

BOARD MEETING BUDGET Transcript

11/10/2021

SPEAKERS

Mo Wright, Mike Smith, Bill Peck, Matt Veitch, Eric Connolly, Bridget Rider, Jean Raymond, Stephanie Hodgson, Tara Gaston, Steve Bulger, Andrew Jarosh, Darren O'Connor, Phil Barrett, Jonathan Schopf, Benny Zlotnick, Kevin Tollisen, Ridge Harris, Therese Connolly, Theodore Kusnierz, Preston Allen, John Lant, Sandra Winney, Daniel Kuhles, Several Supervisors, Tom Wood

Theodore Kusnierz

I'd like to welcome everyone this afternoon to the Saratoga County Board of Supervisors budget workshop on the proposed budget for 2022 and ask that the Clerk call the roll.

Bridget Rider

Supervisor Allen

Preston Allen

Here

Bridget Rider

Barrett.

Phil Barrett

Here.

Bridget Rider

Connolly.

Eric Connolly

Here.

Bridget Rider

Gaston.

Tara Gaston

Here

Bridget Rider

Grasso is excused, Kinowski is excused. Kusnierz.

Theodore Kusnierz

Here.

Bridget Rider

Lant.

John Lant

Here.

Bridget Rider

Lawler, Lawler? Lucia Lucia? O'Connor.

Darren O'Connor

Here.

Bridget Rider

Peck.

Bill Peck

Here.

Bridget Rider

Pemrick is excused. Raymond

Jean Raymond

Here.

Bridget Rider

Richardson is excused. Schopf.

Jonathan Schopf

Here.

Bridget Rider

Smith.

Mike Smith

Here.

Bridget Rider

Tollisen.

Kevin Tollisen

Here.

Bridget Rider

Veitch.

Matt Veitch

Here.

Bridget Rider

Winnie.

Sandra Winney

Here.

Bridget Rider

Wood.

Tom Wood

Here.

Bridget Rider

Wright.

Mo Wright

Here.

Bridget Rider

Zlotnick.

Benny Zlotnick

Here.

Bridget Rider

Quorum is present.

Theodore Kusnierz

Thank you and I would ask at this time that everyone please rise for an attention to the flag.

Several Supervisors

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Theodore Kusnierz

Thank you very much. At this time I will call for a motion to ratify this special meeting.

Kevin Tollisen

So moved.

Theodore Kusnierz

Motion by Supervisor Tollisen, is there a second?

Jonathan Schopf

Second.

Theodore Kusnierz

Second by Supervisor Schopf, roll call.

Bridget Rider

Supervisor Allen

Preston Allen

Yes.

Bridget Rider

Barrett.

Phil Barrett

Yes.

Bridget Rider

Connolly.

Eric Connolly

Yes.

Bridget Rider

Gaston.

Tara Gaston

Yes.

Bridget Rider

Kusnierz.

Theodore Kusnierz

Yes.

Bridget Rider

Lant.

John Lant

Yes.

Bridget Rider

O'Connor.

Darren O'Connor

Yes.

Bridget Rider

Peck.

Bill Peck

Yes.

Bridget Rider

Raymond

Jean Raymond

Yes.

Bridget Rider

Schopf.

Jonathan Schopf

Yes.

Bridget Rider

Smith.

Mike Smith

Yes.

Bridget Rider

Tollisen.

Kevin Tollisen

Yes.

Bridget Rider

Veitch.

Matt Veitch

Yes.

Bridget Rider

Winnie.

Sandra Winney

Yes.

Bridget Rider

Wood.

Tom Wood

Yes.

Bridget Rider

Wright.

Mo Wright

Yes.

Bridget Rider

Zlotnick.

Benny Zlotnick

Yes.

Bridget Rider

Motion passes.

Theodore Kusnierz

Thank you, and before we begin, I just want to point out as we conduct the business of the workshop on the budget, as we do with the Board meetings, we will be following Rule five, subsection B, subsection three, which specifies that no member shall be allowed to debate upon any report resolution or notice or amendment to or subsidiary motion there to, or otherwise hold the floor at the Board meeting for a longer period than five minutes without the consent of the weighted vote of the members present. So at this time, entertain a report from the Chair of the Law and Finance Committee.

