

SPECIAL SESSION – TUESDAY, November 15, 2016

The Yates County Legislature met in special session, Tuesday, November 15, 2016 at 6:30p.m. to conduct a public hearing on the 2017 Tentative Budget, with Chairman Dennis presiding.

Chairman Dennis asked that a moment of silence be observed in memory of Gary Montgomery.

Chairman Dennis appointed a Grievance Committee to consist of the following members: Doug Paddock, Mark Morris and Chairman Dennis.

Chairman Dennis made the following comments:

Thank you everyone for attending our Public Hearing for the fiscal year 2017 Yates County Budget. There will be time for the public to address their comments and questions after the Budget Officer has completed her presentation.

This is the first full budget year for Budget Officer Nonie Flynn to manage and prepare our budget. She has been fully involved with our Finance Committee, Department Heads, elected officials and our new County Administrator, Robert Lawton. We certainly appreciate her leadership and dedication to Yates County to make this a cooperative effort through her team approach. She does all this in addition to her responsibility as County Treasurer.

I will not speak to the specifics of this tentative budget, but I would like to comment that it meets the requirements to sustain all current functions of county government and maintain the financial integrity and stability of Yates County. At the same time, there is not a significant increase in the property tax levy.

Any budget is a best estimate of revenues and expenditures. The adopted budget will be amended during the year to meet unforeseen changes in those estimates. The budget is also our statement of our values and goals for the year 2017. It is amazing that our entire staff can fulfill these goals without having a significant amount of contingent funds available.

County government has multiple responsibilities. Some of these are not readily apparent such as indigent legal defense, education of pre-school handicapped children, and support of crime victims. We also act as a partner with NY State in delivering mandated services. Some of these mandates drive a large portion of our property tax levy. Since we have no control over these and since they can have significant variation, they can cause unforeseen swings in county cost of operation. We are including a tax stabilization reserve fund this year in an attempt to level out these uncontrolled swings in future years.

The plan for this hearing will be: Budget Officer Flynn will give a presentation of our tentative 2017 budget. Following that, Finance Committee Chair Doug Paddock will take comments and or questions from the public. At the conclusion of that, the Legislature will consider the tentative budget. There may be changes offered and passed to that document. At the conclusion, I expect we will have a motion to adopt the 2017 budget. Thank you.

Budget Office Nonie Flynn reviewed highlights of the 2017 Tentative Budget. A copy of her presentation is at the end of these minutes.

Mr. Paddock Chairman of Finance entertained questions/comments. There were no questions or comments from the public.

Mr. Morris commented that Budget Officer Flynn did a great job on the presentation. We have had a very fortunate year in terms of things that have gone our way. We are going to take most of that money and we are going to put it in some funds which Mr. Morris is ok with. He is glad that this was made clear with the presentation. The taxpayers need to understand that, we have had a good year, we're giving a little of the money back but not a lot of the money back.

Mr. Paddock moved to increase line A1990.54905 Contingent Fund by \$100,000 and we do so by taking that from Fund Balance, seconded by Mr. Morris. VOTE: Unanimous

Mr. Smith moved to reduce line item A1170.51646 Public Defender, Secretary by \$8,982 and line item A1170.58100 FICA by \$688, seconded by Mr. Morrison.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Paddock stated that this was discussed extensively at the time of budget workshop with the public defender in attendance to be able to answer questions and he would like to know what changed in the interim.

Mr. Smith stated it was a close vote and he would like to rescind it.

VOTE: Roll Call – Morrison, Smith, Dennis voting “Yes” Paddock, Bronson, Percy, Multer, Holgate, Banach, Church, Gleason, Morris, Button voting “No”. Motion lost.

Mr. Morrison moved to reduce line item A8710.54204 Cooperative Extension by \$15,000, seconded by Mr. Button.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Morrison stated the position that was there, the person responsible for Yates County was located here in Yates County. That position has not disappeared but the person has resigned and the position will now be located in Ithaca. The position was funded by Yates County in the amount of \$8,000, \$20,000 by the Land Trust and another \$20,000 by Harvest New York. The proposed position is in addition to the old position. The proposed funding for the new position is \$15,000 from Yates County and \$30,000 from the Land Trust who previously put in \$20,000. It is not clear to Mr. Morrison if the Land Trust is now going to put in a total of \$50,000.

