

# Onondaga County Legislature

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# J. RYAN McMAHON, II Chairman

KATHERINE M. FRENCH
Deputy Clerk

401 Montgomery Street • Court House • Room 407 • Syracuse, New York 13202 Phone: 315.435.2070 Fax: 315.435.8434 www.ongov.net

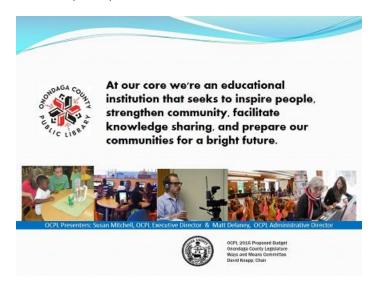
# WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE REVIEW OF THE 2016 TENTATIVE BUDGET COUNTY FACILITIES DEPARTMENTS P.M. – SEPTEMBER 22, 2015 DAVID H. KNAPP, CHAIRMAN

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Jordan, Ms. Williams, Mrs. Ervin MEMBERS ABSENT: Mr. May, Mr. Holmquist, Mr. Kilmartin

ALSO PRESENT: Mrs. Tassone, Mr. Ryan, Dr. Chase; also see attached

Chairman Knapp reconvened the meeting at 1:17 p.m.

<u>Onondaga County Public Library</u>: Susan Mitchell, Executive Director; Matt Delaney, Director of Administrative Services (3-114)



Good afternoon. Thank you for your support over the past year and for giving us the opportunity to be here today to walk you through our proposed 2016 budget.

I'm Susan Mitchell, Executive Director of OCPL and on my right is Matt Delaney, OCPL's new Administrative Director.

The administrative team and Board at OCPL has really spent this last year examining our programs and our budget – to make sure the budget aligns well with our programs. We've distilled our mission down to this simple statement – at our core we're an educational institution that seeks to inspire people, strengthen community, facilitate knowledge sharing, and prepare our communities for a bright future.

During our budget presentation we typically share our past years achievements. We're very consistent performers in terms of library circulation, number of people served through our programs, number of students who take part in our summer reading program, etc. So this year instead of looking back over this past year I'd like to share our vision for the future of OCPL.

We've renewed our commitment to our educational mission, we've looked at our communities and recognized that they need a different kind of support from us now in the 21st century.





We're preparing our community for a future we can't imagine. I believe that every department head who comes before you to present their budget has considered this.

They've asked -

How do we build structures that support our communities' goals 20 years from now? How do we develop programs that help the people in our communities achieve their full potential? How do we build a city and county infrastructure that attracts businesses that will be here far into the future?

The library has a clear educational mission and the best way to prepare our community for a future we can't imagine is to give our patrons experiences that help them become creative, resilient, problem solvers. When we do that anything is possible and our future is bright.



We're no longer quiet warehouses – we're living, breathing, mutable educational institutions.



The 21<sup>st</sup> century library:

Builds Community and provides a rich learning environment for the people in our communities to develop:

- Critical Thinking Skills
- Creativity and Innovation
- Communication and Collaboration Skills
- Information, Media and Technology Skills
- Life and Career Skills
- Global Awareness
- Leadership Skills
- And more



When looking at the issues our community faces and researching some approaches other cities have taken to address those issues I was reminded of an initiative I read about a few years ago. The Rockefeller Foundation supported a program called "100 Resilient Cities". The city of Syracuse applied to be one of those first 100 cities, but didn't make the final cut. The organizers of the program have shared there techniques, best practices, ideas and more — There's a lot we can learn from the work they've done and we can apply their principles to our work in the library.

We need to give our neighbors opportunities to develop skills that help them bounce forward in the face of adversity.

#### City resilience can be viewed through four dimensions Leadership & Strategy Health & Wellbeing The processes that promote Everyone living and working effective leadership, inclusive decision-making, empowered stakeholders, and integrated they need to survive and thrive. in the city has access to what planning. **Economy & Society** Infrastructure & The social & financial Environment systems that enable urban The man-made and natural populations to live peacefully, systems that provide critical and act collectively. services, protect, and connect urban assets enabling the flow of goods, services, and

The resilient cities program is viewed through four dimensions:

# Health & Wellbeing

Where everyone living and working in the city has access to what they need to survive and thrive.

