

BUDGET COMMITTEE
July 17, 2019

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

Others Present: L. Ballengee, G. Barnes, H. Bedow, D. Decker, W. Dibble, K. Dirlam, K. Francisco, K. Graves, K. Hooker, J. Hopkins, C. Knapp, D. McDonnell, B. Riehle, D. Root, T. Ross, T. Shaw, M. Washer

Media Present: C. Potter – *The Spectator*

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 1:32 p.m. by Budget Committee Chairman Phil Curran.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Legislator Stockin, seconded by Legislator Fanton, and carried to approve the Budget Committee minutes of June 19, 2019.

Sales Tax Report

Ms. Ross distributed the 2019 Allegany County Sales Tax Report reflecting receipts totaling \$11,086,956.80 through July 17, 2019. The year-to-date figures show a decrease of \$37,335.70 or 0.336 percent less compared to last year at this time. Ms. Ross stated that overall, the quarter was down approximately \$199,000; however, roughly \$150,000 of that was from prior year adjustments. Ms. Ross indicated that we're stable, \$37,000 isn't that bad to be down, and we're still going to meet our budget projection. Legislator Barnes asked if any of the decrease is due to Kmart closing. Ms. Ross stated they don't receive that specific kind of information, so she is unaware how much is attributed to Kmart leaving. Legislator Fanton stated that he spoke with the Kmart manager before they closed who indicated their volume of business last year was \$11 million which would negatively affect the County's sales tax by approximately \$500,000.

Internet Sales Tax

Legislator Graves asked if the internet sales tax issue has been worked out. Ms. Ross stated they are receiving it; however, they cannot tell who is reporting and who isn't. Committee Chairman Curran stated his understanding is that the increase in internet sales tax that Governor Cuomo is mandating be paid, he plans to withhold, and the County isn't going to see any of it unless they take in more than \$500 million in which he will then send funds to replace the AIM money that is being taken away. Ms. Ross stated she has not received any notification of that and does not believe that is the case. Legislator Stockin asked for clarification that if the County receives \$0 in new internet sales tax, the state still plans to take AIM money from our other sales tax. Ms. Ross stated, yes, the State is just projecting what we will receive in internet sales tax; however, that doesn't mean we're actually going to get it, adding that the state is going to take our AIM money whether we see it or not.

Department Head Salary Requests

Legislator Harris stated that he has requested to see anticipated 2020 staffing changes from individual departments prior to the August Budget reviews as he understands those meetings are not intended to discuss .1 accounts. Legislator Harris would like to see what vacant positions the departments have that they intend to keep vacant as well as their requests to fill existing positions and create new ones. Legislator Harris asked if a position that has not been created and filled is listed on department heads' 2020 Budget requests, and if so, is it noted that the position is brand new. Ms. Ross stated while it's not a requirement, the department head should note if

the position is brand new, adding that if they also want the money to fund the position, it needs to be included in their 2020 Budget, otherwise they will need to come back to committee in 2020 and try to find the funds for it.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 1:42 p.m. following a motion by Legislator Harris, seconded by Legislator Ricci, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

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