

Minutes

Human Services Committee

October 21, 2020, 5:00 pm, Legislative Chambers

Gerace Office Building, Mayville, NY

Members Present: Pavlock, Whitford, Whitney, (Lawton, Rankin by Zoom)

Others: Tampio, Ames, Dennison, Crow, Spanos, Melquist, Abdella, Schuyler, Odell, Chagnon, Brinkman, K. Swanson

Chairman Pavlock called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

Approval of Minutes (9/16/20)

MOVED by Legislator Whitford, SECONDED by Mr. Rankin

Unanimously Carried

Privilege of the Floor

Chairman Pavlock: Is there anyone here this evening to speak? Any communications? I guess under the privilege of the floor I'd like to welcome Paul's grandson. He's here learning how government is run and operated so we welcome Paul's grandson.

Legislator Whitford: Thank you. His name is Mathew Hofferan(?) and he attends Falconer High School.

Chairman Pavlock: Onto the resolutions.

Proposed Resolution – To Authorize Emergency Use Facility Agreement with Chautauqua County School Districts

Mrs. Schuyler: This first resolution is not a monetary resolution but one that we have had in the past under General Municipal Law. We can cooperate on various activities with Chautauqua County school districts. So this resolution is giving the County Executive authorization to enter into agreements with the school districts for emergency uses such as, probably what will be upcoming immunization clinics and pods and testing and emergency such actions like that.

Chairman Pavlock: Does anyone have any questions? Most of the schools, this is specific, is this all schools in the County?

Mrs. Schuyler: Yes. Each school we have to enter into separately with. We've had these in the past, so we need to have them again.

Chairman Pavlock: Insurance coverages for all of the – how does all that work? I was just curious if to say there was – either the building is being utilized for a County use, such as a disaster area and someone slips and falls on their way in.

Mrs. Schuyler: I believe that it's all covered in the MOU. I don't know, Mr. Abdella, do you have anything to add from a legal standpoint on that one?

County Attorney Abdella: We would address any sort of insurance indemnification in the agreement with each party being responsible typically for their own employees and their own acts.

Chairman Pavlock: Apparently, it's just separate for each situation.

County Attorney Abdella: Yes.

Chairman Pavlock: Thank you. Anyone else have any questions?

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution – Authorizing Agreement for the Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Program

Mrs. Schulyer: This is a program that we did in conjunction with the State Health Department forever, I think. It's a State Health Department program that local Health Departments have always administered for them. This is the most amount of money they've ever granted to us to do the program. So we were very happy to receive this. Normally I think we've gotten maybe \$20,000 usually in the past for this. There are some additional requirements but really they're things that we've already been doing above and beyond trying to help children from falling through the cracks. Especially those who have developmental delays but they are not enough to qualify for, let's say, Early Intervention program. They don't meet the qualifications. This program helps to navigate them into other resources that are available to assist the child and the families. So it's an added funding for us.

Chairman Pavlock: Any questions regarding this resolution?

Legislator Whitford: I have one. It says Special Health Care Needs program. Is that just with developmental or does that cover other things?

Mrs. Schuyler: It can cover any health care needs.

Legislator Whitford: Physical disability, not just developmental –

Mrs. Schuyler: Yes, nutritional, and it's not just like Early Intervention is just zero to three, this is for any youth. It used to be called the Children with Special Health Care Needs program. This year they changed it to Children and Youth because they really want efforts to be increased for adolescents and other youth who also have special health care needs that are following through the cracks in our systems.

Chairman Pavlock: Any other questions?

Unanimously Carried

Other

Chairman Pavlock: We have resolutions under "other".

Proposed Resolution – To Accept (HUD Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes (OLHCHH) Fiscal Year 2020 - Lead Based Paint Hazard Control Grant

Mrs. Schulyer: You may recall, the County in the past has held other HUD grants that are related to the abatement of lead hazards within our County. We went, I think it was a year, without one and reapplied this year and we were awarded a \$3 million dollars. We definitely have, continue to have a problem with our outdated housing stock and childhood lead poisoning in our County. This grant was written in conjunction with Chautauqua Opportunities so that really is – we as a municipality, we had to apply for the grant. We had approached the City of Jamestown, they were not interested in applying, and so, we really did not want to let this opportunity go. We have not had any other resources to help homeowners or landlords to pay for the actual abatement of the lead hazards within the homes. So, this is what will allow us then to work on, once we're notified of children with high lead levels and do all that we can. From an educational standpoint, we go out and we inspect and we identify the hazards. Now there is money here to actually help to abate the housing issues themselves. So, we will oversee and administer the program but Chautauqua Opportunities will be the entity who actually is doing the work with contractors.

