

November 18, 2014

ERIE COUNTY COUNCIL – 2015 Budget Public Hearing

Mr. Leone, Vice-Chairman, called to order a Public Hearing in regards to the budget at 4:00 p.m. at the Erie County Courthouse, County Council Chambers, Erie, PA.

Kathy Dahlkemper, County Executive; Mrs. Dahlkemper thanked Council for the opportunity to speak. Mrs. Dahlkemper read the following: “Destination Erie is important to the future of the County and that Council’s input into the final product is very much needed. Over the past three years, along with community partners, the County has made a joint commitment to Destination Erie, our roadmap to a future of growth and prosperity. We must now support the implementation of that plan so it does not become one more plan that sits unfulfilled on a shelf. She wanted to clarify that the strategic initiatives position that is requested in the budget is not an economic development position. It is a position that will be funded by multiple partners and be charged with moving the recommendations in the final Destination Erie plan forward. She, as well as the others who have been intimately involved in this process, believe that it is imperative that there is someone who comes to work every day focused on implementing that plan. She also believes that this position belongs in the County, as the County is the only organization that has a vested interest in all aspects of the plan – transportation, housing, the environment, education, workforce, health, arts and culture, and economic development. She asked Council to seriously consider funding the partial payment for this position as the budget is reviewed in whole tonight. She thanked Council for carefully reviewing and considering the budget that she presented on October 1st. As was discussed, it is a budget that deals with the current fiscal situation and builds the basis for sustainable financial future. Just as important, if not moreso, it is also a budget that looks at how we can be a catalyst in ensuring a bright future in Erie County. It has been the request of Council for many years to look long term when doing the budget. Council has expressed concern that the budget process has become fragmented. Responding to these concerns, Mrs. Dahlkemper believes that she has delivered something different, a budget that is fiscally responsible and offers a long term plan for regional growth. It is a budget that provides the necessary components to move Erie County forward. There is a structural imbalance with flat revenues and rising costs and this is unsustainable. We were elected by the citizens to provide solutions to the challenges faced. The citizens are looking for us to take bold action to lead them and their children into a prosperous future. There are initiatives in this budget that will do just that and by implementing these initiatives, we can start today to provide the necessary tools that will address the short and long term needs of our county. We cannot cut our way out of this structural deficit. The long term issue is the flat revenue. We will increase revenue by increasing property values, growing our businesses, and ultimately the tax base. It is imperative that we show a commitment to growing the Erie economy. She urged Council to avoid the temptation to cover the structural deficit with the fund balance. We cannot continue to use what equates to our savings account to fund operating expenses. This is a slippery slope and a practice that has led many municipalities, counties, and state governments into very difficult financial situations. No one likes a tax increase and they are never popular, but at times, they are necessary. If done for the right reasons, future generations will benefit from the tough decisions that we make today. She agrees with the call from Council that it is time to stop taking the reactive approach to the budget and address the financial situation proactively. Moving forward, she intends to add a financial projection to the

November 18, 2014

annual three year plan. This was a request from Councilman Leone and it is agreed that it will help monitor the financial progress of the county. She believes that there are the same desires – a county that is vibrant, to ensure that children and grandchildren have great opportunities here. We want to serve the county with a view to the long term, making smart decisions that will leave Erie County a better place than we found it. She pledged that she will work with Council to achieve these goals. We are in this together, our citizens want a government with County Council and the County Executive cooperating and collaborating for the greater good. That’s why they elected us and it is our obligation to them. This budget process is not about me and it’s not about you. This budget process should be about what is best for the people of Erie County. She stated there may be a sense of urgency in her voice and it’s because she sees the need for urgency as she travels around the county. People are depending on us for new opportunities and we must engage now in order to improve the opportunities for all, whether they live here in downtown Erie, or out in Albion, Corry, Springfield, North East and everywhere in between. 280,000 people call Erie County home and we should be proud of what we do and how we work together to improve and enrich the lives of everyone who lives here. We can wait no longer. Now is the time to work collectively. Mrs. Dahlkemper thanked Council for all they do for the people of Erie County and she looks forward to continuing to work with Council for the sake of all of the citizens – present and future.

Mary Rennie, Director, Erie County Library; Ms. Rennie made the following statement, “I have been an Erie resident all of my life. I know the potential in our community and I know the need. It is easy to be passive, to wait for someone to save us, whether it’s the next big employer that we hope will move into the area, or whether it’s for an arm of government to extend the safety net. That is not the way I think. The proposed Library Business Technology and Idea Lab takes the existing demand for library services and it goes beyond that. It is a way for us to be proactive. The most innovative portion of this project, connecting people to resources, whether it’s business, technical, or education related, will be done by broad collaboration, something that has not been done elsewhere to my knowledge. I know that that there is concern that we could be duplicating services with this project. I say that this should be the least of anyone’s concerns. Libraries have been around almost forever and I don’t believe that we’ve put anyone out of business yet. Just the opposite, in fact. We exist to spotlight resources and to connect people to them. We are a clearinghouse for information. It’s what we do. Collectively in Erie County, libraries serve well over 1 million people a year from babies to senior citizens, from teens going off to college, to veterans coming home from war. We serve job seekers and would be entrepreneurs. We serve people who have served their time in prison and are looking to rebuild their lives. We serve people across all socioeconomic levels. So, what better place could there be for a broad based conversation about ideas. A broad based conversation about the possibilities. There can never be too much discussion about what can be. We are Erie, each one of us, individually and collectively. Our community is what we make of it. The Library Business, Technology, and Idea Lab is a way for us to build community together. I thank you in advance for your consideration and for your vote today”.

There being no further business, the public hearing adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Deneé Breter, County Council Secretary

November 18, 2014

ERIE COUNTY COUNCIL – Regular Meeting

Dr. Foust, Chairman, called to order a Regular Meeting of the Erie County Council at 5:11 p.m. at the Erie County Courthouse, County Council Chambers, Erie, PA. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Mr. Steve Sullivan gave the invocation:

“My name is Steve Sullivan, I’m a member of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie. I thank the Council for welcoming me and other non-Christians to do opening invocations at its meetings. In doing so, the Council is avoiding favoritism in religion and thereby fulfilling the oath its members took to uphold the Constitution. What is Unitarian Universalist atheist doing giving

