

**HEALTH, SOCIAL, EDUCATIONAL, & ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE
BUDGET MEETING
HELD IN ROOM 318 OF THE
PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512**

Members: Chairwoman Addonizio, Legislators Gouldman & Sayegh

**Friday October 11, 2019
(Immediately following the Economic Development Budget Mtg. at 6:00pm)**

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 P.M. by Chairwoman Addonizio who requested that Legislator Gouldman lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call Legislators Gouldman, Sayegh, and Chairwoman Addonizio were present.

Item #3 - 2020 Budget Review

Community College – Account 2490 – Page 49

Legislator Gouldman questioned if this fee is what the County pays on behalf of the Towns and Villages.

Finance Commissioner William Carlin stated yes, the County could charge it back to the municipalities, but chooses not to.

Legislator Gouldman questioned if it is evenly distributed over the six (6) municipalities.

Finance Commissioner Carlin stated it varies depending on the amount of students.

Chairwoman Addonizio stated it changes every year.

Legislator Gouldman questioned if this figure is what the State charges the County.

Finance Commissioner Carlin stated yes it is based off a chargeback rate that is established every September.

Chairwoman Addonizio stated it is only for SUNY (State University of New York) schools.

Finance Commissioner Carlin stated yes, 2 (two) year schools and FIT (Fashion Institute of Technology).

Legislator Montgomery questioned if the Finance Department has a breakdown of how many students are from each town.

Finance Commissioner Carlin stated they do.

Chairwoman Addonizio requested this information from the past four (4) or five (5) years.

Finance Commissioner Carlin stated that would take time but he would provide it.

Health Department – Pages 50-51, 91-113, 206-207

Chairwoman Addonizio questioned line 54414, entitled Care at Private Institution, on page 50. She questioned if this is mandated and how many schools this pertains to.

Health Department Fiscal Manager William Orr stated it is mandated and there about 18 to 20. He stated the number of children going to these schools is increasing, which is why the costs are increasing.

Chairwoman Addonizio requested clarification line 54678, entitled Leased Transportation, on page 50.

Fiscal Manager Orr stated that is for busing the children.

Chairwoman Addonizio questioned why it increased.

Fiscal Manager Orr stated more buses are being used.

Legislator Gouldman requested clarification on line 54417, entitled Evaluations, on page 50.

Fiscal Manager Orr stated that is for creating a plan for each child and it is increasing due to more children in the program.

Legislator Gouldman questioned line 54441, entitled Itinerant Services, on page 50.

Fiscal Manager Orr stated it is for services at home.

Legislator Gouldman questioned the increase in line 52110, entitled Furniture and Furnishings, on page 91.

Health Commissioner Dr. Michael Nesheiwat stated a new engineer was hired this year and requires a new architectural desk called a drafting table.

Legislator Gouldman questioned the increase in line 52130, entitled Computer Equipment, on page 91.

Fiscal Manager Orr stated there is an update that is ongoing and the IT Department said that a number of computers in the Health Department cannot handle the update. He stated there should be computer line increases across the board.

Office for Senior Resources – Pages 173-186, 203

Chairwoman Addonizio questioned the increases in lines 52650, entitled Motor Vehicles and 54370, entitled Automotive, on page 173.

Office for Senior Resources (OSR) Fiscal Manager Terry Wolf stated there is a need for two (2) buses in hopes to complete their fleet.

Chairwoman Addonizio questioned how many volunteers are in the RSVP program.

OSR Fiscal Manager Wolf stated there are 450 volunteers.

Legislator Sayegh questioned the decrease in revenue in line 437731, entitled 1998 RSVP Grant, on page 176.

OSR Fiscal Manager Wolf stated that was a grant that was changed.

Legislator Gouldman questioned when the grant ends.

OSR Fiscal Manager Wolf stated it ends in June 2020.

Legislator Gouldman requested clarification on how funding would be handled after June 2020.

Finance Commissioner Carlin stated through budgetary amendments.

Legislator Sayegh questioned the increase in line 54636, entitled Internet Costs, on page 176.

OSR Fiscal Manager Wolf stated there have been internet issues at the Koehler Center and it is affecting the phone lines. She stated this line is an estimate of the cost to potentially switch over to FIOS.

Legislator Sayegh questioned if this cost is just for the Koehler Center.

OSR Fiscal Manager Wolf stated it is for the RSVP program's portion at the Koehler Center.

Legislator Sayegh questioned how that figure is determined if there are multiple programs at that particular center.

OSR Fiscal Manager Wolf stated it is based on square footage.

Legislator Montgomery questioned which buildings line 54383, entitled Building Rental, on page 178 pertains to.

OSR Fiscal Manager Wolf stated it is only for the Friendship Center in Philipstown.

Legislator Montgomery questioned that it is \$11,000 per month.

OSR Fiscal Manager Wolf stated yes, along with other charges.

Legislator Montgomery requested clarification on what line 54753, entitled Rubbish Removal, on page 179 is used for.

OSR Fiscal Manager Wolf stated it is for rubbish removal for the nutrition program at the Putnam Valley, Carmel, and Philipstown Senior Centers.