Jonathan Schopf

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The report of Law and Finance was issued in a memo dated October 25th 2022. From myself and is included in the packet that was distributed the beginning of this meeting, essentially, no changes, alterations or revisions were made to the tentative budget at the October 19 2021 meeting. And any questions or recommendations were deferred for the workshop.

Theodore Kusnierz

Thank you, Chairman Schopf. And now moving down the agenda, like to ask the County Administrator Steve Bulger to provide his report.

Steve Bulger

Thank you, Chairman. Good afternoon, everybody. I'd like to start by giving a brief recap of budget process and where we ended up. As you know, the Board of Supervisors approved significant changes to the budget policy earlier this year. This resulted in some important budget process changes including the following. One, both Law and Finance members and standing committee chairs were able to participate in meetings with Department heads and budget liaison team members to review department requests in August and early September. As a result, Supervisors were able to provide input and guidance on the proposed budgets earlier than previous years. While Department heads were also able to advocate directly to Supervisors on their budget priorities. Second, proposed personnel actions and cost estimates were included throughout the budget review process and shared with both Law and Finance members.

Theodore Kusnierz

I'm sorry, Administrator, can we mute whatever is going on the phone? It's making it very difficult for the body to hear. Okay, go ahead. Sorry.

Steve Bulger

That's okay. Proposed personnel actions and cost estimates were included throughout the budget review process and shared with both the Law and Finance members and standing committee chairs plus the entire budget liaison team, which helped develop a solid understanding of the entire budget throughout the process. Third, when the tentative budget was publicly released on October 15, the department requests were included for the first time. Fourth, all Supervisors had access to the complete personnel actions requests and recommendations prior to the Law and Finance Committee budget review meeting on October 19. As part of the review, the budget liaison team both individually and collectively examined every line item of each department's submission. And this process in combination with suggested reductions by Law and Finance committee members resulted in \$8.7 million in cuts this year to these budget requests. Overall, this tentative budget comes in at \$381,543,332, which is an increase of \$9,708,300 or 2.6% over to 2021 amended budget. This includes projected sales tax revenue of \$141 million, which is a decrease from the \$145 million projection for the current year, as we continue to have the lowest county share sales tax rate in the State at 3%. In addition, our 2022 property tax levy will come in at \$67,087,564, an increase of slightly over \$2 million in from 2021. The great news is that our property tax rate, which is already the lowest out of all 62 counties across the State, will again decrease this year, from an average of \$2.29 to \$2.28 per 1,000 as our taxable assessed value County wide now stands at \$29.3 billion. Worth noting is that the State Comptroller has given Saratoga County, the highest tax base growth factor adjustment out of all counties in 2022, which is based on an analysis of new construction and measurable improvements to our current taxable property. Our total county debt continues to be one of the lowest in the state on a percentage basis. Currently, the total county bond payable number is \$64,585,000, which represents 3.3% of our borrowing limit of \$1.96B. As part of the 2022 Capital projects, we are proposing to borrow \$11.4M over 10 years for a new Capital Facilities Fund, which represents about one half of 1% against our limit. In terms of fund balance, the county started this year at \$25 million, or about 6.7% of our 2021 budget.

Due to significantly increased revenue from both ARPA funding and sales, tax receipts, and restoration of state and federal grants and reimbursements that had been cut last year due to the pandemic, we expect to end 2021 with a fund balance that is conservatively estimated at \$55M, or about 14% of our 2022 tentative budget. Given the State Comptroller's recommended fund balance of 5% to 15% of total budget, this puts the County in a strong position moving forward to handle any economic downturns or other unexpected expenses that may impact us. To summarize, this budget makes significant new investments in Public Health, Law Enforcement, Open Space and Trails out Nonprofit organizations and our county heritage, among other areas. I once again want to thank the dedicated members of our budget liaison team, department heads and Supervisors for all their efforts and commitment to providing a budget that addresses the needs of our taxpayers and residents in the coming year.

Theodore Kusnierz

Thank you very much, Administrator Bulger for that thorough characterization of the 2022 tentative budget. At this time, do you have any recommended amendments to the budget?

Steve Bulger

I do Chairman, I do have one amendment with several items on it. It's going to be handed out to the Board members now. And I'll be happy to go through that.

Theodore Kusnierz

Thank you. We will begin that soon as all the board members have a copy of those proposed amendments.

