

## **SPECIAL SESSION – TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2020**

The Yates County Legislature met in special session on Tuesday, October 27, 2020 for the purpose of conducting the budget workshop for the 2021 Yates County Budget. Chairman Paddock presided.

Chairman Paddock made the following comments:

Welcome to this special legislature meeting that is a workshop on the 2021 Yates County Budget.

2020 has been an eventful year so far, primarily because of the continuing coronavirus pandemic. Yates County has weathered the storm fairly well until recently. All departments, especially Public Health, have worked tirelessly in dealing with the situations faced by our constituents. Thank you to all for your efforts.

Sara Christensen, Deputy Public Health Director, has some comments.

Sara gave the following update on COVID-19. As of yesterday, there have been a total of 212 cases and 53% of those were related to the cluster at Keuka College. Currently there are 33 active cases in isolation, 2 of which are hospitalized, and well over 95 close contacts in quarantine in our county. There have been cases in each of the school districts - one at the Penn Yan Academy and most recently one in the Dundee Elementary School. The Penn Yan Academy student was not in the school setting during the infectious period; the Dundee student was, and 8 individuals were quarantined because of the contact exposure.

Public Health wants everyone to do know that we are at community spread. We are beyond the Keuka College cluster and are thankful that is under control and over 113 students have recovered to date. Within the community spread, some of those cases have had no exposure to previous positive cases, those close contacts we all know that are at high risk for developing infection because of the contact nature. Public Health is now seeing cases with no known exposure to COVID-19. They are seeing spreading in the workforce setting, social events, and birthday parties, social gatherings, both friend based and family based. Public Health is hearing from the positive cases that their symptoms are general cold symptoms. That is the nasal congestion, overall sinus congestion, running nose and sore throat and there are a few with fevers. The loss of taste or smell has always been a significant symptom for COVID-19 and what is being seen now is this comes after symptom onset; it's not one of the initial symptoms.

When we move into flu season and general cold season, everyone needs to make sure they are asking themselves is this really more than just a general cold. From what is being said you have to take this more seriously. Public Health is encouraging all businesses to look at their COVID plans and plan ahead in the event if some of their employees are taken out of work because of the need to quarantine. How will they function without them, or if there is a positive case in the workforce environment? Public Health will work with them, but there could be a good possibility that a good portion of their workforce is under quarantine measures and not being able to work during those 14 days.

Public Health needs help from business partners and community members to really be diligent again with prevention measures especially staying home when they are sick, even if you don't think it is COVID. We all need to do a better job in the community aspect of staying home when you are ill.

Chairman Paddock thanked Sara for the update and went on to comment.

The budget sets expenditures that relate to policy. In other words, the budget financially supports what the legislature believes is important to the county's citizens. At the end of tomorrow's session, it is my hope that we will have a budget that can be presented at the public hearing tentatively set for November 19<sup>th</sup>.

Yates County is fortunate that the last debt service payment for the County Office Building and Courthouse project was made in 2020. Unfortunately, the \$1.3 million payment is approximately equal to the 20% reduction in state aid anticipated in the 2021 budget.

Budget Officer Flynn has made significant efforts to keep the property tax levy flat. While appropriate for this year, it is not sustainable, as there are a number of necessary capital projects that must be addressed in the future, the first being the communications upgrade that needs to occur in 2022.

Thanks go to Ms. Flynn and to the department heads that prepared individual budgets for their areas of responsibility. It has been a cooperative effort.

I'll now turn the floor over to Budget Officer Nonie Flynn for a discussion on fund balance.

Budget Officer Flynn thanked the Department Heads for all their help with the 2021 budget and also for the work they put into maintaining the services to our residents of Yates County without severe cuts to any of our services and keeping our tax rate low.

Budget Officer Flynn reviewed the fund balances.

**Note: Minutes to the budget workshop only reflect motions made and discussion around them and votes taken.** A recording of the workshop can be found on the County's website at [www.yatescounty.org](http://www.yatescounty.org). Click on government then agendas and minutes.

Mr. Holgate moved for the purpose of this workshop that the rules of the Legislature be suspended and any decisions/votes made in the workshops be decided by the majority of those present, seconded by Mr. Banach.

VOTE: Unanimous

Mr. Harper moved to increase line item CT9951/59106 Airport Transfer to Capital Fund to \$54,800 from \$16,300 for capital improvements to the airport. Funds will be taken out of the Airport Reserve account, seconded by Mr. Holgate.

VOTE: Unanimous

Budget Officer Flynn explained that \$20,000 in Natural Resource funding was returned from entities that were award funding for this year because the events could not be held. The funds were returned to the Contingent Fund.

Mr. Holgate moved to increase line item A8020/54067 Natural Resources by \$10,000 with funding coming from A1910/54905 Contingent Fund, seconded by Mr. Willson.

Mr. Willson moved to amend the motion to increase the amount from \$10,000 to \$20,000, seconded by Mrs. Percy.

VOTE on the amendment: Roll Call – Chilson, Gleason, Church, Percy, Harper, Button, Willson, Paddock voting "Yes"; Killen, Cutler, Bronson, Holgate, Multer voting "No". Motion carried.