# Economy & Society

We provide social & financial systems that enable urban populations to live peacefully, and act collectively.

# Leadership & Strategy

We create processes that promote effective leadership, inclusive decision-making, empowered stakeholders, and integrated planning.

# Infrastructure & Environment

Where we have the man-made and natural systems that provide critical services, protect, and connect urban assets enabling the flow of goods, services, and knowledge.

#### How the library can address the four dimensions through programming Health Literacy Civic Literacy Leadership Development Aging in Place Career Planning Inclusive Decision Making Healthy Meal Planning Navigating the Healthcare System · Local History and Genealogy Creative Aging Urban Planning • Teen Stress Reduction Programs · Disease Prevention Local Government Volunteer Opportunities Financial Literacy Retirement Planning Science and Technology Literacy Computer Skills Training Citizen Science Programs Reducing Debt What You Need to Know to Buy Your First Home Small Business Start Up Creating Prototypes Patent Research and Development Workforce Development Maker Space Programs and Mobile Maker Labs Programs · Literacy Programs

The Library is addressing and can further address the 4 dimensions through programming:

We're looking at programming from a curricular level and trying to address skill development through literacies. These literacies correspond with the dimensions identified by the resilient cities program and we'll be scaffolding experiences with planned curriculum that allows library patrons to work from the most basic skills in any of these literacies through more advanced skills. While the dimensions were developed to fit any community, we want to respond to local needs so we'll address some of the issues that are being identified by groups like: the Onondaga Citizens League, Syracuse University Aging Institute, FOCUS Greater Syracuse, and others. Some examples are:

#### Health Literacy

Which can be addressed with programs like the creative aging program we're developing now that will help keep the mind and body healthy at any age. Another example is - The Queens Public Library which offers a health literacy class for ESOL learners that helps them understand the health care system, teaches them how to make a doctor's appointment, explain ailments and symptoms to health care professionals, track and document their health history, create health goals, and understand principles of disease prevention.

# We can address Financial Literacy with classes in:

Retirement Planning Reducing Debt Home Buying Small Business Start Up Childhood and Adult Literacy

And Workforce Development Programs – we collaborate with a number of community partners in workforce development but I'm really excited to tell you about a new program with South West Community Center where we're adding mobile carts with books, audio and video recordings related to career planning, resume writing, interviewing, and more. We're updating and merging some library and center spaces that will be used for job hunting and workforce skill development. OCPL has also partnered with the Central Library Resources Council on a new grant funded, pilot program that will allow us to check out mobile hot spots and chrome books to job seekers looking to extend technology skill development and job hunting outside the career counseling and training sessions.

# Civic Literacy can be addressed with programs in:

Leadership Development
Career Planning
Inclusive Decision Making
Local History and Genealogy
Urban Planning
Local Government
And in our ability to showcase volunteer opportunities in our community

# Science and Technology Literacy can and will be addressed through:

Computer Skills Training

Citizen Science Programs

Patent Research and Development Workshops

And Maker Space Programs that develop science, technology, engineering, arts and math skills in people of all ages. Senator DeFrancisco funded a mobile maker lab pilot project this year at OCPL that allowed us to put together mobile maker labs that can be delivered to any library in the County and each kit can be used to create and deliver hundreds of programs. Some examples are:

- Cubelets which allow us to teach beginning robotics
- A Kano Lab which allows us to teach computer building and coding
- 3D Doodler Pens that allow us to teach the basics of 3 dimensional design and fabrication
- An audio lab that allows patrons to play and record one of the labs musical instruments, create an
  audio book, record an original story or family history, or create professional demo tapes that can
  be used to fulfill the entrance requirements for college level music programs or to distribute as
  professional samples of a musicians work.
- We were also able to purchase 15 pairs of Google Glasses. We're able to share an emerging technology with our community and they can be used for programs in app development, creating virtual realities, and more.



While educational programming is central to our mission we're making major investments in library infrastructure across the County. 21st Century programs require 21st Century learning environments.