Steve Bulger

And this is also being emailed to the Supervisors who are attending on the phone, being emailed right now.

Theodore Kusnierz

So before we begin, I just want to make sure that those Supervisors on the line do have access to those proposed amendments. Is there any Supervisor that has not received it on the line? And we didn't hear anyone reply. So any Supervisor may have to press star six so that you may be heard. Sounds like everybody is in receipt of the document. So at this time, Mr. Bulger, you can describe the proposed amendments.

Steve Bulger

Okay. Thanks, Chairman. So starting under revenue. First line there, appropriated fund balance. The proposed amendment is a reduction of \$11,587,746, resulting in a final number of appropriated fund balance at \$9,469,946. The vast bulk of that \$11M is actually reflected in the next line 11.4M of that, that's the bond proceeds for the Capital Facilities Bond. So right now it has to be listed under fund balance. But once the bond proceeds come in, that then does not come from fund balance, but it's actually realized as a revenue to the county. So that's that number. The unclassified, which is unclassified revenue bond proceeds, the next item, unclassified revenues, ARPA FTC waterline. This is an adjustment that we are making based on new information that we'd like to add to the budget since the tentative budget was presented back on October 15. It's \$120,000, for a water line that will run from

the, on the farm at the county by the County Jail to the Fire Training Facility, and it will be able to charge the three fire hydrants there for our volunteer firefighters to practice. So it's \$120,000 cost which will be coming out of the ARPA, dedicated ARPA funding, it is a qualifying expense under the ARPA money. And then finally, under Real Property taxes. There's a proposed amendment \$87,564. That is an upgrade, we had originally estimated \$67 as our property tax levy. Based on additional information, it's coming in at \$67,087,564. So that money is also added as a revenue. Under expenses, the Board of Supervisors regular wages, a total proposed amendment of \$13,127. That includes a 2% cost of living adjustment for all Supervisors, which will bring their annual pay to \$20,034 for all Supervisors, it's also proposing an increase in the base salary for the Vice Chair of the Board to \$21,605, which is an increase of \$1,964 and then proposing a base salary for the Chair to Board at \$29,462, which is an increase of \$2,735. Total budget impact \$13,127 on that line item. Next item is under the Treasurer, a salary provision adding \$22,134. This is for a part time position that was originally proposed to be abolished at the end of the year. However, due to some unforeseen circumstances, we need to keep that person on board into the new year to handle a number of issues that they deal with in the Treasurer's office. So that is being added back in at \$22,134. Next item is Sheriff general salary provisions. There's several adjustments here. It totals \$109,506. Since the tentative budget came out, in looking at, in discussing this with the Sheriff and other Departments, we had to make a couple of changes to more appropriately reflect what we need to do there with some mandates. And so, what this will include is we will be removing a proposed Sergeant and creating a proposed Senior Investigator no budget impact. The Senior Investigator line follows the same base and steps of the Deputy Sheriff. The second item will be removing two Civil Clerks and one Clerk and create three Clerk to the Sheriff at grade 9. Total revised cost for those three positions is \$27,820. That includes salary and fringe. Next two items are salary increases Undersheriff from Grade 20 Step 11B to Grade 21, Step 9A, which is a \$2,871 increase, and also for the Chief Deputy from Grade 18 Step 12, to the equivalent of Grade 19 Step 10 for \$2,436, that was inadvertently left out of the original budget request, so we're fixing that. And then finally, this is the big number. Under the Sheriff Department, we are creating one Outreach and Discharge Planner, a \$44,588 base salary, and with fringe benefits, total cost comes to \$73,194. That is actually part of a mandate, as we were looking at this and talking it over with Colonel Emery and the Sheriff at the Jail. An employee from Mental Health had been splitting their time between the Jail and at Mental Health and Mental Health needed that employee back full time because they're real busy at Mental Health these days. But because of mandates from the State, we do need to have an Outreach and Discharge Planner. So we're correcting that and adding that position. Next is Emergency Services, you'll see that we are reducing expenses \$190,391. What that is, is because, if the Board approves this, the Emergency Services, will be upgrading their communications equipment, we actually will be saving on our current maintenance charges to the tune of about \$190,391. So we're just correcting that, to make sure that that is accurate. The next two items are for Public Works. That gets back to what I referenced earlier, with the ARPA water line project, it's \$120,000 to run that line under those two line items for public works for design and construction. So that is that waterline that we talked about to the Fire Training Center. And then finally, under Planning general salary provisions for \$20,000. That is another inadvertent mistake that from the original budget, we meant to include that and for some reason, it got cut accidentally. So we wanted to fix that and get that line back in there for the Planning Department. So the total position changes that we're talking about here, come to \$164,767. But because of the additional revenue from the property tax levy of \$87,000, and the \$190,000 in savings from Emergency Services, we are actually reducing our transfer from fund balance