Legislator Whitford: So they are the lead agency or we are?

Mrs. Schuyler: We, the County, the municipality had to apply for the grant and be the lead agent and then we'll issue sub-contracts. In the past, we have done this mainly with CHRIC but this year's applicant who really came forward with Chautauqua Opportunities.

Legislator Whitford: They are a good group.

Chairman Pavlock: So this money is for the abatement process, does it include funds to pay extra for personnel to manage this and to operate it?

Mrs. Schuyler: We'll take a very small administrative portion out of here for some of the fiscal people that do the work. But, we really don't keep a whole lot of this for ourselves.

Chairman Pavlock: Any other questions regarding this resolution?

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution – To Accept New York State Department of Health Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity for Infectious Diseases Funding

Mrs. Schuyler: This is a special 2 year award from the State Health Department that must be used for COVID-19 epidemiology and lab capacity. So, this could not supplant any existing staff or any existing services. This grant, the conditions of it were, we had to hire additional staff to help (*inaudible*) up our public health response. The amount of the grant totals the \$303,000 through June 2022. The amount that we're requesting right here is the adjustment to the 2020 budget. So we are hiring a health educator as well as an additional registered nurse.

Chairman Pavlock: Any questions for Christine?

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution – Amend 2020 Budget Appropriations to Include Additional IGT Matching Funds

Mrs. Schuyler: Pat Brinkman with County Mental Health is also part of this – it's a joint thing. We just received notice and it's a short turnaround time that, some of you may recall IGT funding was a federal government match that we used to get for the County Home. We didn't know that we had this IGT match coming for our County Mental Health clinics. I'm here and had to initial this because it must run through our Social Services budget under Medicaid. Just like the County Home did when we had that IGT fund. Kathleen can probably explain this better than I can or maybe Pat can but, as far as which accounts this money has to go to. It really is something that will look like it hurts our budget but helps Mental Health budget. We look at the whole County budget as a whole. This is a match, so we'd be foolish not to take it. We did check with other counties to see how they were running it through and this seems to be the way that all counties are doing this. It's hard to turn down the federal money even though there is a local share match that has to go with it.

Mrs. Brinkman: In essence, we haven't seen this money since 2011. We have been doing extensive accounting each year hoping that at some point there would actually be dollars flowing. Kathy Swanson, our Fiscal Director, it's a major project. We've had to have special reports written from our software and so forth to keep track of this. But it's actually the difference between what we get from, in reimbursement from Medicaid and what Medicare would have paid. So that algorithm is what they used to pay you some percentage of that based on your Medicaid billings.

Actually what happened was that in 2011, the Federal government had some concerns about the data that New York State was pushing forward coming from the behavioral health field. They were asking questions on our consolidated fiscal reports, not ours, but as a whole and so they were trying to mesh that data with the data that they had themselves and they wanted more clarification. So believe it or not, this process has gone on from 2012 until now when they

feel like they've successfully resolved those issues. According to Federal law, they can't go back beyond 2018 so as New York State has lost that money, but they are considering 2018 with a waiver that we've just been notified that they've approved. Sometime in the not so distant future, those of us who qualify will be getting money for 2018. We don't know what that is going to be yet but for 2019, for putting forward the match, we will bring back 100% of that to the total of \$262,425.

Mrs. Dennison: If I could just add a few notes, commentary about the accounting side of it.

Chairman Pavlock: Yes, please do so.