**Central Library Renovations** have started and will take about a year to complete. When completed, the library will feature new technology training labs that will be used in our workforce development programs, a maker space that will offer hands on experiences in science, technology, engineering, math and the arts, a children's learning environment that will feature an early literacy skill development space and lots of hands on activities that are geared towards the development of language and vocabulary skills necessary to learn and become proficient readers. This project is being funded by a mix of public and private funding.

Several Branch Libraries are being updated as well.

- The first floor of the **Beauchamp Branch** is getting a makeover with new paint and flooring, an early literacy skill development space, and improvements to our computing areas.
- **Betts Branch** is being updated to better align with changing demographics in the area. We're swapping spaces to better match current use trends, and creating a teen zone and tutoring and homework spaces. Those spaces can do double duty as "classrooms" for library programs and spaces for community events.
- We're having a feasibility study done at **White Branch** in 2016. It's one of our busiest branches and we need to carve out more public space there and reconfigure things to work for the neighborhood's changing demographic. We'd like to find space for an early literacy skill development center as well as an afterschool homework help center and upgrade spaces used for our very successful ESL programs. The feasibility study will provide the information we need to develop the best possible space plan.
- **Petit library** is our busiest branch with highest circulation, high program attendance, and a successful summer reading program. It's also one of our smallest libraries and there are no programming spaces or meeting rooms to accommodate many of these activities. We are in the midst of raising funds for an addition to Petit Branch and if things go well we could break ground there in the next 24 months.

\*These projects are being funded by grants from Senator Valesky, former Assemblyman Roberts, Assemblyman Magnerelli, State Construction funds and some capital funds from the City of Syracuse. In addition, we distribute nearly \$500,000 in state construction aid each year to our member libraries – those are the libraries in your communities. Most of these dollars are spent right here in Onondaga County on materials and labor for a wide variety of projects. In 2015 we provided construction aid to:

Baldwinsville Public Library to convert a low use space to a new community room and improve the public address system

Manlius Public Library to renovate a community space

NOPL to increase the energy efficiency of the lobby area and improve lighting

And two city library renovation projects (Central and Betts)

Many of your libraries will be getting construction aid in 2016 too:

Baldwinsville Public Library - to improve safety and security.

Brewerton Library - for a digital conversion workroom for the public to digitize local history and other materials.

**DeWitt Community Library** - to purchase land for the future site of the new library.

La Fayette Public Library – for the renovation of staff and public spaces.

Manlius Library - to improve accessibility and safety.

Marcellus Library - to purchase land for a future parking lot.

Maxwell Memorial Library - to renovate the library's public and staff spaces.

Onondaga Free Library - to install security cameras.



While each of our member libraries operate independently with separate boards, goals, initiatives, budgets, and achievements our real strength is in our cooperative network. The tax dollars that go to support OCPL support the entire network of libraries across the county.

We're able to achieve some real economies of scale through the development of shared services. We make sure those services align with our members needs by developing a cooperative plan of service that acts as a contract with our member libraries as well as State Ed. Our library materials delivery system shuttled over 1.2 million items between Onondaga County Libraries this past year. We saw the growing need for traveling, experiential programming materials and since we had a way to deliver "maker labs" to our members we were able to get this forward looking, innovative program up and running quickly. Again, through our cooperative buying power and delivery system we were able to improve services across the county and save money at the local level. Each library in our system may want to purchase one or two educational programming kits for local use but the dozen or so maker kits we've developed to date are free and available to all libraries allowing us to provide a greater variety of rich educational programming.

We will continue to develop patron experiences that help us all become creative, resilient, problem solvers. If you look at our library network as part of the cellular system of our community you will see that our libraries are perfectly positioned to help change the DNA of our community and prepare our community for that future we can't imagine.



The programs we just talked about are supported by the OCPL budget. Our departmental budget includes four separate programs: Central Library Operations, Branch Operations, System Services and our Grants Budget. Let's look at that breakdown by program.

The overall budget for OCPL is about 14.5 million dollars. City Branches is 45% of the total budget, Central Library is 36% of the total budget, System Services is 36%, and the Grants budget accounts for 5% of the budget.

The changes that you will see in the 2016 budget do not represent major program changes but are incremental improvements to the structure of the budget. They are a change in the way that our budget is organized so that we can be more consistent across our programs and align better with other county departments. They'll also allow us to track and manage costs better.