VOTE on the original motion as amended: Roll Call – Chilson, Gleason, Church, Holgate, Percy, Harper, Button, Willson, Paddock, voting “Yes”; Killen, Cutler, Bronson, Multer voting “No”. Motion carried.

Ms. Flynn reported that the inter-municipal agreement for the Lake Street Plaza will end this year and the funding should be eliminated.

Mr. Holgate moved to reduce line item A6420/54222 from \$36,000 to zero, seconded by Mr. Bronson.

VOTE: Unanimous

Ms. Flynn explained that the Arts Center did not make a request for the 2021 Budget and the \$4,000 was allocated in error and should be taken out.

Mr. Holgate moved to reduce line item A7560/54202 Yates County Arts to “0”, seconded by Mr. Bronson.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Killen questioned if something should at least be put the budget for them.

Ms. Flynn explained that an application for funding is needed for this portion of the budget and one was not received.

Mr. Bronson agrees with Mr. Killen and supports leaving the \$4,000 in.

Ms. Flynn stated that they have received funding this year from the Tourism Advisory Council that was supposed to be returned as the Arts Festival was not held but the funds have not come in yet.

Chairman Paddock stated that if the funding is eliminated, the \$4,000 could be put into the Contingent Fund.

Mr. Killen moved to amend the motion to decrease line item A7560/54202 to \$2,000, seconded by Mrs. Church.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Banach does not feel money should be given to someone that has not requested it. If they have a project in mind they can come and request funding.

Mr. Cutler stated that \$36,000 was just taken out and now we have \$4,000. He would like to see money put back into the Contingent Fund as a result of the reductions.

Chairman Paddock explained that there is an expense of \$68,000 that will need to be added for Social Services later on.

VOTE on amendment: Roll call- Killen voting “Yes”; Cutler, Bronson, Chilson, Gleason, Church, Banach, Holgate, Multer, Percy, Harper, Button, Willson, Paddock voting “No”.

Motion lost.

VOTE on original motion: Unanimous

Ms. Chilson moved to put \$4,000 into the line item A1910-54905 Contingent Fund, seconded by Mr. Harper.

VOTE: Roll call – Killen, Cutler, Bronson, Chilson, Gleason, Church, Holgate, Multer, Harper, Willson, Paddock voting “Yes”; Banach, Percy, Button voting “No”. Motion carried.

Mr. Willson reminded everyone that the Seneca Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization (SWIO) requested annual funding of \$1,751 at the last legislative meeting. The consensus of the Legislature was to not fund this at this time as Yates County has funded SWIO projects in the past.

The Commissioner of Social Services, Amy Miller explained that she has been notified that there will be a new educational placement in the Penn Yan School District and another in the Dundee School District which will increase the costs for the Foster Care line items.

Mrs. Church moved to increase line item A6119/41819 Social Services – Child Care Revenue by \$90,229 and line item A6119/54307 Social Services – Foster Care by \$158,720, seconded by Mrs. Percy.

VOTE: Unanimous

Chairman Paddock stated that discussion needs to take place on how the legislature wants to handle the \$32,491 increase.

Mr. Holgate moved to increase the appropriated General Fund Balance by \$32,491, seconded by Mr. Killen.

VOTE: Roll call – Killen, Cutler, Bronson, Chilson, Church, Banach, Holgate, Multer, Percy, Harper, Willson, Paddock voting “Yes”; Button voting “No”. Gleason was out of the room at the time of the vote. Motion carried.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 387-20**

Mr. Holgate offered the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Mr. Killen.

#### **ADOPT TENTATIVE BUDGET**

WHEREAS, the Finance Committee recommends for adoption the Tentative Budget for the year 2021 as filed by the Budget Officer, and as modified and revised by the Legislature;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature hereby adopts the Tentative Budget, and sets the date of the Budget Public Hearing for November 19, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in the Legislative Chambers; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be given to the Budget Officer and County Departments.

VOTE: Unanimous

#### **RESOLUTION 388-20**

Mr. Harper offered the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Mrs. Church.

#### **AUTHORIZE CHAIRMAN TO EXECUTE AGREEMENT WITH PASSERO ASSOCIATES**

#### **PROJECT: WEATHER AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**

WHEREAS, Yates County has received a grant from the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) to pay 90% of the allowable costs incurred in accomplishing the

Weather and Emergency Preparedness Project (NYSDOT PIN: 6906.88) at Penn Yan – Yates County Airport; and

WHEREAS, the County accepted the NYSDOT Aviation Project Funding Agreement for the Project by Resolution 307-18; and

WHEREAS, Passero Associates, Engineering, Architecture and Surveying, D.P.C. (hereinafter referred to as “Passero”) has submitted a proposal for professional services to provide Airport Engineering Design and Construction Inspection/Observation on behalf of the County for a total maximum cost of \$125,500;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chairman of the Legislature, after review by the County Attorney, is authorized to sign an agreement for professional services with Passero for Airport Engineering Design and Construction Inspection/Observation for the Weather and Emergency Preparedness Project (NYSDOT PIN: 6906.88) at Penn Yan – Yates County Airport; and be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be furnished to the Yates County Treasurer and Passero Associates.

VOTE: Unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.