

Minutes

Public Safety Committee

February 17, 2021, 4:00 pm, Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Gerace Office Building, Mayville, NY

Members Present: Niebel, Bankoski, Pavlock, Hemmer, Whitford

Others: Tampio, Ames, Chagnon, Quattrone, Griffith, Dennison, Button, Schmidt, Swan, Guttman, Abdella, Taylor, Hayes

Chairman Niebel called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

Approval of Minutes (1/20/21)

MOVED by Legislator Pavlock, SECONDED by Legislator Hemmer.

Unanimously Carried

Privilege of the Floor

Clerk Tampio: We haven't received any comments either through the email.

Proposed Resolution – Confirm Appointment and Re-Appointments – Emergency Medical Services Council

Chairman Niebel: Anyone to speak to that? No John?

Legislator Pavlock: Terry, John's not here but Noel Guttman is here.

Chairman Niebel: Go ahead Noel.

Mr. Guttman: I have no comment on what they submitted. I believe they are all ready to go.

Chairman Niebel: They are either new appointments or reappointments.

Mr. Guttman: I believe they are all reappointments. I don't believe there is any controversy that I'm aware of.

Chairman Niebel: Committee, any questions?

Mrs. Hayes: Terry, that resolution is actually prepared by the County Executive's office, not Emergency Services.

Chairman Niebel: Thank you. Those in favor?

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution - Amend 2020 Budget for Year End Reconciliations – Office of the Sheriff

Sheriff Quattrone: I think Jen was logging on but, we did have some shortages from the appropriation accounts which would be covered with - Jennifer is here. I'll let Jen explain it but we are covering it with the decrease or the lack of funding within our own budget using mainly our contractual services (*inaudible*).

Chairman Niebel: Jen, it looks like you are increasing some appropriation account by \$714,148. You are decreasing some other appropriations accounts by \$636,857 and increasing a revenue account by \$77,391 and that balances out.

Mrs. Swan: Yes.

Chairman Niebel: Any questions of Jim or Jen?

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution – Amend 2020 Budget for Year End Reconciliations – District Attorney's Office

Mr. Schmidt: I understood that we came in in a shortfall part of which was the turnover savings when in fact we really didn't have a turnover in the office in 2020. I think that was a significant part of it. If I understand the budget performance report correctly, it looks like the other part of it had to do with CARES Act money which in fact we did not receive. Kathleen, am I correct in understanding that?

Mrs. Dennison: Yes. There was a grant that the District Attorney's office received or was awarded but really wasn't utilized. So that's why you see the decrease in appropriations. It's a combination of two things as the District Attorney mentioned. Part of it was is because the grant could not really be executed or utilized in 2020 so there is approximately \$30,000 of expense that was not incurred because the grant wasn't used so there was a revenue shortfall associated with that but a savings in contractual. The other savings in contractual is just that the District Attorney, the department did a good job of managing its contractual expenditures and brought most of those under budget, not counting the expenditures associated with the grant.

Chairman Niebel: Kathleen, the increase in revenue account, the property tax items/sales tax, can you just address that for a second?

Mrs. Dennison: Sure. Unfortunately the District Attorney's department cannot balance its overrun in expenditures within the department so we are proposing to use a small portion of the surplus from the sales tax. As Jason mentioned, the budget for 2020 does include a relatively significant expected turnover savings so their point ones and point eights were reduced in 20' expecting that they would have some vacancies throughout the year and that did not occur. So that's a big reason why the department is over budget in the personal areas.

Chairman Niebel: Any questions?

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution - Amend 2020 Budget for Year End Reconciliations – Emergency Services

Mrs. Hayes: This is our usual end of year adjustment. We were under in almost everything except (*inaudible*) and mostly I believe because of health insurance. Kathleen can correct me if I'm wrong.

Mrs. Dennison: That is correct, yes.

Mrs. Hayes: And we were able to balance within each department.

Mrs. Dennison: Could I add a comment at this time?

Chairman Niebel: Sure.