Mrs. Dennison: It is a very strange agreement the way it's operated but one of the other counties kind of simplified it and said, you get \$2.00 and you have to pay \$1.00. So that's the overriding theory behind this. As the Directors have indicated, we will get \$262,000 from the Federal government, we have to pay them back half of that. I don't think any of us quite understand why we don't just get \$131,000, we can't answer that. But we get the money in the department where it's earned, which is in Mental Hygiene. We have to pay it from Health and Human Services, so in the resolution you have revenue in Mental Hygiene of \$262,000, you see an expense in Health and Human Services, that's the appropriation in A.6102, so that is our payback to the Federal government. So that leaves us with \$131,000 of new revenue essentially. What we have discussed with Mental Hygiene is that, Pat and her department would contribute part of that money towards for local share for 2020. So that is the first line of decrease in the local share by \$14,000. That would bring her local share for 2020 to \$100,000 and a \$100,000 is due to the Mental Hygiene Law Department which we as a local government unit is obligated to pay that. So unfortunately we cannot use all of the revenue to defray our local share because we have to keep that local share for the Mental Hygiene Law. So, as I said, we would get \$131,000 in that revenue, \$14,000 of that would defer as much of the local share as we're allow to defer and then the balance of it would be, it's \$117,000 and that would be a new or increased appropriations for Mental Hygiene so that department can use that new found revenue to enhance its services.

Chairman Pavlock: Thank you for that explanation, it was very helpful.

Mrs. Dennison: It looks like Kitty is trying to say something but she's on mute.

Ms. Crow: Sorry, I had myself muted (*inaudible*). I just wanted to add in the context of the emergent nature of this is that the requirements for the payment, the letter we received is that the payment would be due this Friday the 23rd however we have been able to ask for a formal extension until next Friday. So, that's the reason it's coming to you under "other" is that this would take the action of the Legislature next Wednesday in order for us to make the extended deadline of next Friday.

Chairman Pavlock: Thank you.

Legislator Lawton: If I tried to weigh into this and tell you what I think I understood there, sorry, if I botch this but it sounds like we need to have like \$117,000 added to appropriations on Wednesday of next week to this – is that correct?

Mrs. Dennison: The amount that has to be added to the appropriations by next Wednesday is really the \$131,000 that we're proposing to add to Health & Human Services because Health & Human Services will have their appropriations increased so they would have the authority to make a payment that is required by October 30th.

Legislator Lawton: We'd make that (*cross talk*).

Mrs. Dennison: The \$117,000 increased appropriations is the, if you will, the authorization to spend the leftover revenue. (*Inaudible*) authorization from Mental Hygiene to spend whatever revenue is leftover.

Legislator Lawton: O.k., and we are getting the \$262,000 it sounds like and that is where those funds come from.

Mrs. Dennison: Correct.

Legislator Lawton: Sounds great thank you.

Mrs. Dennison: The bottom (*inaudible*), the methodology is the same but the bottom line is good.

Mrs. Brinkman: It's very much like the State. You wait and wait and work and work and then all of a sudden it's a great big hurry at the end.

Chairman Pavlock: I have two questions. First is for Pat, what are you plans for the \$117,000?

Mrs. Brinkman: At this point, we want to keep it in reserve because with some of the cuts that may be anticipated we would like to have that cushion. There is also a software program that would really help our clinicians doing telehealth that we have not been able to afford to purchase. So if we (*inaudible*) point that it looks like we're going to be on solid footing, then that would be what we'd like to do.

Chairman Pavlock: Sounds good.

Mrs. Brinkman: Hopefully that would also again help us to earn additional revenue because if the billings can go straight from the telehealth right into the computer, then we won't miss visits that way and so forth.

Chairman Pavlock: How does this negativity affect your department's budget? We hear the promising news on this side of it so I guess my question is, what does it do to your budget?

Mrs. Schuyler: As a Health & Human Services is fortunate enough Medicaid underneath our budget, it shows up as an additional expense of \$131,213 is an added expense with no revenue offset for my department's budget. We're taking one for the team, again.

Chairman Pavlock: Does it do anything to your local share? Does it go down that far?

Mrs. Schuyler: I don't think so.

Mrs. Dennison: No, it does not. Health and Human Services, the appropriations will increase and they'll spend that money so it would be local share neutral for them.

Chairman Pavlock: Anyone from the committee have any questions for these ladies?

Unanimously Carried

Mrs. Schuyler: I have one more topic to discuss under "other" if you allow me to do so.

Chairman Pavlock: Please do so.

Mrs. Schuyler: Yesterday, I did have a discussion with the HR and Budget Committee regarding our COVID-19 response and the work that we have been doing. I was asked to put together somewhat of a, I tell you, it's a very draft plan that you just received in your email Mr. Pavlock.

Chairman Pavlock: I see that. I haven't had time to fully digest it.

