

Seneca County Board of Supervisors
Special Meeting
&
Public Hearing
November 19, 2013

Call to Order

Chairman Hayssen called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call of Members by the Clerk

Thirteen members of the Board of Supervisors answered roll call. Mr. Lafler was not present.

Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

Public Hearing

The floor was opened on a motion by Mr. Davidson, second by Mr. Prouty and carried to receive public comments regarding the Seneca County Tentative Budget for fiscal year 2014.

Presentation

County Manager Mitch Rowe gave a presentation explaining the proposed budget and the financial condition of the county. The total budget for 2014 is \$67,869,166. However, due to an increase in the 2013 projected amount for sales tax revenue and using reserve funds, the amount of the tax levy from this year to next year remains at zero. For the past several years, using the reserve fund has enabled the county to keep the tax levy at zero percent increase. Because of the commitment by county staff to be fiscally conservative for the past few years, the amount of reserve funds used to bring the tax levy to a zero increase was almost ten percent less than the amount used for the 2013 budget.

A portion of the presentation focused on the cost of mandated programs. Of the total budget for 2014 (\$67,869,116), 47.91% is attributed to mandated costs (\$32,518,216). The county's share of the mandates is 62.05% (\$20,177,115).

Petitioner

Sally Eller, representing the county's five public libraries, urged the Board of Supervisors to approve one hundred percent of the amount they requested for 2014 (\$53,806). She said the libraries are a vital community service, especially in rural areas. The expense of maintaining its Polaris computer book sharing system increases each year.

Unfinished Business

Mr. Earle made a motion, second by Mr. Kaiser, for the Board of Supervisors to enter executive session after New Business in accordance with the NYS Open Meetings Law §105(1)(e) collective negotiations pursuant to article fourteen of the civil service law and to consult with and obtain legal

advice from counsel. Invited into executive session: County Manager, County Attorney, Personnel Officer, and Jim Roemer, attorney for collective bargaining negotiations. Executive Session: 7:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

New Business

At the request of Mr. Churchill, a budget workshop (s) will be discussed for scheduling at the Finance, Assessment, and Insurance Committee meeting on Tuesday, November 26.

Special Order of the Day

The Board of Supervisors reconvened in open session at 7:30 p.m. No action was taken.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.