Mrs. Dennison: One thing I should have mentioned at the outset of the meeting, we discussed a little bit in the committee meetings yesterday, just in general, you probably will see quite a few adjustments in the smaller departments in the health insurance area and some of them in wages too. There are some actual events that were not included in the 2020 budget in wages. That would be the contractual wage increase awarded to CSEA unit 6300 so those were awarded after the 2020 budget was established. So that is causing some increases in wages in all departments but a lot of departments especially because of the furlough they had unfilled positions so they were able to absorb the increase in wages. But when it comes to health insurance again on some of the smaller departments especially the budget does not include the effects of fully funding the high deductible for all CSEA 6300 members. So that is an increase especially if the people were already on the high deductible plan. So that is affecting especially Emergency Services, those additional expenditures for the high deductible. Some of the larger departments, there were people that were budgeted on the old PPO plan and they had to change in 2020 to the high deductible plans but there was some premium savings. But in departments, most people were already on the high deductible plan, they didn't get those savings in premiums because premium, they were already on the lower cost plan and they got hit with additional charges for the deductible. So there are some overages in individual departments when it comes to health insurance.

Chairman Niebel: And that affects the .8's?

Mrs. Dennison: That's correct. Yesterday, Finance Director Crow did send out an email to all the Legislators especially about health insurance. There is a lot of information in that email but the gist of it is what I just summarized for you.

Chairman Niebel: Thanks Kathleen. Committee, any questions?

Legislator Pavlock: I just have a comment, I suppose, that is in regards to that. Obviously in like, some of the departments weren't hit as hard by like backing up to the Sheriff's year end reconciliation, the .8's, a couple of those were pretty sizeable so the explanation that Kathleen just gave us I'm sure is probably the large portion of why some of those amounts were bigger. It's a bigger department too.

Chairman Niebel: And that addresses your concern, Dan?

Legislator Pavlock: It does. I just lost my opportunity when we were on this (*inaudible*). I didn't speak fast enough.

Mrs. Dennison: If I could expand upon that for the benefit of Mr. Pavlock and others. As you are aware, there is a variety of unions in the Sheriff's organization. One thing that is particular to the Sheriff's changes in employee benefits is that there was a fairly significant increase in the premium for the policies between what was budgeted and what was actually charged. So that affected the Sheriff particular in the Jail and in Dispatch because those people, they are in the CCSEA union. That agreement was settled at the end of 2019 and we did make an adjustment to the budget for the health insurance effects as a new contract. But the actual premiums came in higher than expected. Just for that particular bargaining unit. So, there is a little bit of a special case for a couple of the Sheriff's Department.

Legislator Pavlock: Will that have some affects on this year's budget or did we know (*inaudible*) before hand?

Mrs. Dennison: It should not have as dramatic affects on the 2021 budget. We found after the 2021 budget was finalized, the health insurance premiums for all departments, all units, unfortunately are a little bit higher but only by a couple of percent. In the Sheriff, the CCSEA unit, the actual expenses were about 10% higher than the budget premiums so it was quite dramatic. The other thing that affected the dispatch benefits is that, we kind of forced the CCSEA contract into the budget because it was approved right at the - like October 2019, so we couldn't factor it into the budget as we normally would so we kind of put in a couple of plug figures and those adjustments were all put into the Jail even though some of those members are also in the dispatch department. So, that caused the dispatch unit to be a little bit out of whack, actual to budget.

Legislator Pavlock: Thank you for that and thank you Terry for letting us back up.

Chairman Niebel: No problem Dan, Any comments? O.k. All in favor?

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution – Fiscal Year 2019 Hazardous Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Grant Program

Mrs. Hayes: This one was *(inaudible)* last year but because of COVID, it was supposed to be used for training, it was cancelled. We did get approval from Homeland Security to extend it to next year so this money will be used for Haz Mat training.

Chairman Niebel: Any questions of Val?

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution - Amend 2021 Budget for State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) Grant Award (2018-2021)

Mrs. Hayes: This is a previously accepted award going to appropriate some money for equipment, \$7,300 is –

Mr. Griffith: I believe that was a dive team depth finder equipment.

Mrs. Hayes: That's right. That is for the dive team. It's for a high end depth finder and then the \$14,500 is for *(inaudible)* rescue to replace some of their out of date supplies.

Chairman Niebel: You are offsetting that with an increase in the revenue account, Federal Aid, Homeland Security.

Mr. Griffith: That is correct.

Chairman Niebel: Any questions of Val or John? All in favor?

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution – Amend 2021 Budget for State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) Grant Award (2020-2023)

Mrs. Hayes: This one is also for supplies. The contractual part for hazardous materials, that is for econ equipment. The tech rescue is for shoring equipment and *(inaudible)* Emergency Services is for computers for our command vehicle.

