

Budget & Finance

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

6:00 PM

2/7/2017

Chairman Michael J. Pepe presided over the meeting commencing at 6:13 pm.

Committee members present:

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
Robert A. Purtell, Legislator, District 9

Absent was:

Martin P. Kelly, Legislator, District 1
Joseph M. Isabel, Legislator, District 8

Chairman Michael Pepe has called a meeting of the Budget & Finance Committee for 6:00 p.m. on February 7, 2017 in the Legislative Chambers, County Office Building, 64 Broadway, Fonda, New York. Items on the agenda, at this time, are as follows:

BUDGET WORKSHOP

Committee Chairman Michael Pepe opened the Budget and Finance Committee workshop with a discussion about the frequency, content and format of monthly reports.

Committee Chairman Pepe said it was important to have an open forum discussion amongst the legislators regarding the three basic categories of finance and budget reports.

He said he thinks it's important for the legislature to make a decision on a consensus basis as to how we might want the current budget back laws to be revised or maybe even simplified. He also stated that in his estimation, these potential revisions aren't the chairman of the budget and finance committee's decisions they are our decision as a legislature.

The topic of frequency was in regards to how often the budget and finance committee should meet and if the monthly committee meeting allowed enough time for discussion.

District 4 Legislator Robert Headwell Jr. said finances are a very important topic and he wasn't opposed to having a separate meeting for discussions.

Clerk of the Legislature Cheryl Reese said she thinks they are looking to have a separate budget and finance committee workshop to discuss reports.

District 9 Legislator Robert Purtell agreed the topic needs its own separate discussion. Committee members agreed to a workshop the third Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m.

There are four dashboard reports -- general, sewer, county roads and regular roads. Treasurer Bowerman said the dashboard is a summary or snapshot of the funds.

Pepe asked committee members if they felt more information was needed to be provided in the reports.

District 6 Legislator John Duchessi said sometimes the figures they review are clumped together, which could provide false comfort due to the lack of detail.

Legislators said they would like department heads to produce a monthly executive summary answering questions such as any anticipated anomalies, being on budget and reimbursement tracking. The summary would be sent to County Executive Matthew Ossenfort.

Legislators also discussed the format in which departments explain the budget impact on proposed resolutions. They would like more detail provided than "budget neutral" or "no impact" as an explanation in the report.

County Attorney Meghan Manion said she would send a memo to department heads explaining the financial impact the legislators are looking for.

The committee plans to discuss budget guidelines during the March workshop meeting.

Legislators Wilson and Purtell made a motion and seconded, respectively, to adjourn the Committee meeting.

Legislator Pepe adjourned the Budget & Finance Committee meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Reese
Clerk of the Montgomery County
Legislature