

**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. Kullsek,
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.

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**WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

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

PRESENT: Leigh J. Benton, Chairman  
Mike Anagnostakis, Katie Bonelli, Kevin W. Hines,  
James M. Kulisek, Joseph J. Minuta, Michael D. Paduch, Janet Sutherland

ALSO  
PRESENT: L. Stephen Brescia, Chairman  
Barry J. Cheney, Legislator  
Thomas J. Faggione, Legislator  
James D. O'Donnell, Legislator  
Kathy Stegenga, Legislator  
Laurie R. Tautel, Legislator

Peter V. Tuohy, Legislator  
John S. Vero, Legislator  
Antoinette Reed, Legislative Counsel  
Harry Porr, Deputy County Executive  
Dan Bloomer, Director, Operations and Cost Control  
Matthew Nothnagle, Chief Asst. County Attorney  
Kerry Gallagher, Deputy Commissioner of Finance  
James P. Burpoe, Commissioner, General Services/Information Technology  
Alicia D'Amico, Acting Deputy Commissioner of General Services  
Erik Denega, Commissioner, Dept. of Public Works  
Travis Ewald, Deputy Commissioner, Dept. of Public Works/Engineering Div.  
Robert Gray, Deputy Commissioner, Dept. of Public Works/  
Environmental Facilities & Services  
Laurence LaDue, Commissioner, Valley View Center  
Eric Ruscher, Director, Real Property Tax Service  
Daniel G. Castricone, Risk Manager  
Deborah Slesinski, Budget Director  
Gretchen Riordan, Budget Analyst  
Chris Kopf, Partner, PKF O'Connor Davies LLP

Chairman Benton opened the committee meeting at 4:00 p.m. by asking everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. All committee members were present.

Ms. Slesinski addressed the first agenda item which was a discussion regarding the 2021 budget. She stated the department has fully entered budget season, are currently in the process of analyzing the 2021 department budget requests, and the county executive hearings will be held during the week of August 10<sup>th</sup> and August 17<sup>th</sup>. Even more important, she can now answer the question regarding the tax cap inflation factor. This year the 2% tax cap is 1.56% which is something she expected as the inflation factor dipped under 2% last fall and has stayed just below it. She added this is the first update since the COVID-19 pandemic hit. The second multiplier is the tax-based growth factor by which the Office of State Comptroller (OSC) gave the county no increases. Being she did not agree with that, she called them and asked that it be investigated. The comptroller did revise it by showing a little increase which will help. Furthermore, the department is continuing to monitor the sales tax payments. The county portion has decreased by \$12.8 million from July 2019 to July 2020, but she is hopeful we will see an uptick as the economy opens. Regarding vacant positions, as of July 24, 2020, there were 350 vacant full and part-time positions which includes 68 who took the furlough for July. The savings the county has achieved to-date is over \$9 million. In addition to the department's daily work, they are continuing the software upgrade.

The next agenda item was an update from Mr. Burpoe and Ms. D'Amico regarding the Department of General Services/Information Technology.

Mr. Burpoe explained that since the beginning of the pandemic, the department has been extremely busy and the theme throughout this difficult time has been to react, resolve and reinvent themselves. Right now, they are still in the resolve phase with an eye on reinventing since

different things had to come into play such as contracts which forced everyone to go electronic but is something everyone wanted to do for years; therefore, it will continue after the pandemic. A few positive things the department has been doing is assisting not-for-profits, assisting schools, helping nursing homes, etc. since the State was a no show for PPE. He stated everyone was street smart and were able to develop new ways to get the products needed. Right now, they are working with the County Executive's Office and the Budget Department to tighten all procurement especially ones that are non-essential. If it is not justified, it is not bought.

Ms. D'Amico pointed out that the Department of Motor Vehicles now takes online appointments and the Help Desk has a new module to assist more employees and has a better resolution system.

Mr. Benton asked Mr. Burpoe if there is a sufficient stockpile of PPE for the next flu season.

Mr. Burpoe replied he and the County Executive had a meeting and will be getting another 90 to 120-day supply. The EOC is handling their own supply and General Services will be handling the supplies for county departments which will be stored here. He added they are securing everything with the PPE vendors now in order to make sure there is a constant flow of everything that may be needed without a price gouge.

Mr. Paduch commented that Mr. Burpoe is doing a great job consolidating to make it better for the county. Regarding the RFP for the diversity initiative, he asked Mr. Burpoe for a copy and if there is a timeframe on it.

Mr. Burpoe replied he will send Mr. Paduch a copy and it is also online. The timeframe is in the RFP.

Mr. Benton asked that the RFP be sent to Clerk Ramppen so she can email it to all legislators.

Mrs. Bonelli referred Mr. Paduch to a recent email that was sent and stated that the party leaders will have to meet for further discussion.