Chairman Niebel: It's all within your account?

Mrs. Hayes: Yes.

Chairman Niebel: Committee, any questions?

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution - Amend Emergency Services 2021 Budget for Vehicle Accident Claim

Mrs. Hayes: I'll let John take over on this. He knows more about this vehicle than I do.

Mr. Griffith: This is Medic 74 which was involved in an accident in the Town of Ellington while responding to a call. Cosmetically the car didn't look that bad. A lot of damage underneath. In fact, this \$12,386 would be the first claim. I talked to Kzar (?) Collision today who is doing the work on it. It's just about done, they had to replace the frame and the bill is now up to \$23,800 so there will be another check coming to offset this going forward. It's not done yet. It's probably going to come in somewhere close to \$25,000. So (*inaudible*) to cash out on that next month. Any questions on that for me?

Chairman Niebel: John, anybody hurt in the accident?

Mr. Griffith: No. It went off into the ditch, ran down the ditch where the ditch teed, it just caught in end of the culvert and did the damage up underneath the front of the car.

Chairman Niebel: Somebody drives like I do, in other words.

Mr. Griffith: Well, whenever you drive emergency response vehicles on bad roads, it's kind of an occupational hazard, I guess is part of it.

Chairman Niebel: Committee, any questions?

Legislator Hemmer: How close to being totaled?

Mr. Griffith: I don't know. It was a brand new Chevy Tahoe, so it's not our choice. I do know that I believe the insurance company worked along with Enterprise Leasing because this is an Enterprise vehicle on this as to how much they wanted to do and where they would end up. It was their choice to continue to work on it.

Chairman Niebel: Yea, we don't have any say on that. It's up to Enterprise. Any other questions on this?

Unanimously Carried

Discussion - Implications of Pending Legalization of Recreational Marijuana in NYS

Discussion - Overview of 2020 EMS – John Griffith

Other

Proposed Resolution – Amend 2020 and 2021 Budgets for Grant Equipment Revenue

Chairman Niebel: Olivia can bring this up on the screen for you to see. Take a look at it, if you feel comfortable, we'll act on that today. Jim and Jen, you would like this acted on today so we can pass it onto Audit & Control tomorrow, I presume?

Mrs. Swan: Yes. Basically what this is for, this pertains to outstanding –

Chairman Niebel: Well, is it up on the screen now?

Legislator Bankoski: Yes.

Chairman Niebel: Try and look at it real quick while Jen is explaining.

Mrs. Swan: This is revenue associated with a couple of encumbrances. Some of you are familiar of how that works. When there are purchase orders open at the end of the year, if we don't have them closed, they are automatically rolled into the following year. We have some grant expenses that have purchase ordered tied to them. Not all those purchases were made in 2020 so the expenses have automatically rolled to 2021 but the revenue is not automatically (*cross talk*).

Chairman Niebel: They are encumbered for the next year, the expenditure part.

Mrs. Swan: Correct. And since the revenue doesn't move with it, this is our act of moving that revenue with those expense to offset it and right side it essentially.

Chairman Niebel: So Jen and Kathleen, what you guys are doing is making changes to the 2020 budget, as far as decreasing the revenue then you are also, as far as the 2021 adopted budget, you are making the following changes and increasing the revenue for this year.

Mrs. Swan: Correct.

Chairman Niebel: And that's because the expenditure part in 2020 was automatically encumbered and carried over to 2021.

Mrs. Swan: Yes.

Chairman Niebel: Kathleen, is that about it.

Mrs. Dennison: Yes, that's very accurate portrayal and Jennifer information is all accurate as well. The purchase orders, they transfer, they take budget out of 2020 in this case and put it into 2021. But as Jennifer explained, nothing happens with the revenue so when you look at the current financial performance for the Sheriff's office, in a couple of those departments, it looks like the revenue is way under budget because there is a revenue budget there that they couldn't achieve because they didn't do the grant work. So, we want to balance the expenditure budget that will give to 2021 by also moving the revenue budget. One accounting technicality that doesn't really show in the resolution is that decreasing the revenue budgets in 2020 will in affect use fund balance in 2020 but contribute to fund balance in 2021.

Chairman Niebel: They are offsetting.