Mrs. Schuyler: Really throughout this pandemic since the very early days of March, we have maximized all of our staff and all of our resources to every extent possible. I'm so very proud of my staff and the work that they've done but this is definitely a marathon and sadly sometimes it feels like one sprint after the other with all of the new mandates that are coming down from the State and everything being forced onto local health departments. So we have throughout this time, crossed trained a lot of other staff to work in our Public Health COVID response. We've had nurses from our CASA Unit, we've had Early Intervention, a Nurse and Supervisor as well as Care Managers. We've had staff from Temporary Assistance, Child Support program, Integrity, Medicaid, Child Welfare even, you name it throughout this time we've had other people to help us from everything from clerical duties to disease investigation where they could with contract tracing. With the reopening of County government operations, a lot of the staff really had to go back to their usual jobs. So, that has once again left us with a small staff of burnt out and overworked and overstressed individuals with just no end in sight. Normally you have a crisis and that crisis may last anywhere from a few days to a week or a few weeks to maybe a month but nothing like this. And talk about the frontlines, it really is the Public Health staff. There has been no letup in anything that we've had to do for all of this time.

Emergency Services Department has been an excellent partner for us. We've been able to have the help of paramedics as well as some of their other ancillary staff in being able to do our COVID-19 testing. We couldn't have done it without them to this point but they again, too, also have other jobs that they have to do. So, as we got to talking about what we are going to do to

maintain the COVID response that we have to do, we're continuing to see an uptick in cases. You all, I'm sure, have noticed here recently the outbreak at the Tanglewood Manor Memory Garden facilities. Just one of many clusters that we've had to deal with and will continue to deal with moving forward. I did request and was approved to hire some additional temporary staff. We were approved for 5 Registered Nurses. We have 2 levels of nurses. There is what we call an RPN2 which is a nurse who has a license, could be a 2 year associate degree to go with that or we have an RNS1 which is an actual Public Health Nurse that requires a 4 year nursing degree. So we just threw the net out and hoping to see what we could get. We have been able to hire 1 full time nurse and another part time. We don't have any more applications at this time so we're still trying to recruit. One full time – one of them was for the grant that you also approved. We got a nurse through that and it's an internal transfer from CASA so that's now resulting in a vacancy in the CASA unit that we'll have to recruit for. We were able to hire 3 LPN's who were also approved as temporary position but they all have other jobs or their in school so none of them are available to work a substantial amount of hours. We were approved for a Clerk. We have been able to hire a part time Clerk thus far, no one full time yet. So, in addition to those positions, I was asked to put together what else I think we could do, what else I think we need. I did talk with my staff about this and we all know that registered nurses are very difficult to recruit especially in the public sector these days. One of our very seasoned and experience Public Health Nurse who's in charge of our immunization program is retiring at the end of this month. So the timing is just great when the State is putting on us to be the lead receivers and vaccinators for the COVID vaccine when it comes. Which we are having to work on now for that plan. One of our CASA nurses is also retiring at the end of the year. So, I was thinking that instead of nurses with the difficulty we're having, we'd like to try and recruit some Case Managers. That is the position that we use in our Early Intervention program. It's a Grade 12, I think that we'd have an easier time recruiting and they could do a lot of work in supporting the work of the nurses, freeing them up to really work at the top of their scope of practice. I would also like to be able to bring on a temporary Resource Assistant for the medical clinic. We have one of those now and she is spectacular but I can't clone her. When it really comes to assisting with the planning and the implementation and really pulling off all of our testing and immunization clinics, which is critical. I would like to also get another Clerk II. We need the clerical support when it comes to scheduling patients, uploading all of the data, we have three hours to put all the testing results into the New York City claire(?) system for disease reporting and then plus all the follow up we have to do with all of the patients on their test results. My brain hasn't even begun to be able to fathom all the work that is going to come into actually immunizing for when the COVID vaccine comes.

I have not spoken with Jon DeAngelo about this because I literally just did this, but I do think and I don't know what his titles are but, probably a part time temporary I.T. liaison is something that is really needed. We really are relying on technology. Everything we do is with the State system for all of our COVID work. If someone had issues and trouble, I feel we're calling Jon directly, seven days a week. I think his department could probably use someone else to assist us with that.

As far as equipment and supplies, any nurses whether they are RN's or LPN's, and the Case Managers, and the Resource Assistant would have to have laptops. Well, they all need laptops but those people would also need cellphones. When we're looking at these mass testing and immunization clinics, we really need to have 2 to 4 spare laptops and printers and copiers that are mobile to be able to utilize there. Right now for the testing clinics that's we're doing, the

State has provided the testing supplies. Many of the swabs and the analyzers themselves to do the test. If the State does not continue to replenish those testing supplies, the County would have to purchase them in order to continue with our free testing clinics.

