

Minutes

Human Services Committee

February 17, 2021, 5:00 pm

Virtual via zoom and Streamlined on Facebook

Gerace Office Building, Mayville, NY

Members Present: Pavlock, Whitney, Lawton, Rankin, Whitford

Others: Tampio, Ames, Dennison, Schuyler, Carrow, Button, Quattrone, K. Swanson, Pennington, Kilburn, Abdella, Chagnon

Chairman Pavlock called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

Approval of Minutes (1/20/21)

MOVED by Legislator Whitney, SECONDED by Legislator Whitford

Unanimously Carried

Privilege of the Floor

Chairman Pavlock: Is there anyone here to speak to the privilege of the floor?

Clerk Tampio: We have not received any email communications for privilege of the floor.

Proposed Resolution – Amend 2020 Budget for Year End Reconciliations – Veterans Service Agency

Mrs. Dennison: I can speak to that Mr. Chairman. In the Veterans Service Agency there was a cost overrun in the employee benefits classification but the department was able to balance that overrun with savings in the contractual category. As we discussed in the previous Public Safety meeting, for a lot of the small departments the health insurance is over budget because of changes in the CSEA contract that occurred after the budget was finalized. That is the case in this department. It is a small department and some of the people were already on the high deductible health insurance plan and so their deductibles in 2020 were fully funded by the County and that was not included in the budget. The other savings for the Veterans Services Agency, the department did not move to new premises in 2020 so there was a savings in their rent expense and also a lot of the anticipated travel and training was curtailed because of COVID 19. So, as I said, there is an overrun but fortunately savings so it is a self-balancing resolution for Veterans Services.

Chairman Pavlock: Committee, any questions?

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution – Amend 2020 & 2021 Budgets for Year End Reconciliations and Grant Equipment Revenue – Mental Hygiene

Mrs. Swanson: The A.4322 which is the Mental Hygiene law is over budget by \$169,950 in contractual. We have a surplus in the A.4320 appropriations due to COVID and not traveling so we would like to increase the .4's in the A.4322 and decrease the .4's in the appropriation of A.4320. Also, there were expenditures from the 2020 budget for equipment that was encumbered and rolled into the 2021 budget. The corresponding revenue for the 202 budget did not automatically roll forward into 2021 so we would like to increase the 2021 Federal revenue by \$155,950 and then increase the Federal revenue in 2020 by the same amount.

Chairman Pavlock: Thank you. Looks pretty straightforward with the offsetting of accounts. It's always nice when a budget can balance within itself. Any questions for Kathy?

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution – Amend 2020 Budget for Year End Reconciliations – Health and Human Services

Mrs. Schuyler: Kathleen can chime in wherever she wants or feels to assist me here. I think most of the increase in appropriations accounts are ones that you would expect to see during this pandemic, attributable to, a lot of it to our Public Health Nursing, Environmental Health, also increases in the County Jail costs and those are our big ones. Fortunately as Mental Health just said, there was a decrease we could do in the appropriation accounts on the Social Services side because of vacancies in positions, working remotely, furloughs and other cost savings that we were able to obtain on the other side of our house. Kathleen, anything to add?

Mrs. Dennison: Oh, I think that sums it up.

Chairman Pavlock: It certainly has been interesting here and this was not unexpected for some of these increases for sure. It looks like it could have been worse. So, this looks good. Committee, any questions for Christine today?

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution – Authorizing Public Hearing Regarding the Implementation of Chautauqua County's 2019 Community Development Block Grant Program, "Chautauqua Septics and Wells", Funded by the New York State Homes and Community Renewal Housing Trust Fund Corporation's Office of Community Renewal

Mrs. Schuyler: The County was awarded \$204,500 under the 2019 Community Development Block Grant program. One of the requirements of that program is that we hold a public hearing to provide further information to the public about the progress of the ongoing project and to accept public comments related to the effectiveness of the project. So we are requesting that that public hearing for these purposes be held during the regular meeting of the County Legislature on March 24th at 6:35 p.m.

Chairman Pavlock: O.k., any questions for Christine?

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution – Authorizing Public Hearing Regarding a Potential Application for 2021 Community Development Block Grant Funding through the New York State Homes and Community Renewal Housing Trust Fund Corporation’s Office of Community Renewal and the Uses of Said Funding

Mrs. Schuyler: Kind of sounds very similar to the last resolution. The key difference here is that we received this grant in 2019. We would like to apply again for that same grant funding because this program actually is really important. It does help those who are lower moderately income persons to have housing rehab well and septic replacement and other connection assistance. So we would like to apply again for this grant funding. In the past, we have worked very closely with the Office for Aging on this program to identify especially seniors, low moderate incomes who would qualify for the program that we would be able to help out who, in other words, would not have septic systems that really are up to our standard sanitary code and functioning properly. We are required to hold a public hearing before we can apply for these funds so we would like to request that we hold this public hearing during the regular meeting of the County Legislature on March 24th at 6:40 p.m. in the manner consistent with the CDBG program requirements.

Chairman Pavlock: How many households does this affect? Did you service 10 last year, a 100, roughly?

Mrs. Schuyler: I honestly don’t know off the top of my head and I apologize. I wasn’t prepared for that question, but I can get that answer to you from our Environmental Health Director.

Chairman Pavlock: I was just curious. It’s a really great program and it really is helpful to like you said, to some of the people that qualify. I’m just curious if it was 5 people we are assisting or 100.

Mrs. Schuyler: We’ll get that answer for you.

Chairman Pavlock: Any questions for Christine?

Unanimously Carried

Discussion – Implications of Pending Legalization of Recreational Marijuana in NYS

Discussion - COVID 19 Update - Schulyer

Other

MOVED by Legislator Rankin, SECONDED by Legislator Whitney to adjourn.

Unanimously Carried (6:12 p.m.)

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