

HEALTH, SOCIAL, EDUCATIONAL & ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING
Held In The
PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
ROOM 318
CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512

Members: Chairwoman Scuccimarra, Legislators Addonizio and LoBue

Thursday **6:00P.M.** **October 13, 2016**

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 P.M. by Chairwoman Scuccimarra who requested Legislator Addonizio lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call, Legislators Addonizio, LoBue and Chairwoman Scuccimarra were present.

Item #3 – 2017 Budget Review

Mental Health – Pages 47, 114-126

Commissioner of Social Services Michael Piazza stated there should be no changes to the budget.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated the budget only went up 1.48% overall.

Special Programs and Grants – Pages 157-162

Safe Harbor – Page 157 – Account 6326

Legislator LoBue noted that the Supplies and Materials line (54410) increased from approximately \$2,800 to \$4,500 from 2016 to 2017.

Commissioner Piazza stated it is for new staff. He stated it is 100% State funding for new computers, desks and other office materials.

Youth Program – Pages 188-191 – Account 7310

Deputy Commissioner of Social Services Joseph Demarzo stated that the budget has remained the same for years.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra noted there is an increase in the Temporary line (51094) for a mentoring program.

Deputy Commissioner Demarzo stated it is a very successful mentoring program for the past two (2) years and they are looking to expand it. He stated that kids in elementary school are identified and paired with juniors and seniors in their high school because it has been discovered through science that the kids will listen to their older peers. He stated there are social, recreational, and homework components to the program.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated it is well worth the funds.

Deputy Commissioner Demarzo stated the children in the program are potentially “latch key” kids which means there is no guardian at home when they get home from school. He stated they are identified in school with behavioral or academic issues.

PINS – Page 149 – Account 6123

Commissioner Piazza stated this is an area of concern. He stated during the July budget review, it appeared they would be going over the 2016 budget. He stated that the numbers can be volatile. He noted how the numbers fluctuate greatly with the addition and subtraction of just one (1) kid.

Deputy Commissioner Demarzo stated that those numbers are out of the departments’ control.

Health Department – Pages 50, 51, 89-113, 201, 202

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated the budget follows last year’s numbers.

Handicapped Child – Pages 50 -51 – Account 2960

Legislator LoBue questioned the increase in Radio Communications (54540).

Health Department Fiscal Manager William Orr stated the Planning Department gave those projections. He stated he believes it is for a new system in the buses that is being implemented.

Legislator LoBue questioned if there are new radios.

Fiscal Manager Orr stated yes.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra suggested contacting the Transportation Department for more information.

Early Intervention – Pages 108 – 109 – Account 4059

Chairwoman Scuccimarra questioned the increase in the Early Intervention budget.

Fiscal Manager Orr stated it is because there are more children and the cases are becoming much more severe. He stated this requires more services across the board.

Recycling – Pages 201 – 202 – Account 8160

Legislator LoBue questioned the increased expenses for Recycling.

Fiscal Manager Orr stated it is because of a new hire.

Office of Senior Resources – Pages 172 – 184, 198

PC OSR Title 3 – Pages 172 – 175 – Account 6772

Legislator LoBue questioned if the \$25,000 in the Motor Vehicles line (52650) is for the purchase of a new vehicle.

Office of Senior Resources Director Patricia Sheehy stated it is for a new car.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated that a couple older cars have been retired.

Legislator LoBue questioned if it is a Ford Fusion.

Director Sheehy stated yes, it is replacing a Ford Taurus.

Legislator LoBue questioned how many cars the OSR has in use.

Director Sheehy stated approximately seven (7) are used for medical transportation. She stated there are four (4) Jeeps, three (3) of which are used for transporting food between the various sites. She stated there is also a donated Ford Escape that is used by case workers.

Legislator LoBue questioned if the Ford Escape is a car or a SUV.

Director Sheehy stated it is an SUV. She stated these vehicles are being used more due to planning for the winter road conditions.

Legislator LoBue questioned the increase in Radio Communications (54540).

Director Sheehy stated it is partly due to the new contract for the digital radios and because they now have more vehicles on the road. She added the OSR is also looking to add a new bus.

Legislator LoBue questioned if the bus is included in the budget.

Director Sheehy stated it is in Capital Projects. She added that there is a new driver in the budget for that new bus.

OSR RSVP – Pages 176 – 177 – Account 6773

Legislator LoBue questioned the \$50,000 for Motor Vehicles (52650).

