall indicated that from the material that was presented at the last Public Works Committee meeting regarding condition ratings for bridges, he does not believe that what the Town of Birdsall did was comparable to what the County had proposed, and that we need to have an understanding of what we are going to do and what needs to be done. Public Works Chairman Dwight Fanton indicated that Public Works would be happy to put a project out to bid as long as we are comparing apples to apples. Legislator Debra Root questioned who would develop the design and bid specifications. Committee members agreed that in order for this to be a

possibility, everyone would need to be working with the same bid specifications, and the jobs should still be formulated in house.

Legislator David Pullen stated that he believes Legislator Curran's proposal has some merit in terms of finding the most efficient and productive way of doing bridges. Legislator Pullen indicated that he has talked with different highway superintendents and some are in favor of putting the projects out to bid and others are not. Legislator Pullen talked about prioritizing and budgeting. Legislator Pullen indicated that the sharing of sales tax could also be impacted. Going forward, we may allocate a portion of any increase in sales tax to go to the local governments as a way of giving them some relief, and they can decide how to use it. Presently local governments have no source of revenue other than property taxes, and Legislator Pullen does not believe the County could give up any of what we are currently getting.

Legislator Hopkins referred to Legislator Curran's point of savings when the Landfill closes stating that he does not believe there will be any savings. Legislator Hopkins also pointed out that we are using our Fund Balance now to balance the Budget and keep taxes down. Legislator Curran suggested trying his proposal on an experimental basis by taking a bridge out of the 2015 Budget and putting it out to bid.

Legislator Kevin LaForge expressed concern if there may be situations in New York State where there could be some union blow back or Department of Labor blow back, or if there is any history of this type of thing.

Legislator David Decker stated that he would like to see a list of bridges that have been red-flagged by the NYS DOT. Chairman Crandall stated that he recently asked Public Works Superintendent Guy James to resurrect a presentation that he had given several years ago regarding the Bridge Program. The presentation showed the deficiencies and where we are with bridge repair and/or replacement. We will schedule a time when Mr. James can give the updated presentation to all Legislators. Legislator Dwight Fanton also stated that Guy James' door is always open, and he would be happy to give you any information you want.

Chairman Crandall summarized some of the points brought up about the Bridge Program. We have had this program for about 20 years. We need to keep up and can't continue to fall behind. Unless someone doesn't want to look at other options, we will cultivate the thoughts and ideas that have been thrown out. We need to have a clear understanding of what we are dealing with. We need to look at the budget ramifications, and whether or not there are funds that would help us operate more smoothly. Legislator Karl Graves stated that he was in favor of trying it, but wants to caution us against fixing things that are not broken, and in turn breaking something that is already a good program. Legislator Fanton reiterated that he would be glad to bid out a bridge as long as we are comparing apples to apples. Legislator Fanton also noted that if you lose part of your process, private industry has a habit of low-balling projects initially.

Dedicated Bridge Fund

Legislator Norman Ungermann indicated that at the same meeting where Mr. James did the bridge presentation, there was discussion regarding having a dedicated bridge fund that could be used in emergencies. Legislator Ungermann stressed that the Board needs to be able to set up a reserve for emergency situations, and Legislator Dwight Fanton noted that our Contingency Fund or Fund Balance can be used for those types of situations.

County Treasurer Terri Ross stated that money left over from a Capital Bridge Project rolls over into our Fund Balance; however, the Board can reallocate those funds. In addition, if a new Capital Project has been established, the leftover funds can also be rolled over into that by Board

resolution. The Board can also decide to commit a certain amount to bridges, but it cannot be from the Capital Fund. Treasurer Ross also stated that she doesn't want there to be a misunderstanding that there are thousands of dollars leftover. Generally there is not a lot of money left over, and some years there are projects that fall short, and they are netted out at the end of the year. In addition, we have to determine if any bond money was used on a particular project.

Chairman Crandall stated that the bottom line for the Board right now is whether or not they want to put another \$1 million in the bridge projects. County Administrator/Budget Officer Mitch Alger stated that if something goes up in the Budget, something else has to go down.

Crossroads Development

Legislator Dwight "Mike" Healy stated that the answer to this and many of our problems is to bring in more money through growth. Our previous County Administrator John Margeson had stated that when the truck stop closed, we lost \$1 million in sales tax revenue, and it hadn't even been doing that well the last several years it was in business. We also have 17,000 vehicles that pass through the Crossroads Intersection every day. Many of those vehicles are on I86 that we could attract if we had some facilities. This could be a great source of revenue for our County. It's ideal to get money from people traveling through that do not use our services. We have a very unique area here at the Crossroads that is readily accessible, but it is missing infrastructure. We can't do much without water, and Mr. Healy believes we should take the \$3 million it is estimated to cost to get water in and put it in. In addition, perhaps the IDA should look at the truck stop and market it, and it would be more marketable if it was ready to go. Legislator Graves stated that if there was some activity, other things would come to it. Legislator Ungermann stated that instead of just looking at hotels, perhaps the County should be looking at industry.

Legislator Scott Burt referred to Chairman Crandall's statement at a previous meeting that the Board has a chance to make a legacy. If we do put water and sewer in, it will eventually be a very good thing; the Crossroads is our welcome mat to Allegany County. Legislator Burt indicated that he asked Public Works Superintendent James his opinion on putting water and sewer out to the Crossroads. Mr. James shared some of his notes from 2004 with Legislator Burt. Back in 2004, Mr. James contacted some premium outlets including Cabelas and gathered quite a bit of information which he shared with three Legislators who are no longer on the Board and was basically told that this wasn't his concern. One of the things that Mr. James was told is that these people will not even consider this area for development unless the water and septic are there. They want the infrastructure now. Legislator Burt asked, "What keeps us from just putting it in?" What is the Board most concerned about? Apparently the premium outlets that Mr. James spoke with said that we were an ideal location.

Development Director John Foels confirmed that companies always prefer areas where they can just go and plug in. Back in 2004, the idea of the Crossroads was a very tentative thing. We are in a good spot; we have intermunicipal agreements in place. Two years ago, the Board set aside a \$3.5 million bond issue. This bond issue is under the guidance of County Administrator Mitch Alger and County Treasurer Terri Ross, and it has worked out well. When the bond was issued, some did not feel that it was a good investment and didn't believe we should pursue water until we had a viable project in place. The matrix of the bond requires that we have end users. If the Board wants to reconsider the direction, Mr. Foels said it would be very helpful. With the truck stop, there are some environmental issues, and the cost of rebuilding that is a lot more than what was initially thought. The entire facility has to be totally renovated. Just to run gas to that location, carries a \$70,000 price tag. Mr. Foels stated that it didn't help us that we went through a recession and the money dried up on some of those projects. They fell out because they couldn't pull out the financing. Mr. Foels stated that he totally recommends moving forward with putting water in if the conviction is that it's an investment in the County's future.

Legislator Ungermann stated that he believes there was an issue with the Comptroller's Office if we spend public money without an end user. The private sector doesn't wait around. Government moves slowly, but we are spending public money.

Legislator Decker questioned that if people are not going to develop due to water and sewer, than why hasn't Cuba exploded? They have about the same amount of traffic and have water and sewer in place. Why hasn't Cuba seen more development?

Legislator O'Grady stated that it takes money to make money. The towns that are going to reap the benefits of property tax should be a partner in this. They are very hesitant to take action on economic development when it's going to benefit them. First we heard about Cabelas, then a water park, and then the hotel. Legislator O'Grady doesn't believe he's privy to enough information to say it's viable to run water out to that spot. He knows the Legislators can't be brought in on the loop on some discussions, but something, even a little information, would be helpful. Legislator O'Grady indicated that it would benefit the whole County if the water systems were linked up.

Chairman Crandall stated that we already spent the money. We've put it into a bond for the IDA to invest under certain criteria (Resolution No. 14-12). There are legal ramifications and criteria that we need to follow for the bond, and all 15 Legislators voted for it. We can't just say let's do that; we have to revisit the criteria. County Attorney Thomas Miner stated that it's an investment that the County made, and we have fiduciary responsibilities. The funds have gone to the IDA, but they are under County Treasurer Ross' control. Once a project is contracted to go in, we could release some funds for the waterline. Ms. Ross is restricted in what type of investment can be made. We bought those bonds with a clear understanding of the responsibilities of the IDA, and those funds may not be as flexible as we would like.

Chairman Crandall stated that we talked with Mr. Foels when we had a Committee of the Whole in the Crossroads Building on December 2. It is not anyone's desire to let development ride along and hope that things take a better turn. We want to be proactive to see development at Crossroads and other places as well. We have two members of the IDA Board here tonight, and they want to see things done proactively and escalate the efforts in the way of development and what they can do with Crossroads. Over the next couple of months, we should know more as there have been some behind the scenes conversations, and we want to take action to raise this project and others up. Bringing the IDA together with the new Planning & Economic Development Committee will be encouraging.

Legislator Burt thanked everyone for the input and for answering his questions. Legislator Burt stated that we don't just want to focus on the truck stop, but the whole area. Route 19 is our lifeline, and the openness of it makes it very attractive. Legislator Burt likened Crossroads to the airport and stated that he doesn't believe we will be able to attract anyone without water, and that it will eventually be a very good thing.

Legislator Ungermann stated that out of the \$3.5 million bond, he believes that we eliminated the water tower for fire protection, and that the Board agreed that we would stop at Route 19 and not go across it with water. The property on the east side is still available, but the hotel or industry would have to put their own fire protection in. It's a matter of getting water up to it.

Legislator Pullen stated that the work on the jail was already going on when he came to the Board, and he listened to a lot of people talk about how insane the County's decision to build the Jail was. They thought there wouldn't be any prisoners, and that we would be left with an Albatross that would bankrupt us. Now some of those same people want to know why we aren't expanding the Jail. Legislator Pullen suggested taking a straw vote to see how many Legislators would be interested in exploring how we might be able to accomplish putting a waterline in, noting that we

would have to amend the bond resolution with the IDA. County Attorney Miner stated that it's not our bond resolution; we bought it. Attorney Miner indicated that he would look into that component. Chairman Crandall declared that he doesn't believe we should take a straw vote as we do not have all of the information we need. We are going to be connected and hearing from the IDA and Planning and Economic Development Committee, and expanding that to the Board in time.

Legislator Healy encouraged any Legislators that haven't visited John Foels or Kier Dirlam to do so. The amount of land available is good for development, and you can look at the aerial photos. Any developer would appreciate what is here – state forest lands, Genesee River, Belvidere Mansion, etc. The potential is endless, and once something starts here, we will be controlling the growth and keeping it positive.

Efficiency in Government

Legislator Kevin LaForge presented his *Efficiency in Government* Proposal, noting that he presented a similar proposal about three years ago. Legislator LaForge stated that he believes that the Board should review and undertake a program to reduce municipal expenses and property taxes through the planning and implementation of new local government service delivery efficiencies. Legislator LaForge indicated that he has been examining ways to reduce costs without sacrificing the quality of services, and increasing the quality of services through efficiencies. Legislator LaForge stated that the adopted Allegany County Comprehensive Plan has an entire section devoted to "Inter-Governmental Cooperation." Specific objectives include:

- Foster and facilitate consolidation of services and encourage resource sharing among government entities.
- Enable towns and villages to make decisions based on the best available information.
- Emphasize the necessity of consulting other government entities and considering all relevant plans in the decision-making process.

The Comprehensive Plan also set forth various strategies including:

- Obtain more federal and state support – develop a strategy and implementation plan.
- Aggressively support sharing of services and facilities between town, villages, County, schools, fire, ambulance and police services.
- Encourage communities to collaborate on Land Use decisions and shared services.
- Encourage common goals between communities and all levels of government.

Legislator LaForge mentioned the two grant applications that did not get funded despite the efforts of 18 different departments that came together in hopes of securing funds for some water and sewer projects. Legislator LaForge commended the efforts of the Friendship and Belfast school districts for merging their administration services. Legislator LaForge stated that we must look at the totality of what government provides for services. Legislators LaForge proposes making an organized effort and hire someone (perhaps a Master's Degree student) to facilitate this project. We would need to study all the functions the County provides. Legislator LaForge stated that we have a wonderful source of labor to do this – three colleges in this County, and they are interested in doing this. Legislator LaForge claimed that if we can come up with one project, it would pay for this whole thing. We have a lot of government for 49,000 people, and we need to get to the point where we can find sensible combinations of labor. Legislator LaForge stated that if he could get a straw vote on interest, he would like to come back in the next month or so with something more concrete. Everyone agreed that they would be interested in pursuing this.

County Treasurer Terri Ross stated that the schools are under the gun with collecting their school taxes, and it would be nice to figure out a way to address consolidating this issue.

Legislator LaForge stated that the possibilities are limitless with what we can save, and we have a unique opportunity now. When people start talking about merging and consolidation many people worry that they will lose their jobs; however, many baby boomers will be retiring, and we may get to sensible levels through attrition.

Legislator David Pullen stated that an excellent example of what Legislator LaForge is talking about is when Legislator Ted Hopkins worked with a few others in putting together a code enforcement program where 6 or 7 towns went from each hiring private companies to having two full-time employees that provide all of the code enforcement services at a cheaper price than they were paying before. Legislator Pullen stated that a lot of things could be done and mentioned highway departments sharing equipment. There are still some state impediments to consolidating our court system, but there is still a lot that can be done.

County Administrator Mitch Alger referred to the Governor's State-of-the-State Address and his new plan for a Tax Rebate Program. The first year of the program a direct rebate would go back to residents living in counties that have lived within the 2 percent cap. The second year, counties would have to show that consolidation efforts have been made in order to receive a rebate. Thresholds would have to be determined. Inevitably they are encouraging counties to do exactly what Kevin is talking about.

County Honors Pin

Chairman Crandall distributed note cards and County Honors Pins to all Legislators and requested that Legislator Debra Root read his note. Legislators Root read:

"Dear Colleagues: In 2006, Our County's Bicentennial, a special pin was cast in honor of that milestone. At the end of that celebration, some of these pins were leftover, and I was charged with distributing those to dignitaries as I saw fit. We have since recast our County pin, and the enclosed 'Honor's Pin' is presented to you as dignitaries and ambassadors for Allegany County. With great pleasure, Curt"

WNY Regional Economic Development Council Summit

Chairman Crandall indicated that he has recently had conversations with representatives from Empire State Development and the Western New York Development Council. Members from these agencies will be at Alfred University on January 31 for a participatory roundtable discussion focused on learning more about the role of the Western New York Regional Economic Development Council (WNY REDC), the NYS Consolidated Funding Application process, the components of a successful funding application, and ultimately how we cultivate an increase in Allegany County projects that successfully receive resources and support through the next round of the NYS CFA funding process.

Future Meetings

Chairman Crandall asked Legislators if they would like to have future meetings like this and all agreed that they would. The next meeting will be held on Monday, March 24, from 6:30 to 9 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m. following a motion made by Legislator Curran, seconded by Legislator Root, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

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

**ALLEGANY COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

February 10, 2014

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 3:17 p.m. by Chairman Curtis W. Crandall

LEGISLATORS PRESENT: Chairman C. Crandall, S. Burt, P. Curran, D. Decker, D. Fanton, K. Graves, M. Healy, T. Hopkins, C. Jessup, K. LaForge, A. McGraw, T. O'Grady, D. Pullen, D. Root (Absent: N. Ungermann, Jr.)

OTHERS PRESENT: M. Alger, T. Miner, K. Monroe, B. Riehle, T. Ross, R. Whitney

Attorney/Client Session

A motion was made by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Healy, and carried to enter into attorney/client session at 3:17 p.m. Immediately following discussion at 4:42 p.m., a motion was made by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Healy, and carried to end the attorney/client session and return to the regular meeting.

NYS Comptroller's Report of Examination of the County Jail Payroll and Inmate Prescription Medications

A motion was made by Legislator Decker, seconded by Legislator Root, and carried to adopt the process proposed by County Administrator Alger in response to the recommendations listed in the examination as follows:

1. The Sheriff's Office should continue to monitor staffing levels and establish an optimal staff size by analyzing staff needs over all functions and determining how best to assign new hires to achieve the greatest reduction in overtime costs. **Refer to Public Safety Committee and County Administrator**
2. The Sheriff's Office should consider hiring additional Correction Officers on a part-time basis to maintain an adequate pool of available officers for flexibility in covering shifts. **Refer to Public Safety Committee and County Administrator**
3. The Legislature should be provided with sufficiently detailed reports to allow for a thorough review of staffing levels and overtime costs within the Sheriff's Office. **Refer to Ways & Means Committee, County Administrator, and County Treasurer**
4. The Legislature should develop a time and attendance policy to ensure that all County departments submit timesheet and accrual information in a timely manner to both Human Resources and the Treasurer's Office before payroll is processed, and that time records for payroll and timesheets for employee accruals are reconciled. **Refer to Personnel Committee, County Administrator, County Treasurer, and Personnel Officer**
5. The Sheriff should require administrative staff members to complete timesheets and detailed logs documenting work performed and hours worked. The Sheriff should review and approve overtime requests in advance of the work. Where possible, the Sheriff should consider redistributing the work load of administrative employees. **Refer to**

Public Safety Committee, County Administrator, County Treasurer, and Personnel Officer

6. The Sheriff should require Correction Officers to complete shift swap request forms and have these forms approved by both employees' supervisors prior to allowing shift swaps to occur. This documentation should be retained and routinely reviewed by the Sheriff to ensure all shifts are paid back in a timely fashion and do not contribute to overtime costs. **Refer to Personnel Committee, County Administrator, County Treasurer, and Personnel Officer**
7. The Sheriff should ensure all employees complete timesheets, indicating actual hours worked and requiring that employees and their supervisors certify the time records and charges made to leave accruals. **Refer to Personnel Committee, County Administrator, County Treasurer, Personnel Officer**
8. The Legislature should revise its procurement policy by prescribing the procedures and documentation requirements for obtaining competitive pricing for professional services. Such procedures could include the use of a request for proposals process, where appropriate. **Refer to Ways & Means and Public Safety Committees, County Administrator, County Attorney, and County Treasurer**
9. The Sheriff's Office should routinely solicit proposals for pharmaceutical services and prescriptions, and compare to State-awarded contract prices, to help ensure the prudent and economical use of public moneys. **Refer to Ways & Means and Public Safety Committees, County Administrator, County Attorney, and County Treasurer**
10. If the Sheriff's Office determines that the most cost-efficient option is to continue using the local pharmacy, a written agreement should be negotiated to clearly define the services to be provided and establish the terms and conditions for payment. **Refer to Ways & Means and Public Safety Committees, County Administrator, County Attorney, and County Treasurer**
11. County officials should verify that amounts billed are in compliance with contract provisions prior to approving them for payment. **Refer to Ways & Means Committee, County Administrator, and County Treasurer**

It was noted that the County will be responding to the recommendations within the requisite 90-day time frame.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m. following a motion made by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Decker, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

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

**ALLEGANY COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

February 24, 2014

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 2:55 p.m. by Chairman Curtis W. Crandall

LEGISLATORS PRESENT: Chairman C. Crandall, S. Burt, P. Curran, D. Decker, K. Graves, M. Healy, C. Jessup, K. LaForge, A. McGraw, T. O'Grady, D. Pullen, D. Root (Absent: D. Fanton, T. Hopkins, N. Ungermann, Jr.)

