

**\*AMENDED - NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING  
ONEIDA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
SEPTEMBER 3, 2013 - 9:30 A.M  
COUNTY BOARD MEETING ROOM 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR - ONEIDA COUNTY COURTHOUSE**

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**CALL TO ORDER**

There will be a brief moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

**ROLL CALL**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Supervisors: Greg Berard, Ted Cushing, Billy Fried, David Hintz, Scott Holewinski, Jim Intrepidi, Bob Martini, Jack Martinson, Bob Metropulos, Bob Mott ,Greg Oettinger, Sonny Paszak, Carol Pederson, Tom Rudolph, Jerry Shidell, Candy Sorensen, Jack Sorensen, Michael Timmons and Denny Thompson.

**# OF MEMBERS PRESENT:** 19

**SUPERVISORS EXCUSED:** 2- Gary Baier and Romelle Vandervest

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Mary Bartelt, County Clerk; Melodie Gauthier, Chief Deputy Clerk; Brian Desmond, Corporation Counsel; Margie Sorenson, Finance; LuAnn Brunette, Buildings and Grounds; Freeman Bennett, Solid Waste/Highway; Grady Hartman, John Sweeney, Sheriff's Office; Roger Luce, OCEDC; Tim Brown, UW Extension; and Lisa Charbarneau, LRES.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS BY CHAIR, CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS**

Sign Attendance Form at the Podium  
Please Use Microphones When Speaking

Supervisor Hintz stated there are three improvements in the budget process this year they are #1- budget priorities. In June each department was asked to respond to their priorities for 2014. #2 - Provide budgets to committees earlier. #3 - Is today's meeting, an attempt to get the full County Board involved earlier in the budget process.

**REVIEW OF 2013 BUDGET TO DATE**

Margie Sorenson, Finance Director, stated under 2013 current budget expenditures overages should be covered by the Contingency Fund. Revenues – the county sales tax will meet budget projections. Interest earnings will fall short of budget \$150,000 - \$175,000 and stumpage sales will fall short \$250,000 - \$350,000. Currently the general fund balance per the auditors is in good financial condition but some upcoming projects may be funded by the General Fund.

**2014 BUDGET PROCEDURES AND RULES (INCLUDING LEVY LIMITS)**

In 2014 a 1% increase in wages will increase the tax levy \$125,000. LRES Committee will implement the wage study January 1, 2014. The County's contribution to retirement will increase \$10,000 as based on 2014 rates. Health insurance will increase an average of \$275,000 over the previous 3 years but early projections for 2014 are less than that.

Revenues, the 2013 revenue shortfalls and stumpage sales must be addressed in the 2014 budget. These shortages will reduce the general fund balance at the end of the year.

Levy limits are based on the net new construction of .7% this allows the county tax levy to increase \$100,000. The past years have had reductions in the county tax levy but our levy limit was allowed to go up. The carry forward fund balance was applied to the ambulance which still allows us to assume the allowable increase and if we could not do this, this year, the county tax levy would be allowed to increase \$500,000. Sorenson states the known budget requests far exceeds the tax levy limits and this shows in the last 4 years during the economic down turn. The county did their best to keep the change in the tax levy at 0% or below.

**PRIORITY/IMPACT ITEMS FOR 2014**

Building & Grounds Projects

LuAnn Brunette, Buildings and Grounds Director, presented the project requests and potential operating expense increases 2014 stating the Buildings and Grounds budget includes operating expenses for all the county owned facilities including the Courthouse, Law Enforcement Center, Health and Aging facility including the former Daily News building, River Street Storage and the former WPS Building. Request for the 2014 budget total \$67,000 in expenses.

Law Enforcement Center roof maintenance/repair	\$7,000
Capital equipment replacement	\$20,000
Courthouse security equipment maintenance/replacement	\$20,000
Flooring replacement for all facilities	\$20,000
Total	\$67,000

Capital Projects for 2014 are:

Project 16 - Health/Aging parking	
Project 17 – Courthouse boiler system	\$120,000
Project 18 – Health/Aging HVAC system	\$150,000
Project 19 – Health/Aging elevator pit/water seepage	\$50,000 - \$100,000
Project 20 – University of Extension/Land and	
Water Conservation – office renovation	\$75,000 - \$100,000
Total up to	\$470,000

Buildings & Grounds Vehicle and Equipment replacement schedule for 2014

1997 ford F-150 truck w/plow	\$30,000
Kabota sweeper/brush – courthouse	\$20,000

Highway Department

Freeman Bennett, Highway/Solid Waste Director, stated at the present time, the Public Works Department reconstructs 3 miles of road per year out of 345 lane miles in the county. At the rate of 3 miles per year this comes to 57.5 years to repave all the Oneida County roads.