Evidently the \$8,000 that the County contributed is still going to be there for the old position otherwise our contribution would be \$7,000 to get us to \$15,000. Given the vagueness and uncertainty of this and if we stay with the \$15,000 that has been allocated that will mean that the Cooperative Extension line item will have increased by 6.25%. We have asked our department heads to keep their budgets flat and they have worked very hard along with the budget officer to stay flat. It seems unusual to then increase the funding of a cooperative agency by 6.25% and add a position.

Ms. Wilson explained this would not be an additional position. They currently had for 2016 one Agriculture Educator position that was based in Yates County that had several sources of funding that were put together to make one full time position. It is very hard to recruit and retain a part time position. Arlene was looking for support to be able to sustain and keep and Agricultural Educator in Yates County, with the loss of the funding structure that exists for 2016. Funding from Harvest New York will not be available for 2017, this would leave Arlene with the option to try and hire a part time Agricultural Educator of maybe 15 to 20 hours a week.

Chairman Dennis stated this is different than what was stated in budget workshop. It was portrayed as basically being dedicated to the Farm Land Protection more than it was to an Agricultural Educator. Is it both or primarily one?

Ms. Wilson stated it is both. The Agricultural Educator is a title that is used within Corporative Extension. Farmland Protection is not a title it is a series of duties that the Agricultural Educator would be responsible for.

Mr. Paddock questioned when the last time there was an increase in CCE's budget. Mr. Paddock reflected that CCE is at the same level \$240,000 as they were in 2009.

Ms. Wilson confirmed and stated that their budget was cut in 2009, 2008, 2005 and 2012. In the past 10 to 15 years CCE has sustained \$10 to \$15,000 in cuts to the budget and they have been flat for the last few years.

Mr. Paddock explained that while this may represent a 6.25% increase, if it was annualized or compounded over 5 years it would be approximately 1%.

Chairman Dennis questioned, does this mean there will be someone in CCE's program where they will be strictly in Yates County full time on Farmland Protection. Ms. Wilson confirmed.

Chairman Dennis stated, the mission previously was that this was a part-time position working in Yates County on Farmland Protection so by making this full time it would be an expansion of mission.

VOTE: Roll Call – Morrison, Church, Button, Dennis voting "Yes" Paddock, Bronson, Percy, Multer, Holgate, Banach, Gleason, Morris, Smith voting "No". Motion lost.

Chairman Dennis closed the Public Hearing at 7:15pm.

RESOLUTION NO. 399-16

Mr. Paddock offered the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Mr. Smith.

ADOPT 2017 COUNTY BUDGET

WHEREAS, the Tentative Budget for 2017 has been duly presented to the County Legislature by the Budget Officer and the duly advertised Public Hearing has been held thereon,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, pursuant to Section 360 of the County Law that said Tentative Budget as presented is hereby adopted as the budget for Yates County for the Year 2017, and be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be provided to the Budget Officer and the County Treasurer.

VOTE: Unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 7:17pm.

Yates County 2017 Budget

November 15, 2016
Winona Flynn
Treasurer/Budget Officer

All Funds Summary

	2016 Adopted	2017 Tentative	\$ Change	% Change
Revenue (not property taxes)	-\$23,980,984	-\$24,980,628	\$999,644	4.17%
Expenditures	\$41,893,513	\$42,022,591	\$129,078	0.31%
Net	\$17,912,529	\$17,041,963	-\$870,566	-4.86%
Reserve to Offset	-\$1,889,085	-\$996,392	-\$892,693	-47.26%
Total Levy	\$16,023,444	\$16,045,571	\$22,127	0.14%
NYS Tax Levy Limit		\$16,357,440		
Under Allowable Cap		-\$311,869		