OTHERS PRESENT: R. Anderson, T. Miner, B. Riehle

Executive Session

A motion was made by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Root, and carried to enter into executive session at 2:55 p.m. to discuss the employment history of a particular individual. Immediately following discussion at 5:35 p.m., a motion was made by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Root, and carried to end the executive session and return to the regular meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m. following a motion made by Legislator Healy, seconded by Legislator Pullen, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

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

**ALLEGANY COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

March 5, 2014

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 5:14 p.m. by Chairman Curtis W. Crandall

LEGISLATORS PRESENT: Chairman C. Crandall, S. Burt, P. Curran, D. Decker, M. Healy, C. Jessup, K. LaForge, A. McGraw, T. O'Grady, D. Pullen, D. Root (Absent: D. Fanton, K. Graves, T. Hopkins, N. Ungermann, Jr.)

OTHERS PRESENT: T. Miner, B. Riehle

Executive Session

A motion was made by Legislator Root, seconded by Legislator LaForge, and carried to enter into executive session at 5:14 p.m. to discuss the medical, financial, credit, or employment history of a particular individual. Immediately following discussion at 7:49 p.m., a motion was made by Legislator Pullen, seconded by Legislator Healy, and carried to end the executive session and return to the regular meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 7:49 p.m. following a motion made by Legislator Decker, seconded by Legislator Pullen, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

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

**ALLEGANY COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

March 10, 2014

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 2:56 p.m. by Chairman Curtis W. Crandall

LEGISLATORS PRESENT: Chairman C. Crandall, S. Burt, P. Curran, D. Decker, K. Graves, D. Healy, C. Jessup, K. LaForge, T. O'Grady, D. Pullen, D. Root, N. Ungermann (Absent: D. Fanton, T. Hopkins, A. McGraw)

OTHERS PRESENT: H.B. Budinger, T. Miner, B. Riehle

Executive Session

A motion was made by Legislator Decker, seconded by Legislator LaForge, and carried to enter into executive session at 2:56 p.m. to discuss the medical, financial, credit, or employment history of a particular individual. Immediately following discussion at 5:47 p.m., a motion was made by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Burt, and carried to end the executive session and return to the regular meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 5:47 p.m. following a motion made by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Burt, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

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

**ALLEGANY COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

March 19, 2014

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m. by Chairman Curtis W. Crandall

LEGISLATORS PRESENT: Chairman C. Crandall, S. Burt, P. Curran, D. Decker, D. Fanton, K. Graves, D. Healy, T. Hopkins, C. Jessup, K. LaForge, T. O'Grady, D. Pullen, D. Root, N. Ungermann (Absent: T. O'Grady)

OTHERS PRESENT: H.B. Budinger, T. Miner, B. Riehle

Executive Session

A motion was made by Legislator LaForge, seconded by Legislator Graves, and carried to enter into executive session at 4:05 p.m. to discuss the medical, financial, credit, or employment history of a particular individual. Immediately following discussion at 5:25 p.m., a motion was made by Legislator Root, seconded by Legislator Burt, and carried to end the executive session and return to the regular meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m. following a motion made by Legislator Fanton, seconded by Legislator Burt, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

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

**ALLEGANY COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

March 24, 2014

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairman Curtis W. Crandall

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Crandall

LEGISLATORS PRESENT: Chairman C. Crandall, S. Burt, P. Curran, D. Decker, D. Fanton, K. Graves, D. Healy, T. Hopkins, C. Jessup, K. LaForge, T. O'Grady, D. Root, N. Ungermann
(Absent: A. McGraw, D. Pullen)

OTHERS PRESENT: M. Alger, G. James, T. Miner, P. Reagan, B. Riehle, T. Ross, D. Scholes

Allegany County Bridge Program

Public Works Superintendent Guy R. James presented an overview of the County's Bridge Program. Mr. James complimented and thanked his staff for their help in putting the PowerPoint presentation together.

Mr. James explained that the NBIS (National Bridge Inspection Standards) defines a bridge as an erected structure of more than 20 feet (6.1 meters) carrying traffic over a depression or obstruction. The first step before putting a new bridge in is to determine the hydraulic capacity. Those present watched a video showing the power of water and how what might look like a little water on the road can turn to disaster very quickly.

There are currently 303 bridges in Allegany County. Mr. James presented a slide showing the bridges in each town which were also summarized by Legislative District as follows:

Leg. District	Town Owned	County Owned	Totals
1	43	35	78
2	36	25	61
3	32	28	60
4	23	7	30
5	47	27	74
Totals	181	122	303

Of the 303 bridges, eleven are posted for load (3-20 tons/lane), eight are closed to traffic, seven are classified as a "one lane" (<16' wide), nine are classified as a "narrow bridge" (16'-18'), one has vertical clearance restrictions (<14'), and there are also additional vertical clearance restrictions (<14') under railroads in six locations in Almond, Alfred, Friendship (3), and Cuba.

Mr. James noted that all bridges have Bridge identification Numbers (B.I.N.) that are seven numbers long. You can tell whose bridge it is by the BIN. All state-owned bridges start with a 1, all town-owned bridges start with a 2, all county-owned bridges start with a 3, all bridges located on an Indian Reservation start with a 6, and all bridges owned by the railroad start with a 7.

Mr. James showed slides of various types of bridges throughout the County, noting that Allegany County uses two basic abutment types – steel sheet piling and concrete. Two-thirds of our bridges are steel to prevent scour, channel degradation. There are 18 various superstructure types broken into three major components; 25 percent are steel, 25 percent are concrete, and 50 percent are timber. Mr. James stated that we have had good luck with our timber structures as they can be built year round and are very resistant to salts/chlorides. Allegany County has 150 timber structures, and the USFS (United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service Division) asked us to review its standard plans for glue/laminated timber bridges because we have so many. Mr. James stated that we have the longest clear-span timber arch in the nation, we have the most timber bridges of any County in the nation, and we have more timber bridges than most states in the nation.

Mr. James stated that 13 of our bridges have weathering steel girders which do not have to be painted although they look as if they are rusty. The Transit Bridge is a prime example. Two of our structures have galvanized steel girders, and two structures have fiber-reinforced polymers (FRP) decks (Bolivar & Wellsville).

Since 1988, the County and towns have built 106 bridges and rehabilitated another 86. Five of our structures have been dedicated to individuals, and one structure has been dedicated to Veterans. Most of our bridges cross creeks (65 different ones), 12 cross the Genesee River, 11 cross over the Canisteo River, seven cross over brooks, and two cross over railroads. Mr. James noted that bridges that cross the Genesee River tend to be more costly.

Our dedicated bridges include:

1. In 2013, the Town of Scio dedicated the Pixley Hill Road Bridge on the Vandermark Creek to Robert V. James in honor of over 38 Years of Service. *(Mr. James was Public Works Superintendent Guy James' father.)*
2. The Knights Creek Road Bridge in Scio was dedicated as the Ashley T. Rouse Memorial Bridge in 1978. *(Mr. Rouse was Legislator Debra Root's father.)*
3. The Council House Road Bridge in Caneadea was dedicated to Harland Hale in 1989. *(Mr. Hale was a Board of Supervisor member, and was the first Chairman of the Board of Legislators.)*
4. The Joncy Gorge Bridge in Angelica was dedicated as the Alton Saylor Memorial Bridge. *(Mr. Saylor was a Legislator from January 1978 through January 2000.)*
5. The County Road #4 Bridge in Hume was dedicated as the Raymond Kopler Bridge. *(Mr. Kopler was a Supervisor from 1958 through 1969, and then a Legislator from January 1970 through September 1980.)*

The Veterans' Memorial Bridge on Stevens Street in Wellsville was dedicated by a grateful community to all who served in the armed forces of the United States.

Mr. James explained the skew angle, noting that the bigger the skew, the greater the cost. Mr. James said that we ran out of 0 degree skews a long time ago.

Mr. James briefly talked about the County Survey Monument Program, noting that eventually all bridges will have one that will include coordinates and elevations stamped into them which will greatly assist our area surveyors. This is just another way to identify our structures. The first structure to get one was on County Road 2B in Amity.

Mr. James indicated that DPW tries not to waste anything, and they recycle the bridge parts whenever they can. Mr. James said that in 2005, they were able to obtain 33 inverset panels from a bridge in Boston to use on our bridges in Allegany County. Each panel weighed 16 tons. We paid \$15 per panel, and trucking was \$1,475 per panel. Mr. James noted that he hopes to be able to obtain more inverset panels from the Tappan Zee Bridge, north of Midtown Manhattan, which is currently slotted for replacement. The Tappan Zee Bridge is the longest bridge in New York State.

Mr. James said that we have bridges that get as few as 10 cars per day (Barber Road, Rushford), and we have bridges that get 6,500 cars per day (South Main St. Bridge, Wellsville). The longest bridge in the County is the Kopler Bridge in the Town of Hume, and the shortest bridge in the County is in Genesee. The Council House Road Bridge in Caneadea is our newest bridge, and it was opened in 2013. Our oldest structure built in 1887 is the Lattice Bridge in Hume.

Mr. James showed slides of various bridges throughout the County. Many slides showed various issues and states of disrepair, and Mr. James explained how different situations were handled or dealt with including before and after pictures. Some slides also showed the approach to various bridges, and Mr. James talked about the advantages of paving the approaches, noting that although it adds cost, it is well worth it.

Mr. James stated that 67.33 percent of all of our bridges (204/303) have been painted in the past five years, and 85.71 percent of our currently "paintable" bridges (204/238, structures with steel components) have been painted in the past five years.

Mr. James talked about the bridge replacement schedule, noting that we have to replace five bridges per year to stay on a 60+ year rotation for the 303 bridge structures. Mr. James asserted that our local bridges rank very well for the percentage of deficiencies statewide (structures with condition rates < 5.000). Statewide (all locally owned structures) 35.5 percent, Region 6 (all locally owned structures 16.2 percent, all Allegany County (includes towns) 12.1 percent, and Allegany County owed (6/122) 4.9 percent.

Legislator David Decker remarked that the reason Cuba Lake is there is because it's the second highest point on the Genesee Valley Canal that linked Olean and Rochester.

There was a brief discussion on how Mr. James works with the utility companies so their lines can be installed in conjunction with the replacement of bridges.

Legislator Scott Burt stated he was impressed with Mr. James' presentation and knowledge, and he also remarked how refreshing it was to see the pride Guy has in his work. Mr. James was quick to point out that it's all a team effort.

Legislator Ted Hopkins asked if structures that are closed are included on the deficiency percentages. Mr. James stated that if a structure has been closed for five years or less, it is included, and the condition is factored in. If it's been more than five years, then the condition is not included. Mr. James stated there were about 315 structures on our inventory when he first started with the County, and we have probably eliminated about all we can. There have also been a few structures that were culverts that are now bridges.

Legislator Norm Ungermann asked how the laminated arch bridge in Angelica is holding up. Mr. James stated that it's holding up well. Timber will move, and we make sure we allow it to move. Mr. James briefly talked about the tolerances in the construction of that bridge.

Caneadea Bridge

Legislator Scott Burt noted some of the publicity we have been hearing about the bridge in Caneadea and asked about the status. Mr. James stated that the structure is currently closed, and he would be surprised if that bridge ever reopens to vehicle traffic. Mr. James added that there are some people who are interested in making that structure into a walking trail. Legislator Norm Ungermann remarked that we could really use a good bridge across the river at that point. Mr. James stated that the area could definitely use a crossing, and he had actually wanted to see more

money invested on a new bridge downstream, noting that anything crossing the Genesee River is going to be quite costly (probably several million). Chairman Curt Crandall stated that there had been four other crossings in the vicinity that are no longer there.

Landfill

Public Works Committee Chairman Dwight Fanton stated that the Landfill will be closed in a couple of years. Legislator Fanton stated that we have a tentative agreement with Highland to take our garbage on a host agreement, but that was done three or four years ago, so that will need to be updated. Legislator Fanton stated that he has previously dragged his feet regarding instituting a pay-by-the-bag system, but he believes the time has come to talk with constituents regarding this. Although there have been lots of comments about finding garbage over the bank if we institute such a system, other counties do not seem to be having that kind of issue. Our current tag system is being abused, and it is time that we corrected it. Those present briefly discussed some of the abuses they have seen or heard about. It was noted that going to a pay-by-the-bag system may also help our Recycling Program. Deputy Public Works Superintendent Dean Scholes stated that there has been some success with the punch card system, and some of the town clerks have made those cards available in their offices. Monitoring a punch card system or a pay-by-the-bag system, could be labor intensive and costly.

This Board is going to have to deal with the closure of the Landfill. We talked about this even before we were sworn in. Legislator Norm Ungermann suggested that perhaps we should get out of the garbage system altogether. Those present briefly discussed the possibility of keeping the transfer stations with a pay-as-you-go system. It was noted that we will have to monitor the Landfill for 30 years after closure.

Chairman Crandall stated that he has been in favor of a bag system for years. If you have a bag fee for the transfer stations, then the total cost of operations should be included in the price per bag. It should have been done that way to begin with. Chairman Crandall stated that he believes we are leaving a lot of money on the table with our current permit system that would cover the cost of someone punching tags. Legislator O'Grady asked if it would even be possible to have a bag system that could absorb all of that cost. Aren't the transfer stations a lot of our overhead now? Could it ever be self-sufficient, or will the taxpayers end up subsidizing it like they do now?

Legislator Fanton stated that Steuben County has an authority, but we are not big enough. If a private outfit ended up with the transfer stations, they might cut them down to three or four which would really upset some people.

Chairman Crandall stated that we have had a nice garbage system, but now we are running out of a place to put it. It should have been funded differently over the last 20 years. We may have to dedicate some time to sit down and know that we understand all the facts and what we are talking about before we come up with too many different ideas.

Chairman Crandall requested Mr. James and Mr. Scholes to put something together to show where we are with the Landfill and transfer stations. The clock is ticking, and we really need to start investigating options. We need to understand the history of the Landfill as well as all of our options before any decisions can be made. **Refer to DPW Superintendent and Deputy**

Town of New Hudson

Legislator David Decker stated that the town of New Hudson in his District is really hurting, and different things are playing into this. They have a lot of state land, and they have a lot of issues

trying to maintain roads. New Hudson Highway Superintendent Chris Santangelo wasn't able to be at the last District meeting, but he was wondering about the possibility of the County taking over Mount Monroe. Rushford, Cuba, and New Hudson all have a piece of Mount Monroe, and this is a route that is traveled by many people. In addition, it serves two lakes and recreation areas. Just to the west of Mount Monroe is Rawson Road which weaves in and out of two counties and four towns. We have plows coming in from Cattaraugus and Allegany Counties. Legislator Decker believes that we should be helping to share the load a little better. Public Works Superintendent Guy James confirmed that if he was in Mr. Santangelo's shoes that he would probably ask the same thing; however, from the County perspective, Mr. James doesn't believe that's a liability that we want to take on. Legislator Decker said that New Hudson has the least amount of County Road; the average is around 12 miles, and New Hudson has about five miles. Mr. James asked if they wanted the County to take the road over, and then pay them to plow it? Mr. James commented that there are probably 28 other towns that would also like to get rid of certain roads. Ideally we should be doing more paving than we currently are. If we increase our road mileage even more, it will spread our paving rotation even farther apart. Legislator Decker commented that he doesn't feel it's equitable the amount of County roads that New Hudson has compared to other towns.

Legislator Norm Ungermann suggested putting traffic counters in to see how much traffic they are getting, and then we can continue the conversation. If Mount Monroe is way off compared to the Rawson Road, perhaps we should talk about it more. Legislator Fanton asserted that if the County is thinking of taking some roads over, his District could use that too. Legislator Mike Healy stated that it isn't just about taking a road over because the specs on a County Road are different than a town road. Legislator Ted Hopkins stated that we would have to bring the roads up to County specs if we took it over, which could be very expensive. We would have a hard time telling them they have to pay higher taxes so we can maintain the road.

Chairman Crandall stated that this conversation was quite a hot topic back when the Rushford and Cuba schools merged. Back at that time, we did do some work on a section of that road. Guy James stated that a big upgrade would need to be done just to bring the road up to County standards. Legislator Ungermann also commented that there is a big difference between Allegany County's portion of Rawson Road and Cattaraugus' portion; Allegany County's is maintained much better.

Mr. James stated that there is currently a proposed legislation in front of the Assembly and Senate to come up with a dedicated highway and bridge fund. It is supposed to go back to local municipalities to improve their infrastructure. If any of us are talking to our state people, we need to push for increases in CHIPS funding as well as that dedicated fund. A lot of our gas tax is not going where it is supposed to go.

Mr. James confirmed that New Hudson has the least amount of County Roads, and Caneadea has the second fewest. The towns of Birdsall, West Almond, and Ward also have quite a bit of state land. New Hudson claims that they do not get any taxes on their state land, but County Treasurer Terri Ross clarified that the state does pay town and school taxes, but they don't pay County taxes.

Legislator Debra Root stated that she learned at the NYSAC Conference that 36 percent of Allegany County's land is tax exempt, ranking 7th in the state, and 26 percent of our land is owned by non-residents. The town of Alfred is 78 percent tax exempt, and the village is up over 90 percent.

Building Security

Legislator Scott Burt stated that some of his constituents have contacted him regarding building security at the County Complex, and the fact that employees do not appear to have to go

through the magnetometer. Some constituents have also expressed concern about the cost of the scanners and manpower when so many people by-pass the system. Legislator Burt indicated that he can't see having 400+ employees go through the scanner, but perhaps a happy medium would be to allow employees to bypass the system if they have their County ID on. Legislator O'Grady asserted that some shootings are by employees, and it totally negates the security system. Legislator Burt said that another problem is employees opening other doors for delivery people. Legislator Karl Graves suggested having the Sheriff come to a meeting to talk to the Legislators about this issue. He also stated that much of this is also a matter of how this looks to the public. Chairman Crandall mentioned how much security has changed in Albany. Legislator O'Grady briefly gave a recap of some of the things that the Building Security Ad Hoc Committee had tried to institute several years ago. Guy James stated that he does not believe there would be a bottle neck at the scanners if employees were required to go through the scanners. County Administrator Mitch Alger also stated that he believes it would be feasible for employees to go through the scanner. Chairman Crandall stated that there are also issues about after-hours security, and that both issues are on the Facilities and Communications agenda. Chairman Crandall thought the after-hour security issues might be able to be dealt with by having the person reserving a room sign the people in and out of the building. In answer to a question from the Chairman, County Attorney Thomas Miner confirmed that the Board has the authority to make final decisions regarding security in the building. That being said, the Office of Court Administration does have some say regarding security for the Court System. It was also noted that we are not making any money by providing security for the Courts.