OCPL's 2016 budget calls for an overall reduction in dollars transferred from the County general fund. In 2007, State Library Aid was reduced drastically. This impacted every one of our county libraries, and the effects of those cuts continue to impact us today. Fortunately, in 2016 some of that funding is being restored and we will see a 5.8% increase in State Library aid, allowing us to enhance our services and improve our infrastructure, while simultaneously reducing county spending.



OCPL is funded by four major sources of revenue – New York State Aid, city abstract funds, previous year's library fund balance, and local county dollars. From three of those major funding sources, we are able to bring in an additional \$340,000 of revenue thereby reducing county <u>spending</u> by \$186,000.

#### State Aid

While State Aid hasn't been fully restored to 2007 levels, this year's aid increases have a positive impact throughout the county and add to the nearly \$1M of services represented in the System budget, the \$150,000 in Local Library Services Aid distributed to each suburban library through our grants budget and additionally in the nearly \$500,000 we distribute in construction aid that is available to all Onondaga County libraries each year.

#### City Branches

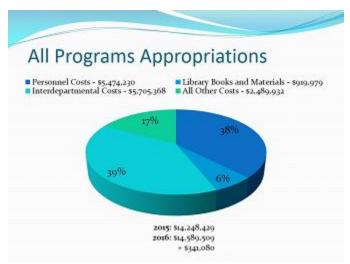
Our eight Syracuse city branches and two satellite locations are supported entirely by the city abstract. In 2016, infrastructure improvements to several city branches, as well as a joint project with Southwest Community Center will be supported by \$6.3 million dollars from the city abstract.

# Fund Balance

A larger than normal fund balance is available in 2016 because of several vacant positions in 2014 that led to a significant surplus that is available to us now. We are appropriating \$773,000 from the library's fund balance, an increase of \$339,000 from last year.

# Local County Dollars

Finally, because of the increases in state aid as well as increased fund balance appropriations, local county funding to support OCPL is decreasing from \$5.4M to \$5.2M, in 2016. This is in line with the county's priority to reduce overall spending.



Appropriations across our three programs and our grants budget are broken down into three main categories: personnel costs, library books and materials, and Interdepartmental Costs.

Net personnel costs to our 101 and 103 budget decreased due to the transfer of five positions from the library's roster to the county's financial operations and personnel departments. In terms of personnel we also moved our security services contract costs from "all other expenses" to professional services since other similar costs were being tracked there.

Library books and materials costs will remain the same in 2016 at just under \$920,000. \$436,000 of those collection costs are supported by the Central Library budget and benefit the entire county. As a Central Library, OCPL is mandated by New York State to have a minimum number of special reference and unique non-fiction collections that are made available to libraries throughout the county. The remainder of OCPL's collection budget is included in the Syracuse Branch budget and supported by the City Abstract. By centralizing collection development throughout the city a few years ago, we are able to achieve significant efficiencies in cost and have a more robust collection for all city and county residents.

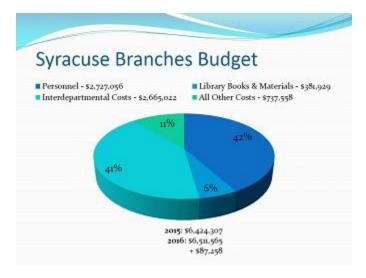
Interdepartmental costs represent the greatest increase to our total department budget, due to the transfer of 5 positions from the library's roster to the county's roster. In 2016, we are seeing an increase of \$217,000 in interdepartmental charges to our library. Our largest interdepartmental costs are paid to Facilities (\$775k), Information Technology Services (\$615k), and our debt service repayment (\$340k).



Onondaga County Public Library is one of four federated library systems in New York State, and serves as both the Central Library for all Onondaga County residents as well as a Public Library System serving 21 member libraries in Onondaga County. As a Central Library, OCPL provides unique reference and non-fiction collections, including subscription databases, professional development tools, and a number of other electronic resources for county residents. We also provide the county with library outreach services including remote reference and services to the disabled.