Ms. Sutherland moved to adopt a resolution of County Legislature of the County of Orange extending an additional rate of taxes on sales and uses of tangible personal property and of certain services, on occupancy of hotel rooms and on amusement charges, pursuant to Article 29 of the Tax Law of the State of New York (December 1, 2020 to November 30, 2023), seconded by Mr. Paduch.

Ms. Gallagher stated this request is to extend the additional rate of three-quarters of one percent for three years and is the last step of the process.

Motion carried. All in favor.

The next agenda item was an update on sales tax.

Ms. Gallagher referred to the spreadsheet see original minutes) Sales Tax Received Year-to-Date County Portion Only and reviewed it with the committee.

Ms. Sutherland moved the request approval and appropriation of funds, \$222,000.00, for proposed 2020 capital expenditure to upgrade resident bathrooms in the Glenmere building (surplus), seconded by Mr. Hines.

Mr. LaDue stated these funds would be used to replace all seventy-eight bathrooms in the Glenmere building and all capital projects are reimbursed seventy-five cents on the dollar in their Medicaid rate.

Mr. Kulisek asked if the work will be done in-house or contracted out.

Mr. LaDue replied it will go out to bid.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mrs. Bonelli moved the request approval and appropriation of funds, \$70,000.00, for proposed 2020 capital expenditure to continue upgrading nursing mechanical lifters (surplus), seconded by Mr. Kulisek.

Mr. LaDue explained this is done annually and is a little more expensive compared to the previous years because there is additional equipment that is needed to go with the lift. The lifespan of a mechanical lift is five to seven years.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Ms. Sutherland moved the request approval and appropriation of funds, \$150,000.00, for proposed 2020 capital expenditure to replace the anti-elopement system which supports wander management for at-risk residents (surplus), seconded by Mr. Minuta.

Mr. LaDue stated the Wander Guard System is primarily used for any resident who has a history of elopement and is located at all exit doors and elevators. The system has reached 20 years and has passed its useful life.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Kulisek moved the request approval and appropriation of funds, \$50,000.00, for proposed capital expenditure upgrade food service equipment (surplus), seconded by Ms. Sutherland.

Mr. LaDue stated this is an annual request for food service equipment (see original minutes).

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Kulisek moved to approve the request for supplemental appropriation to the capital projects budget in the amount of \$800,000.00 for Fleet Replacement. Funding is from the State Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) in the amount of \$700,000.00 and \$100,000.00 is from County borrowing. This project has been approved under the 2020 Capital Plan as Project No. 34. Upon approval a new capital project will be created (bonding), seconded by Mr. Benton.

Mr. Denga referred to the attachment on the legislative request that lists (see original minutes) the fleet replacement items and stated that there are six older pieces with various issues such as excess mileage and rotting parts. The CHIPS funding is \$700,000.00.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mrs. Bonelli moved to approve the request for supplemental appropriation to the capital projects budget in the amount of \$150,000.00 for preliminary engineering and design of a Fleet Wash Building. This project has been approved under the 2020 Capital Plan as Project No. 54. Upon approval a new capital project will be created (bonding), seconded by Mr. Kulisek.

Mr. Denega stated he has talked about this on several occasions and on more than one occasion put in for a Shared Services Plan which was unsuccessful. At this point, they are looking to fund this in house and are only looking for engineering to get a more accurate design and cost estimate. The location would be at the Goshen DPW garage.

Mr. Hines commented that he has been voting against since this it first came up years ago and feels this is the worst time possible to do this; therefore, he will be voting against it.

Motion carried 6-2. All in favor with the exception of Legislators Anagnostakis and Hines who voted against.

Mrs. Bonelli move the request for supplemental appropriation to the capital projects budget in the amount of \$70,000.00 to OCSD#1 to purchase equipment at a cost of \$70,000.00 (Surplus). This project has been approved under the 2020 Capital Plan as Project No. 125. Upon approval a new capital project will be created (sewer surplus), seconded by Mr. Benton.

Mr. Denega explained this request is straight-forward regarding the Orange County Sewer District No. 1 and there are three pieces of equipment listed which are attached to the legislative request (see original minutes). He added there is no general taxation.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Ms. Sutherland moved to discuss deed sale parcels, seconded by Mr. Kulisek.

The first deed sale parcel is in the Town of Blooming Grove (54-1-30) and has a minimum bid of \$5,500.00 and an amount bid of \$3,705.83. Mr. Ruscher recommended this be approved. Parcel number two is in the Town of Montgomery (9-2-3). The minimum bid is \$25,000.00 and the amount bid is \$12,000.00; therefore, Mr. Ruscher recommended it be denied.

Motion carried. All in favor of accepting Mr. Ruscher's recommendations to approve deed sale parcel No 1 and deny parcel No. 2.

The meeting adjourned at 4:48 p.m.