NYS Taxes and Exemptions

Legislator Ungermann stated that there has been a commercial put out by the Governor's office where six counties in upstate New York had the highest taxes, and Allegany County was left off. Legislator Ungermann indicated that the Governor's Regional representative told him that the figures were obtained from the Tax Foundation, and their figures were based on a one-year average of census data. Because Allegany County has a small population, the Census Bureau does not have enough information to release a one year average for Allegany County. Other rankings done by the Tax Foundation use a three-year average and show Allegany County ranked as #4 for highest taxes in the country. This just points out that we are really forgotten about out here, and there are certainly other small counties in the same situation.

Legislator Decker indicated that when he worked for the Census Bureau, he found it does not really have a good understanding of vacant and seasonal structures. They think any time they see a structure, that it is occupied. Legislator Ungermann stated that he is more concerned about the 33 percent that are tax exempt. Legislator O'Grady also expressed concern about tax exemptions, noting that if a church is receiving public services, it should not be tax exempt. Legislator O'Grady mentioned that some churches are securing other properties, and also removing them from the tax rolls. Legislator Ungermann agreed and stated that the Board should review all of the exemptions. Legislator Ungermann stated that he wonders how many properties ACCORD has taken off the tax rolls.

Crossroads

Legislator Healy stated that the last time Crossroads was mentioned it was implied that there was an announcement forthcoming, and he was wondering if there was anything that could be shared. Chairman Crandall stated that the owner of the truck stop and the IDA have had some conversations, but he doesn't have any specific knowledge regarding projects.

Future Meetings

Those present agreed that they would like to meet again, and the next Committee of the Whole was scheduled for Monday, April 28, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Arrangements will be made to have the Allegany/Western Rural Health Network come to discuss Allegany Transit and other programs, and then the remainder of the time will be for open discussion again.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:17 p.m. following a motion made by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Healy, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

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

**ALLEGANY COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

April 28, 2014

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairman Curtis W. Crandall

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Crandall

LEGISLATORS PRESENT: Chairman C. Crandall, S. Burt, P. Curran, D. Decker, D. Fanton, K. Graves, D. Healy, T. Hopkins, C. Jessup, K. LaForge, T. O'Grady, D. Pullen, N. Ungermann
(Absent: A. McGraw, D. Root)

OTHERS PRESENT: M. Alger, M. Biddle (AWSRHN), K. Dirlam, H. Evans (AWSRHN), J. Foels, V. Grant, J. Hopkins, M. Johnsen, L. Kaminski (AWSRHM), R. Lynch, T. Miner, P. Reagan, B. Riehle, T. Ross, D. Scholes, C. Whitfield, C. Whitwood (AWSRHN), J. Wood

Allegany/Western Steuben Rural Health Network, Inc. (AWSRHN)

AWSRHN Executive Director Carrie Whitwood introduced the speakers and indicated that the vision of the AWSRHN is: Working together proactively, we will create a healthy, livable community for all. Their mission is to improve the health and wellness of our community by collaboratively identifying unmet needs and gaps in services, and serving as a catalyst for program development and improvement.

The AWSRHN was started in 1994 and funded through the Charles D. Cook Office of Rural Health of New York State by Jones Memorial Hospital. The AWSRHN developed from the Jones Memorial and Hornell hospitals doing a few projects together. Ms. Whitwood noted that they have been contemplating a name change as a lot of their initiatives expand beyond the Allegany and Western Steuben area. On June 27, 2005, the AWSRHN was incorporated under the laws of the State of New York, and on October 13, 2005, the By-Laws were adopted by the Board of Directors and 501c3 status was approved by the Internal Revenue Service Department of the Treasury.

Ms. Whitwood indicated that their constituents include, but are not limited to: healthcare providers, healthcare institutions, behavioral health, employers, elected officials, governmental entities, education, faith-based, and community organizations. The AWSRHN also serves a large disadvantaged population which includes, but is not limited to: older adults, individuals living with chronic conditions, individuals with behavioral health diagnosis, low-social economic children, families and individuals.

Some of the resources that the AWSRHN uses to administer their programs include the following:

- Allegany County-
 - Health Network Services
 - NYS DOT New Freedom
 - NYS DOT Job Access & Reverse Commute
 - NYS DOT 5311 Funds

- Allegany County Community Services-
NYSDOH Rural Health Network Development Program
- Allegany County Department of Social Services-
Mobility Management Services
- Allegany County United Way-
Suicide Prevention Coalition
Growing Stronger Initiative
- Cleveland Foundation-
Murray Hospitality House- Medical Student Housing
- Health Foundation for Western & Central New York-
Allegany County Step Up to Stop Falls
Ready or Not Initiative
Medication Management and Frail Elders
- Mental Health Association of New York State-
AC Suicide Prevention Coalition
SC Suicide Prevention Coalition
- New York State Health Foundation-
National Diabetes Prevention Program

Ms. Whitwood indicated that the objectives of the AWSRHN include the following:

1. Coordinate local care management to prevent and/or proactively manage chronic diseases.
2. Link health care and public health systems to promote a healthy and safe environment.
3. Integrate behavioral health services with other community providers.
4. Increase access to health care services.
5. Increase local health system capacity through recruitment, retention, and training initiative.
6. Collaborate in local and regional health planning on community health priorities.

AWSRHN Associate Director Helen Evans stated that the AWSRHN coalitions include the following:

Mobility Management-
Advisory Council
Mobility Management Committee
Behavioral Health-
Suicide Prevention Coalition
Integration of Physical Health
Community Partnership on Aging-
Fall Prevention Collaborative
Child and Family Wellness-
Chronic Disease Management
Injury Prevention

The services offered by AWSRHN include:

- Murray Hospitality House- Recruitment Initiative
- Health Planning Services-
 - Rural Resource & Development
 - Grant Writing
 - Community Health Assessments
- Community Education Services-
 - A Matter of Balance
 - Strong Women: Growing Stronger
 - Stanford University CDSM
 - Diabetes Prevention Program
 - Powerful Tools for Caregivers
 - Letting Go! Geriatric Depression
- Suicide Prevention, Intervention, Postvention-
 - Safe TALK
 - ASIST
 - CONNECTS Postvention Response Team
- Network of Care Health Planning and Wellness
- Network of Care Behavioral Health
- Professional Development Services-
 - Aging Conference
 - Continuing Medical Education Programs
 - Medication Management
- ACCESS Allegany-
 - Mobility Management

Ms. Evans indicated that the Murray Hospitality House Initiative is a professional recruitment for the local health care industry. A housing unit was created at the Episcopal Parsonage in Belmont in 2012. That first year, six students did rotations at local hospitals. In 2013, 17 students did rotations, and for 2014, they have 29 reservations. Out of all of the students at the house, they have recruited five to stay in Allegany County and practice here. The AWSRHN has projected differences between supply and demand in New York State for primary care specialties in 2030 as follows:

General Internal Medicine:

- Baseline Supply (2006) - 14,242
- Projected Supply (2030) - 14,438-17,289
- Projected Demand (2030) - 17,096-18,357
- Projected Surplus/ (Shortage) (2030) - (2,286)-(3,546)

Family Medicine:

- Baseline Supply (2006) - 5,108
- Projected Supply (2030) - 4,953-5,927
- Projected Demand (2030)-5,643-6,059
- Projected Surplus/ (Shortage) (2030) - (595)-(1,011)

Pediatrics:

- Baseline Supply (2006) - 5,939
- Projected Supply (2030) - 6,464-7,740
- Projected Demand (2030)-5,901-6,336
- Projected Surplus/ (Shortage) (2030) - 1,404-1,839

OB/GYN:

- Baseline Supply (2006) - 3,832
- Projected Supply (2030) - 3,832-4,373
- Projected Demand (2030) - 3,872-4,150

Projected Surplus/ (Shortage) (2030) - (14) - (335)

Psychiatry:

Baseline Supply (2006) - 6,166

Projected Supply (2030) - 5,236-6,166

Projected Demand (2030) - 6,420-7,891

Projected Surplus/ (Shortage) (2030) - (1,182) – (2,653)

Ms. Evans stated that the Health Planning Services component of the AWSRHN has a vision to collaboratively build the infrastructure and capacity of our local health care delivery system to make Allegany County the healthiest community in New York State. The Rural Data and Resource Development Initiative works to keep the NYS Data Reserve updated. Some of the community assessments that the AWSRHN gets involved with include: Aging Strategic Plan, Behavioral Health Assessment(s), Allegany County United Way Community Assessment, and the Allegany County Department of Health/Local Hospitals Assessments. The AWSRHN also stays involved with regional health planning and grant writing.

Ms. Evans stated that health education is a social science that draws from the biological, environment, psychological, physical, and medical sciences to promote health and prevent disease, disability, and premature death by educating individuals and communities to voluntarily change their behaviors to improve their health and well-being. Health education is the development of individual, group, institutional, community, and systemic strategies to improve health knowledge, attitudes, skills, and behavior. The purpose of health education is to positively influence the health behavior of individuals and communities as well as the living and working conditions that influence their health.

- Health education improves the health status of individuals, families, communities, states, and the nation.
- Health education enhances the quality of life for all people and reduces premature deaths.
- By focusing on prevention, health education reduces the costs that individuals and employees, families, insurance companies, medical facilities, communities, the state and the nation would spend on medical treatment

AWSRHN Project Coordinator Melissa Biddle presented the following information:

A Matter of Balance: Managing Concerns about Falls-

Evidence-based program that decreases older adult's fear of falling through group discussions and exercises. Recommended for adults 60 years and older who:

- Are ambulatory and able to problem solve
- Are concerned about falls
- Restrict activities because they are concerned about falling
- Are interested in improving flexibility, balance and strength

Session 1: Introduction to the program

Session 2: Exploring Thoughts and Concerns about Falling

Session 3: Exercise and Fall Prevention (Being Exercise Component)

Session 4: Assertiveness and Fall Prevention

Session 5: Managing Concerns about Falling

Session 6: Recognizing Fall-ty Habits

Session 7: Recognizing Fall Hazards in the Home and Community

Session 8: Practicing No Fall-ty Habits Fall Prevention: Putting it All Together

- Certified Volunteer Coaches
- 14 in Allegany County

- 7 in Steuben County
- Classes May 2010-Present
(Andover-1, Canaseraga-2, Cuba-3, Wellsville-8, Belmont-2, Corning-1, Friendship-1, Fillmore- 1)

157 Allegany County Residents have successfully completed and graduated from “A Matter of Balance.” Ms. Biddle briefly talked about improvements they saw in a pre- and post-assessment of the program.

Growing Stronger:

In 1994, Dr. Miriam Nelson and colleagues conducted a study looking at the benefits of strength training in post-menopausal women.

Strength training improves/increases: Muscle mass, bone density, metabolic rate, strength & balance, arthritis symptoms, glucose control & lipid profile.

Reduces the risk for numerous chronic diseases such as: Diabetes, osteoporosis, mental health benefits, heart disease, arthritis, and socialization benefits.

Adults 55 years and older are welcome to attend any of the 13 classes in Allegany County where two one-hour sessions/week are ongoing throughout the year in the towns of: Andover, Belfast, Bolivar, Cuba, Friendship, Whitesville, Angelica, Belmont, Canaseraga, Fillmore, and Wellsville. New participants are welcome to enroll at any time; however, they must complete new participant registration packets including a physician authorization form. In 2013, 212 participants were enrolled in the Growing Stronger Program, and it received excellent reviews and satisfaction ratings.

Diabetes Prevention Program:

Ms. Evans provided information regarding the AWSRHN Diabetes Programs. The purpose of the National Diabetes Prevention Program is to prevent Type 2 Diabetes through healthy eating, weight loss, and regular physical activity.

The program provides a supportive environment where other people living with Pre-Diabetes work together in a small group led by a trained Lifestyle Coach. It is delivered over a 12-month period, beginning with 16 weekly sessions followed by four follow-up meetings.

Participants must be:

- At least 18 years of age with a BMI greater than or equal to 24 kg/m²
- Able to participate in at least 150 minutes of Physical Activity per week
- Living with Pre-Diabetes OR at high-risk for Pre-Diabetes

The CDC-led National Diabetes Prevention Program is an evidence-based lifestyle change program for preventing Type 2 Diabetes. It can help people cut their risk of developing Type 2 Diabetes in half. The Diabetes Prevention Program research study showed that making modest behavior changes helped participants lose 5 to 7 percent of their body weight or 10 to 14 pounds for a 200-pound person. There are 26 individuals currently enrolled in the 2014 classes.

Chronic Disease Self-Management:

What is Living Healthy? The Living Healthy workshop is a FREE six session, health education program that helps participants become more confident about managing their own chronic

illness or that of a loved-one; such as heart disease, arthritis, diabetes, mental illness, asthma, or any other long term health condition. Participants receive: Healthy Refreshments, Time for Healing CD-Rom, and Living a Healthy Life with Chronic Conditions Workbook. Anyone age 18 years of age and older with one or more chronic diseases is welcomed to attend. The workshop also helps caretakers of people with chronic illness. The program was developed by the Patient Education Research Center at the Stanford University School of Medicine, and it is taught by two leaders, both are specially trained volunteers who themselves have a chronic condition or care for a loved-one with a chronic illness.

Curriculum Overview:

- Making informed treatment decisions
- Developing decision-making and problem-solving skills
- Developing and maintaining a long term exercise program
- Managing fatigue
- Dealing with anger, depression and other negative emotions
- Cognitive management of pain and stress
- Communication with family/friends/physicians
- Using prescribed medication appropriately
- Healthy eating
- End-of-life care planning

A study of 1,000 participants who took the course showed they experienced:

- Improved energy
- Improved communication with their physicians
- Reduced stays in the hospital
- More confidence in their ability to manage their conditions
- Increased minutes of exercise
- Increased use of cognitive pain and stress management techniques

Geriatric Depression Program: Letting Go!

According to the Geriatric Mental Health Foundation, all people feel sad or unhappy at times during their lives, but persistent sadness may be depression, a serious illness affecting 15 out of every 100 adults over age 65 in the United States. Using this formula, AWSRHN estimates that of the 7,000 older adults 65 years of age and older residing in Allegany County, 1,050 may have clinically diagnosable depression; with an additional percentage of the population suffering from mild depression or dysthymia. Depression is not a normal part of growing old but rather a treatable medical illness.

Letting Go! Is a six-week group education counseling program for older adults who may be experiencing minor depression. Based on the PEARLS research studies intervention implemented at the University of Washington and copyright of the University of Washington, PEARLS is an effective, evidence-based depression treatment program. Participants learn to recognize symptoms of depression, understand the link between unsolved problems and depression, and apply a highly effective 7-step approach to solving their problems. Participants develop a plan to engage in activities that interest them, since involvement in social and physical activities improves quality of life and mood of people with depression.

Suicide Prevention Coalition:

2010-

- First Safe Talk Training in Allegany County- 2 Trainings: 48 Participants
Introduction of PEARLS- Geriatric Depression Program

2011-

- How to Save a Life-Suicide Prevention in Healthcare
- Safe Talk Continuation- 2 Trainings: 37 Participants
- Introduction of Suicide Survivor Day Event: 12 Participants
- Safety and Mental Health Training(s)- 6 Trainings: 272 Participants

2012-

- Initial PEARLS Group Educational Counseling Program- 6 Participants
- Safe Talk Continuation-4 Trainings: Apr. 80 Participants
- Introduction of Yellow Ribbon Campaign- Exploration Bruch: 50 Participants
- 2nd Annual Suicide Survivor Day Event
- Creating Suicide Safer Schools Training- 2 Sessions: 11 School Districts
- Introduction of Applied Suicide Intervention Training(ASIST)- 2 Trainings: 60 Participants
- CONNECT Postvention Training- Creation of the Allegany County Postvention Response Team

2013-

- Safe Talk Continuation- 3 Trainings: 31 Participants
- Applied Suicide Intervention Training (ASIST) - 4 Trainings: 70 Participants
- Competent Communities Survey
- Two Full Coalition Meetings
(1-Safe Messaging, 2- Sources of Strength Overview)
Commitment to Living Conference

2014 (January-April 2014)

- Safe Talk Trainings: 3 through April 2014
- CONNECT Training: March 14, 2014- 25 participants
- CONNECT Team Meeting/ Training: April 11, 2014
- Vicarious Trauma Conference: April 25, 2014
- Suicide Prevention Resource Directories
- CONNECT Postvention Training- Creation of the Allegany County Postvention Response Team

Network of Care:

Network of Care for Behavioral Health is an online information place for individuals, families and professionals concerned with mental and emotional wellness, substance abuse and developmental disabilities.

Network of Care for Public Health Assessment and Wellness:

A resource for individuals, families and professionals concerned with our community's health and well being, Network of care for Public Health Assessment and Wellness provides information about community health services, upcoming events and local health news, as well as communication tools and helpful resources.

Network of Care for Behavioral Health:

Service Directory - Search the Directory for information about specific services and contact information for behavioral health and supportive services provided by schools, clinics, hospitals, research foundations and other community-based organizations.

Library - Find helpful, fresh information on health conditions, medical tests and procedures, medication and everyday health and wellness issues. The library offers unbiased, evidence-based

information on more than 40,000 health topics through a groundbreaking partnership with Healthwise Incorporated.

Legislate - Follow state and federal legislation, receive e-mail alerts and communicate directly with lawmakers before they vote.

Links - Click and you're there to one location where you can access government programs and nonprofit organizations that specialize in behavioral health issues.

Insurance - Learn about the health coverage programs available in your community, and with one-click access health plans, insurance carriers, and a variety of low-cost insurance programs.

Support & Advocacy - Find out about organizations that provide valuable support to individuals and families living with mental illness, substance abuse or developmental disabilities, as well as presenting a strong voice of advocacy with the treatment community, public and private bureaucracy and public policy makers.

Network of Care for Public Health:

Allegany County Network of Care for Healthy Communities is a user-friendly agency and community resource featuring:

- Community Dashboard - 100 Health indicators in a "Community Dashboard" illustrating how Allegany County ranks in comparison to other NYS counties

Promising Practices - Informing both professionals and community members of successful efforts to create positive change with the ultimate goal of encouraging implementation of successful practices for the benefit of the local community;

Service Directory - Easily searchable Service Directory encompassing our comprehensive database of services in our community.

