

PRESENT: Chair Bausch, Legislators Hancock, Cianfrini, and Leadley. County Manager Gsell. Also Present: Legislature Clerk Pratt, Deputy County Treasurer Landers, Treasurer German, County Attorney Zambito, Daily News Reporter Mruzak, City Manager Molino, Assistant County Manager Ciaccia, Legislators Ferrando, Stein and DeJaneiro, Undersheriff Sheron, IT Representative Egloff, Human Resource Director Marchese, Batavian Reporter Owens, Highway Superintendent Hens, and Legislator Lawrence.

Chair Bausch called the meeting to order at 4PM in the Board Conference Room at Genesee Community College. The minutes of the May 2, 2012 meeting were approved upon motion of Legislator Hancock seconded by Legislator Cianfrini.

Job Development Director Gage presented his 2012 Department Review. WIA allocations total \$305,487, an increase of about \$3,000. Dislocated worker funding was cut 20% last year and is down about \$32,000 (6%) this year which is baffling considering unemployment figures. No additional staff changes are anticipated, one employee was laid off in March in response to budget cuts. He believes we are correctly positioned at this time. He is excited about 3 training grants from HIB3 fees. There will be \$1.5 million available over 5 years for food production workers, \$1.8 million for a 9-county region for Advanced Manufacturing training, and funding to upgrade RNs to RN Bachelor degrees. The Center has been busily heavily recruiting for local businesses. Alpina will be at the Center for two weeks conducting interviews for their positions.

Mr. Gage noted he is aware that there were questions over the last Audit conducted by Legislator Cianfrini. The Program in question is an entitlement program connected with the Trade Act and offers training reimbursement for workers whose jobs have gone overseas. All expenses are certified by the US Department of Labor. It is a \$15,000 benefit and can be used for mileage, daycare, and relocation assistance. Individuals receiving these funds are still eligible for the Pell grant, and can keep it for living expenses. Legislator Stein asked if weekly job matching is done with DSS clients. County Manager Gsell explained that there is a DOL worker on site who does this and has been very effective at diverting potential claimants.

City Manager Molino was present to ask the County to support City initiatives based on Tax Law 485-a and 421-f to assist city property owners with residential and mixed use investment and redevelopment. 421-f was adopted a year ago and is a local option providing residential property owners the ability to add an addition and over the next 8 year period receive a partial exemption. It is City Council's hope that this will encourage homeowners to modernize their property and perhaps add auxiliary apartments in line with the Livable Community program. 485-a allows for the conversion of non-residential use to mixed use and will encourage residential development downtown. This was just enacted by Council. He has been charged with asking the County and Schools to also participate in the local option. A \$450,000 Main Street grant has been received running from Center Street to Court Street. The development of 10 dwelling units on the second and third floors of properties is anticipated and they would be eligible for the exemption. Legislator Cianfrini expressed concern about parking for these units. Mr. Molino

responded that there are a series of municipal lots where spaces would be available under a permitting process. Legislator Hancock noted that her support would be contingent on the second and third floor development being handicap accessible. Mr. Molino stated that exterior elevators are being considered which would allow this. Concern was expressed about other municipalities being interested in these programs. They are local options and would have to be adopted by the individual communities first. Mr. Molino will follow-up on a couple of details from questions asked by the Committee and additional discussion will be at a future Ways & Means.

County Treasurer German recommended approval of an auditing services contract with Venesky & Company for indirect cost allocation reimbursement for County Departments for a three year period at the same cost of \$11,500 per year. This contract allows some departments to charge back allowing the county to receive an estimated \$450,000 per year of reimbursement. This was approved for placement on the next Legislature Agenda upon motion of Legislator Leadley seconded by Legislator Cianfrini. Legislator Cianfrini asked if it would be possible to do this "in-house." The response was no, it is a very specialized service and Venesky does this for many counties throughout the state.

