

MINUTES
SPECIAL LEGISLATURE MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2011, 6:00 PM
160 GENESEE ST, 6TH FLOOR, CHAMBERS, AUBURN, NY 13021

Welcome to tonight's Special Cayuga County Legislature Meeting, Tuesday, December 13, 2011, CCOB, 6th Floor.

CALL TO ORDER: Hon. Peter Tortorici, Chairman at 6:00PM.

ROLL CALL: Mary Jones, Clerk of the Legislature, all Legislators present, except Petrus excused.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

MOMENT OF PRAYER:

TOPIC: Vote on County Budget

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Eileen McHugh, Director of Cayuga Museum, re: restoring funding for the museum, handout attached to original minutes.

Steve Kline, member of the Cayuga Museum, re: restoring funding for the museum, handout attached to original minutes.

Ellen Dello Stritto, serves on the board of the Cayuga Museum and Seymour Library, re: restoring funding for the museum, handout attached to original minutes.

Ron Podolak Executive Director of Cayuga County Soil & Water Conservation District, a \$50,000 cut to my budget represents a loss in staff and any time you take away staff person, you are going to take away some amount of services. We will be starting up the Community Digester sometime this month, we brought in with Chairman Tortorici's help, 6.2 million dollars to this county when she was on her knees economically. We have always strived to spend the same dollar three different ways if we could. I mention two weeks ago that we return \$3.00 for every dollar you give us, between State and Federal grants. It is hard to manage the program and provide the same services at the same level, without at least the same funding. I ask that we could have at least half of the \$50,000 cut reinstated.

MOTION NO. 499-11

Motion by Aikman, page 7, restore Cayuga Museum Account No. A74504 54000 by \$2,500.00 and increase tax levy by that amount, 2nd by Mills.

Discussion:

Lattimore, we handled a lot of the non-profits with a 50% cut and I would like to continue with that.

Motion by Lattimore to amend amount to \$2,925.00, 2nd by Pinckney, all members voting yes, except Mitchell and Fearon voting no.

Discussion:

Mitchell, I would like to point out some historical information, in 2007 the museum had 1.5 million in investments, in 2008 they had 1.2 million a loss of about \$300,000. The restrictions that they talked about are basically temporary restrictions, that the board can rescind anytime they want to and has done in the past. They have managed to double their expenditures from \$75,000 to \$150,000, while they cut their collection conservation. Overall the expenses of their functional expenses have gone from \$308,000 to \$376,000, an increase of 20%. These people are spending a lot of money, I will not support any restoration of any sort to their funding.

Lattimore, difficult times, we are try to restore the tourism issue, I think it is dollars well spent.

Mitchell, this is the only museum that I am aware of in Cayuga County that gets county funding, the museum down south doesn't get a penny. Tourism does have a valid place in terms of the museum and the museum funding, however we have set our tourism in one basket and I think that in the future we need to do more than one basket. I think that other museums in the county deserve some consideration besides the Cayuga Museum.

Mills, this action that we have taken is kind of following something we established several years ago, the individuals involved in these organizations need to recognize this is the direction we are going to be taking. I think it is wise to anticipate similar cuts for next year, that is kind of way things are going. I understand people are going to be upset about that, but at the same token, we are under a 2% mandated tax cap that the State Legislator's have imposed on us, significant increases to our health insurance costs.

Fearon, some people may have received something in the mail saying that Albany did mandate relief, the reality is that didn't happen. The mandates are why we are where we are now, and it will get worse.

Tortorici, I really hope that these groups reach out to the new Regional Economic Development Council, Andrew Fish would be a good one to reach out to and start putting plans together for the future.

Motion as amended, all members voting yes, except Mitchell and Fearon voting no.

Motion approved

MOTION NO. 500-11

Motion by Mitchell to increase Highway Budget Account No. DM51302 52002, page 117 by \$50,000.00 and increase the tax levy in that amount, 2nd by Sincebaugh.

Discussion:

Lattimore, in review of the Highway equipment, I know most of the towns have vehicle replacement program, might go 5 years then while the unit still has value, put it on the market. Hopefully we can look at some of the towns to see if they have something they could transfer or move to our Highway Department, maybe two for \$50,000.

Fearon, we can get bite now or get bite bigger later, a lot of equipment that is going to need to be replaced.

Motion approved by voice vote, all present voting yes.

Sincebaugh, Tom can you explain about the janitor position that is being cut out of the budget, and you said the state is not paying for 75% through the court system.

