

**PHYSICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING  
BUDGET MEETING  
HELD IN ROOM 318  
PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING  
Members: Chairman Albano Legislators Castellano & Gouldman**

**Wednesday**

**October 12, 2022**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30PM by Chairman Albano who requested Legislator Castellano lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call Legislators Castellano, Gouldman and Chairman Albano were present.

**Item #3 - 2023 Budget Review**

**Highway Engineering – 1440 (page 33)**

**Personnel Services – 51000 (page 33)**

Chairman Albano questioned the amount in the Personnel Services line \$659,421.

Deputy Commissioner John Tully stated last year they made a structural change. He explained they separated the Admin from the Engineering. He stated Engineering has its own expenses that are directly related to engineering.

Legislator Gouldman requested an explanation for the \$43,680 funding request in the Temporary Line (page 33, 51094).

Deputy Commissioner Tully stated a key individual who is a Project Manager has retired. He stated they would like to replace this employee. He stated said employee has agreed to come back on a Temporary basis three (3) days a week. He stated once we have filled the vacancy this funding will fund the retired employee coming back three (3) days a week to train the person who will be filling the position.

Legislator Gouldman requested an explanation for the increase in funding for the Special Services budget (page 33, 54682).

Commissioner of Highways & Facilities Fred Pena stated that funds outside engineering services.

Deputy Commissioner Tully also added the Landfill Monitoring expense budget line has been moved to Special Services and that is approximately \$12,000.

Commissioner of Highways & Facilities Pena made a statement that the tentative proposed Highway & Facilities Budget is very flat. He stated they have made the adjustments where they believe it was necessary. He stated he would publicly like to thank Deputy Commissioner Tully and the two (2) members of the staff who worked on the 2023 Highway & Facilities Department proposed budget.

### **Highway & Facilities 1490 (page 38-39)**

Legislator Montgomery questioned what type of Education and Training is covered in the \$5,000, 54640 budget line on page 38. She stated she is a big supporter of education and training.

Commissioner of Highways & Facilities Pena stated any training that is available that helps them get their jobs done, while keeping current with the trends and best practices.

### **Central Services (Purchasing Dept) -1610 (page 40)**

Deputy Commissioner Tully stated he can speak to the Central Services Budget. He stated the expenses in that department get charged back to the departments. He stated as an example postage, vehicle leasing etc. those expenses are allocated. He stated the big ticket item is the gasoline.

Chairman Albano questioned if Diesel has its own budget line.

Deputy Commissioner of Finance Lewis stated Diesel does have its own budget line.

Deputy Commissioner Tully stated he is aware that the money in the budget in utility lines can only be transferred between utility lines. He stated they have budgeted conservatively, as they did last year. He stated however they did need to request funding this year. He stated time will tell, he hopes they will be sufficient with the proposed budget.

Legislator Gouldman requested an explanation for the increase in the Vehicle Leasing/Rental (page 40, 54210).

Deputy Commissioner of Finance Lewis stated the Purchasing Director who left employment from the County recently, Alex Mazzotta, negotiated with Enterprise a new method, net to equity program. He stated you pay more up front so at the end of the lease you have more equity in the vehicle and roll it into another vehicle. He stated based on the analysis, the net cost is about the same.

### **Maintenance & Facilities- 5111 - (page 130-132)**

Legislator Montgomery questioned how the contract price of the rubbish removal is determined (page 131, 54753).

Deputy Commissioner Tully stated it is determined by New York State.

**MTA- Railroad Station Maintenance – 5640 (page 134)**

Legislator Montgomery stated that the work that has been done at the Garrison and Cold Spring Train Stations is great.

**Veterans Home - 6511 (page 174)**

Legislator Gouldman questioned line 52170 Kitchen Equipment. He stated to date none of the \$3,000 that was budgeted for 2022 has been spent. He stated why is there a proposal to put \$3,000 in said budget line for 2023.