Mr. German recommended a contract renewal with M&T Bank for the Purchasing Card program, the first of three renewal options. This was approved for placement on the next Legislature Agenda upon motion of Legislator Cianfrini seconded by Legislator Hancock.

Deputy County Treasurer Flanders recommended that a remaining balance of \$3306.34 in the dog licensing fee account be remitted to Genesee County Animal Control for use at the Animal Shelter. The Department of Ag & Markets has ruled that Counties are no longer responsible for the collection of dog licensing fees. He has consulted with his counterparts across the State and believes this is the appropriate way to distribute the remaining funds. This was approved for placement on the next Legislature Agenda upon motion of Legislator Hancock seconded by Legislator Leadley.

The Treasurer gave his monthly report on Receivables and shows \$5.121 million outstanding. Some account claims are over a year old, Physically Handicapped being one. At the end of March the State switched over to a new system and this is causing delays. For over three weeks counties received no payments except for Sales Tax. They are now receiving minor payments but there are many problems identifying payments when received. The next report will most likely show much higher receivables. Legislator Cianfrini noted that in the real world when a payment is late, it is assessed fees and penalties. He wonders if the county should not threaten litigation. Concern was expressed over cash flow and if borrowing would be necessary. The Treasurer does not feel borrowing will be necessary right now.

Sales Tax funds have been received during the month of May. We are currently 9% over budget for the year.

IT representative Egloff recommended the renewal of a software services contract with New World Systems at a cost of \$46,262 through May 31, 2013. This was approved for placement on the next Legislature Agenda upon motion of Legislator Leadley seconded by Legislator Hancock. Legislator Cianfrini asked if there were other options available. There are not. Undersheriff Sheron did indicate that they were able to negotiate a price reduction in their contract. The Committee asked if this would be possible for this contract or consideration be given in the future to bundling all NWS contracts together. The resolution was approved for placement on the next Legislature Agenda 3-1, Legislator Cianfrini no because of comments. County Manager Gsell stated he would consult with IT Director Zimmer on the concerns.

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

Law Enforcement Services Agreement/Budget Amendment-Sheriff/Darien Lake  
In the amount of \$160,000 seconded by Legislator Hancock.

Salary Schedule Amendment-Sheriff/Temporary Financial Clerk/Typist June 4-15<sup>th</sup> to allow for transitional training seconded by Legislator Leadley.

Salary Schedule Amendment-Sheriff/Justice for Children Advocacy Center Supervisor effective immediately seconded by Legislator Hancock. Costs are grant funded and contained in current budget.

Declaration of Surplus Property-Planning-Approval Of seconded by Legislator Hancock.

Reappointments-Planning seconded by Legislator Hancock

Budget Amendment-Highway/Road Machinery \$22,500 for sale of Grader seconded by Legislator Leadley

Establish/Close Capital Projects-Highway/CHIPS \$1,400,000 \$40,000 Federal Aid seconded by Legislator Hancock.

Human Resources Director Marchese recommended consideration of a 2012 Retirement Incentive she and the County Manager have been discussing for several months. It would be for Management Employees only and involves a year of single health plan coverage at 100% or two years at 50%. Spouses of employees will be allowed to continue coverage under COBRA once eligibility under the Retirement Incentive ends. Once the employee and their spouse turn 65 eligibility for coverage in the Genesee County Health Plan ceases. The Department will be required to show a savings in the 2012 and 2013 budget. Individuals wishing to be considered must meet with the County Manager and the Human Resource Director by July 1<sup>st</sup> to discuss eligibility. It is being offered to Management Employees only. Funding for the incentive will come from the Health Plan Reserve. Mrs. Marchese will email the Legislators the names of the individuals determined to be possibly eligible for the plan. It was the consensus of the Committee to hold a Committee of the Whole prior to the Legislature Meeting to discuss further and possible approve for placement on the Legislature Agenda.