with these moves by \$113,188. So all of that is my budget officer amendment Chairman, for your consideration.

Theodore Kusnierz

Thank you very much, Administrator Bulger for that detailed description of the proposed amendments. Would anyone like to move those proposed amendments for discussion?

Phil Barrett

So moved.

Theodore Kusnierz

Supervisor Barrett, is there a second?

Eric Connolly

Second.

Theodore Kusnierz

Supervisor Connolly. We are on discussion. Any member of the Board wish to be heard? Hearing none, any Supervisors on the phone?

Bill Peck

Could I just ask?

Theodore Kusnierz

Supervisor Peck.

Bill Peck

Just trying to look just so I know here I'm trying to follow. In the budget, we were emailed, you had in the full amount of the 21 million for the fund balance, amending it here. In the budget we were emailed. There was an unclassified revenue in there of \$12,910,530 bucks. So I thought that was your Capital Facilities Bond, is it not?

Steve Bulger

No that is dedicated ARPA money for some of the projects. The Capital Facilities Bond for 11.4 will cover some of the capital projects, but there are others that are being covered by dedicated ARPA funding.

Bill Peck

Okay. So was the bond revenue not in the was it not in the original budget we were sent?

Steve Bulger

Right, we had it listed under as a transfer from fund balance until we get the proceeds.

Steve Bulger

Okay, Just want to make sure it adds up.

Theodore Kusnierz

Thank you Supervisor Peck. Any other Supervisor wish to be heard? Hearing none, please call the roll.

Bridget Rider

Supervisor Allen.

Therese Connolly

You may have to need to hit star six Supervisor Allen.

Bridget Rider

Supervisor Allen.

Preston Allen

Yes.

Bridget Rider

Barrett.

Phil Barrett

Yes.

Bridget Rider

Connolly.

Eric Connolly

Yes.

Bridget Rider

Gaston.

Tara Gaston

Yes.

Bridget Rider

Kusnierz.

Theodore Kusnierz

Yes.

Bridget Rider

Lant.

John Lant

Yes.

Bridget Rider

O'Connor.

Darren O'Connor

Yes.

Bridget Rider

Peck.

Bill Peck

Yes.

Bridget Rider

Raymond. Supervisor Raymond.

Therese Connolly

Supervisor Raymond, we're just checking the system because we can't hear anyone, and we think you're there. Supervisor Raymond if you can hit star six, please that will unmute you.

Jean Raymond

Now.

Therese Connolly

Yay. Thank you.

Jean Raymond

Okay, I vote yes. And I was unmuted. I don't know why it didn't come through.

Bridget Rider

Thank you. Schopf

Jonathan Schopf

Yes.

Bridget Rider

Smith.

Mike Smith

Yes.

Bridget Rider

Tollisen.

Kevin Tollisen

Yes.

Bridget Rider

Veitch.

Matt Veitch

Yes.

Bridget Rider

Winnie.

Sandra Winney

Yes.

Bridget Rider

Wood.

Tom Wood

Yes.

Bridget Rider

Wright.

Mo Wright

Yes.

Bridget Rider

Zlotnick.

Benny Zlotnick

Yes.

Bridget Rider

Motion passes.

Theodore Kusnierz

Thank you. And at this time, I will entertain any requests for other amendments to the tentative budget.
Supervisors Zlotnick.

Benny Zlotnick

Thank you, sir. In 2020, the County signed an agreement with the Town of Milton to pay the Town \$60,000 a year for the exorbitant amount of County property that is in our Town. That has never been adjusted or looked at. I did some very basic and simple math. At a 2% cost of living increase, that total would now be just under \$90,000. In the past 20 years the Airport has added three hangars, a flight services office building and electrical building. The County Farm complex has added a new Animal Shelter, two storage buildings, salt shed and addition to the Jail, the new Public Safety Facility and a couple of buildings for fire training. The town has about 718 acres of County property on it, an assessed value of just over \$65 million. I am respectfully asking a request that the County increase that payment to the Town to \$100,000 a year. Thank you.