"Library" containing more than 30,000 articles, fact sheets and reports produced by the leading experts and organizations in the health field;

"Legislation" providing a bill-tracking and communication mechanism to state and federal representatives;

"My Folder" enables community members' access to a confidential Personal Health Record (PHR) to organize and store important medical and healthcare-related information. You can create folders for yourself, family members, or others you care for in a safe, secure on-line server.

Powerful Tools for Caregivers:

The powerful Tools for Caregivers Program is an evidence-based education program offering a unique combination of elements. The scripted curriculum and the intricately detailed training material, have guaranteed its consistency and quality. The program utilizes a train-the-trainer method of dissemination.

The 6-week scripted curriculum has been shown to improve:

- Self-Care Behaviors: (e.g. increased exercise, relaxation and medical check-ups)
- Management of emotions: (reduced guilt, anger, and depression)
- Self- Efficacy: (increased confidence in coping with care giving demands)
- Use of Community Resources: (increased utilization of local services)

Access Allegany:

Mobility Management Planner Larry Kaminski presented information regarding Access Allegany. There is a Mobility Management Planning Contract between the AWSRHN and Allegany County. Access Allegany represents a coordinated Human Service/Public Transportation Plan.

Mr. Kaminski showed a video and noted that ridership has gone up twofold. Crossroads is the hub of the Transportation System and 34 buses run through that area daily. Mr. Kaminski presented the following Mobility Management Objectives:

1. Access to services - to maintain the mobility options that transit provides for all members of the public by maximizing the efficiency of the entire transit system to provide opportunities to expand service to meet the needs of a broader subset of the community.
2. Coordination - Encourage cooperation and coordination among transportation providers and funding agencies and implement efficiencies in transportation management and operation to increase the levels of transportation services to the general public and persons living with disabilities, older adults, and low income persons.
3. Awareness, Education, and Outreach - Implement strategies to increase knowledge of ACCESS Allegany Mobility Management services inclusive of but not limited to public transit routes travel training, evaluation/enhancement programs, and other mobility assistance programs. Special emphasis shall be focused on target populations such as seniors, individuals living with a disability, individuals seeking employment, healthcare, and education.
4. Mobility Management Infrastructure - Implement strategies to offer greater efficiency in the use of transportation resources, with potential cost savings and increased service effectiveness. Mobility Management replaces the business strategy of exclusively managing owned assets with a strategy that encompasses customer-driven partnerships and alliances among multiple transportation providers and those serving the community with the goal of saving costs overall and improving access.
5. Sustainment.
6. Quality Assurance/System Monitoring.

Mr. Kaminski noted that the Call Center has experienced a 78 percent increase between 2010 and 2013. There has been an 88 percent increase in ridership between 2008 and 2013, and 73 percent increase in revenue miles traveled.

Public Transit Cost Analysis:

- Overall System Costs Increased
- Local investments decreased
- Providing convenient, economical, and cost effective mobility alternatives and options
- Utilizing a multi-faceted marketing campaign to reach priority populations including older adults
- Building and expanding on the “mobility continuum” along all paths of life to enhance ones’ ability to live more independently within the community
- Changing the “rural perspective/stigma”
- Addresses proactively regional non-emergent Medicaid brokerage

Legislator Norm Ungermann asked the level of funding that local tax dollars contribute to the Access Allegany Transportation System. Ms. Whitwood indicated that only about \$29,000 comes from County funds; however, they do receive state and federal tax dollars as well, noting that if it doesn't come to Allegany County, some other community will receive it. Over \$1 million comes from Allegany Arc. Ms. Whitwood stated that she doesn't believe they will find another rural health system under \$100,000.

Legislator Scott Burt expressed concern about the perception of transporting our citizens outside of Allegany County to shop. Legislator Burt asked if there was any way of altering those stops. Mr. Kaminski stated that there may be an opportunity to change perception by changing stops, but they also need to remain competitive and attractive to users to generate more revenue. From a funding standpoint, part of their increase in funding came from a demonstration of collaboration with neighboring agencies. Ms. Whitwood also noted that they have taken a lot of stops out of Olean, but the NYSDOT wants us to coordinate across those borders, and some changes could be devastating for people using the system. Chairman Curt Crandall commented that it is tax dollars that operate this system, and we wouldn't have this system if we didn't coordinate it to something that works. Legislator Dwight Fanton indicated that he would like to know the payroll that this generates.

Allegany/Western Steuben Rural Health Network's fiscal contribution from 2008-2013 is \$2,780,200; with approximately 50 percent of all funds being invested in programs and initiatives to improve the health and wellness of County residents.

Additionally, AWSRHN has been instrumental in writing and securing funding for other entities including Jones Memorial Hospital, Allegany County Office for the Aging, and Allegany County Mobility Management Services (ARRA and Capital Funding).

Social Services Programs

Legislator David Pullen and Social Services Commissioner Vicki Grant briefly talked about the large portion of our budget that Human Services covers. Human Services Committee Chairman Kevin LaForge requested that Ms. Grant attend the meeting tonight to give the Board an overview of the Social Services Department, and what they are doing to try to reduce spending.

Ms. Grant indicated that many of the things done in her office are mandated; however, they have focused in on a few particular areas and have been able to realize some cost savings and cost avoidance. In 2013, they participated in two huge initiatives with the Employment & Training Center that resulted in cost avoidance of \$554,000. The majority of that savings was realized with Safety Net clientele of which we have a 74 percent local share. They changed their employment assessment classes so that the people didn't wait several weeks to get in there. They have also looked at the homeless population. They started a project with the homeless in September 2013 and have already seen a savings of over \$16,000. Because these projects have worked so well, the DSS Staff have been looking at what else they may be able to do. They have been looking at how they can improve fraud investigations as well as child support enforcement and efficiencies. They are also looking at how Medicaid caps may help or hurt us. Chairman Crandall indicated that some information and ideas that will be exchanged in a closed session. Ms. Grant will plan to come back to the Board with additional information and figures in the near future.

Economic Development

Industrial Development Agency Chairman Jack Wood presented a follow up to a program that he recently presented at a Greater Allegany County Chamber business meeting which focused on collaboration with the Allegany County Board and business leaders to bring more business to the County. Mr. Wood spoke about the need to market the County. Mr. Wood offered to act as a facilitator and bring a diverse group of people together to formulate a plan over the next 90 days to bring businesses into the County. Ways & Means Committee Chairman Ted Hopkins spoke in favor of Mr. Wood's ideas and agreed that we have to be more aggressive than we have been. Legislator Hopkins asserted that we have to take our destiny into our own hands and do something about it.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:18 p.m. following a motion made by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Fanton, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

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

**ALLEGANY COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

May 27, 2014

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 3:07 p.m. by Chairman Curtis W. Crandall

LEGISLATORS PRESENT: Chairman C. Crandall, S. Burt, R. Ellison, D. Fanton, K. Graves, D. Healy, T. Hopkins, C. Jessup, K. Karnes, K. LaForge, A. McGraw, T. O'Grady, D. Pullen, D. Root, E. Schoen, N. Ungermann (Absent: P. Curran, D. Decker)

OTHERS PRESENT: M. Alger, M. Cole, L. Cornell, G. James, B. Riehle, T. Ross, D. Scholes

MEDIA PRESENT: B. Quinn & C. Murphy (Intern), *Wellsville Daily Reporter*

Governor Andrew Cuomo's Regional Representative for Allegany, Cattaraugus & Chautauqua Counties

Lori Cornell, Governor Cuomo's Regional Representative for Allegany, Cattaraugus, and Chautauqua counties, attended our Board meeting and Committee of the Whole to introduce herself and field any questions that Legislators may have. Ms. Cornell asked if anyone had any questions that they would like passed along to the Governor and also indicated that she would like to provide any additional support we might need. Ms. Cornell indicated that she was a former Chautauqua County Legislator and is familiar with many of the issues that counties face.

Medicaid

Chairman Crandall provided Ms. Cornell a copy of Resolution No. 109-14 – *Resolution Urging the New York State Legislature and Governor to Continue to Address Unfunded Mandates That Use Local Tax Dollars to Fund State and Federal Programs and Services* along with a copy of a pamphlet addressing unfunded mandates in Allegany County. Ms. Cornell stated that the Governor continues to address the Medicaid burden, and not only has it been capped, but it will be completely phased out and taken over by the state within the next few years, possibly 2020. Ms. Cornell asserted that it is not an empty promise. Legislator Pullen stated that he believes that Ms. Cornell might be mistaken about the takeover, and that he believes they are only talking about administrative costs. Ms. Cornell reiterated that she believes they will be taking over the entire program and the Governor's Office is putting together a brochure regarding Medicaid.

Hydro-fracking

Legislator Karl Graves questioned the Governor's stand on hydro-fracking. Ms. Cornell indicated that there is still a moratorium and the Governor is reviewing the issue while trying to balance environmental concerns versus economic concerns. Legislator Debra Root suggested that hydro-fracking should be looked at as a local issue apart from downstate issues. Legislator Mike Healy commented that if we look at overall policies, it appears that the state is limiting our economic industries. Fracking would be a big boost to this area; oil fueled this whole economy here, and industry loves cheap energy.

Legislator Healy also declared that the Governor's pact with the Native Americans on gambling also took something away from this area. You say you are for us, but your policies don't

support that. If you look at the state politically, the shift of the power went downstate, and the great state of New York has been declining ever since.

Legislator Norman Ungermann stated that Allegany County ranks fourth in the entire United States for tax burden. They have been fracking oil and gas wells since the 1950s. How many reports have been received about problems with fracking? Legislator Ungermann stated that those in NYC may not be in favor of fracking, but don't take our economic development away. Mr. Ungermann stated that 75 percent of the ground is covered with woods, and then they make a law that it can't be burned for heat. That is absolutely crazy, and we need to be able to use the resources we have.

Legislator Healy added that given the NYS DEC's track record, he has no concerns that a proper eye won't be on all environmental issues related to fracking.

SAFE Act

Legislators expressed concern regarding the limits the SAFE Act has placed on collectors, sportsmen, and hunters.

Ms. Cornell stated that the Legislators had brought up some good points, noting that the Governor recognizes that New York State isn't all about New York City, and sometimes they have conflicting needs. Ms. Cornell asked what specific part or what one component of the SAFE Act the Board would like to see changed. Legislator Karl Graves suggested repealing the whole thing. Legislator Healy stated that the SAFE Act doesn't address mental health issues which are the real problem. They have been closing mental health facilities which also put more burdens on local governments and offices. Legislator O'Grady stated that other than the background check, the SAFE Act doesn't do anything to protect children. There are no provisions in the SAFE Act that actually protect anyone.

Succession

Legislator Kevin LaForge mentioned the possibility of splitting New York State into two states. Ms. Cornell stated that New York State is in the black for the first time in decades, and a huge portion of the state budget comes from New York City. Legislator Mike Healy stated that a lot of hidden costs also come from New York City.

Cuts in Funding for Schools

Legislator Scott Burt stated that there are a small number of successful school mergers. The schools have done everything, and the state is hurting our students with the cuts that have been made. Legislator Burt expressed concern about the fact that some schools do not have computers which is vital at this point in time. Legislator Burt also expressed concern about violent video games, and he believes that some students have a tough time drawing the line between reality and non-reality. Ms. Cornell stated that she has been working with a researcher at St. Bonaventure University, a Dr. Young who is a renowned specialist on internet addiction. Ms. Cornell indicated that education is one of the Governor's priorities including the modernization of schools, and there should not be a school without computers. Legislator Burt clarified that the school he was referring to actually has computers, but the business curriculum has been cut so they are not being used. Legislator Norm Ungermann talked about the need to get back to the basics of education – reading, writing, and arithmetic, noting that no one can seem to do anything without a computer. What is common core doing to the basics? We need to teach our youth to think.

Infrastructure

Legislator David Pullen remarked that NYS Route 19 was repaved last fall, and a good bit of it has peeled up. It was not a job well done. Representatives from the NYS DOT came out and said it was about what they had expected. A quarter of an inch of pavement was put over existing pavement, and it didn't survive six months, and it will be 10 years before they come back. Legislator Pullen asked if this is what we can expect from this Governor. It was just window dressing and didn't address the overall problem. Our County roads are better than the state roads, but to stay under the tax cap we are going to have to start cutting road repairs and other things that we have control over in the budget. Legislator Pullen questioned why New York City gets a circuit breaker cut, and the Southern Tier just doesn't see these kinds of breaks. Ms. Cornell asserted that Start Up New York should be a huge boom for upstate. Legislators were quick to point out that Start Up New York favors the more metropolitan areas, and that there hasn't been much for the rural areas. Legislator Burt asked how many businesses can take advantage of Start Up New York. Ms. Cornell stated that the universities are just getting their plans out now. Legislator Kevin LaForge commented that Start Up New York is really only for the businesses coming in for the short term. Once you get to the end of the ten years, we are not going to retain those businesses unless there is some progressive tax reform. Each year many businesses are just surviving. Start UP New York isn't going to do much good without restructuring tax policy across the state. Ms. Cornell stated that it provides an economic stimulus and provides a good environment to establish business. Once they make an investment in NYS, hopefully they will be here for the long term.

State Regulations

Legislator Karl Graves stated that there are so many state agencies regulating everything so much that they are running people right out of New York. Legislator Ungermann stated that he started compiling a list of the number of government agencies that he has to have a permit from, pay a fee to, or pay a tax to, and there are 51 different agencies. We can't even repair storm damage until we get a permit. Legislator Ungermann asserted that the state needs to do something about the local DEC. They don't care about houses falling into the river. We are in this together, we provide a lot of habitat for animals, but we also need to be able to take care of infrastructure. Legislator Ungermann also expressed concern about the high cost of gas in New York.

Shared Services

Legislator Ted Hopkins expressed concern about the look back on the new shared services proposals. Ms. Cornell stated that we should be receiving a memo from the Budget Office soon noting that the original proposal did not allow for a look back, but the new proposal does have such a provision.

Road and Bridges

Public Works Superintendent Guy James stated that there needs to be more funding for roads and bridges. Allegany County did approximately eight (8) pass through projects over the past ten years, and now we do one every five years. We have the same number of bridges that we've always had. Dedicated funding from the gas tax was supposed to go to the Highway Fund, and it never did. CHIPS funding did go up, but we never know about our Marchiselli funding, and that makes it very difficult to budget funding.

Funding Programs

Legislator Pullen noted that a handout was distributed at a recent meeting regarding the accomplishments by the Empire Zone. Although things are being played through, each year more of those businesses go off the program. The Empire Zone worked really well for Allegany County, and then the State switched to the Excelsior Program, and there wasn't any funding available unless a business could guarantee 50 new jobs.

Even though we have representation on the Regional Council, we do not have a vote. We do not receive the benefits that the rest of the state does. When you lump us together with other programs, watch and see where the benefits go; they do not come to the rural areas. When mandated programs come, they apply here, but hit us differently, much more onerously than the urban areas. The sales tax revenue of urban areas far exceeds our sales tax revenue.

Ms. Cornell asked what local project the Board would like the Governor to support, and Legislator Pullen indicated that we have requested funding for Crossroads, and it hasn't qualified. Chairman Crandall expressed frustration that most regional events are generally a couple of hours away.

Broadband Program

Chairman Crandall stated that Allegany County is unique to any other county in this end of New York State through the funding the Governor proposed for the Connect NY and Broadband Program. We have a \$1 million project with a \$200,000 local match that the other counties do not have. Southern Tier West (STW) did receive some monies, but it was for a different program. We want to make sure that we keep on track and make sure it's successful.

Future Meetings

The next Committee of the Whole meeting will be held after the Board meeting on Monday, June 9. Representatives from Chautauqua County will be attending the meeting to provide additional information regarding their Land Bank Program.

Legislator Norm Ungermann requested to be on the next Committee of the Whole agenda.

Chairman Crandall briefly summed up past Committee of the Whole meetings, noting that there is a certain timeframe when a Board can really get some things done, and we need to bring forward things as we can. We have some major issues that we need to address. Chairman Crandall mentioned that the Landfill is a monster of a program, and we are going to run out of space before this term ends. We need to narrow our focus and get down to the nitty gritty and move on.

Storm Damage

Chairman Crandall stated that Emergency Management and Fire Director Jeff Luckey just handed him a preliminary report regarding recent storm damage. New York State suffered \$27 million in recent damage from flooding over the last couple of weeks. The following towns have submitted the following preliminary estimates:

Alfred	\$100,000
Allen	50,000

Almond	50,000
Amity	30,000
Angelica	50,000
Granger	50,000
Wellsville	200,000
West Almond	130,000
Willing	12,000
Allegany Co.	100,000
WNY Rail	<u>100,000</u>
	\$872,000

Chairman Crandall noted that the threshold for municipalities within Allegany County is \$176,000 so we are well above that, and Allegany County is on track for reimbursement. DPW Superintendent Guy James indicated that representative from the state and federal programs will be coming to do preliminary estimates on Friday, May 30, so we will have more accurate figures at that time.

Legislator Scott Burt remarked that we talk about a lot of issues at our Committee of the Whole meetings, and then everyone gets up and leaves. Legislator Burt suggested pursuing action items at the end of meetings by picking one or two items to really go after, and also having Legislators volunteer to work on certain issues. Chairman Crandall explained how action items were handled in the past.