November 18, 2014

invocation, if not addressing a supernatural being or power? What I invoke, on behalf of the Council, are important ethical values that should guide its members in their deliberations and decisions - the apparent worth and dignity of every person; justice, equity, and compassion in human relations, acceptance of one another, and the right of conscience and use of the Democratic process in our society. These are, I would note, central Unitarian Universalist values, but they are also among the best elements in all faith traditions or belief systems, including some forms of Christianity, that are worthy of our respect. These values should remind us that the granting of special legal privileges to Christianity is disrespectful to Americans who belong to other faith traditions or to none at all. By now, in fact, nones (individuals without any affiliation in religion) make up 20% of the American population. As Americans, we can be proud of the religious and irreligious diversity and freedom in our nation. As President Obama put it in his 2009 inaugural address 'We know that our patchwork heritage, which includes Christians and Muslims, Jews and Hindus, and non-believers, among others, is a strength, not a weakness'. In the words of President George W. Bush, 'The great tradition of America is one where people can worship the way they want to worship and if they choose not to worship, they are just as patriotic as your neighbor.'. The ethical values I have invoked are also linked to the commitment to democracy that is central to the American legal and political tradition. We do not have and will never achieve liberty and justice for all, and we should not pretend otherwise. But most of us believers and non-believers and non-believers alike share a reverence for this ideal of liberty and justice for all that helps us to work together in the communal enterprise of promoting what the Preamble of the Constitution calls the general welfare and the blessings of liberty. That is the enterprise to which I trust you all belong and I thank you for your service.”.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Dr. Foust, Chairman
Mr. Leone, Vice Chairman
Mr. Breneman
Mr. DiMattio
Mr. Fatica
Mr. Horton
Mrs. Loll

Members Absent: None.

Also Present: Douglas R. Smith, County Clerk
Joseph Maloney, CPA
Sue Ellen Pasquale, General Accounting Manager
James Sparber, Finance Director
Kathy Dahlkemper, County Executive
Gary Lee, Director of Administration

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Lou Aliota, Millcreek Township; Mr. Aliota wanted to address a couple of issues relative to the budget, and discussed an article in the Times that there is a reserve. He stated that he presented his position on the reserve previously. He commented that an elected individual is to have responsibility, accountability, and transparency to the public. He asked Council to enlighten the public as to what would be the recommended reserve amount for the County. He also asked Council when the last time Council members reviewed all of the programs of Erie County, and when the last assessment, evaluation or analysis done based on efficiency. His last concern was in regards to cutting a reserve fund balance and asked that Council explain and elaborate on that issue.

November 18, 2014

Jeff Hawryliw; Harborcreek Township; Mr. Hawryliw is as assistant chief of the Fairfield Hose Company and has been a fireman for ten years. He is also on the board of the East County Chiefs Association which represents nine fire departments in the eastern part of the County. He attending tonight's meeting to say publicly that the East County Chiefs Association are 100% in favor of the public radio system as it was presented by the County Executive and the Public Safety Director. He stressed that there is a delay no longer than is necessary to get this project pushed through. He stated that the study was done, the safety community has been saying it for years, and the system cannot be fixed anymore. He is concerned that it could be a member of the public or a member of the safety community that could lose their life as a result of the lack of communication because of the current radio system. He stated that he will be at every meeting until this is discussed and finalized. He stated that it will take three years to implement the system once Council approves it and there can't be a delay. He welcomed the Council members to attend any of the East County Chiefs Association meetings and see what their concerns are as a fire service. He thanked Council for their time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Leone moved to approve the minutes from November 5, 2014. This was seconded by Mr. Fatica and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND/OR HER DESIGNEE

Mr. Lee stated there was no report this evening.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Fatica stated that the Finance Committee met on Thursday, November 13, 2014, and agreed to move the following ordinances to second readings: Ordinances 124 through 145, 2014, along with putting Ordinances 148, 149, and 150, 2014 under new business.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. DiMattio reported that the Personnel Committee did not meet as there was nothing on the agenda.

OTHER REPORTS

Mr. Breneman gave an update on the Veterans Council of Erie County, stating that the group met on November 16, 2014, with representatives from 16 veteran organizations in attendance. They will be moving forward with obtaining 501(c)3 status. There will be another meeting in January, 2015, to move into the next phase.

Motion to Amend Agenda

A motion to amend the agenda by moving Ordinances 148, 149, and 150, 2014, to a second reading was made by Mr. Leone, seconded by Mr. Fatica, and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Dr. Foust commented that Mr. Maloney was working on some action sheets pertaining to the budget ordinances, and stated that Council would first handle the ordinances that do not pertain to the budget.

Ord. 142, 2014 ECCCA Refunding

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance 142, 2014, "Approving A Certain Refunding Project And The Financing Thereof, Briefly Describing The Same; Stating The Maximum Aggregate Principal Amount Of The Refunding Bonds To Be Issued By The Erie County Convention Center Authority To Be Secured By A Certain Refunding Guaranty Agreement Of The County Of Erie As Described Herein And Stating That The Debt Thereunder Is To Be Incurred As Lease Rental Debt As Defined In The Pennsylvania Local Government Unit Debt Act, 53 Pa. Cons. Stat. §8001 *Et Seq.*, As Amended; Authorizing And Directing Officers Of The County To Prepare And Verify A Debt Statement Required By Section 8110 Of The Debt Act And A

November 18, 2014

Borrowing Base Certificate And Directing The County Clerk To File Such Statement And Certificate, Together With A Certified Copy Of This Ordinance And Proofs Of Publication, With The Pennsylvania Department Of Community And Economic Development And To Pay Any Necessary Filing Fees; Authorizing And Directing The Manner Of Approval, And The Execution And Delivery, Of The Refunding Guaranty Agreement By The County; Stating The Maximum Annual Amounts Of Principal And Interest To Be Paid Under The Refunding Guaranty Agreement, Covenanting The Payment Thereof And Pledging The Full Faith, Credit And Taxing Power Of The County Therefor; Undertaking To Provide Certain Continuing Disclosures, If Necessary; Authorizing The Officials Of The County To Take Other Appropriate Action; Repealing All Ordinances Inconsistent Herewith And Stating The Effective Date Of This Ordinance.”

This was moved by Mr. Fatica and seconded by Mr. DiMattio.

Mr. Leone stated that he would be abstaining from a vote on this ordinance this evening due to his consulting position with an architect firm.

Mr. Fatica then wanted to confirm that Council received the email from Attorney Talarico recommending approval of this ordinance. This was distributed by Mr. Smith.

Ordinance Number 142, 2014, then carried in a 5-1-1 vote, with Mr. Horton voting no and Mr. Leone abstaining.

**Ord. 145, 2014 –
Cap. Proj. SA for
2015 Cap. Projects**

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 145, 2014, “First 2014 Capital Project Fund Supplemental Appropriation of \$886,069 and Creation of Line Item for Various Capital Projects in 2015 Budget”. This was moved by Mr. Leone, seconded by Mr. Fatica, and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

**Ord. 148, 2014 –
Gen. Fund SA for
Tx to PRM**

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 148, 2014, “Thirty-Seventh 2014 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$600,000 for Transfer to Pleasant Ridge Manor”. This was moved by Mr. Leone and seconded by Mr. DiMattio.

