

York County Budget Committee Minutes for May 6, 2020

6:30 p.m. via ZOOM

Members Participating: Jo-Ann Putnam, Ed Kartyko, Dana Lajoie, Joe Hanslip, Chip Harlow, Chad Perry, John Bell, Marshall Archer, Dave Durrell, Kathy Chase

Absent: Marc Lessard

1. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

a. Swearing in of New Members

Acting Chairperson Joe Hanslip swore in new members.

Moment of Silence for past Chairman John Sylvester.

Acting Chairperson Joe Hanslip polled the Board regarding allowing Chip Harlow who previously served as Lebanon Selectman as an elected member on the budget committee. He was then elected to serve on the Town of Lebanon budget committee. Therefore, he would like to continue to serve on the York County Budget Committee as an elected member. There were no objections from the other members.

2. REVIEW OF INFORMATION PACKET

3. ELECTION OF BUDGET COMMITTEE CHAIR, VICE-CHAIR AND SECRETARY

Chairman – Chip Harlow nominated Joe Hanslip. Jo-Ann Putnam seconded the motion. Vote-unanimous.

Vice-Chairman- Joe Hanslip nominated Jo-Ann Putnam. Kathy Chase seconded the motion. Vote-unanimous.

Secretary- Kathy Dumont-unanimous

Introductions- All members present on the ZOOM call introduced themselves.

4. BEGIN REVIEW OF FY'21 PROPOSED BUDGET BY COUNTY MANAGER GREG ZINSER- County Manager Zinser explained that the budget shows an increase of 3.16%. He pointed out two new items in the fy'2021 budget- the addition of a full-time maintenance personnel and explained that 25% will come out of the general fund amounting to roughly \$10,000. The other addition to the budget is funding to provide enhanced training (\$20,000 addition). This would provide additional personnel instructors in conjunction with Y.C. Fire Chief's Association. You won't have to send people to other parts of the State (for fire training). He continued that the wages and Layman Way are two increases with the amount for Layman Way being \$200,000. The County Manager added that he will be negotiating with four unions, also.

County Manager Zinser explained the supplemental information as contained in the budget information to include the LD1 worksheet. He informed all that the County's tax rate is established by a percentage of each town's valuation.

The County Manager added that the budget does include other increases. For example, in the Sheriff's budget, cost of cruisers has gone up.

He stated that as a special note, he is aware of the prevailing circumstances with the pandemic. As it pertains to the county, whatever is going on with towns won't manifest itself with the county until probably 2 years. We don't have the same revenue sources that you do, stated County Manager Zinser. As far as jail funding, he stated that we remain cautiously optimistic.

The County Manager continued that in the Deeds department, we are not seeing any decrease in real estate transactions. Recordings will continue and foreclosures if the economy goes south. We've already hit our target (revenues). We expect it to stay strong the rest of the year. We don't have shortfalls at this time. If we do, we have various reserve accounts and fund balances in addition to spending freezes.

County Manager Zinser informed members that this budget does show a \$250,000 usage of our reserves in an effort to mitigate the impact to our towns.

5. OTHER MATTERS, DATE/TIME/LOCATION OF BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETINGS, ETC.

Chairperson Joe Hanslip explained that the Budget Committee follows their statutes as a budget committee. Other than that it is up to us as to how we run the meetings.

Chairperson Hanslip suggested to the members that they come up with a meeting schedule and review the budget and come back with questions.

Budget Committee Member, Dana Lajoie spoke about his concerns in regards to the pandemic and ramifications if the County is not prepared financially. He continued that he felt the Committee should look at the budget with the understanding that we are in a predicament now. He added that he would like to see where each department is with surplus funds to date.

Joe Hanslip explained that any adjustments once we (the budget committee) have passed a budget, would be up to the Commissioners if an event occurred. He continued that in going through this budget, we have to take into consideration the mess we will be in next year.

County Manager Zinser replied that we can get the committee a y-t-d report. He added that no department at this point are running in the red. County Manager Zinser continued that beginning in fy'22 the County's debt service decreases. In the first year he stated there is a \$400,000 reduction and in 2023 the entire debt service is retired. The Commissioners are fully aware of future impacts but, Mr. Zinser continued, not all is bad on the County front as we move forward. We are prepared to appropriately mitigate any issues that come up so to reduce that for the taxpayers of the county.