Attorney/Client Session

A motion was made by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Fanton, and carried to enter attorney/client session at 4:22 p.m. Immediately following discussion, a motion was made by Legislator Fanton, seconded by Legislator Healy, and carried to end the attorney/client session and return to the regular meeting at 5:12 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 5:12 p.m. following a motion made by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Burt, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

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

**ALLEGANY COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

June 9, 2014

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 3:25 p.m. by Chairman Curtis W. Crandall

LEGISLATORS PRESENT: Chairman C. Crandall, S. Burt, P. Curran, D. Decker, D. Fanton, K. Graves, D. Healy, T. Hopkins, C. Jessup, K. LaForge, D. Pullen (partial attendance), D. Root, N. Ungermann
Absent: A. McGraw, T. O'Grady

OTHERS PRESENT: M. Alger, J. Budinger, S. Decker, K. Dirlam, L. Gridley, G. James, V. LaForge, R. Lynch, T. Miner, J. Richardson, B. Riehle, T. Ross, D. Scholes, I. Sullivan, J. Wood (M. Geise, P. Lombardi, G. Paradis – Chautauqua County Land Bank)

Land Bank

Legislator LaForge introduced members of the Chautauqua County Land Bank Corporation, Mark Geise, Executive Director, Peter Lombardi, Chairman, and Gina Paradis, Administrative Director. Some background information regarding land banks was provided by Mr. Geise. It was noted that the Chautauqua County Land Bank is the only rural land bank in New York State. Mr. Lombardi presented the following definition of a land bank from Smart Growth America: "A public authority or non-profit, created to acquire, hold, manage and develop foreclosed, vacant, or abandoned properties. Land banks aim to convert vacant properties that have been neglected by the open market into productive use, thereby transforming neighborhood liabilities into assets." Mr. Lombardi presented the following as support for land banking: "Blighted and abandoned properties dilute the real estate market, invite crime, incur public expense and discourage neighborhood reinvestment." Some of the benefits of land banking that Mr. Lombardi presented include, elimination of barriers to redevelopment, reduction in cost burden for municipalities, managing and repurposing inventory of properties, supporting community needs and priorities, encouraging neighborhood reinvestment, generating tax revenue for local governments, spurs investing, and preserves open space. He also spoke about the elements involved in land banking. He explained the process of acquisition, maintenance, disposition, and strategic reuse of the properties. Mr. Geise then presented information on the history of the Chautauqua County Land Bank. It began in 2007 when the Chautauqua County Government set aside \$200,000 to be used for a project such as this. In 2012 Chautauqua County's Land Bank application was approved by New York State and they were officially incorporated and held their first board meeting. In October of 2013, they were awarded \$1.5 million by New York State. Mr. Lombardi presented statistical information regarding the housing market and population rates in Chautauqua County. He then spoke about their mission and the formula they use for determining which properties to purchase. The programs CCLBC participate in include, property transfers, re-development/rehab, demolition, side lot disposition, developer assistance and incentives, land assembly, and land use planning. Ms. Paradis spoke about their financial support and sustainability. She restated the importance of the initial \$200,000 that was set aside for the program as well as the \$1.5 million received from the state. She touched on the importance of the acquisition formula in their sustainability. Each of the presenters stressed the importance of partnerships in the success of their programs.

Legislator LaForge asked how the tax auction process works for them. The presenters indicated that the properties they purchase are actually pulled before the tax auction. Their hope is that these properties that are chronically processed through the tax auction can be purchased and improved so that in the future they won't return to the auction.

Legislator Burt asked how they staffed their agency. Mr. Geise responded that initially everything was done in-house.

Legislator LaForge asked them to elaborate on a buy-in with lenders. Mr. Geise responded that in the future they hope to team up with traditional lenders such as banks.

Allegany County Planner Kier Dirlam asked if this type of program was open to other types of properties than residential. Mr. Geise stated that they've chosen to focus on residential properties at this point, but they may do more with other property types in the future.

County Treasurer Terri Ross asked what the turn-around time was for these properties. Mr. Geise responded that it's around six months.

Legislator Fanton questioned if there was more grant money available and if awarding these grants is something that is done every year. Mr. Lombardi stated that he believes more money is being identified for this purpose. He also believes that the state is working on increasing the number of land banks that are allowed. Legislator Fanton questioned how CCLBC would survive if they don't receive the grant money. Mr. Geise stated that they want to be self-sustainable. It's a balancing act; if they can't get grant money they would probably have to do fewer demolitions and take on more profit-making projects.

Attorney/Client Session

A motion was made by Legislator Fanton, seconded by Legislator Root, and carried to enter into attorney/client session at 4:17 p.m. Following discussion at 5:00 p.m., a motion was made by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Decker, and carried to end the attorney/client session and return to the regular meeting.

Comments

Legislator Ungermann remarked that the County has had three audits. He believes the issue of timekeeping needs to be addressed. He presented an article regarding Livingston County Jail deputies who submitted false time cards. He stated that Allegany County employees are using handwritten time sheets and he believes they should be done electronically. Chairman Crandall responded that he believes Personnel is working on this issue.

Legislator Ungermann had hoped to make a presentation to the group, but due to time constraints it was decided that he would present at the next Committee of the Whole meeting. Legislator Decker stated that he was under the impression that Legislator Ungermann has been going to present for several sessions now. He suggested that Legislator Ungermann be put first on the agenda for the next meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m. following a motion made by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Burt, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah M. Decker, Journal Clerk/Deputy Clerk of the Board
Allegany County Board of Legislators

**ALLEGANY COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

June 18, 2014

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 4:09 p.m. by Chairman Curtis W. Crandall

LEGISLATORS PRESENT: Chairman C. Crandall, S. Burt, P. Curran, D. Decker, D. Fanton, K. Graves, D. Healy, T. Hopkins, C. Jessup, K. LaForge, T. O'Grady, D. Pullen, D. Root, N. Ungermann
Absent: A. McGraw

OTHERS PRESENT: M. Alger, L. Ballengee, S. Decker, T. Miner, B. Riehle, T. Ross, D. Scholes

Legislator Ungermann's Presentation

Legislator Ungermann presented the following prepared statement.

"For the better part of a year, there has been much conversation about the Allegany County Bridge Program. At a Committee of the Whole meeting back in March, DPW Superintendent Guy James presented a program to the Legislature. There is no doubt that there have been some unique and innovative projects here in Allegany County, but it must be noted that not all bridges shown in his program were constructed by the County. Two that quickly come to mind are the Transit Bridge over the Genesee River – done by Union Concrete, and the Alton Saylor Bridge in Angelica (which has since become a tourist attraction because of its wooden arch construction) – done by A.L. Blades & Son. Both of these bridges were built by private sector companies.

"Superintendent James has reminded us several times that Allegany County's bridges are ranked no. 1 in the state; however, we also need to remember that out of 3,144 counties, boroughs, and parishes in the USA, Allegany County ranks No. 4 for the highest in property taxes per median home value.

"In late March, I received a packet from Mr. James defending the County's construction costs. When I looked at the sheet from Chemung County showing a savings of 55 percent over the bid of a local contractor, I began looking closer at the "bid" from Silverline Construction. I thought it unusual for a contractor to submit a handwritten bid on a piece of graph paper, so I called up Silverline, and they said they had no record of ever bidding that retaining wall job and wondered if I could fax them the paper, which I did. As suspected, and David Kelley from Silverline confirmed, the paper was merely a workup sheet that Chemung County had asked them to figure up for what might be needed for the job. Mr. Kelley also stated that they routinely do machine work for Chemung, Schuyler, and Tompkins Counties, with the counties providing materials. In this case they were asked to figure the job with no specifications provided, and he noted that many things were left off of the County's cost sheet, such as roadway sub-base, as Ben-way weir grade control structure, and the rock rip-rap for it. I then proceeded to the two newspaper articles provided by Mr. James for projects in Cattaraugus County – one on Hardy's Corners Rd., and the other in Ashford. In the pictures, I recognized the heavy equipment to be that of D&H Excavating and not Cattaraugus County equipment. I called D&H owner, Eldon King, III, and verified that on both jobs they performed all the machine work and Cattaraugus County provided materials, trucking, and labor. Another project on the Rawson Rd. worked the same way. D&H demolished an old bridge and installed a new box culvert and rip-rap, while Cattaraugus County arranged for delivery of needed backfill and labor.

"On March 26th in the Town of Allegany, the WNY Foundation for Fair Contracting put on a seminar in conjunction with Cattaraugus County entitled: 'Public Works in 2014: What You Need to

Know' which was open to all elected officials, and discussed State Competitive Bidding Laws, Dept. of Labor Laws, Davis Bacon Compliance, etc. Ryan Ferguson, Catt. Co. Deputy Superintendent of Public Works indicated that generally speaking, any project over \$35,000 in Cattaraugus County is contracted out.

"Several years ago, our company did a couple of jobs for the Town of Cuba, one a 6'x40' elliptical culvert on Hunt Rd. (which was changed in one day), and the other a pre-cast cattle pass and culvert on Jackson Hill Rd. The town set an estimate time for road closure on Jackson Hill at 2 weeks – it was reopened to traffic in 2 ½ days. In both cases, the town purchased the pipe and pre-cast structure, we provided the manpower, equipment and gravel backfill. All wages were at the prevailing wage rate. J.D. Northrup (another private contractor) just last week, replaced a culvert on the Rawson Rd. for Cattaraugus County. Again, the county provided materials, labor, and supervision. When projects are hired out this way and the job is done, the machine is gone, and the operator is gone. There is no depreciation on a machine not working or legacy cost like retirement and health insurance for an employee... this is how the four aforementioned counties have reduced their costs.

"In December of 1996, Cornell University released a study of the Chautauqua County Program titled, 'Cost Effectiveness of Consolidating Government Highway Services.' While the study may be 17 ½ years old, I believe it is still relevant. Chautauqua County's Bridge Program is similar to ours in that they have an 85 percent to 15 percent cost share with the towns, and a five-year maintenance and rehabilitation program. However, many officials felt that county estimates were too high for replacements and repairs, and instead of a 15 percent local share felt that in some cases it was as high as 30 percent. One of the major problems (cited on page 6 of the study) was keeping track of shared or in-kind services. Record keeping and attaching costs to these is a problem because no one wants to do the book work. Keeping track of traded or shared services seems to go against standard practices or highway culture at the operating level. On page 9, summary of key findings, it says 'there is a general need for improved cost analysis practices and tools for use by local governments.' 'In developing improved record keeping and costing approaches, it is important to take into account the motivations and resistance to record keeping by local highway officials.' 'Any hope for greater efficiency through service cooperation and consolidation hinges on the ability and willingness of operating personnel to keep better cost records.'

"I believe these problems exist today, and it is why I complain about the County's contract with other municipalities for shared services, because there are no numbers attached. Policies need to be kept simple and visible.

"In order to better understand how the private and public sector work, we need to look at how they operate. The private sector by law, as required by the Davis Bacon Act, has to pay the prevailing wage and benefit rates when working on any municipal project. It certainly is an eye opener when wages and benefits are \$20 to \$30 higher per hour than a county employee gets. Clearly it adds 30 percent to the cost of labor, and quite frankly I believe the labor unions are pricing themselves out of business, but it's the law. However, the people working for the private companies only get paid when working on the job. When the job is finished they either go on to another project or the position is eliminated. Like prevailing wages, it is a fact of life in the construction industry. When a contractor does private work, things are much more forgiving, but either way if there is no work, there is no paycheck. When the private sector bids municipal work, a certified payroll must be kept. Generally a 100 percent performance bond must be provided, which adds 6 percent to the cost of the job. This is what the contractor purchases and maintains equipment with, and pays the management with. The private company has to pay income tax, real property taxes, federal excise tax on equipment, sales tax on equipment and supplies, fuel mileage tax, highway use tax, state licensing and registration fees – including county use tax on vehicle registrations, and dozens of regulatory fees for things like overweight, over-width, and special hauling permits, bulk fuel storage

permit, local contractor licenses, corporate licensing, unified carrier registration, vehicle inspections, DOT physical requirements for commercial drivers, random drug & alcohol testing, etc.

“For example: if the private sector buys a \$100,000 dump truck, they must pay 12 percent federal excise tax, and 8.5 percent county sales tax before paying \$300-\$400 for the licensing fee and another \$300-\$400 for a special hauling permit, after providing the required insurance and Perm 17 to the State. The County operates much differently and has a lot of advantages that the private sector does not. When the County buys a \$100,000 dump truck, it is \$100,000 – There is no 20.5 percent f.e.t. & sales tax added, nor licensing fees. There are no special hauling permit fees or taxes for anything, including tires and lubricants. In the private sector, a tractor trailer combination to haul equipment can cost as much as \$3,000 per year to license, based on mileage reported the prior year, and tires and lubricants are taxed as well.

“The County is able to purchase many materials and supplies on state bid. Gasoline is purchased tax free at \$2.97 per gallon, while the rest of us pay \$3.87 per gallon. Diesel fuel is \$3.44 per gallon, while the private sector pays \$4.30 – almost \$1.00 per gallon less for the County. The taxpayer buys the county machinery and pays for its maintenance. Last year the taxpayers bought the County a \$376,000 Gradall and this year a \$237,000 excavator. (Remember, the private sector has to take these purchases out of profits.) The private sector is profit driven, the more quality work completed in a time efficient manner, the better the profit margin at the end of the year. It seems to me that the bottom line is... the more equipment, supplies, and manpower the County retains, and the more work the County performs, the less work there is for the private sector, and in turn less generation of sales tax, fuel tax, property tax, income tax and fees collected to cover the cost of government.

“What about County overhead? You and I are part of that overhead. To my knowledge, none of Mr. James’ time, secretarial, or accounting time is charged to a bridge. A portion of utilities and maintenance for the Friendship shop and County DPW office is also not charged to any job, but the taxpayer has to pay for it. Shouldn’t a small portion of this be charged to County projects as overhead?

“Remember, when the private sector builds a bridge, their time begins when they arrive on the jobsite. Mr. James has said that when the County builds or maintains a bridge, their time begins at the shop in Friendship. Using the Friendship culvert replacement as an example: the replacement took 8 weeks (or 43 working days) to complete. The County crew averaged 1 hour in the morning and 1 hour in the afternoon traveling back and forth to the County shop that Mr. James says is not charged to the costs of the bridge or the town. Six men, 2 hours each at an average wage of \$30/hour = \$360/day x 43 days = \$15,480 that the taxpayer paid for non-productive time, that in reality should have been charged to the cost of the bridge. (The average time lost for travel county-wide from the Friendship shop is probably closer to 1.5 hrs. each way, or 3 hrs. per days per man.) More importantly, who inspects the County’s work? If it’s a bridge over 20’ in length the State DOT will inspect it, however in the case of the Friendship culvert replacement (spanning less than 20’), no State inspection is done. There is no performance bond, guarantee or otherwise assuring the town or the County taxpayers got the best bang for their buck.”

Legislator Ungermann presented the following from the November 6, 2013 Public Works meeting minutes...

“ ‘Among Mr. Ungermann’s concerns: While looking at a photograph of the project provided by Mr. James, Legislator Ungermann asked about the method of getting compaction under the ‘H-beam’ (waler for the tie-back system). Mr. James responded that it is not always possible to get compaction (under the waler) but his crews have used flowable fill in the past or they try to use a good granular material (that binds together and allows for drainage). Mr. James went on to say that bridges are not always completely compacted. Mr. Ungermann countered saying, “That’s why the

approaches always settle.” Mr. James responded that they sometimes settle, but not always, depending on the material being used and the time of year the construction is done. Mr. Ungermann went on to claim he had not seen a vibratory roller at the site. Mr. James said that such equipment (a vibratory roller) was definitely there. Legislator Ungermann stated they (the crew) had a plate tamper there, and said he had taken some photos of the project and there “were some things that didn’t quite fit.” Mr. James replied that that may be Mr. Ungermann’s interpretation of the project, but that he was very pleased with the project, noting that Friendship got a good project and the taxpayers got a good project which came in on time and under budget. Legislator Healy noted that all the comments he had received from Friendship had been positive.’

Legislator Ungermann continued with his prepared statement...

“I took pictures while the Friendship culvert was under construction (last Sept./Oct.), and have also taken pictures this April and May – when the job had been complete for seven months. Along with some of Mr. James’ pictures, these will help explain my concerns. (Legislator Ungermann distributed pictures of the bridge.) The County estimated this job at \$266,000. The final bill was \$193,000 – without any travel time or overhead included. Did the County taxpayers get their money’s worth? By the way, even though the (19’ 6” span – 8 week) Friendship project came in under budget at \$193,000, it still cost almost \$20,000 more than the (31’ span – 18 day) Birdsall project, which is showing no signs of settlement. The final cost figure for Birdsall was just under \$174,000 – including engineer fees, legal notices, office supplies associated with the project, and seeding and mulching of the stream banks and roadsides (which was not done on the Friendship job).”

Following his prepared statement, Legislator Ungermann added, “You see why I’ve asked the questions. We have a six-month old bridge with problems. Another concern is with sluice pipes the County puts in. Pipes have settled and they’ve gone and patched them.” He gave Rawson Road as an example. He added, “We’ve got to do a better job of putting these in, or go the way of Cattaraugus County and hire someone else to put them in.”

A request was made to add the Cattaraugus County Motorized Equipment Report to the minutes that had been distributed by Legislator Ungermann.

