AUDIT & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE BUDGET MEETING Held In Room 318 of the PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512

Members: Chairman Castellano, Legislators Albano & Nacerino

<u>Wednesday</u>	6:00 PM	October 15, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 P.M. by Chairman Castellano who requested Legislator Nacerino to lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call, Legislators Nacerino and Tartaro and Chairman Castellano were present.

Item #3 – 2015 Budget Review

Department of Finance – Account 1310 (pages 10-11)

Chairman Castellano questioned what line 54936, Partnership Initiative, was for.

Commissioner William Carlin stated it is the estimate of a six (6) month lease at Butterfield, starting July 1, 2015.

Legislator Nacerino questioned if the Butterfield was coming to fruition by July 1, 2015.

Commissioner Carlin stated that is the best estimate they have.

Legislator Oliverio stated there are many "ifs" associated with construction therefore; he would like the money to be put into contingency.

Legislator Albano suggested moving half the amount into contingency.

Legislator LoBue stated it has not yet been decided if Butterfield will be utilized.

Legislator Oliverio stated it is too premature.

Chairman Castellano made a motion to move the money in line 54936 into subcontingency; Seconded by Legislator Tartaro. All in favor.

Tax Advertising & Expense – Account 1362 (page15)

Legislator Oliverio questioned if the advertising done was mandated by the State.

Commissioner Carlin stated it is mandated.

Insurance Expense – Account 1915 (page 28)

Legislator LoBue questioned if this was based on a premium or based on cases.

Commissioner Carlin stated it is a mixture of both. He stated an analysis is done.

Legislator Gross questioned if there is a rebate from NYMIR (New York Municipal Insurance Reciprocal).

Commissioner Carlin stated yes there has been in the past.

Legislator LoBue questioned why one wasn't being received now.

Commissioner Carlin stated it is not received every year. He stated when the County joined NYMIR a deposit of capital was put down and that deposit has been coming back.

Legislator LoBue questioned if there was an analysis of the cases handled by NYMIR each year.

Commissioner Carlin stated there is an analysis.

Taxes/County Property – Account 1950 (page 32)

Commissioner Carlin stated this is mostly sewer. He stated the water is going up.

Legislator Albano stated rates should be based on cost.

Contingency Fund – Account 1990 (page 35)

Chairman Castellano stated this was halved from last year due to the contracts that were settled.

Commissioner Carlin stated the General Contingencies, line 54980, was also lowered.

Tax Anticipation Notes – Account 9760 (page 163)

Commissioner Carlin stated this is the borrowing that is done each year to pay the schools. He stated a large amount of money is borrowed and then paid back.

Chairman Castellano questioned why the line is half of what it was last year.

Commissioner Carlin stated the premiums are handled differently now.

Legislator Wright questioned how much the interest represents.

Commissioner Carlin stated it is \$15 million to \$16 million.

Legislator Wright questioned if there had ever been failure to repay in whole.

Commissioner Carlin stated there has never been such failure.

Legislator Wright questioned if the County has ever been in a position where it would be possible to transfer half of that amount from surplus to put toward the bond expense.

Commissioner Carlin stated he would like to pay off the pension amortization first because the rates are triple.

OTB – Account 427201 (page 10)

Commissioner Carlin stated this was cut down quite a bit.

Use of Reserve/Fund Balance – Account 427261 (page 10)

Commissioner Carlin stated this was also lowered.

Financing of Capital Projects

Commissioner Carlin stated everything was funded except the flash over building, which Commissioner of Emergency Services Adam Stiebeling is seeking a grant for. He stated the bus shelters and bus refurbishments, which cost \$400,000 was a 10% County match and it was funded through the budget. He stated the idea is to tastefully advertise on the shelters and to hopefully make some money back.

Chairman Castellano stated he would like to discuss the tax cap as the budget is tight and he does not want to go over. He stated there will be penalties if the tax cap was exceeded.

Commissioner Carlin stated the County Executive wanted to use the tax cap to fund the positions that will be used for the war on addiction.

Legislator Nacerino stated throughout the budget process money has been added, however now some lines must be reduced in order to stay within the tax cap.

Legislator Oliverio stated with the lower gas prices, the sales tax will come in at about \$1 million for 2015. He stated this year; there will be close to \$2 million in excess sales tax. He stated the funding that was added that put the budget over can be leveled out by taking from the fund balance.

County Auditor Sharkey stated as it stands; the excess is \$336,000 over the total budget line.

Legislator Tartaro stated he is concerned taking the surplus could hurt down the line.

Legislator Oliverio stated what the extra money is funding are necessary expenditures.

Legislator Scuccimarra stated she would like to look at what was increased and reconsider some increases.

Commissioner Carlin stated the fund balance is not excessive, it is about 8%, which is healthy.

Legislator Nacerino stated the budget must be sustainable in future years as well.

Chairman Castellano stated the Legislature has some difficult decisions going forward.

Legislator Oliverio stated borrowing for the extra money is miniscule when looking at the budget as a whole.

Commissioner Carlin stated the tax cap is 1.75%. He recommended to stay at the proposed tax levy.

Legislator Tartaro questioned what the 1% increase would equal.

Commissioner Carlin stated it is \$400,000.

Legislator LoBue questioned how much the budget was underspent in 2014.

Commissioner Carlin stated in 2013 it was \$3.75 million.

Item #4 – Other Business

a. Correspondence/County Coroner

Chairman Castellano stated a letter was sent to the Coroner's Office. He stated since there was no one present to discuss the matter it would be held off until the following month.

Legislator LoBue questioned if the Coroner has a County vehicle.

Deputy County Executive Walker stated they do.

Chairman Castellano stated two (2) of the coroner's terms begin on January 1, 2015 so this would need to be settled before then.

b. Discussion/ District Attorney's Office/ Victim Advocate

District Attorney Levy stated he would like to discuss a Victim's Advocate position in executive session under the recommendation of Personnel Director Eldridge.

At 6:40pm, Chairman Castellano made a motion to go into executive session to discuss a Victim's Advocate position in the District Attorney's Office; Seconded by Legislator Nacerino. All in favor.

At 6:55pm, Chairman Castellano made a motion to come out of executive session; Seconded by Legislator Nacerino. All in favor.

No action taken.

There being no further business, at 6:55 P.M., Legislator Tartaro made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Chairman Castellano. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Administrative Assistant, Beth Green.