

ORANGE COUNTY LEGISLATURE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TENTATIVE BUDGET

FOR ORANGE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Orange County Legislature will meet at the Chambers of the Orange County Legislature, in the Orange County Government Center, 255 Main Street, Goshen, New York or due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting will be held remotely via videoconference, at 3:15 p.m. (EDST) on the 6th day of August, 2020, for the purpose of holding a public hearing on the tentative budget for Orange County Community College for the fiscal year beginning September 1, 2020 and ending August 31, 2021.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that all documents referenced in this Notice are available on the Orange County Legislature's website. The public may view the public hearing via livestreaming. Please go to Orange County website at www.orangecountygov.com/Legislature/legislative_calendar for the link.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, members of the public are invited to participate *via teleconference* by calling the telephone number and access code listed on the Orange County website under "Important Links - Notice of Public Hearing." Please call in at 3:00 p.m. on the day of the public hearing to register to speak or send written comments to the Clerk of the Legislature at JRamppen@orangecountygov.com

FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that copies of said tentative budget are available at the Office of the Clerk of said County Legislature, 255 Main Street, 2nd Floor, in the Orange County Government Center, Goshen, New York, where they may be inspected or procured by any interested person during usual business hours, and on the Orange County website: www.orangecountygov.com.

BY ORDER OF THE ORANGE COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Jean M. Ramppen, Clerk

DATED: July 29, 2020
Goshen, New York

**JOINT
EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
AND WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

**TUESDAY, JULY 28, 2020
3:30 P.M.**

PRESENT: Paul Ruskiewicz, Chairman (Education and Economic Development)
Barry J. Cheney, Joseph J. Minuta, James D. O'Donnell,
Rob Sassi, Kathy A. Stegenga, Laurie R. Tautel

Leigh J. Benton, Chairman (Ways and Means)
Mike Anagnostakis, Katie Bonelli, Kevin W. Hines, James M. Kulisek,
Joseph J. Minuta, Michael D. Paduch, Janet Sutherland

ALSO

PRESENT: L. Stephen Brescia, Chairman
Thomas Faggione, Legislator
Peter V. Tuohy, Legislator
Antoinette Reed, Legislative Counsel
Harry Porr, Deputy County Executive
Dan Bloomer, Director, Operations and Cost Control
Kerry Gallagher, Deputy Commissioner, Finance
Erik Denega, Commissioner, Dept. of Public Works
Travis Ewald, Deputy Commissioner, Engineering Division
Robert Gray, Deputy Commissioner, Dept. of Public Works/EF&S
Laurence LaDue, Commissioner, Valley View Center
Eric Ruscher, Director, Real Property Tax Service
Deborah Slesinski, Budget Director
Deanna Crawford, Budget Analyst
Gretchen Riordan, Budget Analyst
Chris Kopf, Partner, PKF O'Connor Davies LLP
Dr. Kristine Young, President, Orange County Community College
Paul Martland, Vice President of Administration and Finance,
Orange County Community College
Agnes Wagner, SUNY Orange Comptroller

Chairmen Benton and Ruskiewicz opened the committee meeting at 3:35 p.m. by asking everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. All Education and Economic Development committee members were present with the exception of Legislator Sierra who was absent. All Ways and Means committee members were present

Ms. Tautel (Education & Economic Dev.) the request to vote on the proposed Orange County Community College budget for fiscal year 2020-2021, seconded by Ms. Stegenga.

Mr. Paduch (Ways and Means) moved the request to vote on the proposed Orange County Community College budget for fiscal year 2020-2021, seconded by Ms. Sutherland.

Mr. Benton stated this is the resolution with the adjusted figure that was agreed upon at the special meeting last week in the amount of \$19,052,882.00 which is the same as last year.

Mr. Ruskiewicz added that he understands the college is in a tough spot budgeting as we all are. The budget that was originally proposed was done pre-Covid. They are looking for a 2% increase and as everyone knows, the county is in a rough situation; therefore, this is not possible, but the legislature is obligated to provide what was provided last year. Furthermore, he knows leadership met with the college last Thursday and they understand the situation.

Mr. Benton commented hopefully the State owns up to their own commitments although it could be up to a 20% cut. He pointed out that the total college budget has been adjusted to \$62,036,222.00 and they are still waiting on the itemization between the personal services, employee benefits, contractual services, and capital equipment on the expenses side to meet the revenue. He is sure this will be completed before the timeline for submission to the State.