Theodore Kusnierz

Is there a second on the motion?

Mike Smith

I'll second that.

Theodore Kusnierz

Seconded by Supervisors Smith. We are on discussion. Any Supervisor wish to be heard and the motion before us. Hearing none, call the roll please.

Bridget Rider

Supervisor Allen

Preston Allen

Yes.

Bridget Rider

Barrett.

Phil Barrett

No.

Bridget Rider

Connolly.

Eric Connolly

Yes.

Bridget Rider

Gaston.

Tara Gaston

Yes.

Bridget Rider
Kusnierz.

Theodore Kusnierz
No.

Bridget Rider
Lant.

John Lant
No.

Bridget Rider
O'Connor.

Darren O'Connor
No.

Bridget Rider
Peck.

Bill Peck
Yes.

Bridget Rider
Raymond

Jean Raymond
No.

Bridget Rider
Schopf.

Jonathan Schopf
No.

Bridget Rider
Smith.

Mike Smith
Yes.

Bridget Rider
Tollisen.

Kevin Tollisen

No.

Bridget Rider

Veitch.

Matt Veitch

Yes.

Bridget Rider

Winnie.

Sandra Winney

Yes.

Bridget Rider

Wood.

Tom Wood

Yes.

Bridget Rider

Wright.

Mo Wright

Yes.

Bridget Rider

Zlotnick.

Benny Zlotnick

Yes.

Bridget Rider

Motion fails.

Theodore Kusnierz

Are there any other requests to amend the tentative budget from the floor? Supervisor pack?

Bill Peck

Just another question here, going between the two budgets is going to be a problem. So just going back to those unclassified revenues. So on the, this one has page numbers, so I'll go from the page numbers that are in front of us, from the new budget that was proposed here. He said, those are the

ARPA funds but on this sheet, let's see, let me get to the page number. The document that we I was gonna suggest that the document we got emailed should have page numbers, but this one does. I've lost it. But if you look toward the back under revenues, and it'll say, county number 2770, under miscellaneous, unclassified revenues, that's when the document was 12 million and change 900,000 that he said, was ARPA funding. In the budget that's printed in front of us, it's sitting at zero. So I will find it here in a second because I had it a minute ago. I'm on page 87. I'm gonna have to take some time to review the two side by side, but I just want to make sure. I guess I want to make sure everything is included and adds up. That's what my real concern is.

Theodore Kusnierz

Which account are we looking at?

Bill Peck

2770 at the bottom of page 87, under miscellaneous unclassified revenues. In the budget we were emailed it listed at 12,910,000, which Administrator Bulger said was the ARPA funding, not because I thought that was the bond funding, but he said it was the ARPA funding. In the version that's in front of us that was left for us. I just I see it as zero.

Theodore Kusnierz

So Deputy Administrator Harris will respond to your question.

Ridge Harris

So Supervisor, it looks like you are potentially looking at a different fund. Outside of fund A, you might be looking at fund D?

Bill Peck

Okay, revenues under

Ridge Harris

You're looking at DM, you're looking on page 87.

Bill Peck

So tell me where the matches up to the one that we had, which had to do with 2770 under miscellaneous local sources other than that's 20, it looks like under section 2701.

Ridge Harris

Yep. So it's also on page 87. It's closer towards the top, it's 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 accounts down, and you'll see the \$12M 290 right there.

Bill Peck

Very good. Thank you.

Theodore Kusnierz

Are there any other requests for amendments to the budget? Any Supervisor on the phone wishing to make a request to amend the budget? Okay. So the, I'm sorry, Supervisor Gaston.

Tara Gaston

So we have the nonprofit policies, Administrator, Deputy Administrator, if you can help me, I'm much like Supervisor pack flipping. The nonprofit allocation, where's that?

Steve Bulger

The \$2 million ARPA nonprofit allocation being proposed that would also fall under that 12 million unclassified, that's part of the \$12 million in unclassified revenues that we were just discussing.

