

Annual Report of the County Administrator for 2015

During the year we exercised our responsibility for the conduct of the collective bargaining process by participating in labor and management disputes, collective bargaining, and labor negotiations with the four collective bargaining units that represent County employees. We believe we are reaching resolution with the Public Employees Federation (PEF) and AFSCME Association Council 82 – Local 3989 collective bargaining units. We negotiated the Deputy Sheriff's contract in 2015 and continue to work toward a resolution with the New York State Nurses Association.

The 2016 budget process began in May 2015 and continuing through November with Mitchell M. Alger serving as the Budget Officer and County Treasurer, Terri L. Ross, serving as the Deputy Budget Officer. The Tentative Budget, when taking into account all nine major appropriation funds, totals \$114,769,938. Offsetting these appropriations are anticipated revenues totaling \$84,392,270 leaving a balance of \$30,377,668 to be raised in County property tax to balance the budget. The property tax levy necessary to balance the 2016 Tentative Budget is \$409,341 more than the property tax levy contained in the Final 2015 County Budget. The Average County Property Tax Rate for 2016 has decreased by 17 cents per thousand dollars of assessed value as compared to the 2015 Average County Property Tax Rate. The 2015 Rate was \$16.46 per thousand dollars of assessed value. The 2016 Rate is \$16.29 per thousand. The final budget was adopted by the Board of Legislators on November 23rd.

We continue to attend as many Standing Committee meetings and Board meetings as possible to provide administrative assistance and guidance to the members of the Board of Legislators. Substantial time and effort is expended in performing the overall administration of County government including dedicating resources to assist in ongoing projects such as:

- Broadband / Local Development Corporation / 911
- Renovations to 3rd Floor of County Office Building
- Solar Array at Landfill with Solar City
- Landfill closure
- Cornell Cooperative Extension Building
- Economic Development at Crossroads and in collaboration with Alfred State College
- Renovation project at Jail / 911
- Land bank project
- Park & Ride Public Transportation project at Crossroads
- Space Needs
- Security upgrades to County Office Building
- Parking Lot Lighting on Presutti Lot
- And the CDBG grant with Cattaraugus Community Action.

Additionally, we continued to oversee the administration of the Self-Insured County Workers' Compensation Plan, the operations of the Public Beach at Rushford Lake, and administered the financial duties required for the Allegany County Snowmobilers Trail Maintenance Program grant. We serve as a liaison to Ardent Solutions and the New York State Department of Transportation to ensure the delivery of public transportation services in the County.

With the retirement of Sharon Keib, Worker's Compensation Program Manager, and the resignation of Mitchell Alger, County Administrator, in December; John E. Margeson returned to the County as Interim County Administrator. John will assist in the candidate search and recruitment process for a new County Administrator. Meanwhile, the day to day duties of the Mutual Self - Insurance Program and Workers' Compensation Office are temporarily being

handled by the County Administrator's Office, the Personnel Office, and the Treasurer's Department pending a permanent solution.

On behalf of myself and staff, I thank the members of the Board of Legislators for the opportunity to serve them and the citizens of Allegany County.

Respectfully submitted,

John E. Margeson
Interim County Administrator