General Fund Summary

	2016 Adopted	2017 Tentative	\$ Change	% Change
Total Revenues	-\$22,726,663	-\$23,472,591	\$745,928	3.28%
Contractual	\$16,116,777	\$15,914,157	-\$202,620	-1.26%
Personal Services	\$11,498,444	\$11,580,900	\$82,456	0.72%
Employee Benefits	\$5,482,244	\$5,168,829	-\$313,415	-5.72%
Debt Payment	\$1,673,788	\$1,659,051	-\$14,737	-0.88%
Transfers	\$358,435	\$847,961	\$489,526	136.57%
Equipment	\$276,120	\$376,900	\$100,780	36.50%
Total Expenditures	\$35,405,808	\$35,547,798	\$141,990	0.40%
Net	\$12,679,145	\$12,075,207	-\$603,938	-4.76%
Reserve to Offset	\$926,070	\$996,392	\$70,322	7.59%
Levy	\$11,753,075	\$11,078,815	-\$674,260	-5.74%

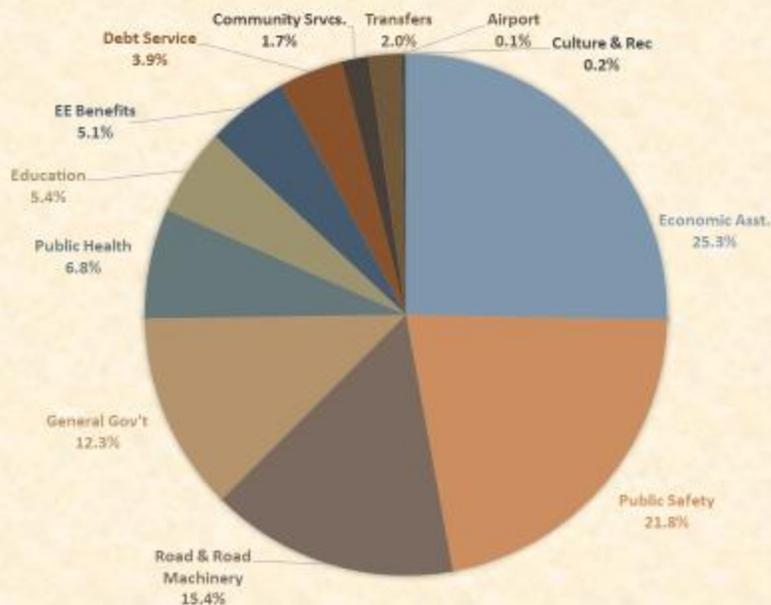
Airport Fund Summary

	2016 Adopted	2017 Tentative	\$ Change	% Change
Total Revenues	-\$28,501	-\$31,501	\$3,000	10.53%
Total Expenditures	\$94,101	\$22,000	-\$72,101	-76.62%
Net	\$65,600	-\$9,501	-\$75,101	-114.48%
Reserve to Offset	\$65,600	\$0	-\$65,600	-100.00%
Levy	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%

Road & Road Machinery Funds

	2016 Adopted	2017 Tentative	\$ Change	% Change
Total Revenues	-\$1,225,820	-\$1,486,037	\$260,217	21.23%
Contractual	\$3,932,325	\$3,833,123	-\$99,202	-2.52%
Personal Services	\$1,356,389	\$1,350,367	-\$6,022	-0.44%
Employee Benefits	\$745,972	\$701,041	-\$44,931	-6.02%
Equipment	\$321,000	\$533,000	\$212,000	66.04%
Transfers	\$37,919	\$35,262	-\$2,657	-7.01%
Total Expenditures	\$6,393,605	\$6,452,793	\$59,188	0.93%
Net	\$5,167,785	\$4,966,756	-\$201,029	-3.89%
Reserve to Offset	\$897,415	\$0	-\$897,415	-100.00%
Levy	\$4,270,370	\$4,966,756	\$696,386	16.31%