Mrs. Dennison: Yes. That could have been added to the resolution. We've done this type of resolution before in similar cases and we generally don't put in the contribution to and the use of fund balance because it kind of happens in one way one day on the 31st of the year and then the opposite way on the 1st of the following year. So, as I say, again, the rationale for doing it is just to balance the revenue and expenditure budgets in 2021 and to make the 2020 financial results more reflective of what's actually happening.

Mrs. Swan: I do need to add one more thing to that. Kathleen did a great job with this resolution. This was a last minute adjustment that she brought to my attention this morning. But, I do need to have the 2021 adopted budget portion will all be going to A.3110.GRNT. You can disregard that first account number because as you remember, when we were doing the budget review, we're going to be changing all of our grant expenditures and revenue starting January 1st of this year to the grant account. So we're going to be changing the account allocation on those (*inaudible*) as well.

Mrs. Dennison: O.k.

Chairman Niebel: O.k., so Jen, what are you saying? The \$86,096, we just –

Mrs. Swan: Is going to the same account as the \$61,460.

Chairman Niebel: So it's all going to the same account and the total will be \$148,556.

Mrs. Swan: Correct.

Chairman Niebel: O.k., so do we just – what do we cross out here? What kind of changes are we making?

Mrs. Dennison: I would suggest that you make an amendment to strike the first line under (*inaudible*) account and then –

Chairman Niebel: Kathleen thank you that is what I was trying to get at. So we just want the 311 grant to read, \$147,556 and the first one that says decrease revenue account and then change it also to increase that to the \$147,556?

Mrs. Swan: No. Terry, if I may step in, the 2020 adopted budget portion with the decrease revenue account details provided, that should not change. But down below under the increase revenue that first line needs to be eliminated because now all of that \$147,556 will go to that second account. So strike that –

Chairman Niebel: O.k., Jen for that second line that says increase revenue account 3110, Federal Aid other public safety aid, that should be, instead of \$61,460, \$147,556?

Mrs. Swan: You are correct. I'm sorry I made it very confusing and I apologize to the committee for that.

Chairman Niebel: That's o.k., we'll blame the Sheriff. Committee, do you understand that?

Committee agreed.

Mrs. Dennison: So we would be striking the first line under increase revenue account and also striking the total line because that will no longer be needed. And I just noticed there is a slight typo in the decrease, where it says decrease revenue account, it should be plural, decrease revenue accounts.

Chairman Niebel: Kathleen, so if you could summarize one more time just so everybody is on the same page.

Mrs. Dennison: I will defer to Kathy and Olivia. Should the committee be entertaining an amendment to amend this resolution?

Chairman Niebel: I think we should but, would you just give us the numbers again and how we should amend this?

Mrs. Dennison: The amendments would be in the decrease revenue account section just to add an "s" to make account into accounts, plural. Then in the increase revenue account section to strike the first line which includes the A.3020.PSCN., eliminate that entire line including the amount. Then to change the total in the line that pertains to line A.3110.GRNT change, that amount to \$147,556 and to strike the total line in the increase revenue account section.

Deputy Clerk Ames: I'm doing that right now on the paper copy right now.

Chairman Niebel: Olivia, as soon as you have that done, would you let me know?

Deputy Clerk Ames: I don't have it on the screen corrected yet but I have it on the paper copy.

Chairman Niebel: Committee, can you follow that?

Legislator Hemmer: Yes, it was very easy to follow that.

Legislator Bankoski: Yes, we got it Terry.

Chairman Niebel: O.k., first of all we need a motion to amend to the figures that Kathleen and Jen just went over.

Legislator Bankoski: I will make that motion.

Legislator Hemmer: Second.

Chairman Niebel: Any discussion? Those in favor?

Unanimously Carried (amendment)

Chairman Niebel: Now we'll vote on the resolution as amended. Again folks, are you clear on the amounts on this?

Legislator Bankoski: Yes.

Legislator Pavlock: Yes.

Legislator Hemmer: Yes.

Legislator Whitford: Yes.

Chairman Niebel: On the resolution as amended? All those in favor?

Unanimously Carried

Mrs. Swan: Thank you everybody. Sorry about that.

Chairman Niebel: No, that's no problem. Although Jen if you can, try to get this to us a little bit sooner so we have a chance to look this over.

Mrs. Swan: Oh yes.

Chairman Niebel: Committee, anything else? If not, I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

MOVED by Legislator Bankoski, SECONDED by Legislator Hemmer

Unanimously Carried (4:59 p.m.)

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