Dr. Foust commented that Pleasant Ridge Manor is near and dear to his heart and that the transfers for the County used to be in excess of \$2 million, and for every dollar they appropriate of General Fund monies, they get about \$100 in return. Dr. Foust felt it is a wise financial investment and will vote in favor of it.

Ordinance Number 148, 2014, then carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

**Ord. 149, 2014 –
Amending Ord.
143, 2014 to Add a
Waiver of the
Purch. Code**

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 149, 2014, “Amending Ordinance Number 143, 2014, ‘Fifth 2014 Library Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$47,310 in State Aid for District Services Purchase of Literacy Software’, to Add a Waiver of the Purchasing Code”. This was moved by Mr. DiMattio, seconded by Mr. Breneman, and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

November 18, 2014

**Ord. 150, 2014 –
Public Health SA
In Add'l TB Grant
Funds**

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 150, 2014, “Twelfth 2014 Public Health Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$23,549 in Additional Tuberculosis Grant Funds”. This was moved by Mr. DiMattio, seconded by Mr. Horton, and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Council went into recess at 5:32 p.m. to allow Mr. Maloney to finish his calculations.

The meeting then resumed at 5:50 p.m.

**2015 BUDGET
ORDINANCES**

2015 Erie County Care
Management Budget

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 124, 2014, “2015 Erie County Care Management Budget”. This was moved by Mr. Leone and seconded by Mr. Fatica.

Mr. Fatica moved to amend Ordinance Number 124, 2014, to include budget Action Sheet 1. This was seconded by Mr. Leone, and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Ordinance Number 124, 2014, as amended, carried in a unanimous roll call vote. The cover sheet amount remained the same at **\$12,907,854.**

	Revenues		Expenditures	
	Increase	Decrease	Increase	Decrease
#1	To subject this fund to the Erie County Personnel policy including having all new positions subjected to approval by County Council.			

2015 Domestic
Relations Fund Budget
#050-003710

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 125, 2015, “2015 Domestic Relations Fund Budget”. This was moved by Mr. Fatica, and seconded by Mr. Leone.

	Revenues		Expenditures	
	Increase	Decrease	Increase	Decrease
#1	To restrict Indirect Cost to transfer to General Fund and not available for transfer to other line items.			

Mr. Fatica moved to amend Ordinance 125, 2014, to include Action Sheet 1. This was seconded by Mr. Leone and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Mr. DiMattio then moved to amend Ordinance 125, 2014, to include Action Sheet 2, “To provide upgrades for positions 1, 2, 70, 72, 73, 74, & 75”. This was seconded by Mrs. Loll.

Mr. Leone commented that he has always indicated that he has been in favor of the Home Rule Charter and always has been, and he felt by including this action sheet, it would violate the Personnel Code. He stated that any councilmember can make any ordinance or resolution as they see fit, but he felt that the process of Council saying to the Administration that they are going to change the classification of any individual is not correct. He further commented that this recommendation has to be made by the Administration. Council, the Administration, and all the

November 18, 2014

departments involved, including the Courts, Clerk of Records, etc., needs to sit down and determine what has to be done as far as changes to be made in classification and paygrade. He gave his word that next year he will be part of that process. He stated that many think he is opposed to that. He is not opposed to sitting down and giving realistic salaries to all of the employees in the County, but to pick and choose and say it's okay for this department but not this one is not correct and he believes it violates the Home Rule Charter. He stated he spoke with Council's solicitor this evening and he also indicated that the process has to come from the Administration.

Mr. Fatica added that all of Council's concerns are that this speaks broadly and necessarily to the restructuring of the pay matrix because it is 30 plus years out of date and not working anymore and Council keeps running into these kind of issues. He also spoke with the solicitor who did not see how this could be done because it would violate the code by changing the pay matrix.

Mr. DiMattio explained that this and some of the other things that would be discussed this evening were submitted by him. He stated that all department heads in attendance, along with the Administration, received a letter from him that was addressed to the County Executive, concerning the fact that we do need to change the Personnel Code and pay matrix. He stated that this is an issue that will be addressed in the next 12 months and he will not let that die. He has made that commitment and that is what is going to be done. In the interim, he commented that he understands the discussion with the solicitor and regarding the Home Rule Charter, but he felt that Council, with this vote, are not voting to increase someone's pay, it is increasing a line item, and it would then be up to the County Executive at that point to petition Personnel to release these funds to the designated people moving forward. He further commented that Council is not voting on pay raises, but voting to increase a line item in the budget.

Mr. Horton stated he would be voting against this, for the same reasons that his colleagues, Mr. Leone and Mr. Fatica, stated, under the advice of the solicitor. Mr. Horton submitted some action sheets for upgrades as well, but that conversation with the solicitor took place just prior to this meeting and he could not, in good conscience, support any upgrades until they are all addressed in accordance with the statute as outlined in the Home Rule Charter.

Dr. Foust stated that he has not followed the solicitor's advice in the past and it has come back to haunt Council later on. Council has already pulled action sheets in the Clerk of Courts office. This Council has struggled with this issue over and over again and tried to be as fair as they possibly can. Based on the information received from the solicitor and the fact that Council has already pulled other action sheets regarding other offices, Dr. Foust could not vote for any of these upgrades. He further commented that he hoped that the initiative to look at the Personnel Code and try to straighten out some of the classifications and trying to make it more fair does come through and Council can address these issues soon enough.

The motion to amend Ordinance Number 125, 2014, to include Action Sheet 2, failed by a 3-4 vote, with Mr. Leone, Mr. Horton, Mr. Fatica, and Dr. Foust voting no.

Ordinance Number 125, 2014, as amended to include Action Sheet 1 only, carried in a unanimous roll call vote. The cover sheet amount remained the same at **\$5,250,166**.

2015 Planning Fund
Budget
#053-069180

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 126, 2014, "2015 Planning Fund Budget". This was moved by Mr. Fatica and seconded by Mr. Leone.

Mr. Fatica moved to amend Ordinance 126, 2014, to include Action Sheet 1. This was seconded by Mr. Leone and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

November 18, 2014

#1

**To extend HUD Sustainable
Communities Grant Contribution**

005130 Grant

142,000

002520 Professional Fees

92,000

006050 Pass Thru Grant

50,000

Mr. Leone moved to amend the cover sheet to read **\$7,964,454**. This was seconded by Mr. Fatica and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Ordinance Number 126, 2014, as amended, carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

2015 Library Fund
Budget
#054-017000

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 127, 2014, "2015 Library Fund Budget". This was moved by Mr. Fatica and seconded by Mr. Leone.