Tara Gaston

Okay. As I've stated a couple of times, I think that part of the problem with limiting it to \$2M in 2022, the County is in good financial shape, but a lot of our nonprofits are not going to make it through 2022, especially when we have \$2 million. We have organizations that have done a lot of work in our community and my recommendation, or my preference would be to increase that amount in the 2022 budget. We were clearly in the financial ability to deal with it. That would not have to be a direct allocation, it could still go under the competitive process. But I would move, I don't know whether I'll get a second, I would move to increase that to \$5 million in 2022.

Theodore Kusnierz

So we have a motion to increase the dedicated funding for nonprofits from 2 million to 5 million, is there a second on the motion?

Theodore Kusnierz

There is not a second.

Tara Gaston

Worth a shot.

Theodore Kusnierz

Any other requests to amend the budget? Supervisor Peck.

Bill Peck

I'm not looking to amend I'm just looking for clarification, again. If we go to the capital spending plan, where you got the, where you plan to bond 12 million and change. We're 11,474. You said in your opening statements, you want to do that over 10 years. Some of the equipment for Public Works, it looks like we normally include a budget line and buy trucks on a yearly basis. They're included in the regular budget, this is in addition to? So this is an additional equipment? And one, so you got to be thinking about, 12 million in revenue in 2022 is fine. But then you got to pay for it each of the following years, while you're still trying to pay for the equipment, you're doing. And number one, you should never bond anything longer than the life expectancy of, so number one up on the top of this capital spending plan is furniture for office renovation. I would never bond, either running my Town or my business, I'd bond office furniture. Long term items that you think you can spread over several years,

that's one thing. But I just want to make that point you need to be careful what you're bonding. If the life expectancy is three to five years, and you're paying for it and 10, that's very costly. So am I accurate that, what we have for a document for the capital spending plan? So the normal equipment that Public Works usually amount? I don't know what that amount is? I found it at one point. So this is all an additional new replacement, to kind of beef it up, I guess.

Steve Bulger

Yes, some of the equipment, some of the vehicles that Public Works is going to be purchasing are in the budget this year, we're going to be paying for them. A number of the vehicles here that we're bonding for are longer term, they have at least that 10 year shelf life. For example, the rack truck, the bucket truck, a lot of very specialized equipment. That we reviewed at the Long Range Capital Facilities Committee. They're included in the bond. But a lot of the regular vehicles that DPW will be purchasing are actually in the budget. If that answers your question.

Bill Peck

Yep. Yep, just raises some concerns from a fiscal basis. But this is only for amendments or.

Theodore Kusnierz

So this budget workshop is for amendments. Yes.

Bill Peck

Yeah. So any discussion.

Theodore Kusnierz

Okay, thank you Supervisor Peck. The Treasurer wish to speak? So if you could use the microphone next to Supervisor Tollisen, that'd be great.

Andrew Jarosh

Thank you, Chairman. Supervisor Peck just to address that second concern of yours. Bond Counsel looks at every item that we'd be bonding for and make sure that we have a term of that particular series of the bond to cover specific items relative to the useful life of that item. So we will never bond for an item past its useful life. Just want to make sure that that's clear, Bond Counsel is on top of that. It's the first thing they look at.

Bill Peck

So when you have furniture on there, it's probably grouped in with a larger series of bonds.

Andrew Jarosh

That's correct

Bill Peck

So they're not looking at individual items. They're looking probably at the entirety of the.

Andrew Jarosh

So what we'll do is we'll classify items based on their useful life and then each classification, the entire capital plan will be broken down into those classifications and each classification would have its own series.

Bill Peck

So theoretically, the furniture, and I don't mean to be picking on the County Clerk's furniture, but the furniture would probably be paid off in the first series of bonds because the life expectancy is short.

Andrew Jarosh

And chances are we do a band for that and pay it off before it ever goes to full bond. You're correct.

Bill Peck

Makes more sense. Okay.

Theodore Kusnierz

Supervisor Gaston.

Tara Gaston

Oh, yes. Much in the same vein, this is a more of a clarification. Some, I think I understand most of it, but especially I think, the public as they're looking at this, and I want to make sure I have that information correct before I go any further is, there are large parts of the Public Health budget that are zeroed out? I have no doubt that is because there was some sort of shuffle or adjustment can we get just a brief summary of that? Because I'll admit to first looking at it and having a little bit of agita. And can you just give a brief explanation of how it's different from years previous?

