

Budget & Finance

Legislative Chambers, Montgomery County Office Bldg, 64 Broadway, Fonda, NY

6:25 PM

2/14/2017

Chairman Michael J. Pepe presided over the meeting commencing at 7:42 pm.

Committee members present:

Martin P. Kelly, Legislator, District 1
Brian D. Sweet, Legislator, District 2
Roy S. Dimond, Legislator, District 3
Robert Headwell, Jr., Legislator, District 4
Daniel P. Wilson, Legislator, District 5
John M. Duchessi, Legislator, District 6
Michael J. Pepe, Legislator, District 7
Joseph M. Isabel, Legislator, District 8
Robert A. Purtell, Legislator, District 9

Chairman Michael Pepe has called a meeting of the Budget & Finance Committee for 6:25 p.m. on February 14, 2017 in the Legislative Chambers, County Office Building, 64 Broadway, Fonda, New York. Items on the agenda, at this time, are as follows:

1. DISCUSSION

A. Privilege of Committee Chair, Committee Members & Legislators to discuss items of interest, etc., regarding departments governed by this Committee

2. RESOLUTION APPROVING ABSTRACT OF AUDITED CLAIMS (COUNTY LEGISLATURE)

3. OTHER

Item #1: **(A. DISCUSSION)** Committee Chairman Michael Pepe thanked everyone who was able to come to the Budget & Finance workshop. He discussed the dashboard reports and that going forward the legislature would be getting this report on a recurring basis as part of the agenda for Budget & Finance.

Item #2: **RESOLUTION APPROVING ABSTRACT OF AUDITED CLAIMS (COUNTY LEGISLATURE)** Legislators Kelly and Sweet made a motion and seconded, respectively to move the resolution to the full Legislature. There were no objections.

Item #3 **OTHER (ADD-ON RESOLUTION) RESOLUTION CORRECTING APPLICATION FOR 2017 TOWN AND COUNTY TAX ROLL (REAL PROPERTY)** Legislators Headwell and Wilson made a motion and seconded, respectively to move the resolution to the full Legislature. There were no objections.

Committee Chairman Michael Pepe said the assessor for the town of Amsterdam erroneously placed a \$2 million assessed value on a vacant piece of land, which should have had an assessed value of \$5,000. Pepe said this led to inaccurate tax bill for this fiscal year totaling \$308,075, but the corrected tax bill will be \$770.

Sandy Frasier, director of county Real Property, said the \$2 million assessed value placed on the vacant parcel was meant to have been placed on an adjacent parcel holding the Wallins Corners Apartments. The \$2 million value meant to be placed on the apartments, however, should actually be an assessed value of \$200,000.

The lot with the apartments currently holds an assessed value of \$5,500, with it erroneously assessed as vacant land, according to Frasier.

Real Property Director, Sandy Frasier stated that the property taxes for the vacant parcel will be reduced and result in less tax revenue coming into the county. She said the county has no recourse to collect the additional revenue for the parcel holding the apartments.

The Hagaman Fire District will also be receiving approximately \$44,000 less than expected after the vacant parcel's assessed value is reduced.

County Legislature Chairman Roy Dimond said the county could tap fund balance to make up for the decrease in projected revenue to county.

He said that last year in our budget we had about half a million dollars leftover in our fund balance.

Frasier said the Greater Amsterdam School District will be able to correct the error before it's included in the actual levy, but she said the district will have to determine whether the larger assessment for the apartments could be included in the latest tax bill.

Legislators Kelly and Sweet made a motion and seconded, respectively, to adjourn the Committee meeting.

Legislator Pepe adjourned the Budget & Finance Committee meeting at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Reese
Clerk of the Montgomery County
Legislature