How the Money is Spent



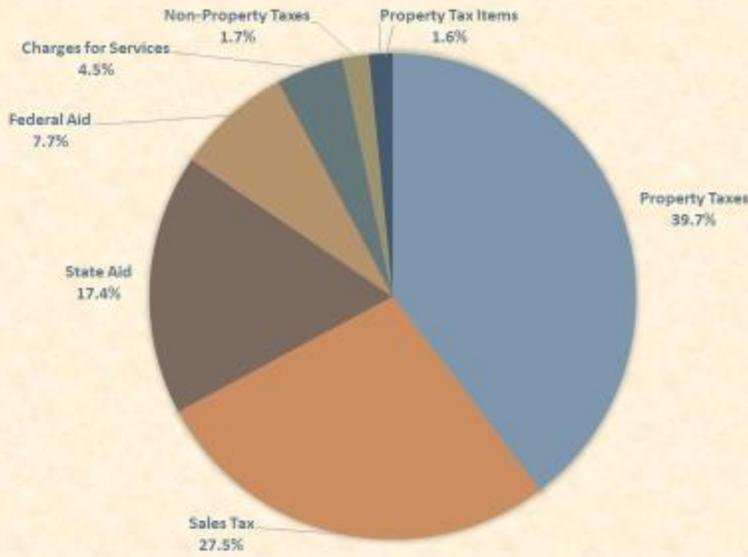
New York State Mandates

	2016 Adopted	2017 Tentative	\$ Change	% Change
Medicaid	\$4,159,571	\$4,264,224	\$104,653	2.52%
NYS Pension	\$2,185,025	\$2,139,600	-\$45,425	-2.08%
Social Services Programs	\$1,020,716	\$537,910	-482,806	-47.30%
Community College	\$930,000	\$1,100,000	\$170,000	18.28%
Special Ed. Pre-K	\$600,000	\$580,000	-\$20,000	-3.33%
Probation	\$481,696	\$462,795	-\$18,901	-3.92%
Indigent Defense	\$690,491	\$609,687	-\$80,804	-11.70%
Workers' Compensation	\$376,353	\$313,223	-\$63,130	-16.77%
Early Intervention	\$36,720	\$36,720	\$0	0.00%
Total Net Cost	\$10,480,572	\$10,044,159	-\$436,413	-4.16%
Percent of Net Budget	58.51%	58.94%		
Percent of Total Levy	65.41%	62.60%		

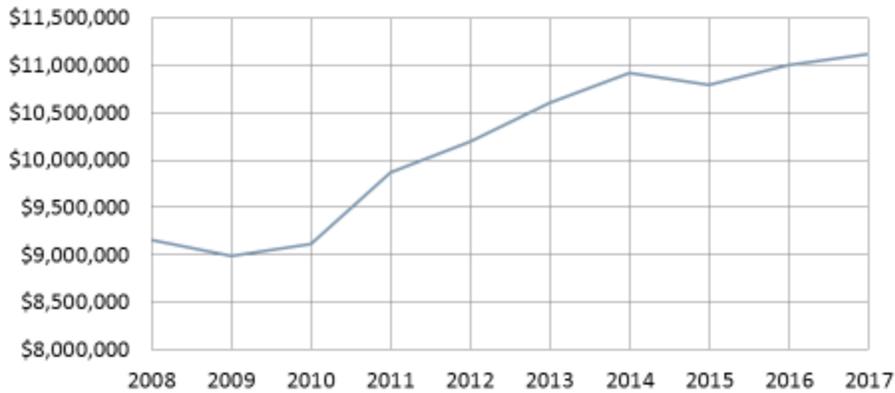
Agency Funding

	2016 Adopted	2017 Tentative	\$ Change	% Change
Tourism Promotion Agency*	\$236,500	\$266,060	\$43,344	19.46%
Cornell Cooperative Extension	\$240,153	\$255,153	\$15,000	6.25%
ProAction of Steuben & Yates	\$93,661	\$93,661	\$0	0.00%
YC Soil & Water	\$92,600	\$92,600	\$0	0%
YC Chapter NYSARC	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0	0%
YC History Center	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0	0%
Total	\$655,130	\$713,474	\$58,344	8.91%
*Fully funded with Occupancy Tax Revenue				