The Central Library receives the majority of dollars from the county general fund, and supports all libraries throughout the county. The overall transfer from the county general fund is decreasing \$186,000 over 2015. Of the \$5.2 million dollars coming from the County General Fund, \$4.9 million directly supports library services delivered through the Central Library budget.

The \$231,000 increase in Central's budget can be broken down into \$108,000 in one-time Central Library Development Aid costs used to support the Central Library renovation project and the remaining increase comes from interdepartmental charges.

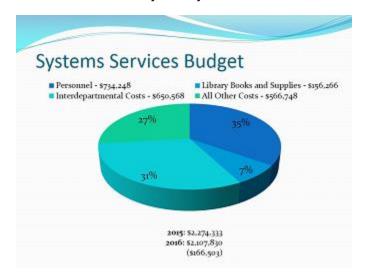


The Syracuse Branches Budget supports 8 branches strategically located throughout the city, as well as 2 satellite locations located at Northeast Community Center and Southwest Community Center. This budget is entirely funded by the city abstract. Our Syracuse City Branch budget increased a total of \$87,258 from 2015.

Notable increases to appropriations include: \$34,000 for three self-service media dispensers to complete a city-wide project that began 3 years ago. The other increase to the budget includes \$20,000 to support improvements to our satellite location at the Southwest Community Center.

Interdepartmental Appropriations increased \$101,000 due mostly to increases to our debt repayment schedule related to our branch infrastructure project.

To support the \$87,000 increase to appropriations, OCPL is using an additional \$41,000 from its fund balance and the remainder is covered by the city abstract.

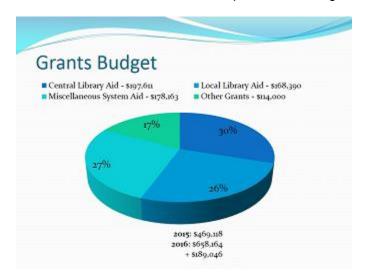


The majority of revenue in the System Services Budget comes from New York State Aid as outlined in Education Law. The services provided to 21 member libraries throughout the county include interlibrary loan within and outside of the system, cooperative grants administration, professional development, and outreach to special populations.

Revenue to the system budget consists of \$974,000 in state aid, \$389,000 in fund balance appropriation, and \$350,000 from member libraries as outlined in a shared Memorandum of Understanding between the system and member libraries.

In addition to the \$974,000 of State Aid that supports system services, the system disperses nearly \$500,000 in construction grants from New York State each year that supports renovation projects at member libraries. OCPL also disperses \$151,000 of Local Library Services Aid paid to each of your member libraries annually.

In 2016, we see a decrease in the System Services budget of \$167,000. This is due in large part to the transfer of Local Library Services Aid from the System Services budget to the Grants Budget so we could better track and distribute the funds to your libraries. This change accounts for most of the reduction in the system service budget. The remainder is due to a \$22,000 decrease in Interdepartmental Charges.

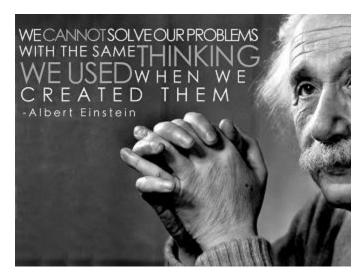


The Grants Budget consists of seven separate, non-competitive grants that we receive from New York State each year. Because they have specific spending requirements and the exact amounts sometimes vary from the time when the budget is prepared, we use this budget to administer many of our grants. This allows for increased flexibility in how grants are managed, provides easier tracking opportunities, and allows for more convenient reporting back to the granting agency.

Some of these grants are in support of our role as a Central Library, such as Central Library Development Aid and Central Book Aid (\$197k combined). These are funds that are awarded to help strengthen services to the library system by bolstering our non-fiction and foreign language collection, as well as improving the central library's function as a major

reference, information, and interlibrary loan resource to the system. Others are to support our role as a Public Library System (\$178k combined), such as our Coordinated Outreach Aid, Family and Adult Literacy Grant, Institutional Aid, and Automation Aid.

This budget is supported completely by grant revenue and expenditures are only made directly against that revenue. We are anticipating an increase in our Grants Budget of \$189,000 as a result of State Aid increases and because Local Library Services Aid revenue and appropriations are now being managed in this budget.