Cattaraugus County Motorized Equipment Report

POST 2010 EQUIPMENT							
DESCRIPTION	MANUFACTURER	PURCHASE DATE	EST. LIFE	REPL. YR	INSTALL COST	METER	
EXCAVATOR	LINKBELT	3/22/2013	10	2015	\$130,777.00	612	
F550 4WD CREW CAB SIGN TRUCK	FORD	9/20/2012	10	2022	\$35,499.00	27741	
FORD F550	FORD	3/13/2013	10	2023	\$48,210.96	5690	
GRADER	VOLVO	3/5/2010	25		\$206,993.00	1256	
KENWORTH T-800 DUMP TRUCK	KENWORTH	6/26/2013	10	2024	\$214,820.00	1112	
KENWORTH T-800 DUMP TRUCK	KENT	6/26/2013	10	2024	\$214,820.00	1461	
LDR/BACKHOE	JCB	3/30/2010	12	2022	\$57,772.13	2034	
LDR/BACKHOE	JCB	3/30/2010	12	2022	\$57,772.13	2022	
LOADER	HYUNDAI		15	2015	\$149,182.00	1244	
LOADER	HYUNDAI		15	2015	\$149,182.00	872	
LOADER 4 CU. YD.	HYUNDAI		15	2016	\$149,182.00	988	
LOADER 4 YD.	HYUNDAI		15	2016	\$149,182.00	748	
SKIDSTEER *parts book on line	CAT	2/27/2012	20	2032	\$55,632.00	275	
TANDEM AXLE DUMP	INTERNATIONAL	7/29/2011	10	2021	\$164,571.64	32920	

TANDEM AXLE DUMP	INTERNATIONAL	2/15/2013	10	2023	\$185,600.00	25477
TANDEM AXLE DUMP	INTERNATIONAL	7/29/2011	10	2021	\$159,571.64	38971
TANDEM AXLE DUMP	INTERNATIONAL	2/15/2013	10	2023	\$185,600.00	25589
TRENCH COMPACTOR	WACKER	3/4/2010			\$27,880.00	369
UTILITY TRACTOR W/ CAB 4X4 FRONT WHEEL DRIVE	NEW HOLLAND	12/14/2010	20	2030	\$45,096.00	484
POST 2010 TOTAL COST					<u>\$2,387,343.50</u>	

PRE 2010 EQUIPMENT

DESCRIPTION	MANUFACTURER	PURCHASE DATE	EST. LIFE	REPL. YR	INSTALL COST	METER
1 1/4 TON POST DRIVER TRUCK	FORD	3/10/2008	10	2018	\$51,743.00	3447
1 TON DUMP TRUCK	FORD	2/2/2004	8	2014	\$34,717.00	117309
1 TON DUMP TRUCK (4X4)	FORD	2/10/2009	8	2018	\$61,646.29	47695
1 TON DUMP TRUCK (4X4)	FORD	2/6/2009	8	2017	\$57,974.85	69150
1 TON DUMP TRUCK (4X4)	FORD	12/10/2009	8	2018	\$61,646.29	50782
1 TON DUMP TRUCK (4X4)	FORD	2/6/2009	8	2017	\$57,974.85	62497
4-6 TON ROLLER	FERGUSON	4/28/2009	15	2024	\$51,969.00	535
4-6 TON ROLLER	FERGUSON	3/6/2008	15	2023	\$52,769.00	593
4-6 TON ROLLER	FERGUSON	4/28/2009	15	2024	\$51,969.00	587
4-6 TON ROLLER	FERGUSON	3/6/2008	15	2023	\$52,769.00	797
4-6 TON ROLLER	FERGUSON	4/28/2009	15	2024	\$51,969.00	616
6 MAN STAKE BED PAINT CREW	INTERNATIONAL	6/17/1991	15		\$38,481.00	140233
BROOM	SUPERIOR	4/19/2007	10	2017	\$27,035.00	1754
BROOM	SUPERIOR	4/16/2007	10	2017	\$30,375.00	1375
BROOM	SUPERIOR	4/19/2007	10	2017	\$26,535.00	1707
BROOM	SUPERIOR	4/19/2007	10	2017	\$26,535.00	2142
CRANE, 50 TON HYDRAULIC	GROVE	4/28/1994	20		\$329,570.00	3634
DOZER	JOHN DEERE	3/21/1989	25		\$56,980.00	6821
DOZER	CAT	6/25/1986	30		\$95,355.00	1297
FORKLIFT	KOMATSU	4/7/2009			\$7,890.00	3632
GARDEN TRACTOR	HUSQVARNA	3/23/2000			\$1,942.16	549
GARDEN TRACTOR W/ MOWER	JOHN DEERE	3/28/1997			\$3,464.30	0
GRADER	CHAMPION	3/25/1987	25		\$188,983.00	5727
GRADER	CHAMPION	3/22/1989	25		\$70,497.50	5880
LAWN TRACTOR	JOHN DEERE	2/14/2008	6	2015	\$3,275.00	566
LAWN TRACTOR	JOHN DEERE	4/5/1999			\$3,446.26	1752
LAWNMOWER, 72" ZERO TURN	JOHN DEERE	4/17/2007	6	2015	\$9,170.08	524
LDR/BACKHOE	JCB	1/23/2009	12	2021	\$49,588.78	2278
LDR/BACKHOE	JCB	1/23/2009	12	2021	\$50,588.78	2020
LDR/BACKHOE	JCB	1/23/2009	12	2021	\$50,838.78	2505
LOADER, 3.5YD	HYUNDAI	4/21/2005	15	2014	\$84,010.00	6698
LOADER, 3.5YD	HYUNDAI	1/9/2008	15	2015	\$83,118.00	1614
LOADER, 3.5YD	HYUNDAI	4/21/2005	15	2014	\$67,733.00	6107
MATERIAL HANDLER, FORK TRUCK	JCB	4/6/2009	20	2029	\$64,064.00	1680
PAVER	BARBER GREEN	10/15/2003	15	2016	\$2,070.00	1389
ROLLER	FERGUSON	2/4/2002	15	2017	\$35,370.00	1534

ROLLER, SINGLE DRUM VIBRATORY	DRESSER	3/23/1988	15	2015	\$75,125.00	181
SHOULDER MACHINE	MIDLAND	4/27/2006	20	2026	\$65,989.00	848
SINGLE AXLE DUMP	INTERNATIONAL	1/9/2008	10	2018	\$126,068.00	86658
SINGLE AXLE DUMP	INTERNATIONAL	1/9/2008	10	2018	\$126,068.00	95189
SINGLE AXLE DUMP	INTERNATIONAL	1/9/2008	10	2018	\$126,068.00	90281
SINGLE AXLE DUMP	INTERNATIONAL	4/27/2006	10	2016	\$88,476.00	114712
SINGLE AXLE DUMP	INTERNATIONAL	1/9/2008	10	2018	\$126,068.00	76652
SINGLE AXLE DUMP	INTERNATIONAL	4/27/2006	10	2016	\$88,476.00	93777
SINGLE AXLE DUMP	INTERNATIONAL	1/9/2008	10	2018	\$126,068.00	99324
SINGLE AXLE DUMP	INTERNATIONAL	4/27/2006	10	2016	\$88,476.00	124338
SKIDSTEER	CAT	5/21/2009	20	2029	\$47,846.00	603
TANDEM AXLE DUMP	INTERNATIONAL	4/21/2005	10	2015	\$87,941.00	198528
TANDEM AXLE DUMP	INTERNATIONAL	2/28/2007	10	2017	\$127,976.00	118284
TANDEM AXLE DUMP	INTERNATIONAL	3/18/2004	10	2014	\$89,877.00	167930
TANDEM AXLE DUMP	INTERNATIONAL	4/28/2005	10	2015	\$87,941.00	152493
TANDEM AXLE DUMP	INTERNATIONAL	2/28/2007	10	2017	\$127,976.00	133070
TANDEM AXLE DUMP	INTERNATIONAL	1/9/2008	10	2018	\$136,475.50	105657
TANDEM AXLE DUMP	INTERNATIONAL	1/14/2009	10	2019	\$148,564.80	87931
TANDEM AXLE DUMP	INTERNATIONAL	3/18/2004	10	2014	\$89,877.00	168024
TANDEM AXLE DUMP	INTERNATIONAL	4/21/2005	10	2015	\$87,941.00	146240
TANDEM AXLE DUMP	INTERNATIONAL	2/28/2007	10	2017	\$147,976.00	122883
TANDEM AXLE DUMP	INTERNATIONAL	1/14/2009	10	2019	\$146,064.80	86039
TANDEM AXLE DUMP	INTERNATIONAL	1/14/2009	10	2019	\$146,064.80	93871
TANDEM AXLE DUMP	INTERNATIONAL	10/20/2009	10	2019	\$156,915.00	83982
TANDEM AXLE DUMP	INTERNATIONAL	10/20/2009	10	2019	\$155,415.00	77308
TANDEM AXLE DUMP	INTERNATIONAL	10/20/2009	10	2019	\$155,415.00	70932
TIRE TRUCK	FORD	3/13/2008	10	2016	\$36,177.58	16615
TRAC/MOWER, BOOM	JOHN DEERE	10/31/2005	15	2020	\$40,940.00	2176
TRACTOR/MOWER	NEW HOLLAND	1/9/2008	15	2023	\$41,168.00	2170
TRACTOR/MOWER	NEW HOLLAND	1/9/2008	15	2023	\$41,168.00	1397
TRACTOR/MOWER	NEW HOLLAND	2/27/2009	15	2024	\$45,175.00	1338
TRACTOR/MOWER	NEW HOLLAND	2/27/2009	15	2024	\$45,175.00	1178
TRK/TRACTOR	INTERNATIONAL	4/15/1999	8	2014	\$60,875.00	466957
UTILITY TRUCK	GMC	12/10/2009	8	2017	\$66,245.94	36664
VIBRATORY DRIVER/EXTRACTOR	ICE	2/6/1997			\$51,400.00	2167
WELDING TRUCK	GMC	3/5/2008	8	2016	\$35,722.84	36415
PRE 2010 TOTAL COST					<u>\$5,435,258.18</u>	
HIGHWAY TOTAL COST					\$7,822,601.68	

REFUSE EQUIPMENT

POST 2010 EQUIPMENT

DESCRIPTION	MANUFACTURER	PURCHASE DATE	EST. LIFE	REPL. YR	INSTALL COST	METER
TRACTOR	KUBOTA	11/9/2010	30		\$39,285.00	837
TRK/TRACTOR	INTERNATIONAL	11/21/2012	8	2019	\$119,978.00	25550
POST 2010 TOTAL COST					<u>\$159,263.00</u>	

PRE 2010 EQUIPMENT

DESCRIPTION	MANUFACTURER	PURCHASE DATE	EST. LIFE	REPL. YR	INSTALL COST	METER
ART LOADER	JCB	11/30/2000	20	2021	\$41,969.00	3238
ART LOADER	JCB	4/30/1992			\$0.00	145
SKIDSTEER	CASE	3/30/1990	20		\$17,376.50	2001
SKIDSTEER	CASE	3/30/1990	20		\$17,376.50	1572
SKIDSTEER	BOBCAT	11/15/1989	20		\$13,795.00	891
SKIDSTEER	CASE	12/13/1990	20		\$17,868.00	2972
TRACTOR, LOADER	KIOTI	7/17/2009	20	2029	\$23,400.00	1008
TRK/TRACTOR	INTERNATIONAL	3/18/2004	8	2015	\$54,900.00	262993
TRK/TRACTOR	INTERNATIONAL	3/10/2009	8	2018	\$93,476.00	112965
TRK/TRACTOR	INTERNATIONAL	12/10/2009	8	2019	\$109,018.00	100644
TRK/TRACTOR	INTERNATIONAL	11/9/2007	8	2016	\$88,929.00	142895
TRUCK/RECYCLING COMPACTOR	INTERNATIONAL	4/24/2003	8	2015	\$100,575.21	241013
TRUCK/RECYCLING COMPACTOR	INTERNATIONAL	7/28/2008	8	2016	\$170,394.57	161460
PRE 2010 TOTAL COST					<u>\$749,077.78</u>	

REFUSE TOTAL COST

\$908,340.78

GRAND TOTAL

\$8,730,942.46

Additionally, Legislator Ungermann had the following handwritten notes included with the report.

“Allegany County Excavator \$237,000”

“No Gradalls, Allegany County \$376,000 in 2013”

“No 50 or 60 ton lowboys, we have 2.”

“No Bridge Inspection truck. Just put over \$100,000 in repairs (paint bridges with it).”

Legislator Ungermann noted that Cattaraugus County doesn't have a Gradall or bridge inspection truck like we use to paint bridges.

Legislator O'Grady stated that the biggest thing he's noticed is that the towns in his district like the bridge program. He sees an advantage would be that if a private firm did the work and the County doesn't approve of the job, the County might be able to retain payment. The Chautauqua County report shows substantially more bridges for less money. Legislator Ungermann added that the report is a Cornell University study.

Chairman Crandall remarked that it's all about shared services. Albany is pushing the sharing of services.

Legislator Ungermann offered a suggestion for shared services saying, "The County could possibly provide supervision and scheduling, but the towns in each district could do the maintenance work. I think we still need a maintenance crew to do repairs, but the ditching and other work could be done by towns. Paving could be hired out."

Legislator Fanton questioned how shared services would be measured. He stated, "I don't want my tax money going for another town's projects. How do you bill that? I'm not saying it can't be done. When you look at tax rates, it's difficult. I think Yvonne Marks does a good job keeping track of our expenses." Legislator Ungermann agreed that she does, but added, "It's the towns, according to this study, that aren't keeping track." Chairman Crandall added, "Documentation is very important with shared services." Legislator Fanton remarked, "Most towns are pretty satisfied with cost sharing."

Legislator Ungermann asked what the County paid for the road widener." He remarked, "Remember we have the fourth highest tax rate in the country." Legislators Fanton and Graves clarified the ranking saying it was based on assessed valuation. Legislator Graves stated that Allegany County paid \$235,000 for the road widener. Legislator Ungermann stated that Cattaraugus County paid \$65,000.

Chairman Crandall remarked that the surrounding counties' (Chautauqua and Cattaraugus) roads are awful. Discussion on who should be doing the paving followed. Legislator Ungermann suggested that it's a good plan to hire a private company to pave. Chairman Crandall said that he and Guy James agree with that.

Chairman Crandall questioned what the right balance between government and private was. Chairman Crandall suggested that Allegany County is leaps and bounds above the other counties, and that we have less people to pay for it.

Legislator Curran raised the subject of the time involved in some of these projects and alluded to a project in his district that took much longer to complete than it should have. He asked, "If we hired a private contractor and they estimate cost, if they run five or six months over on time, what would we do with the contractor?" Legislator Fanton responded, "I think the job you're referring to they got pulled off the job." Legislator Curran gave an example of a road in his district near the Alfred Lake Lodge. Because the road wasn't finished, the school buses had to travel on unmaintained roads.

Legislator Ungermann noted that Rawson Road is a good example of the differences in the quality of road repair because that road is divided in several places by different counties. He remarked that Cattaraugus County just paves over their problems. Legislator Decker stated that he travels Rawson Road almost every day. Many of the culverts are sunken. Discussion ensued about differences in sluice pipes and their installation. Legislator Fanton remarked that he thought frost might have attributed to settlement.

Legislator Root remarked that the bigger issue is determining what our policy is going to be. She questioned what is the right mix of private and government. She added, "If you take work away from the people, you take away economic development. What is the right mix? Who drives that policy?"

Chairman Crandall stated, "We can talk about individual bridges and roads all day. There are twenty-nine towns affected." Those twenty-nine towns need to be represented in the discussion.

Legislator Fanton defended the culvert problems saying we're going to have some failures. We have many successes as well. He then addressed Legislator Ungermann saying, "...the bottom line is you're looking at the private sector taking over. That's because you are in the private sector. We've done a good job keeping our roads and bridges up."

Legislator Ungermann brought up a point that Legislator Root had previously made regarding the Health Department in the 1970s when they were looking at how to handle water conservation and septic installations. A list was developed of private local contractors who were capable of installing septic systems that would pass inspection.

Legislator O'Grady interjected saying, "I think we got off subject again. Let's go back to Legislator Root's point. Consolidations and Efficiencies (committee) is going to run into this. We aren't criticizing bridge work. The question is what is the most efficient way to replace bridges? Public, private, or a combination...I don't know what the answer is..."

Further discussion was had about the possibility of the County bidding against private companies. It was determined that the County would not be able to bid. There was also concern about bids being lowballed and where the money would come from if they decided to put a couple of bridges out for bid. Chairman Crandall reminded the group that it still boils down to policy. Legislator Root questioned how long the current policy had been in place. It was determined that it may have last been modified in the 1980s or earlier.

Comments

Chairman Crandall stated that Legislator Burt had asked about the process used to address issues. He asked Ms. Riehle to put together a list of the items that were compiled at the beginning of the Board term. Some of those items included:

- Transition of Development Director
- Crossroads Development
- Economic Development Revitalization Team
- Promotion of the Oil and Gas Industry
- Replacement Plan for Senior Level Employees
- Efficiency in Government
- Revamping of Bridge Program
- Landfill Issues

Chairman Crandall noted that he felt they'd made some progress in discussing these. Legislator Fanton added that Mr. James and Mr. Scholes would have a presentation regarding the Landfill and different options for it soon. He added, "We are going to have to change the way we pay for it." Legislator Burt stated that his question was procedural. He added, "We need to be educated and that needs to start somewhere."

Legislator Burt asked Mr. Alger if there was any update on the Deputy County Administrator position. Mr. Alger responded that there wasn't really any update other than that he had eighteen or nineteen applications.

The group was reminded of the Landfill tour on June 25th at 1 o'clock.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 5:22 p.m. following a motion made by Legislator Fanton, seconded by Legislator Burt, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah M. Decker, Journal Clerk/Deputy Clerk of the Board
Allegheny County Board of Legislators

**ALLEGANY COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

July 28, 2014

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 2:38 p.m. by Chairman Curtis W. Crandall

LEGISLATORS PRESENT: Chairman C. Crandall, S. Burt, P. Curran, D. Decker, D. Fanton, K. Graves, D. Healy, T. Hopkins, C. Jessup, K. LaForge, T. O'Grady, D. Pullen, N. Ungermann
Absent: A. McGraw

OTHERS PRESENT: M. Alger, S. Decker, C. Knapp, B. Riehle, T. Ross, J. Wood, B. Budinger, J. Adams, M. Johnson

Attorney/Client Session

A motion was made by Legislator Healy, seconded by Legislator Fanton, and carried to enter into attorney/client session at 2:38 p.m. Following discussion at 4:44 p.m., a motion was made by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Healy, and carried to end the attorney/client session and return to the regular meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m. following a motion made by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Decker, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah M. Decker, Journal Clerk/Deputy Clerk of the Board
Allegany County Board of Legislators

**ALLEGANY COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

August 25, 2014

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 3:33 p.m. by Chairman Curtis W. Crandall

LEGISLATORS PRESENT: Chairman C. Crandall, S. Burt, P. Curran, D. Fanton, K. Graves, D. Healy, T. Hopkins, C. Jessup, K. LaForge, A. McGraw, T. O'Grady, D. Pullen, D. Root, N. Ungermann; Absent: D. Decker

OTHERS PRESENT: M. Alger, H. Budinger, S. Decker, B. Riehle; T. Miner, J. Wood (partial attendance)

Executive Session

A motion was made by Legislator Fanton, seconded by Legislator Healy, and carried to enter into executive session at 3:34 p.m. to discuss the employment history of employees in the Section IV Salary Plan. Following discussion at 4:09 p.m., a motion was made by Legislator Healy, seconded by Legislator Root, and carried to end the executive session and return to the regular meeting.

Attorney/Client Session

A motion was made by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Fanton, and carried to enter into attorney/client session at 4:11 p.m. Following discussion at 5:11 p.m. a motion was made by Legislator O'Grady, seconded by Legislator Fanton, and carried to end the attorney/client session and return to the regular meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 5:12 p.m. following a motion made by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator O'Grady, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah M. Decker, Journal Clerk/Deputy Clerk of the Board
Allegany County Board of Legislators

**ALLEGANY COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

October 14, 2014

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. by Chairman Curtis W. Crandall

LEGISLATORS PRESENT: Chairman C. Crandall, S. Burt, D. Decker, D. Fanton (arrived late), K. Graves, D. Healy, T. Hopkins, C. Jessup, K. LaForge, D. Pullen, N. Ungermann (Absent: P. Curran, A. McGraw, T. O'Grady, D. Root)

OTHERS PRESENT: M. Alger, S. Decker, D. Horan, T. Hull, T. Miner, B. Riehle, T. Ross, J. Tomasi

OPENING REMARKS:

Chairman Crandall announced that the purpose of the meeting was to look at the Tentative Budget which had been released on September 29. Chairman Crandall indicated that the Tentative Budget includes 1.42 percent reduction in the property tax rate, which is the equivalent of a twenty-four cent reduction in the tax rate. Chairman Crandall spoke about the tax rate and fund balance over the past several years. He remarked on how the years 1997-2001, the tax rate was reduced, but noted that the difference between those years of reducing the tax rate, and the current rate reduction is that we are able to reduce the rate and still maintain a healthy fund balance. He went on to say that New York has missed the boat on a number of programs that would help to reduce taxes. Capping taxes alone is not a good financial plan, and is not sustainable. We've got neighboring counties that are looking at 8-9 percent increases.