Director Sheehy stated she believes it is for replacing a car that will be retired.

County Auditor Michelle Sharkey stated it is for replacing two (2) vehicles that are retiring.

Director Sheehy stated the OSR has not replaced vehicles used by the staff in a number of years. She added that the staff cannot use the medical transportation vehicles.

Legislator Albano questioned why the medical transport vehicles cannot be used by the staff.

Director Sheehy stated the vehicles were bequeathed to the OSR for the specific purpose of medical transportation.

Nutrition Elderly/Title VI – Pages 178-179 – Account 6774

Legislator LoBue questioned the increase in Gasoline (54371).

Director Sheehy stated that number is adjusted by Chief Deputy Finance Commissioner Anita Gilbert.

Legislator LoBue questioned the increases in Food (54320) and Commodity Food (54326).

Director Sheehy stated it is in anticipation of the increased numbers in the Butterfield Senior Center.

Legislator LoBue questioned how those numbers were figured out. She questioned how many people are estimated.

Director Sheehy stated at the beginning of Butterfield's use they expect to serve approximately 100 more people per day.

OSR RSVP – Pages 176 – 177 – Account 6773 – Continued

Legislator Addonizio questioned why Janitorial Services (54755) decreased from \$7,000 in 2016 to \$2,500 in 2017.

Legislator LoBue questioned if Butterfield was factored in to the budget consideration.

Director Sheehy stated there should be an increase and she is unsure why that budget was dropped. She stated she would check into it and get back to the Legislature. She stated that Butterfield is currently cleaned by one of the employees and not by a cleaning service.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated it should be looked into because it is a substantial amount of new space.

Legislator LoBue stated if the food costs are expected to go up, then all the other costs should also have expected increases.

Recreation for the Elderly – Page 198 – Account 7620

Legislator LoBue questioned the increase of the Contract line (54646) from \$49,550 to \$60,000.

Director Sheehy stated recreation will be increasing at Butterfield.

Legislator LoBue questioned what recreation gets paid through the Contract line (54646).

Director Sheehy stated she believes it pays for the Zumba classes, yoga, chair exercises, and arthritis prevention.

County Historian – Pages 193-194 – Account 7510

Chairwoman Scuccimarra noted an increase in the Contract line (54646). She stated a consultant is being brought in to assist with the archives.

Legislator LoBue questioned the need for \$4,999 in the Computer Equipment line (52130).

County Historian Sarah Johnson stated they hope to bring in a book scanner. She stated the Historian's Office is looking to digitize 19th century County books that are oddly bound and oversized. She stated the scanner would make it much easier to digitize these books. She added other options are also being considered to purchase a scanner at a lower price.

Legislator LoBue questioned the increase in the Personnel Services line (51000).

County Historian Johnson stated 2016 has been a low budget year due to retirements. She added that she hopes to restructure the personnel in her office.

Legislator LoBue questioned how many people the department lost.

County Historian Johnson stated two (2) people retired and one (1) quit.

Legislator LoBue questioned if the \$13,000 increase in the Personnel Services line (51000) is enough to fill the three (3) vacancies.

County Historian Johnson stated only about half of the Personnel budget for 2016 has been spent due to the vacancies. She stated she is hoping to hire a certified archivist to assist in modernizing the databases. She stated this will help in the future when searching for documents.

Legislator Addonizio questioned if the book scanner will help in that respect.

County Historian Johnson stated it would absolutely help.

Legislator Nacerino requested that County Historian Johnson reiterate her plan for the vacancies and her goals for 2017. She stated she did not see any proposed positions to fill those vacancies.

County Historian Johnson stated she proposed making her position full time because she has been working basically full time hours on a 25 hour per week salary. She stated the Deputy Historian's age is a concern. She stated having a legacy plan in place for when the Deputy Historian no longer works is a good idea.

Legislator Nacerino stated more discussion would take place in the Personnel Committee Budget meeting. She questioned what specifically is being done about the vacancies.

County Historian Johnson stated they have held off on making any decisions until the 2017 budget.

Legislator LoBue questioned if County Historian Johnson had any information on the Carmel Historian's Office. She stated she was told that there is nobody working there.

County Historian Johnson noted due to health issues, the office is understaffed. She stated former County Historian Patricia Houser will help out on a volunteer basis.

Item #4 – Other Business- None

Item #5 – Adjournment

There being no further business, at 6:46 p.m. Chairwoman Scuccimarra made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator LoBue. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Administrative Assistant, Ed Gordon.