Legislator Montgomery questioned line 54911, entitled Taxes and Assessments on County Property, on page 179.

OSR Fiscal Manager Wolf stated it is for sewer and water.

Legislator Addonizio stated she understands that a caseworker is going to be hired for the unmet needs program and that vehicles will be leased for the aides to travel from home to home.

OSR Fiscal Manager Wolf stated seven (7) vehicles will be used.

Coordinator of Services Doreen Crane stated the aides can find ways to get to the main office, but there has been an issue with getting aides from home to home because some do not have cars. She stated the caseworker will handle evaluating the person for the program and then the aide will go out and carry out the plan. She stated the aid agencies have committed to providing the area with aides, which has been a problem in the past.

Legislator Addonizio questioned if family members can be aides for their family.

Coordinator Crane stated there is a program for that.

Chairwoman Addonizio questioned if they are paid.

Coordinator Crane stated they are.

Chairwoman Addonizio questioned if it would be out of the grant funding for unmet needs.

Coordinator Crane stated it is a different grant.

Legislator Sayegh clarified that the unmet needs grant is specifically to aid senior citizens in their homes.

Legislator Nacerino requested clarification on the WIN (Wellness in Nutrition) Program.

OSR Fiscal Manager Wolf stated this is the State funded portion of the program. She stated the meals are prepared at the central kitchen at the Koehler Center.

Legislator Sayegh requested clarification on line 54320, entitled Food, on page 185.

OSR Fiscal Manager Wolf stated that is funding for the meals through the WIN program.

Legislator Gouldman questioned why there was a decrease in this line.

OSR Fiscal Manager Wolf stated there were estimates based on the capacity of each of the new senior centers and they have found that those estimates could be lowered. She stated the meals have been cheaper than initially estimated as well.

Chairwoman Addonizio questioned how many meals are served.

OSR Fiscal Manager Wolf stated it has been as high as 91,000 including home-delivered meals.

Legislator Addonizio stated that is wonderful.

Legislator Sayegh questioned line 54326, entitled Commodity Foods, on page 185.

OSR Fiscal Manager Wolf stated it is through the Nutrition Services Incentive Program, which provides a rebate for food that is purchased through a United States based food manufacturer. She stated it is \$.73 per meal.

Legislator Gouldman questioned the decrease in line 54989, entitled Miscellaneous, on page 186.

OSR Fiscal Manager Wolf stated the money was moved to a different line. She stated it is for the events that are held throughout the year.

Legislator Nacerino questioned the increase in line 54682, entitled Special Services, on page 203.

OSR Fiscal Manager Wolf stated that is for recreational events, 100th birthday celebrations, and speakers at the nutrition sites.

Mental Health – Pages 47, 114-126

Legislator Montgomery questioned line 54647, entitled Sub Contractors, on page 114.

Social Services Commissioner Michael Piazza stated that is for CoveCare.

Legislator Montgomery questioned if that is the entire contribution to CoveCare.

Commissioner Piazza stated this is the substance abuse portion, and the mental health is in another line.

Legislator Montgomery stated she believes the budget for CoveCare has not increased in many years. She stated it is her opinion that this should be increased based on what is currently happening with substance abuse.

Commissioner Piazza stated their budget is made up of county contributions and fundraising. He stated when the program was privatized, the agreement was to continue to provide the same amount of funding and it would not be decreased or increase. He stated this gave CoveCare the basis to grow.

Legislator Gouldman questioned what programs they provide.

Commissioner Piazza stated they have a mental health clinic, substance abuse clinic, case management, intensive clinic program, prevention, and school services.

Legislator Montgomery stated they are very involved with the community. She stated her point is that the County has not increased the contribution since 1997. She stated it is all the County has to combat the current crisis of drug addiction. She stated the services do not reach the western side of the County.

Commissioner Piazza stated he knows that CoveCare is frustrated with trying to increase the services in Philipstown. He stated the County used to have a clinic there. He stated they hope to be able to find a way to provide more services.

Chairwoman Addonizio questioned the decrease in revenue for the Talbot House Alcoholism Program on page 116.

Social Services Fiscal Manager Grace Balcer stated it because there are less classes offered.

Commissioner Piazza stated over the years there are less people being sent to drinking and driving programs.

Legislator Sayegh requested clarification on line 54950, entitled County Contribution, on page 118.

Commissioner Piazza stated it is for court ordered evaluations, which cost \$225. He stated there is an increase in the number of people being sent to evaluations.

Legislator Sayegh stated the actuals for 2019 are much lower.

Finance Commissioner Carlin stated this figure varies.

Commissioner Piazza stated these figures are projections and there is no way of knowing.

Chairwoman Addonizio questioned the decrease in line 54475, entitled PARC OT 620, on page 126.

Commissioner Piazza stated PARC (Putnam Associated Resource Center) has merged with Ulster and Greene ARC, therefore this is only a half year contract.

Social Services – Pages 131-155

Commissioner Piazza stated some funds are being placed into different lines due to the State's request for it all to fit State fiscal guidelines. He stated there will be added positions discussed in the Personnel Budget Meeting. He stated he wanted to make the Legislature aware of the fact that the Safe Harbour funding has been reduced by the State. He stated the Child Advocacy Center will be taking on more.