Deputy Commissioner Tully stated he will look into that.

Deputy Commissioner of Finance Lewis stated that if there is money not spent it is returned to the general fund balance.

**Parks & Rec – 7110 (page 199-203)**

Legislator Gouldman questioned on page 199, 412902 where the additional \$10,000 is coming from.

Deputy Commissioner Tully stated on the Tilly Foster Farm Property the rent from buildings 1, 2, 5 and 7 totals \$64,800 and BOCES pays \$54,690 for a grand total of \$119,490. He stated he does not have the breakdown of buildings 1, 2, 5 and 7 but he could get it.

Legislator Gouldman questioned if there is any plan to buy any Farm Animals in 2023.

Deputy Commissioner Tully stated at this time there are no plans.

Legislator Gouldman questioned why there is a reduction in the Sub-Contractors line (10143, page 200) for 2023.

Deputy Commissioner Tully stated he believes that it is because the County is no longer paying for the shoeing of the horses. He stated that expense is on the horse owners. He stated he will confirm that.

Legislator Montgomery requested an explanation of what the Tilly's Table budget is all about on page 200.

Deputy Commissioner Tully stated it has to do with the contract the County has with Homestyle.

Deputy Commissioner of Finance Lewis stated in the contract with Homestyle they pay the County \$3.00 for every ticket sold to the events they host at the Tilly Foster Farm.

Legislator Montgomery questioned if the County receives a portion of the sales on the food and liquor.

Deputy Commissioner Tully stated Homestyle does not pay the County a fixed price to rent the facility, that is in accordance with the RFP.

**Putnam Golf – 10085000 (page 201- 202)**

Legislator Montgomery questioned what is the \$25,000 for Improvements (54715, page 201).

Deputy Commissioner Tully stated historically they have appropriated kind of a capital expenditure line in the Putnam Golf Course budget. He stated the agreement they have with Commissioner of Finance is they wait until mid-year when they are hitting the revenue targets before moving forward with any improvements. He stated he believes for 2023 the plan is to use the \$25,000 for bunkers or tee boxes.

Legislator Montgomery questioned where the funding for snow removal and rubbish removal is.

Deputy Commissioner Tully stated that is not the responsibility of the County. He stated it is in the contract that they do all of their snow removal, unless it is a significant snow fall, they can call the County for assistance.

Legislator Montgomery questioned if that is the same agreement with the Tilly Foster Farm property.

Commissioner Pena clarified that the County Parks Department does the snow removal for Tilly Foster Farm. He explained because of the need to have it open for BOCES and the animals need to be taken care of.

Legislator Montgomery stated she believes the cost for the snow removal should be paid for by the businesses on the property.

Deputy Commissioner Tully stated there are also tenants on the property, so the County needs to keep the roadways clear.

**Planning & Dev. – 8020 (page 219 – 220)**

Chairman Albano questioned budget line Special Services (54682, page 2019).

Deputy Commissioner Tully stated that is related to the used LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) software. He explained the information obtained by said software is very beneficial to the Highway Depart when applying for grants. He stated they will be using LiDar more as the

leaves fall off the trees. He stated it is GPS based. He stated they would be happy to come to a committee meeting to give a demonstration of the equipment.

Legislator Gouldman questioned why there is an increase in Education and Training. (54640, page 219)

Deputy Commissioner Tully stated under the direction of the previous Commissioner of Planning there was not a lot of education/training done. He stated as new staff is developed for the Planning Department there will be an emphasis put on education/training.

### **Soil & Water 8745 (Page 226- 227)**

Deputy Commissioner Tully stated this matter is a personnel matter, which will be addressed at the Personnel Budget Meeting on Friday, but he wanted to mention that they do want to hire a Soil and Water District Manager. He stated that Cornell Cooperative helped manage the Tree Program in 2022. He stated that it went well, and the County wants to continue that. He stated they are planning to put it in the contract with Cornell Cooperative. He stated they are currently working on that.