As a local Health Department, we are the only ones by statute who can conduct communicable disease investigations, do the surveillance and issue isolation and quarantine orders. And any staff, who perform any of those duties have to be under my authority. So, we can't have nurses in a doctors' office do that. We can't have anyone else do that, they have to be our staff. Now when it comes to doing immunization clinics or even the testing clinics, we're exploring all options. If there is any chance that we can enlist the assistance of the federally qualified Health Center in the County, the Chautauqua Center, we will do that as well. We're just trying to keep our heads above water and if we don't get, I guess you could call it a COVID relief team for the COVID team, I don't see how we're going to be able to continue with the burnt out that we're facing and it's not just us. It's every local Health Department across the State and probably across the nation. So, I just wanted to review that plan with you. That is what the committee had asked me to do and I also plan to do so at the Audit & Control Committee tomorrow and then go from there.

Chairman Pavlock: Thank you for your update and diligence in this situation. We haven't really necessarily as a committee received much of an update on the extra workload that your department has done. I'm sure we're all aware of what your department has been doing and I applaud that department.

Mrs. Schuyler: We did look at hours, my department alone has logged over 14,000 hours just for COVID since March which is substantial. And all of our other Public Health mandates have not gone away.

Chairman Pavlock: That is what I was going to state, you've picked up all those extra hours but you've had to maintain your standard workload as a Health Department.

Mrs. Schuyler: Yes, and I really hate to say, I know that we're not alone but, the other standard mandated work has suffered, definitely has been crippled by everyone being hands on deck for COVID for this long. When it comes to our other communicable diseases that we have to follow up on and especially hepatitis, the STD's, HIV. We've got a Maternal Tread Health Home visiting program, substance abuse, as you know has not gone away. We monitor the OD map system and the overdose data and pier response that goes along that. Immunization, it is flu season so we also have our mandates upon us as related to influenza as we do every year. Environmental Health has all their regular mandates plus all of the enforcement and inspection additions that have been added with the COVID work. Also, Kathleen, I don't think there is official or is it part of the budget resolution tomorrow, I believe, one of the budget resolutions was asking for an account adjustment because I fully admit that I made a mistake in all of this budgeting process and I took out a Sanitarian that I didn't mean to take out. So we were switching accounts out so it would be budget neutral to the 2021 budget but it is imperative that we have that Sanitarian back in. As you know our Environmental Health Director retired and thank heavens, I thank every day that Bill Boria stepped up and took that position. He's doing an excellent job but we're still in the process of then of refilling the steps below him.

Legislator Rankin: Did you say 14,000 extra hours since March or regular hours?

Mrs. Schuyler: Those are, well, some of them are over time and extra hours.

Legislator Rankin: How does that compare to usual amounts that you would have encountered? I mean, that's a lot of hours. I'm curious what the comparison is.

Mrs. Schuyler: We keep track of time, literally by the hour. Our Nurses and our other Sanitarians are like, they track by program so they have to put in, every hour, for whatever program it is they work in. So that's how many hours have been logged and that does not include management or administration staff. That's just our CSEA, our non-exempt staff from March 1st is the 14,000 five point seven five hours work on COVID. Looking at how many hours people have worked over 35, don't know exactly, we are a 35 hour a week department so some people, for instance, during the gym inspection rush we had to do, I allowed the Sanitarians to work up to 40 hours to be able to get that done and they do log all their time in that and it was - I did have this report run, we had 3,000 hours over 35. So it could have been over 35, it could be over 40 for almost \$83,000 extra. So I guess that is the extra part there.

Legislator Rankin: That's overwhelming. Then you mentioned about the substance abuse. As we know that COVID in some ways has overshadowed some of the opioid epidemic and how are we doing with that?