Mr. Fatica moved to amend Ordinance 127, 2014, to include Action Sheets 1 through 4. This was seconded by Mr. Leone, and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

#1

**All Line Items which have a
zero balance are eliminated and
are not available for transfers.**

#2

**All individual salaries are to be
considered to be a separate line
item and subject to all provisions
governing transfers.**

#3

**To correct wages for position
#17100-004 as a result of change
in personnel.**

001020-Bargaining Wages

6,212

001200-FICA

475

001220-Hospitalization

8,823

001221-Drug

2,276

001230-Workers Compensation

40

001240-Retirement

589

001250-Other Health & Welfare

457

099010-Tx from General Fund

4,240

Revenues		Expenditures	
Increase	Decrease	Increase	Decrease

Revenues		Expenditures	
Increase	Decrease	Increase	Decrease

November 18, 2014

		Revenues		Expenditures	
		Increase	Decrease	Increase	Decrease
#4	To correct wages for position #17100-028 as a result of change in personnel.				
	001020-Bargaining Wages			3,391	
	001200-FICA			259	
	001220-Hospitalization			8,823	
	001221-Drug			2,276	
	001230-Workers Compensation			8	
	001240-Retirement			321	
	001250-Other Health & Welfare			409	
	099010-Tx from General Fund		15,487		

Mr. Fatica then moved to amend the cover sheet of Ordinance 127, 2014, to read **\$6,575,077**. This was seconded by Mr. Leone, and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Ordinance Number 127, 2014, as amended, carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

2015 Public Health
Fund Budget
#056-001800

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 128, 2014, "2015 Public Health Fund Budget". This was moved by Mr. Fatica and seconded by Mr. Leone.

Mr. Fatica moved to amend Ordinance Number 128, 2014, to include Action Sheets 1 through 6. This was seconded by Mr. Leone and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

		Revenues		Expenditures	
		Increase	Decrease	Increase	Decrease
#1	All positions are eliminated at the end of the present grant. If grant is continued, Council must approve the position prior to start of the new grant.				
#2	All items which have a zero balance are eliminated and are not available for transfers.				
#3	To reflect unpaid medical leave in Nurse Family Partnership Pgm.				
	001080-Part-time Pension Eligible			12,000	
	001020-Bargaining Wages				12,000
#4	To record savings from change in Personnel #018022-001.				
	002010-Travel			3,767	
	002040-Training			3,767	
	001020-Bargaining Wages				6,408
	001200-FICA				490
	001230-Workers Compensation				29
	001240-Retirement				607

November 18, 2014

		Revenues		Expenditures	
		Increase	Decrease	Increase	Decrease
#5	To provide funding for Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey.				
	002520-Professional Fees			10,000	
	099010-Tx from General Fund	5,000			
	057000-Act 315	5,000			

#6	To record the savings from change in personnel in position #18030-005-Environmental Protection Specialist.				
	001020-Bargaining Wages				6,026
	001200-FICA				461
	001230-Workers Compensation				15
	001240-Retirement				571
	099010-Tx from General Fund		3,536		
	057000-Act 315		3,537		

Mr. Fatica then moved to amend the cover sheet to read **\$6,243,471**. This was seconded by Mr. Leone and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Ordinance Number 128, 2014, as amended, carried in a unanimous roll call vote

2015 Public Safety
Fund Budget
#063-000086

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 129, 2014, "2015 Public Safety Fund Budget". This was moved by Mr. Fatica and seconded by Mr. Leone.

Mr. Fatica moved to amend Ordinance 129, 2014, to include Action Sheets 1 through 4. This was seconded by Mr. Leone and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

		Revenues		Expenditures	
		Increase	Decrease	Increase	Decrease
#1	All positions are eliminated at the end of the present grant. If grant is continued, Council must approve the position prior to the start of the new grant.				
#2	All line items which have a zero balance are eliminated and are not available for transfers.				
#3	To provide a line item for Consumable supplies.				
	003080-Computer Supplies			2,504	
	002334-Tower Maintenance				2,504

November 18, 2014

#4		Revenues		Expenditures	
		Increase	Decrease	Increase	Decrease
	To reduce overtime.				
	001100-Overtime			50,000	
	001020-FICA			3,825	
	001230-Workperson Comp. Ins.			123	
	001240-Retirement			4,740	
	099010-Tx from General Fund		58,688		

Mr. Fatica then moved to amend the cover sheet to read **\$6,866,885**. This was seconded by Mr. Leone and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Ordinance Number 129, 2014, as amended, carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

2015 PRM Fund
Budget

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 130, 2014, "Pleasant Ridge Manor Fund Budget". This was moved by Mr. Fatica and seconded by Mr. Leone.

Mr. Fatica moved to amend Ordinance Number 130, 2014, to include Action Sheets 1 and 2. This was seconded by Mr. Leone and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

#1		Revenues		Expenditures	
		Increase	Decrease	Increase	Decrease
	All line items which have a zero balance are eliminated and are not available for transfers.				

#2 **To reduce pension cost as the result of funding of contribution in January.**

124-Pension			100,000
Transfer from General Fund		100,000	

Mr. Fatica then moved to amend the cover sheet to read **\$33,831,998**. This was seconded by Mr. Leone and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Ordinance Number 130, 2014, as amended, carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

2015 PRM Dep.
Res. Fund Budget

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 131, 2014, "2015 Pleasant Ridge Manor Depreciation Reserve Fund". This was moved by Mr. Fatica, seconded by Mr. Leone, and carried in a unanimous roll call vote. The cover sheet amount remained the same at **\$1,259,097**.

2015 HealthChoices
Fund Budget
#030-000105

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 132, 2014, "2015 HealthChoices Fund Budget". This was moved by Mr. Fatica and seconded by Mr. Leone.

Mr. Fatica moved to amend Ordinance 132, 2014, to include Action Sheets 1 through 3. This was seconded by Mr. Leone and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

November 18, 2014

		Revenues		Expenditures	
		Increase	Decrease	Increase	Decrease
#1	All line items which have a zero balance are eliminated and are not available for transfers.				
#2	To record savings from change in position #002812-001 in the IT Department.				
	002890-Shared Costs				308
	002800-Telephone			308	
#3	To record savings from change in personnel in position #000105-003.				
	001010-Non-Bargaining Wages				5,754
	001200-FICA				440
	001220-Hospitalization			8,823	
	001221-Prescription Drugs			2,276	
	001230-Workperson Comp. Ins.				26
	001240-Retirement				545
	001250-Health & Welfare			890	
	002910-Risk Pool				5,224

Ordinance Number 132, 2014, as amended, carried in a unanimous roll call vote. The cover sheet amount remained the same at **\$79,938,355**.