Budget Committee Member Ed Karytko asked when will the committee need to wrap up the budget?

Chairman Joe Hanslip replied that the drop dead date is by July 1st (beginning of the fiscal year).

Joe Hanslip added that we don't know what's coming down the line. Quite likely tax commitments will be paid for 2021.

Budget Committee Member, Ed Karytko stated that in Kennebunk they have authorized their Town Manager and Finance Director to issue bonds in the event the Town's shortfall is worse than they think.

County Manager Zinser replied that the County is a different level of government. Jail revenue is a huge issue every year. There is a jail Bill (LD 973) that could fundamentally alter the way that jails are funded. This will be looked at further whenever the legislature decides to reconvene. As far as revenues and the towns, the County has done a good job rebuilding its finances. We understand the total impacts that the towns are going to be going through.

We have our own issues, continued the County Manager. Following the Commissioners' directives, we will utilize, when we need to, an appropriate amount of fund balance to get to the targets the Commissioners deem necessary.

Member Ed Karytko asked if the new courthouse will affect that? The County Manager replied, if the courthouse even gets built at this point. When it does go online (minimum of 2 yrs. away), in the 'fy 23 budget would be where any known impact could trickle down to us. In the county's view, it is an efficiency mistake as there is no room for the D.A. We are talking about the using of carriers and the impact on our transport process. A half a million dollar impact was our original amount, stated the County Manager. He reminded the members again that there will be a corresponding decrease in the debt service.

Budget Committee Member Dave Durrell asked what the amounts of the reserves are.

County Manager Zinser replied that he believes the status of all the reserve accounts is contained on the y-t-d reports that he will get to the Committee members.

Dana Lajoie asked the County Manager if he will entertain any e-mails or questions so we don't stall the meetings? The County Manager replied, absolutely, yes.

Budget Committee Member, Jo-Ann Putnam asked the County Manager if the reserve amount of \$2.59 million is what he projected? He replied, yes \$2.6 million. When we print out the y-t-d report those numbers should be there and if they're not clear we will get them, stated Mr. Zinser. He added that our audit is online and that goes through everything. It was published in November and contains fy'19 information so it will be the most accurate information at this point minus anything we spent this year.

B.C. Member Dana Lajoie asked the County Manager if he attends every meeting and if (the committee) has department heads in attendance.

County Manager Zinser replied that you (committee) determine what departments you want to meet with and we typically schedule.

Budget Committee Chairperson Joe Hanslip commented that the committee needs to decide when to meet. Usually it begins at 6:30 with a self- imposed deadline of 9:00 p.m.

Meeting schedule Motion-Chip Harlow motioned to accept the meeting schedule as stated by Joe Hanslip. Ed Karytko seconded the motion. Passed unanimous. 6:30 every Wednesday York County Budget Committee meetings will begin.

Committee Chairman informed all that he and the County Manager will talk and come up with a schedule. He asked that the Committee have to him by Friday afternoon what they would like to review and discuss so that he and the County Manager can come up with a schedule (agenda).

County Manager Zinser added that is the benefit of ZOOM as if we run ahead we can have department heads video in with little notice. Commissioners moved the budget in a single day. You might want to think about that.

Chairman Joe Hanslip stated that if the Budget Committee wanted to do a 9:00 to 4:00 and knock it out, that is the decision of the committee.

Chairman Hanslip explained to the Members that the Committee in the past has come up with a budget two different ways. One way is that after we hear from the department head we vote or we can vote after we have heard all departments.

Budget Committee Member Jo-Ann Putnam asked if there were any discrepancies in what the department heads put in (their budgets) and what the Commissioners approved? The County Manager replied there was not.

Discussion of what departments the budget committee wanted to hear from.

Budget Committee Chairman Joe Hanslip requested that members get questions/requests to him by noon on Friday. Then, we will call the County Manager at 2:00 on Friday afternoon to discuss.

Chairman Joe Hanslip commented that on this agenda, public comment(s) appeared at the end as this is not a meeting where we would be making decisions. At subsequent meetings, public comment will appear at the beginning and the end of the agenda.

6. PUBIC COMMENTS-None

7. ADJOURN- Ed Karytko motioned to adjourn. Jo-Ann Putnam seconded the meeting. Motion Unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.