Mrs. Schuyler: I apologize, I don't have the overdose data in front of me but we definitely have seen an increase in overdoses throughout this pandemic or even the months preceding the pandemic this year when we did see some spikes even in February and March but it's been consistently higher throughout this year. Very, very sad and that's one of the areas that worries me because we don't - we pulled back on our nurses so much they are not doing the rounds in the hospitals on the new Mom's, and we're not able to fulfil our CAPTA(?) grant requirements which is working with CPS on those reports of substance abuse at that time of delivery. So there are some holes that you, you know, pay now or pay later and this is important stuff. Our Early Intervention referrals are up, preschool special education is up, we're still seeing all of those impacts that we talked about we would see from the substance abuse epidemic. Now with this whole world shift with this COVID pandemic, I really don't know what this next year is going to look like. And the long term impacts of remote learning on children and those who don't have access or don't have the supportive home life to be able to actually learn at home and those who really need the structure and the support of face to face instructions and teachers and friends, definitely have seen an increase in adolescent depression and anxiety and utilization of mental health services.

Chairman Pavlock: I recall adjusting our wage that we would pay our nurses and those two nurses, you had a 2 year nurse and a 4 year nurse, we adjusted that a year or two ago. I don't recall what those amounts were, maybe you could update us on what that amount is and I guess what their benefits would be and maybe what other counties are paying those nurses and I guess what the State average is? I know that's a tough area that you have or a reason why you can't recruit is wage but I guess it's just for information for us.

Mrs. Schuyler: It would be really helpful to have, I can ask HR to do a salary survey because they can reach out to the other counties and find out but also a good salary survey is inclusive of the private sector. To see what the hospitals or doctors' offices are participating. We haven't adjusted nurse salaries. A few years ago we adjusted Nurse Practitioner. We adjusted their grade and we also a few years or so ago, we adjusted the pay of the CPS and Child Welfare Caseworkers. But nurses have always stayed where they are. I know one nurse that interviewed last week, she is a four year RN working at one of the nursing homes in the County and on day shift, makes over \$33.00 an hour and we offered, our Step 1 for nurses is \$25.10 maybe. So it's really a significant pay cut that she couldn't afford to take. As you know, the State retirement system used to be a lot more lucrative as a benefit for public employment than it is now. So, nurses are hard to come by for everybody.

Chairman Pavlock: Does anyone else have any other questions for Christine or comments?

Mrs. Dennison: Mr. Chairman, if I could ask a question.

Chairman Pavlock: Yes.

Mrs. Dennison: I've communicated with Christine and Val Lis about the Sanitarian position and they did provide me with numbers of what the cost would be to add that back to the budget. They proposed to cover it by reducing the appropriation for Safety Net. So, if your committee wants to recommend that to Audit & Control, you would need to do a motion to do that and then we could add that to the budget amendment tomorrow morning. So that's comment number one and the second question I have is, Christine, in your list of the additional temporary staff that you are requesting, are you asking for those positions to be added to the 2021 budget and if so, do you have any information on, if there is funding for those or are we proposing to increase your local share?

Mrs. Schuyler: I don't know. As we discussed yesterday, I think there was some options that the Audit & Control Committee or the Legislature would have. I fully anticipate that the State will provide local governments with additional COVID-19 funds. I don't know when that will happen or how much it will be but I do fully anticipate that will happen. So, hopefully we'll have some additional funding to offset the added expenses that we've taken on to fight this pandemic. During the state of emergency which we have been under now since the Governor declared it in mid-March. The State Health Commissioner has updated and declared an imminent threat to public health during this time which means we are eligible for 50% State aid for COVID related activities instead of the 36% State aid that we typically get under Article 6 Public Health State Aid. That is for salaries only so there would be that to offset the cost of any COVID related work as well. The budget adjustment, I did happen to bring that, would be wages and fringe for a total of \$75,411 and then asked to decrease our Safety Net expense by that to offset that position in the budget and we feel comfortable with making that recommendation.

Mrs. Dennison: And Mr. Chairman, I do have those details so that could be crafted into a motion.

Chairman Pavlock: Yes, I had the opportunity to speak with Val yesterday and talked to her about this change also. I guess it would be - if you could craft the wording into that motion I will use that and put it in front of the committee to see if we can get it to the floor.

Mrs. Dennison: I think the motion would be to amend the tentative budget to add a position for a Sanitarian with increases in the personal services and the employee benefit classification for department A.4090 and that would be balanced by a decrease in the expenses in Safety Net which is A.6140 and then also there would be some decreases in revenue in A.6140 because of fewer expense, there would be some decreases in Federal and State aid with a net local share effect of zero.

Chairman Pavlock: Thank you. Would someone from the Committee like to propose that amendment?

Legislator Whitford: I will propose it as stated.

Legislator Whitney: Second.