2015 D&A Fund
Budget
#021-000103

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 133, 2014, "2015 Drug and Alcohol Fund Budget". This was moved by Mr. Fatica and seconded by Mr. Leone.

Mr. Fatica moved to amend Ordinance 133, 2014, to include Action Sheets 1 through 3. This was seconded by Mr. Leone and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

		Revenues		Expenditures	
		Increase	Decrease	Increase	Decrease
#1	All line items which have a zero balance are eliminated and are not available for transfer.				
#2	To provide for increase in Director of Drug & Alcohol position.				
	001010-Non-Bargaining Wages			4,311	
	001200-FICA			330	
	001230-Worker Compensation			20	
	001240-Retirement			409	
	700691-Purchased Residential				5,070

November 18, 2014

		Revenues		Expenditures	
		Increase	Decrease	Increase	Decrease
#3	To provide for decrease in expense in IT Department for change in position #002812-001.				
	002200-Data Processing Services				369
	002280-Telephone			369	

Ordinance Number 133, 2014, as amended, carried in a unanimous roll call vote. The cover sheet amount remained the same at **\$5,494,797**.

2015 OCY Fund
Budget
#042-All Depts.

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 134, 2014, "2015 Children & Youth Services Fund Budget". This was moved by Mr. Fatica and seconded by Mr. Leone.

Mr. Fatica moved to amend Ordinance 134, 2014, to include Action Sheets 1 through 6. This was seconded by Mr. Leone and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

		Revenues		Expenditures	
		Increase	Decrease	Increase	Decrease
#1	All line items which have a zero balance are eliminated and are not available for transfers.				
#2	All positions are eliminated when the grant revenue is eliminated.				
#3	To record savings from change in personnel in position #005201-041.				
	001020-Bargaining Wages			2,000	
	001200-FICA			153	
	001220-Hospitalization				8,823
	001221-Drug				2,276
	001230-Workers Compensation			9	
	001240-Retirement			190	
	001250-Other Health & Welfare				890
	002280-Telephone			9,637	
#4	To record savings from change in personnel in position #005400-034.				
	001020-Bargaining Wages				2,541
	001200-FICA				194
	001230-Workers Compensation				12
	001240-Retirement				241
	002280-Telephone			2,988	

November 18, 2014

		Revenues		Expenditures	
		Increase	Decrease	Increase	Decrease
#5	To record savings from change in personnel in position #004600-014.				
	001020-Bargaining Wages				2,228
	001200-FICA				170
	001230-Workers Compensation				10
	001240-Retirement				211
	002280-Telephone			2,620	

#6	To decrease grant expense for decrease in position #002812-001 in IT.				
	006100-Grant Expense				6,656
	002280-Telephone			6,656	

Ordinance Number 134, 2014, as amended, carried in a unanimous roll call vote. The cover sheet amount remained the same at **\$64,922,064**.

2015 MH/ID
Fund Budget
#011-000101

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 135, 2014, "2015 Mental Health/Intellectual Disabilities Fund Budget". This was moved by Mr. Fatica and seconded by Mr. Leone.

Mr. Fatica moved to amend Ordinance Number 135, 2014, to include Action Sheets 1 and 2. This was seconded by Mr. Leone and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

		Revenues		Expenditures	
		Increase	Decrease	Increase	Decrease
#1	All line items which have a zero balance are eliminated and are not available for transfers.				
#2	To record the savings from change in position #002812-001 in IT Department.				
	002900-Miscellaneous Personnel				524
	002280-Telephone			524	

Ordinance Number 135, 2014, as amended, carried in a unanimous roll call vote. The cover sheet amount remained the same at **\$28,345,757**.

November 18, 2014

2015 Liquid Fuels
Fund Budget
#058-019000

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 136, 2014, "2015 Liquid Fuels Fund Budget". This was moved by Mr. Fatica and seconded by Mr. Leone.

Mr. Fatica moved to amend Ordinance 136, 2014, to include Action Sheet 1. This was seconded by Mr. Leone, and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

#1	Revenues	Expenditures		
			Increase	Decrease
	To increase professional fees and use it as local match for grants.			
		150,000		
	002520-Professional Fees			
	009510-Erie			27,291
	009520-Corry			5,334
	009530-Albion			1,158
	009540-Cranesville			703
	009550-Edinboro			3,314
	009560-Elgin			326
	009580-Girard			1,762
	009590-Lake City			2,157
	009600-McKean			513
	009610-Mill Village			591
	009620-North East			2,881
	009630-Platea			703
	009640-Union City			3,416
	009650-Waterford			1,629
	009660-Wattsburg			1,228
	009670-Wesleyville			4,010
	009680-Amity			1,829
	009690-Concord			1,026
	009700-Conneaut			2,215
	009710-Elk Creek			2,911
	009720-Fairview			4,402
	009730-Franklin			2,599
	009740-Girard			3,168
	009750-Greene			3,583
	009760-Greenfield			2,831
	009770-Harborcreek			5,806
	009780-Lawrence Park			1,926
	009790-LeBoeuf			1,840
	009800-McKean			3,418
	009810-Millcreek			15,570
	009820-North East			3,690
	009830-Springfield			2,994
	009840-Summit			2,950
	009850-Union			1,940
	009860-Venango			3,846
	009870-Washington			3,660
	009880-Waterford			3,884
	009890-Wayne			1,896
	009900-Emergency Account			15,000

November 18, 2014

Ordinance Number 136, 2014, as amended, carried in a unanimous roll call vote. The cover sheet amount remained the same at **\$900,100**.

2015 Gaming Fund
Budget
#067-021015

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 137, 2014, "2015 Gaming Fund Budget". This was moved by Mr. Fatica and seconded by Mr. Leone.

Mr. Fatica moved to amend Ordinance 137, 2014, to include Action Sheets 1 through 7. This was seconded by Mr. Leone and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

		Revenues		Expenditures	
		Increase	Decrease	Increase	Decrease
#1	All line items which have a zero balance are eliminated and are not available for transfers.				
#2	To provide for grant to Erie County Poetry Project.				
	006249-Erie County Poetry Project			10,000	
#3	To increase grant to Cooperative Extension.				
	006253-Cooperative Extension			10,000	
#4	To increase grant to Fireman's Association.				
	006256-Firefighters Grant			2,000	
#5	To increase grant to GECAC-AAA.				
	006250-GECAC AAA			7,343	
#6	To increase grant to GECAC.				
	006251-GECAC			13,111	
#7	To increase grant to COG.				
	006257-COG			3,225	

Mr. Leone then moved to amend the cover sheet amount to read **\$11,125,703**. This was seconded by Mr. Breneman and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Ordinance Number 137, 2014, as amended, carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

November 18, 2014

2015 Debt Service
Fund Budget

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 138, 2014, "2015 Debt Service Fund Budget". This was moved by Mr. Fatica, seconded by Mr. Leone, and carried in a unanimous roll call vote. The cover sheet amount remained the same at **\$8,991,838**.

