

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

**December 3, 2012 – 5:30 p.m.**

Vice Chairman Grattidge called the public hearing to order. The Clerk introduced the Supervisors in attendance.

Mr. Grattidge gave the following open remarks: “The budget we are presenting to you tonight is a product of more than 4 months of work. In August, the process began with the County Administrator’s review of Department requests. On October 31<sup>st</sup>, we unveiled a tentative budget that reduced overall spending by \$5M from 2012 to 2013. It also maintained our low property tax rate and implemented a decisive program to restore the County’s financial stability. Over the past month, the Board of Supervisors amended the tentative budget and I am proud to report that we’ve made a number of improvements. We were able to reduce the proposed property tax levy by more than \$500,000, reducing the projected increase of 2.57 to 1.58. This brings us below the property tax cap. We did this by recognizing savings associated with switching health insurance providers and recognizing the revenue the County will receive from the Sewer District in exchange for the County owned parcels that will serve as the future site of the northern treatment plant. Tonight is your opportunity as members of the public to weigh in on the budget that we’ve prepared and provide your concerns and suggestions for further improvements. I know will turn it over to the Clerk of the Board to read the notice of public hearing.”

The Clerk read the Notice of Public Hearing.

County Administrator Spencer Hellwig gave the following overview of the Tentative 2013 Budget: “The tentative budget as amended by the Law & Finance Committee and the Board of Supervisors at the Budget Workshop now totals \$300,489,486 in seven separate funds. Compared against the 2012 adopted budget of \$305.6M the Board has lowered overall spending by 2% or just over \$5M. More importantly as Supervisor Grattidge has mentioned these changes will lower the property tax levy by a little over \$500,000 next year and that does represent a full percent reduction from the rate originally proposed in my tentative budget. Some of the highlights of the changes that were part of the process leading up to this public hearing include: the reduction of personnel costs through the de-funding of 95 positions which include 33 positions in the General Fund, 15 in the Public Works Fund and 47 in Maplewood Manor Enterprise Fund. Under Sales Tax, we will budget \$110.7M next year which represents 3% growth over the projected 2012 total of \$107.5M. Our property tax rate will be \$2.27 per thousand of assessed value which is 67% lower than the average State property tax rate for the remaining 61 Counties in New York State. That’s quite an accomplishment. State Mandates will have a gross total cost of \$97.5M and a net cost of \$63.8M next year which represents 124% of our property tax levy. As I’ve already mentioned, after subtracting the \$5.2M increase in the Sales Tax Distribution to the Towns and Cities next year, the General Fund expenses are actually \$5 or 2% below the amount that was budgeted in 2012. The Highway Fund is down \$5.6M from 2012. Maplewood Manor Enterprise Fund is down \$1.1M for 2012. Total Capital costs will be \$11.2M for next year with a net cost to the County of \$7.2M. And finally, the appropriated Fund Balance that will be needed next year to balance the budget is set at \$1.9M which is down from the \$5.3M from the \$7.2M that was budgeted for this year.”

Mr. Grattidge asked if any written communications or petitions were received. There were none.

Mr. Hellwig, read through the rules of the Public Hearing.

Mr. Grattidge asked if there was anyone wishing to speak. Being none, the public hearing adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela A. Hargrave, Clerk