Transportation Manager & Interim Soil and Water District Manager Vincent Tamagna stated the New York State Department of Soil and Water Agriculture reimburses the County \$120,000. He explained to receive the \$120,000 certain performance measures must be met by the County. He stated if they are not met by the time the County must file its annual report in February, the County does not receive the reimbursement money. He stated the Tree Program is a program that meets a couple of the performance measures: education and making sure native species are being put out in our communities.

Legislator Montgomery confirmed the matter of personnel will be discussed at the Personnel Budget Meeting.

### **All 02 County Road Fund Accounts (page 236)**

#### **Traffic Control 3310 (page 237)**

Legislator Montgomery requested clarification that every road project is considered to be part of the Complete Streets Program.

Commissioner Pena stated the Complete Streets Projects are those that are new or involve a replacement that changes the configuration of any of our roadway systems. He continued to speak to this matter. He did clarify that keeping a road in good condition is not part of the Complete Streets Program.

Deputy Commissioner Tully stated that the Cities in some cases are adding a bike lane to a roadway, by stripping the road. He stated you do not see that in the suburban areas. He briefly stated the reasons that does not occur in the suburban areas. He stated they are taking a close look at other projects in relation to the Complete Streets Program.

Legislator Montgomery stated there is a lot of opportunity for the Complete Street Program in her district. She stated they are in need of sidewalks and a bike lane.

Commissioner Pena (Snow Removal 5142, page 240) stated from the Highways Department's perspective there is a concern if the implementation of the legislation, "Buy America Salt", is approved the County will be restrictive in the ability to purchase the salt needed. He stated there is only one (1) provider in New York. He stated it would limit the source and increase the cost.

Deputy Commissioner Tully stated in the Road Machinery budget line (5130 page 244-245), the County's chief mechanic provided input in terms of current costs and projected costs for automotive parts and maintenance.

Transportation Manager Tamagna stated the current PART Bus contract began April 1, 2022. He stated the rates will remain steady until March 31, 2023, at which time a COLA (cost of living adjustment) will be applied for the next five (5) years of the contract. He stated the County is very happy with this current contract. He stated many of the costs are contained.

Legislator Gouldman requested an explanation for the increase in Office Equipment (52125, page 247). He stated that it went from \$1,500 in 2022 to \$4,500 for 2023.

Transportation Manager Tamagna stated they plan to be bringing staff in to fill positions that have been vacated. He explained there are also plans to incorporate technology to decrease on wasted time to track things that could be automated, increasing efficiency. He spoke to both of the items.

Deputy Commissioner Tully stated for clarity that the new technology and equipment will need to be proposed to the Legislature before it is bought. He stated there will be State funding provided. He stated there is funding in the 2023 to pay for a consultant to assist in the selection of the right equipment. He stated it a consultant who has been used in the past.

Legislator Montgomery questioned the Contract Line (54646, page 247). She stated it went from \$50,000 to \$100,000.

Deputy Commissioner Tully stated in the transportation industry there are a lot of changes happening. He stated as an example, phasing in electric vehicles.

Transportation Manager Tamagna stated said funding will be available for several projected Contracts. He stated that will begin to look at adjusting the County bus routes in line with a method called demand response. He stated the projection is it will be much more affordable and cost efficient. He stated a consultant will be hired to help with that transition. He spoke to some of the facts and details the consultant would help with in that instance.

### **Capital Projects**

Chairman Albano went over the Capital Projects list.

#### **#4 Other Business**

Legislator Gouldman made a motion to waive the rules and accept the other business; Seconded by Chairman Albano. All in favor.

**a. Approval/ Central Services Chargebacks Revenues/ Deputy Commissioner of Finance Lewis**

Chairman Albano made a motion to approve the Central Serves Revenue Chargebacks; Seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.

#### **Item #4 - Adjournment**

There being no further business at 7:57PM Chairman Albano made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Deputy Clerk of the Legislature Diane Trabulsy.