Chairman Crandall stated that the meeting gives the Board an opportunity to look at and address any issues with the Tentative Budget. If anything needs to be changed, it will come in the form of a resolution, and will go through Ways and Means. He stated that the Budget Hearing would take place on November 6, and that they plan to adopt the Budget on November 24.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Budget Officer Mitch Alger remarked that the Budget looks pretty good overall. He took the opportunity to thank Deputy Budget Officer Terri Ross for adjusting to a change in the process. He thanked Clerk of the Board Brenda Rigby Riehle's office for putting together copies of the Tentative Budget for distribution. He then thanked the department heads and their financial staff for their part in helping with the Budget.

Deputy Budget Officer Terri Ross mentioned the A+ rating the County had received from Standard and Poor's.

Legislator Decker asked if that had been reported to the newspapers. Ms. Ross replied that she hadn't seen anything yet, but that the County should have some press release. Chairman Crandall agreed that it was important to publicize.

Ms. Ross mentioned the schedules at the back of the Budget. She indicated that if there were any questions regarding those, she would be happy to answer them. Legislator Graves asked about schedule 5 which related to financing for the Jail. Legislator Graves wondered how she would determine when it was best to look at refunding bonds early. Ms. Ross stated that most can be looked at after five years. She went on to say that she looks at them annually to see if there's something to do. A group of people need to be interested in purchasing the bonds versus only having one person interested.

Chairman Crandall reminded the group that no formal action needed to be taken at the end of the meeting.

Legislator Healy asked about the union negotiations and how many there currently were. Mr. Alger indicated that there are four unions that they are currently in negotiations with. Legislator Healy asked how the negotiations affected the current Budget, or future Budgets? Mr. Alger stated that the biggest affect is with health insurance costs. This year they added about \$1 Million to the Budget to cover health costs, when actually they could have added \$2 Million. This is the largest part to impact the Budget. A lot is at stake with those negotiations. Hopefully we can strike a deal that is good for the employees and good for the County.

Legislator Graves remarked that he thinks they did a great job on the Budget. His only comment (from the street) was about sales tax. People are constantly reminded of our sales tax rate. Legislator Graves would like to see it reduced even just a little.

Chairman Crandall gave an example of another county contemplating raising sales tax in order to keep their head above water. He reminded the group that they would need sponsorship from Albany in order to make that happen. Albany is not in favor of increasing sales tax. Chairman Crandall remarked that development from outside money would be helpful.

Legislator Burt stated that he hears complaints about the sales tax mostly from those who are on social security. He then questioned the reduction in the property tax rate and the amount of property taxes people are paying. He questioned if due to reassessments, people were actually paying more in property taxes. He said, "I think we need to be careful about bragging about the rate reduction."

Legislator Ungermann stated that the tax bills have gone up every year that the tax rate has gone down. He said, "When you look at the increase in taxable assessed value, you've got to be doing that through increased assessments."

Chairman Crandall responded that the County has nothing to do with assessment values. That is a town issue.

Legislator Hopkins reminded the group that they increased the health insurance budget by \$1 million. If we hadn't done that we would have been able to decrease the tax rate even more. There are a lot of things at the State and Federal level that affect our Budget. The increase in health costs is scary. Health insurance is out of control. It's going to be a real scary thing in the next couple of years. Legislator Healy added that some claim a lot of the extra costs are from Obama Care. Chairman Crandall remarked, "That's where having some fund balance is a good thing, it helps stabilize this type of thing. A more level Budget is better than dealing with spikes." Legislator Pullen stated that during the last round of negotiations, they had begun to address some of the issues with health care. New hires are paying a much larger percentage than in the past.

Legislator Pullen remarked that the levy has increased, but the rate has decreased. It would be better if we could decrease both, but it's certainly good to be able to reduce the rate. Federal laws governing health insurance is something we can't control. Luckily we don't have County owned/run hospitals, nursing homes, etc. Counties with these are hemorrhaging red ink. Medicaid/Medicare programs dictate what they will pay. You are under Taylor Law if you are municipally owned. How do they make up revenue? They charge more for private pay and those covered under health insurance. It's incredibly complicated. This is why negotiations are taking so long. It's not that we're trying to gain ground, it's that we're trying not to lose too much ground for the Budget. Something has got to give, or we're going to have to raise taxes.

Legislator Ungermann asked what the value of sell-backs of employee sick and vacation time were going to be this year. He said, "I'm hearing in the \$350,000 range."

Legislator Pullen remarked that the County has been hammered every year for the last five years with the pension. It looks like that has decreased. Is that going to continue?

Ms. Ross indicated that it looks like it will continue to decrease. Chairman Crandall stated that it went from \$4.5 million to \$4.3 million. He added that it is our second largest mandated program, Medicaid being the first.

Legislator LaForge remarked that we need to find ways to increase property values. We need to reverse the downward spiral. We've got to have reasons for people to want to come here. He feels we need to work on cleaning up properties.

Legislator Decker argued that sales tax is the more equitable way of raising funds. He stated that a large portion of the County population doesn't pay property tax, leaving property owners to carry the weight. It's got to be fair. If you're paying sales tax, you're contributing to the running of the government. Quit putting the burden on the middle class. People at the bottom get all the services. No one should have to pay more, it should be spread out so everyone is contributing.

Legislator Healy stated that although he is against all tax increases, he agrees with Legislator Decker. User fees and sales tax is the more equitable way to go. Sales tax affects our businesses, but it's the internet sales that hurt us more than our tax rate. People can get whatever they want and many times don't have to pay sales tax on internet purchases. Legislator Healy feels that economic growth is our only answer. He said, "We can't just maintain and be happy with where we are at."

Legislator Ungermann argued that as a business owner he pays a lot of excise and sales tax. He remarked on the large amount he pays in taxes when purchasing a new truck, giving an example of around \$20,000 in taxes paid for a \$100,000 truck. He added, "We don't want to discourage businesses from being here. We're discouraging with high property taxes and high sales taxes. I think it's a shame we print the names of people who can't afford to pay their taxes. However, we don't print the names of people who are sucking off the system."

Chairman Crandall noted that sixty-three cents of every tax dollar goes for mandated programs. We have no control over this other than coming up with a way to pay for it.

Legislator Ungermann asked if the County was still contracting with Zuech for pumping the septic system at the Jail. Chairman Crandall indicated that we are paying \$15,000 per year to have it pumped twice. Legislator Ungermann questioned why the County isn't looking into purchasing the equipment so we can do it ourselves. He feels it would only take five years to get the investment back. He remarked that they make equipment to take all of the heavy things out that are causing problems with the system. He doesn't have a problem with Zuech's, but would like to save the County some money. Legislator Decker asked if the County would still need to do that even if we were hooked onto the village sewer system. Legislator Ungermann replied that you would still need to get those things out of the system. He added that 15-20 years is about the life of a system, and he encouraged getting the Jail hooked up to the village system. The sewage would be treated properly instead of going into the ground water.

Chairman Crandall reminded the group that there would be a public hearing on November 6 at 7 p.m.

Legislator Burt remarked that one of our charges is not to micromanage, but to have the right people in the right spots. He stated, "I have complete confidence in Mitch, Terri, and Brenda."

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:21 a.m. following a motion made by Legislator Decker, seconded by Legislator Graves, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

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

**2015 ALLEGANY COUNTY TENTATIVE BUDGET
PUBLIC HEARING**

NOVEMBER 6, 2014

CALL TO ORDER: The Public Hearing on the 2015 Allegany County Tentative Budget was declared open at 7:02 p.m. by Chairman Curtis W. Crandall

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Crandall.

INVOCATION: The Invocation was given by Legislator Pullen.

ROLL CALL: 11 Legislators Present: Curtis Crandall, David Decker, Dwight Fanton, Karl Graves, Dwight (Mike) Healy, Theodore Hopkins, Charles Jessup, Kevin LaForge, David Pullen, Debra Root 4 Legislators Absent: Scott Burt, Philip Curran, Aaron McGraw, Norman Ungermann, Jr.

ALSO PRESENT: M. Alger, L. Ballengee, L. Bliven, B. Budinger, C. Crandall, S. Decker, L. Edwards, V. Grant, M. Hennessy, K. Hollis, R. Hollis, D. Horan, J. Nelson, R. Riehle, T. Ross
Media Present: D. Donahue (*Olean Times Herald*), B. Quinn (*Wellsville Daily Reporter*)

Chairman Curtis Crandall gave a Power Point presentation which included information on the County Budget process. Data from the slides is shown below:

2015 Budget Process

The past couple years, Allegany County has made the development of the County's Budget a year-round process. The Budget Committee is continuously keeping a "finger on the pulse" of the County Budget with quarterly updates from the "Big 5" departments on where their revenues and expenditures are projected to be at year-end. In addition, the Budget process has been "kicked off" just 5 months into the fiscal year. This shows Allegany County's commitment to presenting a Budget that is accurate, fiscally responsible, and timely.

2015 Tentative Budget Tax Rate

Decrease of \$ 0.24 / \$1,000

Total Assessed Value: \$ 1,820,641,685

Total Appropriations: \$ 121,200,909

Total Revenue: \$ 91,232,582

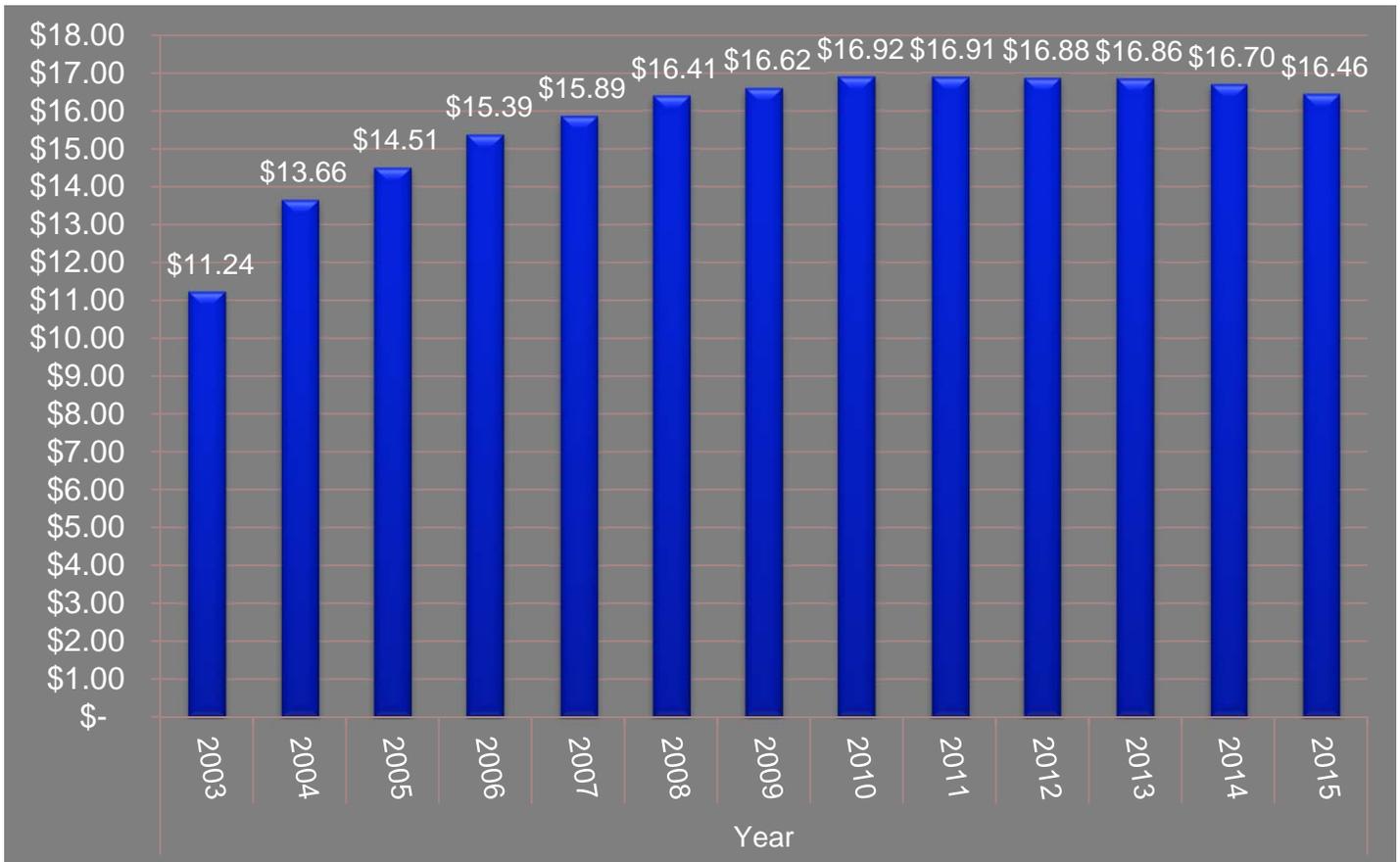
Property Tax Levy: \$ 29,968,327

Average County Tax Rate: \$16.46

What is the property tax cap?

- In a given year, the property tax levy can only increase by 2% or the CPI (Consumer Price Index), whichever is less.
- For 2015, the CPI is 1.56%—which is the maximum the levy can grow.
- However, certain items impact the calculation for each municipality's cap such as charge-backs for Real Property Services, Worker's Compensation, payments in lieu of taxes (PILOTs), etc...
- This means the 2015 'actual' cap allows the levy to be increased \$ 705,566 or 2.40% under the property tax cap legislation.
- The 2015 tentative Budget calls for a levy increase of \$618,829 or 2.11%, meeting the tax cap legislation.
- The County-wide average property tax rate is decreasing by 24 cents per one thousand dollars of assessed value from \$ 16.70 in 2014 to \$16.46 in 2015.

History of the County-wide Average Property Tax Rate



3 Year Average Property Tax Rate Change: -0.83% or -\$ 0.14
5 Year Average Property Tax Rate Change: -0.55% or -\$ 0.09
10 Year Average Property Tax Rate Change: 1.29% or \$ 0.20