Steve Bulger

Yes, absolutely. And glad you brought it up. So the challenge for the County, and it's a big one for next year. And for Dr. Kuhles and his team is in moving forward with a full service Public Health Department and especially an environmental health component where we've got to take on the inspection processes for restaurants and water supplies and things we've talked about it many Board meetings over the last year. And right now at this point, and we're working closely with the Department of Health on this as well. And they've, we really got a good relationship on this, we're on the same page. Right now, we just don't know when that is going to take place. Whether those inspections are going to start, we're going to start hiring people in January? Probably not. In June? Or at all next year, because it's a big complex project and it's going to take some time to figure it out. We are, we have made some hires and we're actually looking to hire, we're advertising right now for an Environmental Health Director. That person is going to be charged with helping put the plan together. So we're looking for someone with very specific skill sets that has worked in this field before and can really help us put that plan together. So we took three million, are proposing to reserve \$3 million of the ARPA funds under our lost revenue provision for Public Health as needed for this expansion for next year. Whether we need it or not. We don't know yet. That's it. That's the best answer we can give. What we don't have in here, in addition to the expenses, that all of this will cost, there's also going to be revenue streams. The state has a \$3 million fund. Supposedly, we're told, that has been existing for 20 years that no other county has taken advantage of. We're the first county in 20 years to move forward with a full service Public

Health Department. And the state and our Senate and Assembly Members locally, are helping us in possibly securing some of that money as we move forward, whether it's going to be upfront money, whether it's going to be reimbursed, there's a lot of questions we just don't know yet. So there's potentially additional revenue sources. Plus, when we do the environmental health, my understanding is 36% of those payroll costs are reimbursable by the State. So that's another source of revenue, we haven't included. There's going to be fines, we don't want to fine a lot, but there will be some fine revenue when we have to take that on. We're not including any of that revenue, because we don't have any idea what it will be and if it's even going to come in next year. So to your point, I hope this answers your question. We are moving forward with the Public Health expansion that we've talked about for better part of the year here. And we reserved \$3 million to cover that if needed. If I were to guess, and I'm never a good guesser, but I would say we're probably not going to use all that 3 million because not even if we do spend 3 million we got other sources of revenue on top of it. And it doesn't look like we're in a position to start this in January other than initial expenditures to get it going. So I hope that answers your question Supervisor.

Tara Gaston

Unfortunately not exactly. But I'm noticing in the department operations, conference fees, vehicle fuel, etc. is all zeroed out, which I wouldn't expect for a Public Health Department. Rabies treatment is zeroed out, lead screening is zeroed out TB treatment is zeroed out, STD clinic zeroed out.

Stephanie Hodgson

I can speak to that.

Stephanie Hodgson

So Dr. Kuhles in part of his expanding the Public Health, he's reorganizing Public Health. So we moved a lot of the positions, and basically restructured the whole.

Tara Gaston

Okay.

Tara Gaston

So. that's the explanation I'm looking for.

Stephanie Hodgson

So we reorganized, so he has a reorganization chart, and this is more in line with what he saw fit.

Tara Gaston

Okay, that's what I assumed was taking place. Apologies if my question did not. But is there at least prior to the public hearing, can we get a copy of that? Because that's not evident.

Stephanie Hodgson

Of the org chart?

Tara Gaston

From this, or at least where the money, like, I don't know where we're doing STD clinics, TB clinics, rabies, any I don't know where that would be in the budget. And I want to make sure before we pass the final budget, that I know where that went, So that I have that.

Stephanie Hodgson

I'll let him speak to that.

Tara Gaston

Okay.

Theodore Kusnierz

Dr. Kuhles?

Daniel Kuhles

Thank you, Chairman. Supervisor Gaston. So these are administrative changes that reflect the structure of a full service Health Department. In previous years, salaries, fringe and some other items for employees were placed in more generic budget lines or outside where the majority of the work may have been done. And so it really is just a reassignment to different budget groups. So for example, STD and rabies treatment, which are State mandated programs, will be in, should be in 409 which is Disease Control.

Tara Gaston

Okay, and I noticed the family health planning is some of the STD work?