Chairman Pavlock: All those in favor?

Unanimously Carried

Chairman Pavlock: Motion carried. Any other questions while Christine is here? If not, thank you.

Mrs. Dennison: Mr. Chairman, the other question is whether the Committee wants to propose any of these temporary positions as we discussed? We don't know the immediate funding for that but Audit & Control, if you made that recommendation, Audit & Control could consider adding those positions and making other adjustments to pay for them. So you could make a recommendation without having a completely balanced proposal for those items if you choose to (*inaudible*).

Chairman Pavlock: What is the timing on this? Where you need the personnel, now, correct?

Mrs. Schuyler: As soon as possible.

Chairman Pavlock: I'm sure we're all understanding of that, it's the first that we've heard about it. I guess we can have it up for discussion? How does the committee feel in regards to the extra positions?

Legislator Lawton: I certainly understand the need for it and if we need a motion, I would make it at the time we're ready to do that. I would support that.

Legislator Whitford: I would second that motion.

Chairman Pavlock: It kind of seems like we have a general consensus that everybody would support such a motion so I believe our Audit & Control friends would also pay attention to the numbers and make any alterations that they would feel necessary. So if someone would want to make that motion.

Legislator Rankin: I would like to make that motion.

Legislator Lawton: I would second it.

Chairman Pavlock: All those in favor?

Unanimously Carried

Chairman Pavlock: O.k. motion carried.

Legislator Whitford: Just one comment. If the State aid increases from 36% to 50%, won't that help in the 2021 budget as far as offsetting the costs that we're proposing, the increase?

Mrs. Schuyler: Yea, and it should even help us in the 2020 budget because we've been doing this since - it goes back to mid-March but all the claims have to be put in and then analyzed and then the State really has to make sure it's just COVID related work that gets the extra.

Legislator Whitford: Well, it's not going to happen tomorrow obviously but certainly it's

Mrs. Schuyler: I do think that more funding is going to be allocated to local governments because it just has to be. We're just all stretched so thin and we really can't afford to lose good seasoned people at this time. Even though we request all these temporary positions, not real easy to recruit for temporary positions. You are not going to find too many people out there that are going to quit their job to come and do a temporary job. But hopefully we'll be able to find some that are interested in at least a job. And qualified and able to help us out. Next week we have, in conjunction with the State, rapid testing clinics in both Jamestown and Dunkirk from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. We are anticipating testing a thousand or more people. So that means our staff also has to be there and there again, we are the only ones who can give out all of those test results and do all the disease investigations and figure out the contacts and put everybody in isolation and quarantine from all of those cases. So while the State is providing contract staff to help us with the actual testing at the clinic, we're the only ones that can do all the other stuff. So, I've already mobilized staff from other units with in Health & Human Services who have already been trained to help us with this. Everybody is stepping up and I give my managers such credit for – you know, it provides a hardships to the other units but they are just willing to say take whatever you need and we'll just make it work and do what we have to, to get it done. But it's a lot of long days and a lot of stress. Doing the best we can.

Chairman Pavlock: Thank you. Any other questions? Seeing none, thank you very much.

Mrs. Schuyler: Thank you for all of your time. I appreciate it.

Proposed Resolution – Authorize Lease Agreement for the Office for Aging Services at the Chautauqua Center in Jamestown, New York

Chairman Pavlock: I just want to check on the clarity. It says at the request of Acting County Executive Stephen Abdella. Is that correct?

Mrs. Spanos: That is correct.

Chairman Pavlock: Mary Ann, do you want to speak to this?

Mrs. Spanos: I just want to say my kudos to Christine and her team. I've only been (*inaudible*) involved in things and they have just been fantastic to work with. Yea, I think we're all feeling the stress but my portion has to be a drop in the bucket compared to what they are doing so just kudos to all of them.