The budget we've presented to you today will help libraries across the county inspire people, strengthen community, facilitate knowledge sharing, and prepare our communities for a bright future.

Thank you for allowing us this opportunity to present the 2016 OCPL budget. We'll happily take any questions you have for us.

Chairman Knapp acknowledged many of the OCPL Board Members and welcomed them

Ms. Williams, Thanked Susan and her team for all their hard work. Ms. Williams also thanked them for their work at the Southwest Community Center library and commented that for a long time the center struggled, and had a shift of needs, again thanked them for all of their work of providing the assistance with the centers new needs.

Ms. Mitchell agreed, there are different needs there now

# Chairman Knapp:

 Regarding maintenance, utilities, and rents it shows an increase for the library dispensers, is that for anticipated usage

# Mr. Delaney:

- The maintenance cost is smaller than the shown increase
- The increase is due to a budgeting change: in past years Central Library and the Branch libraries paid a
  membership fee to the system, in 2015 it wasn't shown in the budget, in 2016 it shows an additional
  \$90,000 in both revenue and appropriations to that account
- In actuality, that budget line went down a little, on paper it appears to have gone up

Chairman Knapp, how is the usage on those, have you been keeping track

Mr. Delaney said he would get those numbers

# Ms. Maxwell:

- They are very strong, they are in the city branches
- They are media dispensers that allow the libraries to put a lot of material in a small space
- Allow individuals to dispense media themselves quickly and easily themselves electronically
- Huge staff and space saver

Chairman Knapp, under the provision for capital projects; budgeting \$49,000, is that for some of the projects listed out in the presentation for the branches

Mr. Delany:

- \$20,000 going to the Southwest Community Center
- \$30,000 going into other branch capital projects

Ms. Mitchell responded that the \$30,000 is an annual amount from the city

- Typically used for small things, projects like when they did the lead paint abatement
- Used also for things like paving or painting lines in a parking lot
- City also agrees to put in an additional \$20,000 towards the improvements being done at the Southwest Community Center
- Project of cutting small hole between the library space and the lab space, so that people and supplies can go back and forth between those spaces

Chairman Knapp, in 2015 there is \$434,000 in fund balance appropriated for this year, are you anticipating using that

Mr. Delany responded that they are forecasting to be approximate \$70,000 below budget at the end of the year, will use most of that

Ms. Mitchell added that the fund balance gets appropriated 100% each year

Chairman Knapp asked what the total fund balance is

Mr. Delany responded that the \$434,000 is the entire fund balance, appropriated the entire amount for 2015, anticipating approximately \$757,000 in 2016

Chairman Knapp asked if there was a saving account someplace

Ms. Mitchell responded that as a separate educational institution their fund balance is separate from the county, it gets re-appropriated 100%

Mr. Britt added that at the end of 2014, there was about \$1.3 million in the library fund, not the library grants just the fund

Mr. Morgan confirmed that \$434,000 was appropriated in this year's budget, leaving \$757,000, which is fully appropriated into the 2016 budget

Chairman Knapp, construction is up and going

Ms. Mitchell

- Two parts to the project, early bid and main bid, the early bid started a couple of months ago
- Ran into a small problem in the basement while digging for the elevator, which is getting fixed
- The main bid, first meeting of that group is September 23, 2013, all the contracts are signed and out
- Things should move quickly from here on out

Chairman Knapp asked Mr. Fisher what's the status of Upstate

Mr. Fisher:

- Upstate has approved the lease
- Their process is that it has to go to Albany for the State Comptroller and SUNY's final approval
- Continuing to work with our architect to design the tenant improvements
- Haven't started building 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> floor, should be in both the 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> floor sometime in 2016

Chairman Knapp, realistically for Upstate, are we looking at late 2016 or early 2017

Mr. Fisher:

- Should see them move into 5<sup>th</sup> floor around May and the 4<sup>th</sup> floor around October
- The rents from that will be used to support rents paid to Onondaga Galleries for the spaces on 1 and 2
- In 2017 the Galleries lease converts into a purchase, the option to purchase has in affect been exercised for the county to buy the property from the Galleries that the library will be moving into
- The lease payments from Upstate will support the purchase, there won't be any further appropriation needed

