

BUDGET COMMITTEE
April 18, 2018

ALLEGANY COUNTY
BOARD OF LEGISLATORS

Committee Members Present: P. Curran, P. Stockin, J. Burdick, D. Fanton, B. Harris, J. Ricci, C. Crandall

Others Present: L. Ballengee, G. Barnes, T. Boyde, B. Budinger, D. Decker, W. Dibble, M. Gasdik, V. Grant, K. Graves, D. Healy, G. James, C. Knapp, D. Rahr, B. Riehle, T. Ross, D. Scholes, T. Shaw, M. Washer, R. Whitney

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 11:06 a.m. by Budget Committee Chairman Phil Curran.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Legislator Stockin, seconded by Legislator Harris, and carried to approve the Budget Committee minutes of March 21, 2018.

1st Quarter Budget Reports

Committee Chairman Curran requested that all departments begin providing a description of acronyms that are listed on budget reports.

Office for the Aging

Office for the Aging Director Madeleine Gasdik attended the meeting and submitted her first quarter budget report to the committee for review. Ms. Gasdik gave a brief description of the acronyms provided on her budget report. Ms. Gasdik stated the only change is to their Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPAA) program as \$13,000 was their final allocation for the year. Ms. Gasdik addressed the employee overtime stating most of her employees take their overtime in comp time; however, sometimes they do have caregivers who have to meet clients outside of work hours, but they are working hard to keep overtime hours down.

Department of Health

Public Health Director Lori Ballengee attended the meeting and submitted her first quarter budget report to the committee for review. Ms. Ballengee addressed the negative 13.4 percent revenue reflecting on her report stating their preschool program, which is their most expensive, requires a revenue reversal at the beginning of every year, and it can take months to years to get the revenue back in. Ms. Ballengee indicated that they have already received over half this year. Ms. Ballengee continued that they are always a quarter behind with vouchering; therefore, will not receive first quarter revenue until April. Ms. Ballengee feels they are in good shape and reminded the committee that the Cancer Services Program will be ending September 30, 2018. Ms. Ballengee stated because her department is 24/7/365 in addition to having weekend clinics, they do have some overtime that is unavoidable; however, her staff will take comp time as well as flex their hours to keep the overtime hours to a minimum. Ms. Ballengee thanked Accountant Dave Rahr for all of his hard work in preparing their budget.

Department of Public Works

Public Works Superintendent Guy James attended the meeting and submitted his first quarter budget report to the committee for review. Mr. James stated they are selling dump tags and are halfway to their projected revenues. Mr. James addressed their Road Machinery Fund

stating the money that has been used has gone to maintenance on their crane, as the cost of a new crane is approximately \$1 million. Mr. James stated their overtime is typically for taking care of roads, plowing, and covering for individuals where they haven't filled positions, but does not feel there is anything out of the ordinary, and they will stay within budget while making sure everything is covered. Legislator Harris asked if overtime typically decreases in the spring and summer months. Mr. James stated for the most part yes; however, they do have some summer road projects, and they also accompany our paving companies. Mr. James and the committee briefly discussed the Capital Projects budget summary. Legislator Harris asked why they transfer funds between Capital Accounts. County Treasurer Terri Ross stated there may be instances where one project is under budget while another is over, and they will use the surplus funds to cover the project that is in need. Mr. James thanked Fiscal Manager Yvonne Marks for all of her hard work in preparing their budgets.

Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Rick Whitney attended the meeting and submitted his first quarter budget report to the committee for review. Sheriff Whitney stated he thinks they will be in good shape; however, it is hard to say only being the first quarter. Housing revenue is up for the first quarter due to taking in some local inmates from surrounding counties. Sheriff Whitney addressed overtime stating they have shifted their in-service training to the beginning of the year which is why overtime hours look high; however, it will balance out before year-end. There are also two deputies still in the academy who are going through service training which increases overtimes as well. Committee Chairman Curran asked if it is part of their job, why are they receiving overtime. Sheriff Whitney stated the deputies aren't; however, the Field Training Officer is. Legislator Harris asked of the 100 full-time employees, how many are collecting overtime. Sheriff Whitney stated everyone gets overtime throughout the year. Legislator Harris then asked if any part-time employees are receiving overtime. Sheriff Whitney stated, yes, if they are working more than their regular hours. Legislator Harris requested that Sheriff Whitney look into receiving a comparison of overtime paid throughout the counties from the State Sheriff's Association. Legislator Graves discussed the shift schedule that Sheriff Whitney inherited when he was elected noting the difficulties of it as well as the inability to change it without agreement from the Union. Legislator Healy asked if administrative overtime is decreasing. Sheriff Whitney stated it is down slightly in the first quarter.

Department of Social Services

Social Services Commissioner Vicki Grant attended the meeting and submitted her first quarter budget report to the committee for review. Ms. Grant thanked Director of Administrative Services Don Horan for all of his hard work in preparing their budgets and briefly discussed the acronyms provided in her report. Ms. Grant stated they are typically behind two months in billing; therefore, their first quarter always starts out slow. Ms. Grant does not have any concerns and feels they will be on track with projections. Ms. Grant addressed the overtime stating it is not out of the ordinary, and their overtime is typically out of their control as they are a 24/7/365 department.

Sales Tax Report

County Treasurer Terri Ross distributed the 2018 Allegany County Sales Tax Report reflecting receipts totaling \$5,506,040.98. The year-to-date figures show an increase of \$338,313.18 or 6.547 percent more compared to last year at this time. Ms. Ross noted that the first four months of 2018 have all been in the black. Ms. Ross stated she does not have any new information regarding the internet sales tax; however, there is a group of people who went to Albany to fight for it, and she appreciates their willingness to do so for the benefit of everyone.

Tobacco Settlement Report

Ms. Ross distributed the tobacco settlement report dating back to 1999 when the first payment was received. Ms. Ross stated the County has received over \$16.4 million, approximately \$824,000 annually, and they continue to put these monies into the General Fund. Legislator Harris asked if there is an end date to this settlement. Ms. Ross stated there is no anticipated end date.

Hotel Tax Handbook

Ms. Ross distributed the Hotel Tax Handbook to the committee, stating they began collecting hotel tax in 2003 and receive approximately \$92,000 per year. Committee Chairman Curran asked if there is any housing in addition to hotels and motels included. Ms. Ross stated currently, no, but they are looking to modify our law to include Airbnb's as well as other types of housing. Legislator Harris stated he does not agree with collecting hotel tax from Airbnb's as the individual renting their home is likely trying to offset their high property taxes.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m. following a motion by Legislator Fanton, seconded by Legislator Harris, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Meghan Washer, Confidential Secretary to the Clerk of the Board
Allegany County Board of Legislators