The present time asphalt roads will last 15 to 18 years if the roads are maintained. At present time the Public Works Department is 42.5 to 39.5 years behind. Bennett would like to increase the miles by 1 to 2 per year or get into more chip sealing which is cheaper. Complete reconstruction is \$185,000 a mile and with chip sealing the roads they could last another 6 to 8 years this would reduce the cost to \$20,000 a mile. Bennett states his recommendation is he would like to see the road construction budget go up \$200,000 and this would allow 1.1 more miles per year.

The winter general maintenance in January 2012 was 10% of the budget but by March and April the budget took a hit at April's 86%. Bennett states the Highway Department cost have increased. The cost of salt doubled from 2009 - \$32.00 per ton to \$64.83 per ton this is due to trucking and fuel. Over all the 2012 budget compared to the 2013 budget, January through April was \$184,000 more. There are 4 highway shops in Oneida County, Rhinelander shop, Minocqua shop, Monico shop and a Three Lakes shop. The Rhinelander shop was built in 1955 and has cement block walls with no insulation; heat bills have exceeded \$6,000 per month in January. Insulation would greatly help and be a big return with utility costs.

## Sheriff's Office

Grady Hartman, Oneida County Sheriff, stated there are a few 2014 requested adjustments. \$20,000 for a Truancy Program. Before 2009, \$120,000 a year was spent on secure detention costs. Sheriff Hartman stated that secure detention was teaching the truants to become criminals instead of helping. They received a grant to help with the Truancy Program and the grant is now coming due. It is either this program or secure detention and transport costs.

\$110,000 to replace the 1998 master control switches for jail security. Patrol Division Recreational Safety Programs – Water Safety - \$4,000. Snowmobile Patrol - \$4,500 and ATV patrol \$1,885.

Sheriff Hartman also requested technology required for computer crimes against children (phase 1) and other capital equipment at \$90,000. Total increase for 2014 for the Oneida County Sheriff's office is \$230,385.

## ITS/Technology

Lynn Grube, ITS Director stated ITS 2014 projects are:

\$200,000 for a new telephone system for the County. The old system is 30 years old and we cannot buy a service contract anymore

\$102,454 for new switching equipment. The core system switch is 20 years old and is no longer supported. The new switches will also support the new phone system.

\$80,000 to add the next 80 users on the Citrix System. This system lets you do your work from anywhere with an internet connection. Older equipment will not need to be replaced at this time and all computers do not need to be touched to make the changes.

\$26,661 for new Public Health accounting system. The old system's end-of-life is 12/2012. The state requires electronic health records.

\$17,447 for a new dictaphone system. The current system is obsolete and unsupported.

Smaller Items looked at by ITS are **electronic** roll call voting and auto queue, also, archiving and storage recovery.

Romelle Vandervest arrives 10:35 am

Roger Luce, Oneida County Economic Development Corporation and Tim Brown, U.W. Extension, gave a brief update on technology and broadband for the County. Oneida County Economic Development Corp. is a 501C3 (non-profit). Roger Luce stated the committee has met 3 times so far. The members of this committee are: Don Sidlowski, Chair, Tim Brown, Vice-Chair, John Viste, Peter Otis, Bart Lamers, John Langeland and Fred Bouwman. The committee has looked at the Minocqua mapping project and are waiting on the results of that project. Based on the mapping survey the committee may be choosing that as one of their projects. Brown stated the first priority is diagnosis. The committee is watching Vilas County who has partnered with the Lac du Flambeau Tribe and the town of Minocqua to hire the consultant to bring them a map where broadband exists within our county and where it does not exist, what is needed to be built and the cost in order to provide more technology to the people and businesses of our county. The second priority is partnership; every dollar should be leveraged to the max on the state level. The governor put \$4.5 million into his budget for broadband development across the state. Brown states the idea is to achieve as much coverage for the county as possible for a reasonable cost.