2015 Employee
Fringe Benefit
Fund Budget

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 139, 2014, "2015 Employee Fringe Benefit Fund Budget". This was moved by Mr. Fatica, seconded by Mr. Leone, and carried in a unanimous roll call vote. The cover sheet amount remained the same at **\$31,266,794**.

2015 General Fund
Budget
#001-All Depts.

Dr. Foust explained that Mr. DiMattio received a message from Sheriff Loomis before the meeting started that Wattsburg has the funding in place so Action Sheet #23 can be included without having to move that to a separate line item.

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 140, 2014, "2015 General Fund Budget". This was moved by Mr. Fatica and seconded by Mr. Leone. November 18, 2014
Mr. Fatica moved to amend Ordinance 140, 2014 to include Action Sheets 1-22, and 24-28. Mr. Leone seconded and this amendment carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

		Revenues		Expenditures	
		Increase	Decrease	Increase	Decrease
#1	All individual salaries are to be considered to be a separate line item and subject to all provisions governing transfers.				
#2	All line items which have a zero balance are eliminated and are not available for transfers.				
#3 (001030)	To increase (Human Relations). 002520-Professional Fees			500	
#4 (001100)	To reduce (Controller). 002010-Travel Work Required				1,496
#5 (002000)	To reduce travel as a result of savings on vehicle expense as a result of purchasing of vehicle. (County Executive) 002010-Travel Work Required				3,000
#6 (004000)	To reduce (Adult Probation). 002010-Travel Work Required				5,000
#7 (002310)	To provide Master increase for Director of Finance. 001010-Non-Bargaining Wages 001200-FICA 001230-Workmen's Compensation 001240-Retirement			975 75 2 92	

November 18, 2014

		Revenues		Expenditures	
		Increase	Decrease	Increase	Decrease
#8 (002410)	To provide Master increase for Director of Administration.				
	001010-Non-Bargaining Wages			975	
	001200-FICA			75	
	001230-Workmen's Compensation			2	
	001240-Retirement			92	
#9 (002810)	To record savings from change in personnel #004110-160. (IT Bureau)				
	044360-MHID Reimbursement		524		
	044361-HealthChoices Reimbursement		308		
	044390-Drug & Alcohol		369		
	044540-OCY		6,656		
	001010-Non-Bargaining Wages				6,694
	001200-FICA				512
	001230-Workers Compensation				16
	001240-Retirement				635
#10 (003020)	To record savings from change in personnel for position #003020-012-Supervisor, Custody Conciliation.				
	001010-Non-Bargaining Wages				12,895
	001200-FICA				986
	001230-Workmen's Compensation				32
	001240-Retirement				1,222
#11 (003020)	To record savings from change in personnel in position #003020-029, Law Clerk.				
	001010-Non-Bargaining Wages				6,769
	001200-FICA				518
	001230-Workmen's Compensation				17
	001240-Retirement				642
#12 (003400)	To record savings from change in personnel in position #003400-010.				
	001010-Non-Bargaining Wages				12,667
	001200-FICA				969
	001230-Workmen's Compensation				606
	001240-Retirement				1,201
#13 (004110)	To correct the wages for position #004110-033 which was transferred in IT in 2014.				
	001010-Non-Bargaining Wages				102,664
	001200-FICA				7,854
	001210-Life Insurance				166
	001220-Hospitalization				9,970

November 18, 2014

		Revenues		Expenditures	
		Increase	Decrease	Increase	Decrease
	001221-Drugs				2,570
	001230-Workers Compensation				252
	001240-Retirement				12,104
	001250-Other Health & Welfare				710
	001260-Unemployment Compensation				462
#14	To record savings from change in				
(004110)	personnel in position #004110-024.				
	010200-Bargaining Wages				
	001200-FICA				
	001220-Hospitalization				8,823
	001221-Prescription Drugs				2,276
	001250-Other Health & Welfare				409
#15	To record savings from change				
(004110)	in personnel in position #004110-111.				
	001020-Bargaining Wages				9,795
	001200-FICA				749
	001230-Workperson Comp. Ins.				469
	001240-Retirement				929
	001250-Other Health & Welfare				
#16	To record savings from change in				
(004110)	personnel in position #004110-160.				
	001020-Bargaining Salaries				7,009
	001200-FICA				536
	001230-Workperson Comp. Ins.				335
	001240-Retirement				664
#17	To record savings from change in				
(004110)	personnel in position #004110-055.				
	001020-Bargaining Salaries				1,714
	001200-FICA				131
	001230-Workperson Comp. Ins.				82
	001240-Retirement				162
#18	To record savings from change in				
(004110)	personnel in position #004110-082.				
	001020-Bargaining Salaries				1,714
	001200-FICA				131
	001230-Workperson Comp. Ins.				82
	001240-Retirement				162
#19	To record savings from change in				
(004110)	personnel in position #004110-167.				
	001020-Bargaining Salaries				1,777
	001200-FICA				136

November 18, 2014

		Revenues		Expenditures	
		Increase	Decrease	Increase	Decrease
	001230-Workperson Comp. Ins.				85
	001240-Retirement				168
#20 (002340)	To increase (Finance-Tax Claim/Revenue).				
	042250-License Fees	1,442			
#21 (005200)	To increase travel (Veterans Affairs).				
	002020-Travel Other			1,300	
#22 (004110)	To reduce as a result of new positions.				
	001100-Overtime				100,000
	001200-FICA				7,650
	001230-Workperson Comp. Ins.				4,662
	001240-Retirement				9,480
#24 (002465)	To reduce (Operations/Facilities).				
	001040-Temp Staff				2,000
	001100-Overtime				17,000
	001200-FICA				1,454
	001230-Workperson Comp. Ins.				45
	001240-Retirement				1,801
#25 (001030)	To provide for cost of new batteries for voting machines & software for machines.				
	002330-Maintenance & Repairs			73,000	
	004050-Computer Supplies			38,520	
#26 (002410)	To eliminate pay increase for position #002410-001 (Director of Administration).				
	001010-Salaries – N/B				15,445
	001200-FICA				1,182
	001230-Workperson Comp. Ins.				38
	001240-Retirement				1,464
#27 (004200)	To provide for the purchase of 2 vehicles and maintenance and fuel (Juvenile Probation).				
	002390-Vehicle Maintenance			3,000	
	004020-Vehicle		50,000		