The Office for the Aging has been looking for a new home for quite a while and we went by our Advisory Board about moving to the Chautauqua Center from 610 West 3rd Street. Not only would this afford us new space and more space, we are currently at 1,900 square feet, the space at the Chautauqua Center would be 2,500 square feet. We have some issues at our current location beside just space. We've had problems with the heat, problems with cooling, problems with mice and most importantly, problems in privacy. It's a very small office with very little insulation between the rooms and you can hear every conversation. So we've been looking for a new home and we're invited to look at the new facility at the Chautauqua Center. I was quite concerned that we would be able to afford a space such as the Chautauqua Center being state of the art, new build. The rent that we're currently paying is about \$12.20 a square foot and we were able to negotiate with the Chautauqua Center for \$13.40 a square foot. So, the only other caveat to moving there was the build out costs. To build a whole new space is about \$65.00 a square foot and if you do the math, 2,500 square foot space would cost \$162,500. So, in the course of our conversations with the Chautauqua Center, they were able to secure tax credits equal to 75% of the build out costs. So that's \$121,875 and that was leaving us with about \$40,625 as build out costs that we're not covered. So the concern then was, how can we pay for that? They certainly offered us financing but at first it was our understanding that they were going to (*inaudible*) of the foundations for the build out costs and we had this conversation in February before COVID hit. Most recently in August, I was told that they were not making that ask on behalf of the Office for the Aging, that we would have to do that ourselves. But at this time, the Foundations feel that government should take care of this. They have other community needs that they need to address. So, I'm asking if we budget this – we were offered a 15 year lease. It would add a \$1.15 per square foot, a monthly additional cost of \$239.59. The total amount for the year is about \$3,000. So exactly the total build out per year would be \$2,875. That's the amount we would like to finance. So that's the agreement but you probably want to know where this money is going to come from, correct?

Chairman Pavlock: Yes.

Mrs. Spanos: I think when I was presenting my budget – I have to say, I made a mistake too as I was directing Josh about budget numbers and expenses. I also put – we've been trying to get this deal to go through almost since 2018 we've been talking about it. Got approval from then County Executive Borrello and we approached County Executive Wendel about this. So, I made the mistake of not increasing our budget for the increased rent which is about \$6,000 a year.

Mrs. Dennison: The department has made a proposal to accommodate the expense with a reduction in their Senior Aide program. So I know we're running out of time here but from the financial standpoint, if you wanted to accept this lease agreement, the department would decrease the Senior Aide program and it would reduce the overall local share between Office of the Aging and Veterans Services, reduce the local share by \$4,677.00 in 2021.

Mrs. Spanos: So the Senior Aid program which we had budgeted 6 month for, is actually going to transition January 1st instead of June that we had planned on. So there is about \$16,000 of local share that we will not expend as expected and I just found that out this week that it was going to go on 1/1.

Legislator Rankin: Kathleen, could you say again what would be the bottom line expense to the local share?

Mrs. Dennison: The local share would decrease \$4,677.00.

Legislator Rankin: For the whole year?

Mrs. Dennison: Yes. Josh and Mary Ann provided me the numbers, there would be an increase in rent expense in OFA, the increase in Veterans also because they would share this aide and then a decrease in personal services and employee benefits in OFA for a net gain, if you will, not (*inaudible*), a decrease in local share of \$4,677.00. So they can more than pay for the new leasing expenses by the modification to the Senior Aide program.

Chairman Pavlock: I know we are running short of time but I just have one question. Obviously we have a fix for our 2021 budget, what do we do the next year? Our rent is going to be higher, is that going to negatively affect – how is that going to affect the years to come after this one right in front of us?

Mrs. Spanos: We have revenues that we feel will grow with our location there as well as, we have grants that we can charge that so it does not affect the local share.

Chairman Pavlock: Any other questions regarding this resolution?

Legislator Whitford: Just one comment. I've been in both facilities, the one on 3rd Street and the one over on Institute. Not exactly the space that they are proposing but I was on the Planning Commission when we approved this build on Institute and I will tell you it's a world of difference. This will change the whole concept for seniors being able to find a place to go to and be serviced by the Office for the Aging. There is more than just the office space. There are other entities that they can use there. This is a terrific move.

Mrs. Spanos: There are all kinds of community spaces where we can run health and wellness programs, run our SNAP education, classes with a commercial kitchen, and also help senior groups that are dying to convene them in these public spaces and that's exactly why the Chautauqua Center wants us in there. They want to bring more people in there and utilizing the public spaces that they have developed.

Chairman Pavlock: Thank you very much. All those in favor of this resolution?

Unanimously Carried

Chairman Pavlock: Thank you very much for everyone attending today and presenting.

Legislator Whitford: I will make a motion to adjourn.

Legislator Rankin: Second.

Unanimously Carried (6:05 p.m.)

Respectfully submitted and transcribed,
Olivia Ames, Deputy Clerk/Lori J. Foster, Sr. Stenographer