## LRES

Open session discussion

Lisa Charbarneau, LRES Director, stated they will take the open session discussion first and if needed enter into a closed session. Wages for the Deputy Sheriff's Association for 2014 currently have a collective bargaining agreement through next year and the wages have already been negotiated and approved by the County Board. There are two other units which are still union, the non-sworn group at the Sheriff's Office and the Social Workers. There will be a meeting with the labor relations committee to discuss base wage increases for 2014. The other groups who are not represented by the union courthouse group are Highway, Nurses, and non-represented department heads, their wages will need to be determined.

LRES is in the process of completing a compensation study, Carlson Dettmann Consulting has completed phase 1 at this time which is collecting all the studies from the employees and meeting with the Department Heads. The data will be gathered and put together. The proposed plan should be back at the Labors Relations Committee late in September and could be brought to the County Board in October. From there the board can choose how to implement that plan for the 2014 budget.

The most costly benefit is the renewal of health Insurance and as part of the compensation study the county will be looking at comparables. The County is working with the current health plan for numbers to make that as low a number as possible and may possibly have to go out for bids on a health insurance plan.

Chairman Cushing and Charbarneau had preliminary discussions with our current health insurance and they did bring forward a potential contract that the LRES Committee has reviewed. This is a much lower number than seen in the past.

Chairman Cushing stated the Closed Session is not needed at this time unless the Board would like to get into more detailed information.

Supervisor Martini stated that it is more appropriate to go into closed session after the LRES Committee reviews the survey data and comes to the County Board with their recommendations.

Supervisor Shidell stated the purpose of this meeting was to give the Administration Committee some guidance and direction. Shidell questioned the wage increases this year and contributions for fringe benefits that the county employees have. Supervisor Shidell stated he feels the County should not give an increase to any employee at this stage of the game. Also, he would like to increase the contributions for retirement by 1.5 % and the insurance by 1.5%. Shidell stated if the employees want to come back with a counter offer then they should give their reasons why they should be given those increases and how they justify them.

**Motion/Second: Shidell / Thompson** to move that the County Board does not give a wage increase this year and that the employees contribute 1.5 % more towards their Health benefits and 1.5 % more toward their fringe benefits and retirement.

Discussion among the County Board took place regarding the motion and it was felt that the information on the survey would be helpful before decisions should be made.

**Motion/Second: Martinson/Fried** to refer the previous motion back to the LRES Committee after the survey is complete.

**Roll Call Vote:** 19 Ayes, 1 Nay - Berard, 1 Absent - Baier

**Motion** – carries.

#### **OTHER 2014 BUDGET IMPACT ITEMS**

Margie Sorenson, Finance Director, stated Oneida County is currently \$483,000 over the levy limits and that is without any impact from wage and fringe benefits. We are allowed to increase the levy \$600,000. (\$100,000 increase in the tax levy is \$1.50 on a \$100,000

equalized value.) So to increase the levy by \$600,000 it would be \$9.00 on a \$100,000 home. Sorenson stated not all departmental information has been turned into the Finance Department more 2014 budgets will be coming.

Supervisor Hintz announced the Annual Budget meetings will be held starting on October 9, 2013.

### **2014 BUDGET DIRECTION**

Supervisor Hintz states he welcomes input regarding the meeting and the 2014 budget. Changes can always be made. Hintz stated the intent today was to give the board an idea of the big ticket items and where we stand to-date.

Supervisor Fried would like to see a 0 increase in the tax levy and understands there is a lot to be addressed. Recurring expense will take us up to \$500,000 to \$600,000 and he feels if it is under a million dollars then take it out of the general fund. Fried questioned the capitol expenditures and wondered if we could look at bonding or get a loan so we don't ignore these expenditures and this way it may help by not putting pressure on the budget.

Supervisor Holewinski would also like to see a 0 increase in the tax levy and feels there are places where the board can cut. Holewinski stated there is a lot of people that are hurting and don't need the levy to go up. Holewinski stated he will look for cuts in the 2014 budget.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** -None

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

**Motion/Second:** Martini/ Rudolph to adjourn at 12:01 pm. All Ayes on voice vote, motion carries.