Squires, the State Court System cut the reimbursement to the county for cleaning and maintenance in the court space. It was the court funding that paid for that position, so when the said they were cutting the funding, the decision was made to eliminate that position, which was a direct result of the loss of funding. We are using existing staff to maintain all of the buildings downtown. We are doing anymore or any less for any of the county buildings. When you're talking about staff, you're talking about cutting services. There are 8 positions that are unfunded that are vacant that otherwise we would like to fill, 5 filled positions, which a couple we are outsourcing and couple that we are eliminating, so there will be an impact on all of us. We can't afford what we used to be able to afford, here we are trying to stave off a massive layoff. The little bit we cut each year adds up, trim a little at a time.

Cuddeback, if we had mandate relief how hard would this budget have been?

Squires, the increase in Medicaid and Retirement was about the equivalent of a 6% increase in the levy. If we had meaningful mandate relief where the mandates didn't go up, I won't tell you it would have been easy, but it would be a heck of a lot easier. It would be easier to fund all the agency's, libraries, we wouldn't be cutting positions, would be able to keep our tax levy pretty close to flat and reduce the use of fund balance. The story of this budget is not the property tax cap, but is pure and simple, how do we take the additional cost forced on us by New York State, how do we pay for those costs, that's where we are.

Fearon, the budget we are looking at right now projects zero change and that's not something we are going to be able sustain year after year, eventually we will have to pay people more.

Tortorici, we have to understand that every \$340,000 is a 1% increase in property tax. In 2013 Medicaid will probably go up 3%, (1 million plus), Pension will go up, and we don't know what will happen with the Nursing Home, so already for 2013 we are higher than 6%. The funding is going to go away little by little unless our state gives us mandate relief. Lattimore, can we invite our elected State Officials to come when we have the next round of cuts? Squires, we could, I wouldn't put the blame on our State Elected, I would put in on the Albany machine, Governor, the weight of the vote downstate.

Lattimore, the millionaires tax, they feel they are going to raise 4 billion or 6 billion in taxes.

Squires, I don't know.

Tortorici, it's good for Albany to say we gave you a 2% property tax cap, because they don't have property tax, they don't collect it. They put a bigger burden on the counties throughout New York State.

Motion by Mills to adopt the County budget, 2nd by Cuddeback and Mitchell.

Discussion:

Axton, can we get a final number on the levy?

Squires, it raises the levy to \$35,174,086.00 an increase of 2.213%.

Tortorici, thanked everyone involved with the budget.

Mitchell, includes actions from tonight?

Squires, yes.

**RESOLUTION NO. 501-11 12/13/11 COL ADOPTBUDGET2012
TO ADOPT THE COUNTY BUDGET FOR 2012**

BY: Hon. Roger Mills, Chairman, Ways & Means Committee.

WHEREAS, the Budget officer of the County of Cayuga in compliance with County Law, Section 354, has prepared and filed with the Clerk of the Cayuga County Legislature a tentative budget; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to County Law, Section 357, the Ways & Means Committee of this County Legislature, being the committee designated to review the tentative budget, has examined the budget and recommended changes; and

WHEREAS, the provisions of County Law, Section 358, have been complied with by the Cayuga County Legislature and pursuant to County Law, Section 359, a public hearing was held on **December 8, 2011** after advertisement as required by law; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the tentative budget, as heretofore amended, be and hereby is adopted by this Legislature as the budget for the year 2012.

**LEGISLATIVE CHANGES
TO AMEND THE 2012 PRELIMINARY BUDGET**

		PAGE	REVENUE	EXPENSE	NEW TOTAL
#1	Cornell Cooperative Extension				
	Increase A29804-54000	5		32,500.00	260,528.00
	Tax Levy			32,500.00	35,096,661.00
#2	Cornell Cooperative Extension				
	Increase A29804-54000	5		10,000.00	270,528.00
	CCPUSA Contingent Account				
	Decrease A10164 54505	4		(10,000.00)	25,000.00
#3	Cornell Cooperative Extension				
	Increase A29804-54000	5		7,500.00	278,028.00
	Youth Bureau - Contractual Agreements				
	Decrease A73104 54073	179		(7,500.00)	0.00

#4	Options for Independence			
	Increase A29804-54000	3	5,000.00	5,000.00
	Tax Levy	9	5,000.00	35,101,661.00
#5	Libraries			
	Increase A741044-54000	7	19,500.00	58,500.00
	Tax Levy	9	19,500.00	35,121,161.00

**Signed by Mills, Axton, Cuddeback, Fearon, Mahunik and Pinckney.
Approved by Majority vote, all present voting yes, except for Sincebaugh voting no.**

Motion by Mills to adjourn at 6:36PM, 2nd by Chapman, all in favor.

Motion by Axton to approve minutes of 12-13-11, 2nd by Lattimore, all in favor.