Legislator Stein, Legislator Lawrence and Human Resource Director Marchese presented a request from the Villages of LeRoy and Corfu for support of the County for special legislation from Albany to all them to hire persons to the position of Part-time Police

Officer who do not hold Competitive Civil Service status. This has been a long standing issue for the smaller Police departments in the County and they have twice appealed to the State Civil Service Board to change the requirement, each time being denied. They see this as a way to better control costs and make the departments more sustainable. Legislator Lawrence stated she has been working on this with the Village of Corfu for four years. Legislator Stein has been in communication with Senator Ranzenhofer and he has agreed to introduce legislation with letters from the two villages and the county legislature requesting him to do so. Legislator Hancock stated that she would be willing to further discuss this once the Village Boards have approved their resolutions in support and have sent them to the County. If they are received by next Wednesday, the topic will be added to the COW Agenda for possible placement on the Legislature Agenda that evening.

County Manager Gsell requested permission for the Nursing Home to apply for grant funding for the purchase of a handicapped van. The funding award would be 80% of the purchase price of the van. They were successful previously with a similar program. That van is usually fully booked and a second would be very helpful for transport to medical appointments, dialysis, etc. Permission to apply was approved upon motion of Legislator Cianfrini seconded by Legislator Hancock 3-1, Legislator Cianfrini no.

Legislator Clerk Pratt requested approval of a Hold Harmless Agreement and issuance of a Certificate of Insurance to allow Legislature Members to participate in the City of Batavia Memorial Day Parade. This was opened for discussion upon motion of Legislator Cianfrini seconded by Legislator Hancock. Legislator Cianfrini stated he was opposed to this as it was not required by other municipalities and he took exception to it. It was approved for placement on the next Legislature Agenda 3-1, Legislator Cianfrini no.

Legislature Clerk Pratt noted that all Legislators had received her request for the consideration of an appointment and reappointment application policy. In light of recent comments she suggested that an attendance report be included in recommendations for reappointment. She had received feedback from one Legislator who is not in favor of the policy and hoped that others would have an opportunity to read and consider. No action was requested at this time.

GCC President Sunser and VP of Financial Affairs Hamilton presented the 2012-2013 College Budget. There is little change from where they have been and the College Board has approved the budget as presented. Under that Budget the Sponsor Share would remain at about 5%, but include an additional \$50,000 contribution from the county. There is a raise in tuition of \$75 per semester. In developing the budget the Board was as austere as they could be. Legislator Cianfrini asked if the County has the money. County Manager Gsell said considering the tax cap and what he knew about pension and Medicaid increases, the county does not. Legislator Hancock noted that while the Legislature would love to support this type of local option they are faced with roads and bridges deteriorating and other must dos. Discussion of the single sponsor concept and some efforts at regionalization by Albany proceeded. Legislator Bausch asked if in lieu of the additional cash contribution was there any opportunity for shared services. The

College will review this. The question of College raises was discussed. The average salary increase is 2.6% over last year. Chair Bausch and Dr. Sunser reported that while going through the National Accreditation Program for the Vet Tech Program one of the major reasons accreditation was not received was concern that salaries were too low to be competitive should a faculty member resign and need to be replaced. The Committee thanked the College for their Budget preview. The next step will be for the Ways & Means Committee to discuss the budget and set a public hearing prior to adoption.

Chair Bausch reported that he had been contacted by Mr. Tupis who met with the Committee on Rural Broadband Internet Coverage recently and he wanted to know what the next step would be by Genesee County. He requested support for the study and a commitment to pay for same. This was not approved by the Committee. We were also requested to support a resolution requesting grant funding, etc. It was the consensus of the Committee that if a common resolution were drafted and approved by other counties, Genesee County would discuss it again.

The next meeting will be held on June 6, 2012.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05PM upon motion of Legislator Cianfrini seconded by Legislator Leadley.

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Robert Bausch, Chairman  
Ways & Means Committee

Submitted 5/25 cpp