Where the Money Comes From



Historical Sales Tax Revenue



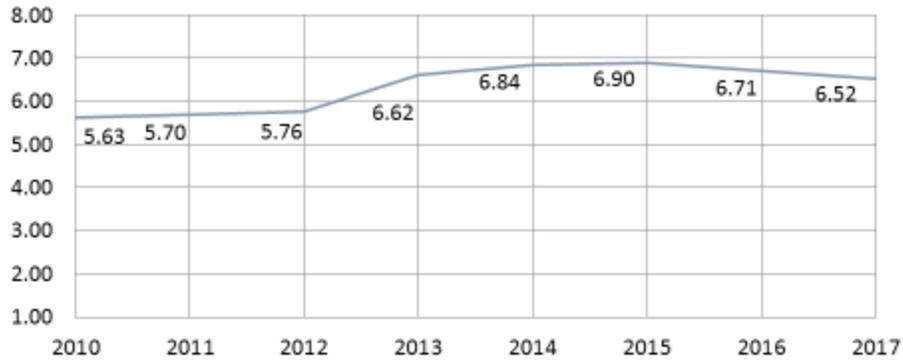
2017 Property Tax Levy and Rate

	2016 Adopted	2017 Tentative	\$ Change	% Change
Property Tax Levy	\$16,023,444	\$16,045,571	\$22,127	0.14%
Full Value Rate Used for Apportionment	\$2,386,419,234	\$2,459,259,684	\$72,840,450	3.05%
Full Value County Tax Rate	\$6.7144	\$6.5246	\$-0.1898	-2.83%

Tax Information

Year	Full Value Rate used for Apportionment	% Change	Tax Levy	Full Value Tax Rate
2010	\$2,154,089,847	2.69%	\$12,131,154	\$5.6317
2011	\$2,179,625,678	1.19%	\$12,424,621	\$5.7003
2012	\$2,220,121,243	1.86%	\$12,784,935	\$5.7587
2013	\$2,215,925,516	-0.19%	\$14,660,231	\$6.6159
2014	\$2,258,024,293	1.90%	\$15,453,192	\$6.8437
2015	\$2,290,352,793	1.43%	\$15,810,332	\$6.9030
2016	\$2,386,419,234	4.19%	\$16,023,444	\$6.7144
2017	\$2,459,259,684	3.05%	\$16,045,571	\$6.5246

Tax Rate 2010 - 2017



Town Tax Rate Comparison

Town	2016 Rate	2017 Rate	\$ Change	% Change
Barrington	\$6.937432	\$6.712060	-\$0.225372	-3.25%
Benton	\$6.940295	\$6.722213	-\$0.218082	-3.14%
Italy	\$6.968844	\$6.770714	-\$0.198130	-2.84%
Jerusalem	\$7.148426	\$7.050788	-\$0.097638	-1.37%
Middlesex	\$6.936052	\$6.959460	\$0.023408	0.34%
Milo	\$6.929210	\$6.920532	-\$0.008678	-0.13%
Potter	\$6.929441	\$6.760166	-\$0.169275	-2.44%
Starkey	\$6.976892	\$6.755548	-\$0.221344	-3.17%
Torrey	\$6.928940	\$6.712326	-\$0.216614	-3.13%

2017 Tentative County Taxes

Assessed Value	2016 Tax Bill	2017 Tax Bill	2017 Reduction
\$50,000	\$335.72	\$326.23	-\$9.49
\$100,000	\$671.44	\$652.46	-\$18.98
\$150,000	\$1,007.16	\$978.69	-\$28.47
\$200,000	\$1,342.88	\$1,304.92	-\$37.96
\$300,000	\$2,014.32	\$1,957.38	-\$56.94
\$400,000	\$2,685.76	\$2,609.84	-\$75.92
\$500,000	\$3,357.20	\$3,262.30	-\$94.90

New for 2017

- * The NYS Property Tax Freeze Rebate Program will no longer be available for NYS homeowners. The State Law was for 2014, 2015 and 2016 tax years only.
- * For homeowners that are eligible for the School Tax Relief (STAR) credit (their property must be their primary residence & their taxable household income must be \$500,000 or less), there will be a Property Tax Relief Credit based on the homeowner's income and STAR savings.
- * Tax Stabilization Reserve Fund – Available for future budgets to offset large expenditures over which the County has no control (Community College, Pension, Social Services) and thereby reducing the possibility of a large tax increase in the future.

Thank You!

- * If you have any questions, please contact me at:

Winona Flynn

nflynn@yatescounty.org

315-536-5192

Looking Ahead

- * Continuation of 5 year budget planning.
- * Slowly declining pension costs.
- * Escalating health insurance costs.
- * Two new hotels that we expect will continue to increase sales tax revenue.
- * Cap on the growth of Medicaid costs.
- * Continuation of services to the residents of Yates County.