November 18, 2014

	Revenues		Expenditures	
	Increase	Decrease	Increase	Decrease
#28 (002410)	To reduce (Director of Administration).			
				4,100
	002010-Travel Work Required			

Mr. Fatica then moved to amend Action Sheet 23 that was presented in the original budget to read an increase in revenue of \$39,549, and an increase in expenses of \$52,732. This was seconded by Mr. Leone and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

	Revenues		Expenditures	
	Increase	Decrease	Increase	Decrease
#23 (003320)	To provide for School Resource Officer for Wattsburg School District-#003320-007 120AC.			
			25,896	
			1,981	
			52	
			10,356	
			7,983	
			1,239	
			2,455	
			539	
			231	
			2,000	
	39,549			
	001010-Bargaining Wages			
	001200-FICA			
	001210-Life Insurance			
	001220-Hospitalization			
	001221-Prescription Drugs			
	001230-Workers Compensation			
	001240-Retirement			
	001250-Other Health & Welfare			
	001260-Unemployment			
	003140-Clothing & Safety Supplies			
	044320-School District Reimbursement			

Dr. Foust explained to Mr. Fetzner and the audience that Council got word from their solicitor earlier that the way to proceed with the upgrades is problematic and therefore, Council has pulled the Action Sheets regarding the Clerk of Records offices, and voted down all the other upgrades in this particular budget up to this time and he was not sure how the rest of them will go, in the hopes that with the examination of the Personnel Code, etc., this issue is reconciled next year. Mr. Fetzner stated he was very disappointed as this is the fifth year this has gone on, he has lost people, and he asked if procedurally he could bring this back through the Administration, and Dr. Foust confirmed that he could.

Dr. Foust then stated that Action Sheets 30 through 36 were pulled.

Mr. DiMattio moved to amend Ordinance Number 140, 2014, to also include Action Sheets 37 through 46, and Mrs. Loll seconded. Including these action sheets would increase the line items.

Mr. Leone commented that until Council sits down to discuss pay increments and increases and upgrades and classifications, he will be voting no.

Mr. Horton stated he will also be voting no on this amendment in the interest of fairness.

The motion to include Action Sheets 37 through 46 failed 3-4, with Mr. Fatica, Mr. Horton, Mr. Leone, and Dr. Foust voting no.

#37 (003020)	To provide for increases in positions #27, 28, 30, 31, 32, 33, & 34 – Law Clerks.			
			24,852	
			1,901	
	001010-Non-Bargaining Wages			
	001200-FICA			

November 18, 2014

		Revenues		Expenditures	
		Increase	Decrease	Increase	Decrease
	001230-Workers Compensation			61	
	001240-Retirement			2,356	
#38 (003020)	To provide for increases to Judges secretaries positions #19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, & 71.				
	001010-Non-Bargaining Wages			9,000	
	001200-FICA			689	
	001230-Workmens Compensation			22	
	001240-Retirement			853	
#39 (003020)	To provide for increase to position #003020-060.				
	001010-Non-Bargaining Wages			1,000	
	001200-FICA			77	
	001230-Workmens Compensation			2	
	001240-Retirement			95	
#40 (003020)	To provide for an increase to position #003020-012.				
	001010-Non-Bargaining Wages			2,000	
	001200-FICA			153	
	001230-Workmens Compensation			5	
	001240-Retirement			190	
#41 (003020)	To provide for an increase to position #003020-065-Court Solicitor.				
	001010-Non-Bargaining Wages			2,871	
	001200-FICA			220	
	001230-Workmens Compensation			7	
	001240-Retirement			272	
#42 (003020)	To provide an increase to position #003020-035-Chief Court Reporter.				
	001010-Non-Bargaining Wages			2,000	
	001200-FICA			153	
	001230-Workmens Compensation			5	
	001240-Retirement			190	
#43 (003040)	To provide for an increase to Position #003040-001 – Mgr. Info. Systems.				
	001010-Non-Bargaining Wages			2,000	
	001200-FICA			153	
	001230-Workmens Compensation			5	
	001240-Retirement			190	

November 18, 2014

		Revenues		Expenditures	
		Increase	Decrease	Increase	Decrease
#44 (004010)	To provide for increases in positions #1, 2, 19, 20, 21, 22, & 23.				
	001010-Non-Bargaining Wages			14,000	
	001200-FICA			1,071	
	001230-Workperson Comp. Ins.			34	
	001240-Retirement			1,327	

#45 (004200)	To provide for increases for positions #1, 3, 4, 5, 8, & 38.				
	001010-Non-Bargaining Wages			12,000	
	001200-FICA			918	
	001230-Workperson Comp. Ins.			30	
	001240-Retirement			1,138	

#46 (004200)	To provide for increase for position #5 (Juvenile Probation).				
	001010-Non-Bargaining Wages			2,000	
	001200-FICA			153	
	001230-Workperson Comp. Ins.			5	
	001240-Retirement			190	

Mr. Fatica made a motion to include Action Sheet 47 to Ordinance 140, 2014. This was seconded by Mr. Leone. Mr. Fatica clarified that if a Council member voted in the affirmative, they would be voting to eliminate the position. If they voted in the negative, they would be voting to keep the position in the budget. This motion passed in a 6-1 vote, with Mr. Horton voting no.

#47 (00100)	To eliminate position #00110-005-Auditor (Controller Office).				
	001010-Salaries-N/B			20,636	
	001200-FICA			1,579	
	001210-Life Insurance			83	
	001220-Hospitalization			6,903	
	001221-Prescription Drugs			1,779	
	001230-Workperson Comp. Ins.			80	
	001240-Retirement			1,956	
	001250-Health & Welfare			398	
	001260-Unemployment Tax			231	

Mr. Fatica moved to include Action Sheet 48 to Ordinance 140, 2014. This was seconded by Mr. Leone. Mr. Fatica clarified that a vote in the affirmative would eliminate the position, and a vote in the negative would keep the position in the budget.

Dr. Foust commented that he believed the Action Sheet would pass, but he felt this is an unwise move by Council. He stated that this position has never worked out no matter what promises any Administration has given Council regarding this particular issue and it's not going to now. They can wrap Destination Erie around it all they want, but in six months this position will be worthless.

November 18, 2014

He further commented that some of the things coming from the economic development community and ECGRA are impacting the way economic development is growing in Erie County and he felt that is much more appropriate and much more relevant to the process than this person could possibly bring to the table. He stated he would be voting no on this action sheet.