Mrs. Reed stated she believes that last year we were in the same situation where the college had submitted a budget with an increase in county-aid and there were some modifications to it. In working with the college last year and as it is stated in paragraph two of the resolved section (see original minutes), the legislature is expected to approve and adopt their budget for the college. At that point she had conversations with Linda Dauer and was informed that the resolution submitted to the State has to have all the itemized revenues and expenses. Currently, we do not have that information from the college, so it would be needed by August 6th for the legislature to adopt this resolution. Furthermore, the revenues do not equal the expenses. If the information is not received on time, it may require a special legislative session.

Mr. Benton thanked Mrs. Reed for her clarification.

Mr. Paduch clarified the number is the same as last year, so there will be no additional contributions from the county. He then asked if the faculty/staff contract has been settled and if the Community Foundation has been eliminated because he knows the college has an arrangement to provide funds for administration of the foundation.

Mr. Benton replied he has not received any updated information and believes it would be part of the itemized expense lines being adjusted. He is unsure whether the contract will be settled by that time.

Mr. Ruskiewicz stated he has not heard anything either. As far as he knows, the contract negotiations are ongoing.

Mr. Paduch asked if the county has eliminated the Community Foundation for \$250,000.00 because the auditors wondered why we were giving the college the money when the foundation's charge is to raise money for the college. He is concerned as to why we would be giving money as it was brought up by the auditors.

Mr. Benton replied he thinks everyone has the same concerns that were brought up by O'Connor Davies, but it is for the college to decide.

Mr. Paduch stated that he is wondering what the County Executive's Office may have said about that after the review with the auditors.

Mrs. Reed responded there was a memorandum submitted to the legislature and to the college setting forth the County Executive's position. She believes he did comment the money to the foundation and she pointed out that this information was sent to all legislators via email.

Mr. Paduch clarified that the County Executive approved it.

Mrs. Reed stated he did not approve it; he voiced his concerns about the request from the college.

Mr. Porr stated they looked at the budget, identified a couple of items and the number of items included was the money that was given over to the foundation.

Mr. Paduch clarified the amount was \$250,000.00.

Mr. Porr stated it was \$250,000.00 or \$270,000.00.

Ms. Stegenga asked if the Community Foundation is what they are voting on or a separate issue because she understands the raise for the college union contracts were included in the budget but did not think the foundation money was included.

Mr. Benton replied that is an issue the college must handle when they itemize the different line items.

Dr. Young addressed the committee by explaining the Educational Foundation is a separate 501-3 organization that exists to raise money for scholarships for the institution as well as to raise money to contribute to aid in the construction of buildings, buy equipment, programs for the college, etc. She does mean to represent them as they are a different organization, but some facts she does know about them is that they have \$19 million, but the vast majority of the money is endowed meaning it is restricted and/or untouchable. Last year the foundation gave over \$350,000.00, maybe approaching \$400,000.00 of scholarships to students. The college was also given \$250,000.00 to purchase equipment for programming. She added they have worked with the Foundation who has been very understanding about the college's position and it has been reduced greatly that they have worked with them. Furthermore, the college has cutback greatly on what has been transferred to the Foundation by \$180,000.00 without a reduction in their intentions of scholarships for students, equipment and programming. She hopes that gives a little background on what the Foundation has been helping the college, with as well as noting that the relationship is moving forward as they continue with their commitments to the debt service and so forth. She then asked Mr. Paduch to please repeat his question regarding the labor contracts.

Mr. Paduch asked Dr. Young if she has the percentage of the \$19 million that is restricted.

Dr. Young replied she is certain she can get it before the end of the day, but she knows the vast majority of it is restricted.

Mr. Paduch asked if there is an update on the faculty contract and if they are interested in helping pay the college a little more with the healthcare monies.

Dr. Young replied the Faculty Association's contract expired on August 31, 2017 and the college declared impasse more than a year ago. She stated the COVID-19 situation has greatly compounded their ability to return to the table with the help of a mediator. They are eager to settle the contract and assures the legislature the healthcare is of interest.

Mr. Benton asked what the law is for the interest accumulated on \$19 million a year.

Dr. Young replied she cannot speak to that but can arrange a conversation with their leadership.

Mr. Benton mentioned to Dr. Young that it would be best to put a deadline of the morning of August 3rd for the itemization of numbers still required.

Before the vote, Mrs. Reed clarified that the committees are voting on a total budget for Orange County Community College of \$62,036,222.00 with county aid being \$19,052,882.00.

(Education and Economic Development)
All in favor. Motion carried.

(Ways and Means)
All in favor. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 3:59 p.m.