

2014 Annual Report of the County Administrator

During 2014, the County Administrator devoted considerable time to union contract negotiations in addition to overseeing and representing the County in labor / management disputes and grievance procedures. The Public Employees Federation (PEF) unit's Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) expired December 31, 2012 and initial negotiations began early in 2013 and continue. The Deputy Sheriff's Association Council 82—Local 3989 CBA expired December 31, 2013 and negotiations began early in 2014 and continue. The A.F.S.C.M.E. NY Council 66 – Local 2574 and New York State Nurses Association CBAs expired December 31, 2014 and negotiations are underway. Resolving outstanding contracts is a priority.

Budget planning for 2015 continued through November with the County Administrator serving as Budget Officer and the County Treasurer serving as Deputy Budget Officer. The Clerk of the Board of Legislators and staff as well as Budget Committee Members all contributed to preparing a timely, accurate, and fiscally responsible budget. The increasing costs associated with State and Federal mandated programs continue to be a challenge with the State imposed 2% property tax cap. In November, the Board of Legislators adopted a Final Budget of \$121,200,909 which calls for a 2.11% increase in the tax levy. The tax rate has decreased by 24 cents per one thousand dollars of assessed value from \$16.70 in 2014 to \$16.46 in 2015. Sound fiscal operations have resulted in the county receiving favorable bond ratings and saving \$800,000 on the Courthouse Construction & Renovation Project and saving \$1M on the Public Safety Facility through bond refinancing.

The County Administrator received approval in July, to promote Bob Budinger to serve in a dual capacity as the Deputy County Administrator and Personnel Officer and in August, to change the job title and duties of Jodi Adams to Assistant to the County Administrator. These changes resulted in a net savings to the County of \$83,482.

The broad scope of responsibilities and duties of the office centers on the betterment of the County, and as such, requires participation in many committees and boards and providing assistance with special projects related to the overall administration of County government. During 2014, this included the County's partnership with MEGA for utility savings. Other projects include dedicating resources to promote economic development and bringing new business into the County, solar energy, broadband and communications, and space accommodations. In December, the County received \$250,000 from a DASNY grant to renovate the former jail. Additionally, the office assists in administering the Self-Insured Health Insurance Plan, the Rushford Public Beach and the Snowmobilers Trail Maintenance Program. In partnership with Allegany-Western Steuben Rural Health Network, State Department of Transportation, Arc, and First Transit, Inc. the county operates a public transportation system.

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,

Mitchell M. Alger
County Administrator