Mr. Fatica commented that \$1.8 million was spent on Destination Erie and the County should get more life out of it. He further commented that the job belongs in the County to bring the disparate pieces together under the roof of the people that made this grant from HUD possible. They are showing that everyone has a hand in this and they will report to that person in charge, not someone who may or may not pick up the ball on this project.

Mr. Horton stated that he is not a fan of Destination Erie and he's made that known throughout the process. He has seen the fight of the people deteriorate after studies done from the 60's to the present. Mr. Horton commented that the last thing the County needs is another economic development person. He stated however, that the request is for \$20,000 and he would vote in favor.

The motion to include Action Sheet 48 with Ordinance Number 140, 2014, failed with a 1-6 vote. Dr. Foust voted in the affirmative.

#48
(002010)

	Revenues		Expenditures	
	Increase	Decrease	Increase	Decrease
To eliminate position #002010-001 (Community Relations/ Economic Development).				
001010-Non-Bargaining Wages				68,750
001200-FICA				5,259
001230-Insurance				55
001230-Workmen's Comp.				169
001240-Retirement				6,518
001250-Other Health & Welfare				529
001260-Unemployment Compensation				231
044170-Reimbursements		61,132		

Mr. Fatica then moved to include Action Sheet 49 with Ordinance Number 140, 2014. This was seconded by Mr. Leone.

Mr. Breneman stated that in approving this action sheet, Erie County will be moving in line with a majority of counties in Pennsylvania. He felt that this is the first step needed at the very least to get to providing the most basic level services that should have been done. He believes that this position and making Veterans Affairs a department will lead the County to do more for the veterans.

Dr. Foust clarified that Action Sheet 49 will put the funds in a restricted line item and create a Department.

Mr. Horton stated he is a veteran and an advocate for veterans. No one can repay the debt of service that the men and women who don the uniform have performed for all. There are other veteran agencies that do great work. Mr. Horton is concerned with the duplication of services and knows that there are things this office should be doing that they are not doing and he was not sure if those needs could be met with some form of collaboration or networking with the other veteran organizations. He commented that he struggles with this particularly in light of the stance Council took regarding the Home Rule Charter. He understood that this is a different scenario, the Personnel Code needs to be addressed, and he would not vote to put this in a restricted line. He felt that dealing with any positions should be dealt with all at once. He stated he would be voting no on this.

November 18, 2014

Mr. Fatica moved to amend the cover sheet of Ordinance 140, 2014, to read **\$95,980,897**. This was seconded by Mr. Leone. This motion carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Ordinance Number 140, 2014, as amended, carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

2015 Real Estate
Tax Levy

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 141, 2014, "2015 Real Estate Tax Levy". This was moved by Mr. Fatica and seconded by Mr. Leone.

Mr. Maloney clarified that the cover sheet should be amended to show the rate of .493 mils. Mr. Fatica moved to amend Ordinance 141, 2014, to read a tax levy of .493. This was seconded by Mr. DiMattio.

Mr. DiMattio commented that he feels that taxes should have been raised by .210 mils, or \$21 on a \$100,000 home. He felt that Council is getting into dangerous territory by going to the fund balance to take \$2.7 million out, in addition to the \$1.7 that was taken out last year. He knows there is a very large fund balance, but unfortunately that is not money that can be readily spent. There are two months in reserve kept to cover expenses. He further stated that he did not feel it is a sound business practice with the fact that there is a radio proposal in front of Council. The general public feels that the County is sitting on a lot of money and how could they raise taxes, but he felt that this is a dangerous slope and it could be the beginning of spending and spending. He stated that it would be better to raise taxes by \$21 this year versus having to tell taxpayers next year that may be \$60 or \$70 or more. He also commented that this will most likely downgrade the bond rating going forward and if Council plans on using a bond to fund the radio system, now would not be the time to do this.

Mrs. Loll wanted to go on the record that Mr. DiMattio is completely correct in all that he said, along with the fact that there were a lot of things in the budget that were not attacked because the solicitor informed Council that this was not the route to go. Coming down the road, there will at least be a proposal of increases in salaries and wages and she wanted to make sure that the money is there in case Council moves forward with those proposals. She commented that it is fiscally irresponsible to go into the fund balance and start using it for this purpose.

Dr. Foust explained that he understands the hazards that everyone is concerned about, but the fund balance is there due to the fiscal responsibility of this Council, in large part, not solely in part, but in large part. He further commented that the work of Council and the finance staff has helped to make this fund balance possible. To think that overnight Council will become wildcat spenders next year and run this County into ruin and not make strong financial decisions next year is not correct because the minds on Council right now are not going to allow that to happen. Since it's getting to the point where fund balance is right about where GASB recommends it should be, which is a two month expenditure balance, not twice that. If the radio study is factored in, it will put the fund where it's recommended to be and perhaps it may impose a little austerity on Council but also on department heads and the administration as well that the requests that they are going to make are not going to be accepted maybe as they had in the past because there won't be room in the budget to do that. With these potential pay raises and upgrades, they could very easily not happen, and that's if this Council says no to them. Council has the right to say yes or no to everything that comes before it. No matter how reasonable or unreasonable that request may be, Council has the right to refuse the request because it may not fit into the budget picture at that particular moment. He emphasized that he understands the hazards of reducing the fund balance to a lower level than before, but it is still within the GASB guidelines and it's very difficult to tell taxpayers that we are going to increase taxes when there is room in the budget to operate within what are general budgetary guidelines. In the near future, that may change, and no matter when a tax increase may be done, it will be difficult to swallow, but it should be done when it's absolutely necessary not when there is uncertainty of what other options are. He commented that this was not a criticism of anyone's point of view either for or against, but there is still room enough to maneuver at this time. There may be hard decisions down the road, but there may not. There is a new governor coming on board who at the very least will be more amenable to helping counties

November 18, 2014

with their budget expenditures to be able to soften the blow of some of these departments that Council has continued to backfill year after year and he is optimistic that despite some of the tough decisions that have been made Council will be able to weather the storm and have a very strong financial picture that the bond rating will not be such that it curtails progress in the future. If the bond rating gets downgraded, the County will be in a better position than almost every municipality in Erie County.

Mr. Smith gave a roll call vote on amendment, which passed in a 5-2 vote. Mr. DiMattio and Mrs. Loll voted no.

Ordinance 141, 2014, as amended, passed in a 5-2 roll call vote, with Mr. DiMattio and Mrs. Loll voting no.

Dr. Foust commented that this is always a very difficult process and it is made much easier by the work of the Council staff, the Finance staff, and the Administration. It has been a seamless process for the most part and the decisions at the end are not necessarily easier, but the process seems to get easier every year and it cannot be done without the help and the sweat that all the staff puts into it. He further commented that he is eternally grateful for that hard work.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Deneé M. Breter, Council Secretary
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