Legislator Gouldman questioned the increase in revenue in line 436551, entitled Day Care, on page 144.

Fiscal Manager Balcer stated it was a combining of State and Federal funds.

Finance Commissioner Carlin stated the largest line item in the budget is Medical Assistance on pages 146-147. He stated it is a wild card determined by the State. He stated the State has not provided the figures yet.

Fiscal Manager Balcer stated it is usually calculated by April, but it has not yet.

Finance Commissioner Carlin noted that this is affecting all the other counties as well.

Legislator Sayegh questioned if this is typical to have a delay in receiving the figures.

Finance Commissioner Carlin stated this is the first year he can remember it happening.

Legislator Sayegh questioned if a reason for the delay has been provided by the State.

Finance Commissioner Carlin stated there has not. He stated NYSAC (New York Association of Counties) has been advocating for the counties to receive the number as soon as possible.

Legislator Gouldman questioned why nothing was budgeted for line 58002, entitled Social Security, on page 150.

Fiscal Manager Balcer stated there will be a budgetary amendment if there is overtime needed from Probation for the PINS (People In Need of Supervision) program.

Legislator Sayegh requested clarification on the Safety Net program on page 152.

Commissioner Piazza stated it is temporary assistance for single adults. He stated it is restrictive and hard to get into the program.

Chairwoman Addonizio requested clarification on the Emergency Aid for Adults on page 154.

Commissioner Piazza stated it is for social security recipients whose emergency needs cannot be met just by the basic social security benefit. He stated for instance if they lose their clothing in a fire or flood.

Legislator Montgomery noted there is reimbursement for it.

Fiscal Manager Balcer stated it is 49% reimbursement.

Legislator Sayegh questioned how people find out about these programs.

Commissioner Piazza stated through various networks or law enforcement.

Chairwoman Addonizio stated there are eligibility requirements for the funding as well.

Commissioner Piazza noted that the WIA (Workforce Investment Act) program is administered by Westchester County and the budget is reliant on figures they provide.

Legislator Gouldman questioned if all of Westchester County is included.

Commissioner Piazza stated except for the City of Yonkers.

Special Programs/Grants – Pages 156-160

Fiscal Manager Balcer stated the grant for the Child Fatality program on page 160, ended in January 2019.

Youth Program – Account 7310 – Pages 192-196

Legislator Montgomery stated she is unsure where exactly to address her request. She stated the lack of services in Philipstown was discussed earlier. She stated Philipstown has found a way to provide some services. She stated the Town funded an Addiction Resource Coordinator. She stated now a non-profit has been created called the Philipstown Behavioral Health Hub (Hub). She stated the Hub is a single point of access for mental health and addiction programs. She stated there was a member of the community that donated the first six (6) months of rent for the Hub. She stated they created a bipartisan board to keep the politics out. She stated the Town is trying to find money in the budget to help the Hub. She stated she is asking the County for funding for the Hub. She stated she has been denied an audience with the County Executive and the One Army in the War on Addiction Task Force to discuss the Hub. She stated this is how services can be provided in Philipstown right now. She stated she would request a \$10,000 or even \$5,000 contribution from the County.

Legislator Nacerino stated these are all valid points made by Legislator Montgomery, but the needs are throughout the County. She stated the funding cannot be exclusive to Philipstown.

Legislator Montgomery stated the services are not available on the western side of the County. She stated there is a methadone clinic and CoveCare is located on the east side of the County. She stated the services are desperately needed and that is why they worked to create the Hub.

Legislator Nacerino stated the County cannot cherry-pick where the funding should go.

Legislator Gouldman questioned how much work is done on the western side of the County.

Commissioner Piazza stated the work is done through the non-profit agencies. He stated most of the work the County does over there is through St. Christopher's Inn. He stated CoveCare is trying to provide more services. He stated he is trying to work with Philipstown's Addiction Resource Coordinator to connect with the State agencies.

Legislator Addonizio questioned if the Hub has applied for grants.

Legislator Montgomery stated they are looking everywhere for funding.

Legislator Sayegh stated she understands Legislator Montgomery's frustration. She stated all towns need this kind of help. She stated unfortunately this problem is widespread.

Legislator Montgomery stated \$7,000 is given to The Prevention Council and that figure has not changed since 1992, \$7,000 to the Mental Health Association which has not changed since 1996, and \$431,000 to CoveCare which has not changed since 1997. She stated that is all we contribute to combat the current addiction crisis.

Legislator Gouldman questioned if there is more that can be done by the County.

Commissioner Piazza stated the main focus has been on finding grant funding. He stated CoveCare has been working to put clinics in Haldane and Mahopac schools. He stated that is very complicated because there needs to be many approvals from the State. He stated the County recognizes that they want to provide services all over.

County Historian – Account 7510 – Pages 198-199

Chairwoman Addonizio stated there is a vacant position that the County is looking to fill.

Item #4 - Other Business - None

Item #5 - Adjournment

There being no further business, at 8:06 P.M., Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to adjourn: Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Administrative Assistant Ed Gordon.