

PRESENT: Chair Bausch, Legislators Leadley, Cianfrini and Hancock. County Manager Gsell. Also Present: Daily News Reporter Mrozek, Legislators Ferrando and Stein, County Treasurer German, Batavian Reporter Owen, Senior Planner Oltramari, Legislature Clerk Pratt, Highway superintendent Hens, Human Resource Director Marchese, Legislator DeJaneiro.

Chair Bausch called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM in the Legislature Conference Room. The minutes of the September 5, 2012 and October 3, 2012 meeting were approved upon motion of Legislator Hancock seconded by Legislator Leadley.

The following referrals from the Public Service Committee were approved for placement on the next Legislature Agenda upon motion of Legislator Cianfrini:

Budget Transfer-Planning/Fringe Benefits in the amount of \$11,960 to be transferred from Contingency seconded by Legislator Leadley.

Amend-Close Capital Project-Highway/Law Street Bridge closing completed project and transferring \$5043.06 to Capital Reserve seconded by Legislator Leadley.

Budget Amendment-Airport/Fuel in the amount of \$120,000 to be offset by revenue seconded by Legislator Hancock.

County Treasurer German recommended approval of 2012 chargebacks to the Towns and City for Real Property Services in a total amount of \$90,018.00 which was approved for placement on the next Legislature Agenda upon motion of Legislator Hancock seconded by Legislator Cianfrini. Legislator Stein asked how the NYSORPTS License fee was determined. Mr. German will ask Deputy Real Property Director Andrews to respond in an email.

County Treasurer German reported that Accounts Receivable are currently the best they have been in 4-5 years with \$4,600,000 outstanding. The anticipated closing on the proposed short term borrowing necessary for cash flow will be November 15th. Sales Tax receipts for this week are down 21% from last year, although the quarter receipts are 1.04% over last year. Several questions were presented by the Committee and a worksheet was distributed. Bed Tax has been received through the third quarter in the amount of \$316,023.71 as compared to \$283,000 last year at this time. Final figures could be \$400,000 which is above budget.

County Manager Gsell recommended that the 2013 Budget Public Hearing be set for Thursday, November 8, 2012 at 7PM at the Office for the Aging. This was approved for placement on the next Legislature Agenda upon motion of Legislator Cianfrini seconded by Legislator Leadley.

County Manager Gsell stated that upon the retirement of Planning Director Duval many options were reviewed for the future of the Planning Department. He presented the Legislators with a review of options some time ago. It is the recommendation at this time to leave the Planning Department as a stand alone entity. The consideration of putting Planning and Highway together presents short term expenses which will not necessarily be offset by long term savings. Legislator Cianfrini noted his feeling that there are

inherent perceived conflicts with the combination of the Highway and Planning Department, especially in the collaboration with GCEDC. Mr. Hens noted that typically by the time Highway is involved with a Project, it has already been through the Planning process. It was noted that the Planning Department is not a mandated service. The Planning Department is the professional staff to all the local planning volunteers. Perceived conflicts could destroy the trust built with these communities over the years. Legislator Stein noted that as a Supervisor she knows the value of the Planning Department's contributions to the municipalities. As an Ag landowner, their administration of the Ag Districts is impressive. Also, the Planning Department function as the Comprehensive Plan Program administrator is unbelievable. Legislator Ferrando noted his support for the Planning Department. Legislator DeJaneiro noted that the Planning Department has a lot of respect from GAM and that acknowledgment goes just beyond Genesee County. He thinks the Planning Department needs to stay alert and focused as we will need additional services for the future. Highway Superintendent Hens noted that he prepared the options as requested but it would be his recommendation that the County is best served by leaving the Planning Department where and as it is. He believes that a GIS software purchase or IT hire can ease some pressure on the Department in the future. Legislator Clattenburg noted that the Planning Board has also recommended that the Department remain autonomous. They have an immense charge is overseeing Farmland Protection and water. It is the intent of the County Manager to recommend the appointment of Senior Planner Oltramari to the Director's position. Legislator Hancock urged Mr. Hens to serve as a mentor for Mr. Oltramari. There is important synergy between the Departments and the Planning staff has been cut by not filling the Senior Planning position at this time.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 PM upon motion of Legislator Cianfrini seconded by Legislator Leadley.

Bob Bausch, Chair
Ways & Means Committee

Submitted 10/23 cpp