Daniel Kuhles

Family Health is the State term in the Article Six program that Steve described for reimbursement, is more maternal child health.

Tara Gaston

Okay.

Daniel Kuhles

The STD stuff, the STD programming, excuse me, would be mostly captured in disease control. However, some prevention activities depending on what they were may wind up in Family Health 407.

Tara Gaston

And would Public Health emergency preparations also fall?

Daniel Kuhles

That's 410.

Tara Gaston

Yes.

Daniel Kuhles

So the idea is to align the structure with the budget codes, and to align those with the structure that is used for the State Aid reimbursement to simplify the administrative process on our end as we grow and also for the State to make sure that we can capture every cent in the State aid reimbursement.

Tara Gaston

Okay, so 410 will remain as it is. I just see that some of it's been zeroed out, but that's intentional.

Daniel Kuhles

Yeah, everything.

Tara Gaston

Okay.

Daniel Kuhles

Everything is yes.

Tara Gaston

All right. And I do see epidemiology is a new Department.

Daniel Kuhles

Right, 408 yes.

Tara Gaston

Okay, thank you. Thank you both Miss Hodgson and Commissioner. That was more of what I was looking for. Because when you look at some of this it looks like a large part of it is zeroed out. And I know that that's not the case. But when you look at it, you still may have a small panic attack. So I appreciate that clarification.

Daniel Kuhles

Very thankful to the Administrator, the Board and the Chairman. Everything we've needed in Public Health has been given to us and I'm very thankful on behalf of the staff.

Theodore Kusnierz

Thank you, Dr. Kuhles. Thank you, Supervisor Gaston. Supervisor Peck.

Bill Peck

Another question. And not to rain on anybody's parade here. When you talk about the amended budget for 2021. That will include at 376 million that include

Theodore Kusnierz

I believe 2022.

Bill Peck

No, no, he's talking about the amended budget for 2021. What it was because it's only a 2.6% increase or something. When you talk about the amended budget, I just want my, I want to make sure I'm accurate, make sure my colleagues are accurate. That would include expenditures for Public Health that we've, to fight COVID that have been reimbursed. So I don't want anybody confused by the budget we passed. So the budget that was because though the amended budget will continue to change throughout the year and other people were hired, other expenses, projects were added on. So the budget we passed last year was 343 million. So I just want to be aware where we're making a \$38 million jump in this year's budget. It's not. Changes from the amended budget a small amount because influx in and out of federal funds, particularly for reimbursement I think is probably the vast majority. But I want everybody to keep that in mind. As we look at this and will continue to reveal.

Theodore Kusnierz

Right and it also includes mandates on the County, particularly in law enforcement, which has contributed to some of that increase. Any other request to amend the tentative budget? Hearing none, as a point of information, the public hearing for the budget will be November 30th at 4:45pm. And the adoption will be at a special Board meeting on December 8th at 4:45pm. I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

Kevin Tollisen

So moved.

Theodore Kusnierz

Supervisor Tollisen.

Mo Wright

Second.

Theodore Kusnierz

Supervisor Wright. Roll Call.

Bridget Rider

Supervisor Allen

Preston Allen

Yes.

Bridget Rider

Barrett.

Phil Barrett

Yes.

Bridget Rider

Connolly.

Eric Connolly

Yes.

Bridget Rider

Gaston.

Tara Gaston

Yes.

Bridget Rider

Kusnierz.

Theodore Kusnierz

Yes.

Bridget Rider

Lant.

John Lant

Yes.

Bridget Rider

O'Connor.

Darren O'Connor

Yes.

Bridget Rider

Peck.

Bill Peck

Yes.

Bridget Rider

Raymond

Jean Raymond

Yes.

Bridget Rider

Schopf.

Jonathan Schopf

Yes.

Bridget Rider

Smith.

Mike Smith

Yes.

Bridget Rider

Tollisen.

Kevin Tollisen

Yes.

Bridget Rider

Veitch.

Matt Veitch

Yes.

Bridget Rider

Winnie.

Sandra Winney

Yes.

Bridget Rider

Wood.

Tom Wood

Yes.

Bridget Rider

Wright.

Mo Wright

Yes.

Bridget Rider

Zlotnick.

Benny Zlotnick

Yes.

Bridget Rider

Motion passes.

Theodore Kusnierz

Thank you very much, everyone.