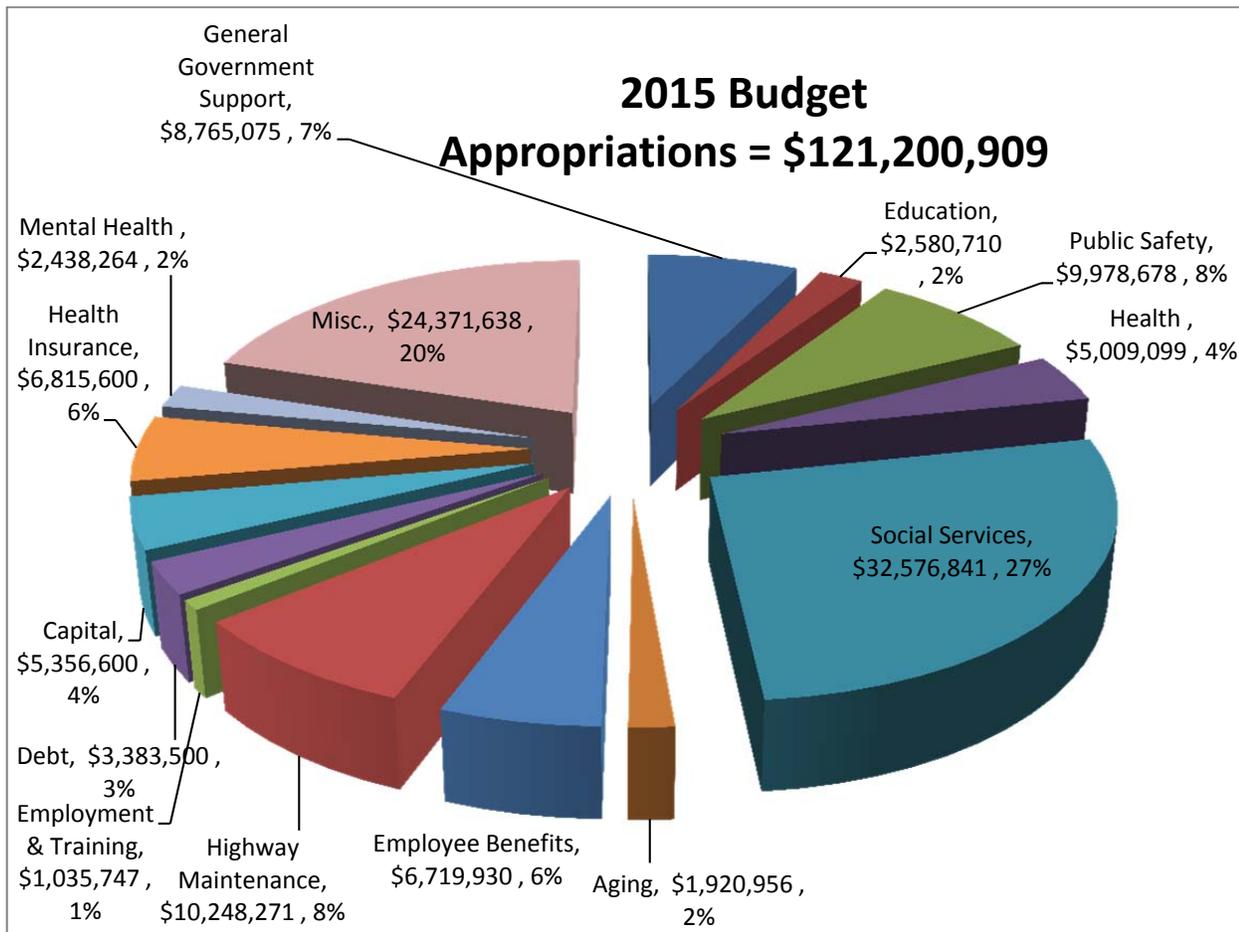
Piggybank (Fund Balance): Then and Now

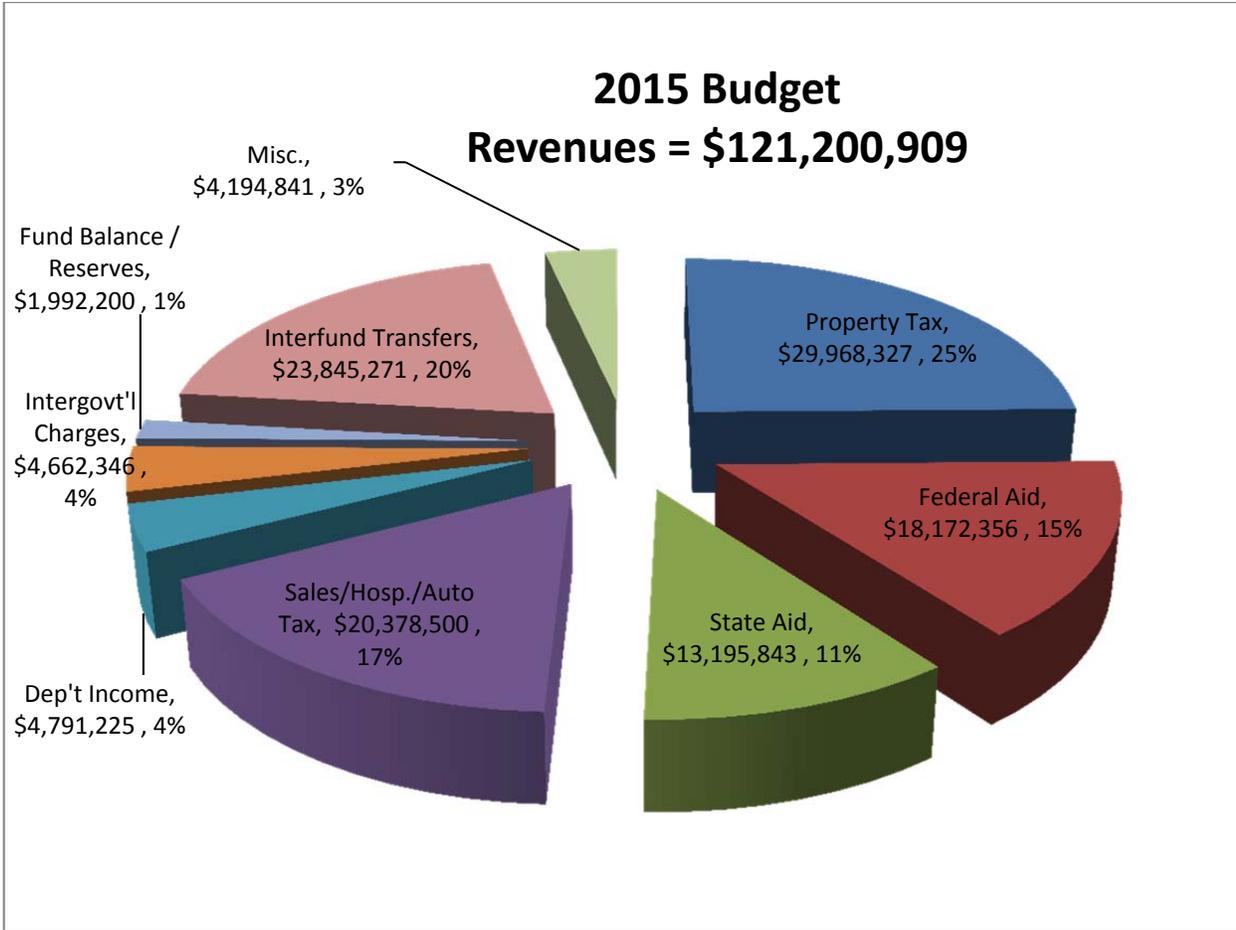
2003 (Then)

- Didn't have a Piggybank.
- County running a Budget deficit.
-

2015 (Now)

- Stabilized the Property Tax Rate
- Favorable Bond Rating helped save over \$800,000 on Courthouse Construction & Renovation Project and over \$1M on the Public Safety Facility Bond refinancing
- Investing in economic development
- Able to comply with increasing state mandates and the property tax cap
- Avoided interest costs by paying bonds off early and able to pay-as-we-go on large purchases
- Avoided interest charges by paying the retirement incentive bill at the front end





What are Un-Funded Mandates?

- State or Federal programs that Allegany County must provide BY LAW – that are not completely funded by State or Federal taxes
- Programs that you and I as County taxpayers have no choice in paying.

2015 Tentative Budget

Property Tax Levy = \$29,968,327.
This the amount to be raised by taxes
How much of this is Mandated Programs?

The Big Ones

Program	2015 Expense		2015 Aid		2015 Net Cost		% of Levy on Net
Medicaid	10,331,840	-	335,627	=	9,996,213	or	33.36%
Safety Net	1,950,000	-	743,805	=	1,206,195	or	4.02%
Child Welfare	4,099,788	-	3,641,686	=	458,102	or	1.53%
Special Ed / Pre-K	1,510,710	-	1,073,690	=	437,020	or	1.46%
Indigent Defense	915,745	-	205,494	=	710,251	or	2.37%
Probation	967,899	-	339,100	=	628,799	or	2.10%
Retirement	4,247,746	-	-	=	4,247,746	or	14.17%
Youth Detention	20,000	-	-	=	20,000	or	0.07%
Totals	24,043,728	-	6,339,402	=	17,704,326	or	59.08%

2015 Property Tax Levy	\$ 29,968,327
2014 Property Tax Levy	\$ 29,349,498
Difference	\$ 618,829

Just these 8 mandated costs make up **59.08%** of the property tax levy for 2015.

What this means is that almost 60 cents on every dollar we raise in property taxes goes towards the administering the cost of just these 8 mandated costs **(and there's more than 8).**

This represents the structural imbalance of a 2% Property Tax Cap without Mandate Relief.

Other Required Programs the County Funds

- Court Facility Projects
- Community Colleges
- Elections
- DSS Administration
- Sheriff
- District Attorney
- Early Intervention

More local dollars for Federal / State projects, less for local projects

What This Means

- It only takes small increases in Mandated Programs to exceed the Property Tax Cap.
- Allegany County is administering Mandated Programs that we have no control over.
- Local Programs suffer in order to pay for mandated programs.
- Roads/Bridges, Economic Development, Maintenance & Repairs, Aging, Employment & Training, E-911, Veteran's Services.

New York State and the Federal Government need to address and reduce the Mandated Programs on our County taxpayers.

Chairman Crandall commended the County department heads and employees for their part in keeping the County Budget in control. Chairman Crandall stated, "It's the department heads and employees that have really been able to maintain and better the financial position of the County."

County Administrator and Budget Officer Mitch Alger requested that his message be read by the Clerk of the Board.

County Administrator Message:

"The 2015 Tentative Budget, which is the subject of tonight's public hearing, is a joint effort of the County Budget staff, the Budget Committee of the Board of Legislators and our Department Heads.

'The Tentative Budget, when taking into account all nine major appropriation funds, totals \$121,200,909. Offsetting these appropriations are anticipated revenues totaling \$91,232,582 leaving a balance of \$29,968,327 to be raised in County property tax to balance the Budget.

'The property tax levy necessary to balance the 2015 Tentative Budget is \$618,829 more than the property tax levy contained in the Final 2014 County Budget. The Average County Property Tax Rate for 2015 has decreased by 24 cents per thousand dollars of assessed value as compared to the 2014 Average County Property Tax Rate. The 2014 Rate was \$16.70 per thousand dollars of assessed value. The 2015 Rate is \$16.46 per thousand.

'It is expected that a Final County Budget will be adopted by the Board of Legislators at its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, November 24, at 2:00 p.m."

Mr. Alger stated that he would normally explain the process by which the Budget is gone through section by section, but because there were so few people present who weren't

already familiar with the Budget, he decided that unless someone wished to speak, it would be best to just open the hearing for questions from the Board.

Chairman Crandall stated that if anyone from the public wished to speak they were welcome to. He thought this might be the second time they've held a public hearing that no one has addressed the Board. He added, "If there is no one who wishes to come forward, we will close the public hearing."

Legislator Hopkins remarked that the department heads do such a great job of trying to control their Budgets. A lot of credit goes to them for the decreases we've seen in the past few years. They are dedicated to the County Taxpayers.

Legislator Graves noted that one of the best kept secrets is our County employees and department heads. They really do try to protect the County.

Legislator Decker stated, "If we band together with local counties, we can come up with ways to put pressure on the state for all of these programs that are being jammed down our throats."

Chairman Crandall thanked everyone for coming.

Adjournment: The Public Hearing was closed at 7:35 p.m. following a motion made by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Decker , and carried.

**ALLEGANY COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

November 10, 2014

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 3:28 p.m. by Chairman Curtis W. Crandall

LEGISLATORS PRESENT: Chairman C. Crandall, S. Burt, P. Curran, D. Decker, D. Fanton, K. Graves, D. Healy, T. Hopkins, C. Jessup, T. O'Grady, D. Pullen, D. Root, N. Ungermann
(Absent: K. LaForge, A. McGraw)

OTHERS PRESENT:

J. Adams, M. Alger, S. Decker, K. Dirlam, D. Fanton, J. Herman, T. Miner, B. Riehle

Chairman Crandall stated that the purpose of the meeting was to hear presentations from two organizations that had responded to an RFP for consulting work regarding consolidations and efficiencies.

PRESENTATIONS:

*CGR, Inc. (Center for Governmental Research), Rochester, New York
In partnership with KHEOPS Architecture, Engineering & Survey, DPC*

Joseph Stefko, President and Chief Executive Officer of CGR, Inc. presented background information for the company and offered a slideshow outlining the process by which they would study and then offer ideas that could be implemented to hopefully save the County money. He gave examples of work his firm had done in other counties. Following the presentation, Mr. Stefko opened the floor for questions.

Chairman Crandall remarked that he was concerned about the process considering the broadness of the RFP. He asked Mr. Stefko to give an estimation of how soon after the firm's fact gathering they would be able to narrow the focus. Mr. Stefko indicated that the time frame for the initial phase of their work would be about 2-3 months. At that time they would be able to offer options. He indicated that they would meet every 4-6 weeks over several months.

Legislator Graves asked for further explanation of what the options were. Mr. Stefko indicated that it is his firm's jobs to identify options and offer recommendations. It wouldn't need to be across the entire organization, it could be for different areas or departments.

Legislator Jessup asked if this could include towns, villages, and sewer & water districts. Mr. Stefko suggested that they could be included, but that you wouldn't want to wait until the end of the study to engage them.

Other questions included the estimated length of the project and specific questions about consolidations of towns within the County.

Paige Communications Group, Inc., Utica, New York

Nancy Pattarini, Owner, President and Chief Executive Officer of The Paige Group presented background information for her company and offered a slideshow outlining the process her firm would use to complete the project. She gave many examples of work her firm had done and offered timeframe estimations for being able to implement the ideas. Some of the Legislators were familiar with the work her firm does as she had recently spoken at a NYSAC conference.

Legislator Fanton questioned whether some of the steps the County has already made toward consolidation and cost savings could be included in the County's shared-services and efficiency plan that we'll have to submit to New York State. Ms. Pattarini remarked that it was her understanding that there would be at least some level of allowing for those things that were previously implemented. They were also working with the state to allow for sharing of soft-services such as software. Legislator Fanton made the point that sometimes a decision that is made to benefit one department can actually mess things up for another. Ms. Pattarini indicated that they could involve everyone. They could look at groups outside the organization that might be affected.

Chairman Crandall asked who would be included in the brainstorming. Ms. Pattarini indicated that they generally include County government as the project leadership team along with department heads. They generally don't extend brainstorming outside of the County organization. Closer to the stage of implementation, you might include other small groups who would be affected.

Legislator Decker asked about handling consolidations of school districts and towns who don't want to lose their identities. Ms. Pattarini suggested that you have to bring the parties together for interest based negotiation.

Legislator Hopkins asked how many facilitators there were and their credentials. Ms. Pattarini stated that there were fifteen and she gave some of their educational background and experience.

Legislator Burt remarked that he thought the idea was for Ms. Pattarini's firm to come up with the ideas. It seemed to him that there was going to be quite a bit of involvement for the County, including the Legislators, as well. Ms. Pattarini commented that it's the barriers in relationships that cause many problems. You can't just look at numbers and data and not look at the relationships involved.

Legislator Ungermann commented that he's noticed that so many times it's been "we've always done it this way." We've got to be thinking about other ways of doing things. How do you crack that "nut"? Ms. Pattarini replied that it needs to be the leadership who stands up and says "This is what we're doing."

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 5:03 p.m. following a motion made by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Decker, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah M. Decker, Journal Clerk/Deputy Clerk of the Board
Allegany County Board of Legislators

**ALLEGANY COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

November 24, 2014

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 3:40 p.m. by Chairman Curtis W. Crandall

LEGISLATORS PRESENT: Chairman C. Crandall, S. Burt, P. Curran, D. Decker, D. Fanton, K. Graves, D. Healy, C. Jessup, K. LaForge, T. O'Grady, D. Pullen, D. Root, N. Ungermann
(Absent: T. Hopkins, A. McGraw)

OTHERS PRESENT:

J. Adams, M. Alger, B. Budinger, J. Budinger, S. Decker, K. Dirlam, D. Fanton, L. Gridley, L. Haggstrom, B. Riehle, T. Ross

Legislator LaForge introduced Tim Ball and Nick Mazza from The Bonadio Group who were in attendance to make a presentation regarding the RFP for consolidations and efficiencies consulting work.

PRESENTATION:

The Bonadio Group, CPAs, Consultants & More, Pittsford, New York

Nick Mazza, ICMA-CM, presented information regarding his background and qualifications. Mr. Mazza worked as the Livingston County Administrator for 20 years. He also served as the Interim County Administrator for Cayuga County. He indicated that his firm is a CPA firm and that they do financial audits and consulting work for counties. He remarked that no two counties are alike and that it's not a one size fits all approach.

Timothy Ball, CFE, remarked that they are a CPA firm by trade and indicated that they do audits of all kinds of firms. He stated that Allegany County's RFP is broad. The question is where to begin? He feels the best approach is to start with departments. They would look at all of the departments in the County and decide where we would receive the "biggest bang for the buck." He used the example of the Department of Social Services. He explained the process they would use to go through that department. He remarked that his firm has a great deal of experience in working with Social Services departments across the state. They look at how our operations compare to others across the state. They would look at internal controls, cost avoidance, and risk assessment. Once they've gotten a clear idea of what's going on in that department, they would make recommendations. He indicated that the process would include month by month interaction rather than a year long process before recommendations are offered. He suggested they could get the biggest departments completed in the first few months.

Legislator Fanton asked how they would audit the Department of Public Works. Mr. Ball used the Landfill as an example saying that he would meet with the supervisor. They would look at things such as how the County processes payroll, overtime, scales, fees, etc. For the roads part of the department they consider materials and people to be the largest costs. They would look at payroll and overtime. Mr. Mazza gave examples of where there may be loose operations. He offered the example of time clock use. He indicated that he knows the restrictions of unions; he's negotiated over fifty union contracts.

Mr. Ball stated that their goal is to embed themselves in the County and get a good understanding of things. They would give reports on a monthly basis. He indicated that another area to look at is the Budget process. They would look at contracts and make sure that the costs make sense, including

how they compare with the state-wide average. Mr. Mazza stated that they would look at the County's IT department. He indicated that they have people at their firm who are very skilled in looking at service agreements and software agreements to see if there are duplications.

Mr. Ball remarked that he had done consulting work for Allegany County Department of Social Services. He was helping to investigate Medicaid fraud. The state now handles that.

The gentlemen gave many examples of municipalities they had done work for.

Chairman Crandall asked who would be doing the actual work. He also asked them to give the Legislators an idea of what to expect. Mr. Ball indicated that he would be the overall project manager. He would be present approximately 4-5 times per month. Additionally, they would have professionals such as a nurse, DSS specialist, IT professional, etc. working in the departments. Mr. Ball himself would be reporting the findings and recommendations to the County.

Legislator Decker asked if there would be a need for a maintenance contract so the County doesn't "slide back" into some problems. Mr. Ball stated that they could revisit the departments to see if the changes were made that had been recommended.

Both gentlemen remarked that the project is up to the County on where to start and if revisits of departments need to be done. The firm would be reporting each month.

Legislator Fanton asked what the charge for their service was. Mr. Ball indicated that it's an hourly fee. The County can assign a limit. Legislator Graves asked if a retainer was needed. Mr. Ball stated that there would be no retainer.

Legislator Burt remarked that he was impressed with the two men. Legislator Graves asked what the average rate was that they charged. Mr. Ball stated that it was a blended rate of \$150 per hour per person. Legislator Burt asked if they could prioritize once they've looked things over. Mr. Ball said that yes, they would look at department size and risk to see where to start. Legislator Fanton asked for an estimate of the total cost based on the size of Allegany County. They indicated that it was difficult to do as the RFP is so broad. Once they define the scope of the audit, they could give a better estimate. Mr. Mazza stated that they weren't looking for a contract or a retainer. They are asking for a chance to show the County what they can do. If they don't produce, the County doesn't have to continue with them.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 4:42 p.m. following a motion made by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Root, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah M. Decker, Journal Clerk/Deputy Clerk of the Board
Allegany County Board of Legislators

**ALLEGANY COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
December 8, 2014**

****APPROVED ****

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Chairman Curtis W. Crandall

LEGISLATORS PRESENT: Chairman Curtis Crandall, Scott Burt, Philip Curran, David Decker, Dwight Fanton, Dwight "Mike" Healy, Theodore Hopkins, Charles Jessup, Kevin LaForge, Aaron McGraw, Timothy O'Grady, David Pullen, Debra Root, Norman Ungermann, Jr.
Absent: Karl Graves

OTHERS PRESENT:

M. Alger, L. Ballengee, S. Brown, S. Decker, G. James, C. Knapp, B. Riehle, D. Scholes

GRANT:

Chairman Crandall announced that Allegany County had just received notice from DASNY (Dormitory Authority State of New York) of the County being approved to receive a State and Municipal Facilities Program ("SAM") grant in the amount of \$250,000 for renovation of the Former Jail to create office space. He remarked that this is extremely good news and he will be sure that it gets directed to the proper committee for action.

ATTORNEY/CLIENT SESSION:

A motion was made by Legislator Decker, seconded by Legislator Root, and carried to enter into an attorney/client session at 3:03 p.m. Following discussion, at approximately 4:07 p.m., a motion was made by Legislator Fanton, seconded by Legislator Root, and carried to end the attorney/client session and return to the regular meeting.

APPROVAL OF DONATION:

The committee requested a resolution in order to move forward with an agreement to accept a donation of the land and building located at 4459 Bolivar Road in the Town of Wellsville from the estate of Arthur Devenport. Approval to agree to accept the land and building, subject to various conditions imposed by the estate and upon satisfactory review of the title by the County Attorney was granted on a motion by Legislator Root, seconded by Legislator Jessup, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 4:09 p.m. following a motion made by Legislator Burt, seconded by Legislator Fanton, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah M. Decker, Journal Clerk/Deputy Clerk of the Board
Allegany County Board of Legislators