Chairman Knapp, if the county decides to purchase our floors, we will continue to own 4 and 5, the Upstate floors

Mr. Fisher responded yes, the county currently owns approximate 113,000 square feet and would be picking up an additional 27,000 square feet, will have around 140,000 square feet

Dr. Chase, would like to put a plug in for the little library in Eastwood that hasn't had much done to it, with all of the programs available it would be nice to have an expansion, referring to Paine Branch Library Ms. Mitchell responded that the problem is getting space around Paine

Dr. Chase responded that we need to look into other spaces, it would be nice to make it bigger and bring in more services, that community appreciates the library

Ms. Mitchell responded that Pettit and Paine both have the same issue, they are not big enough for either community, both are very supportive library communities

Mr. Fisher responded to Dr. Chase:

- In the Provision for Capital within the city branch Libraries, there had been \$30,000 per year being carried for city branch libraries
- Next year both the County Executive's budget and OCPL budget proposed \$50,000 for that
- It is recognized that there's a need for more investment in the city branch libraries, which is also funded entirely by city abstract charges, not county property taxes
- Mayor Miner's administration also supports this slight bump

# Mr. Jordan:

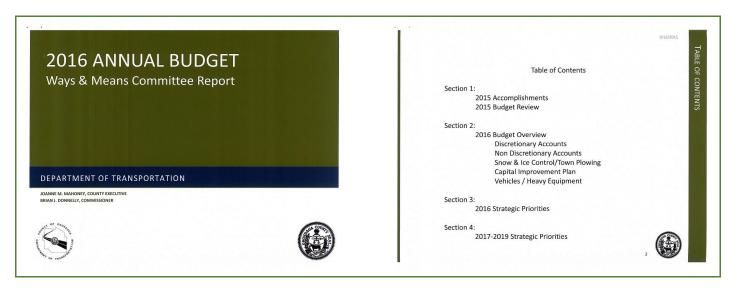
- What do we anticipate looking at in 2017 if accentually we are using up the remaining fund balance this
  year
- This is approximately ¼ of million dollars
- Will there be an increase in the levies to make up the difference

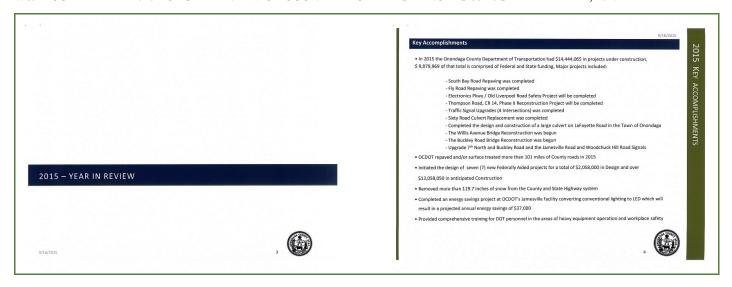
# Mr. Morgan:

- The practice used is to sweep the libraries fund balances to balance their budget every year
- I can't remember when it's been an issue going into the next year where there's been a huge increase
- The funds are coming from library operation, it is transferred general fund dollars to support it

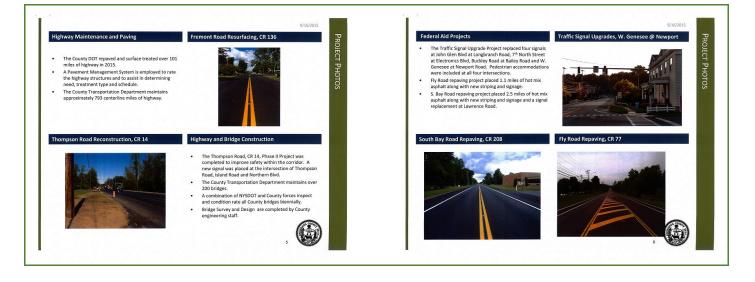
<u>Transportation Department:</u> Brian Donnelly, Commissioner; Colleen Gunnip, Administrative Director; Thomas Gottstein, Senior Management Analyst (5-72)

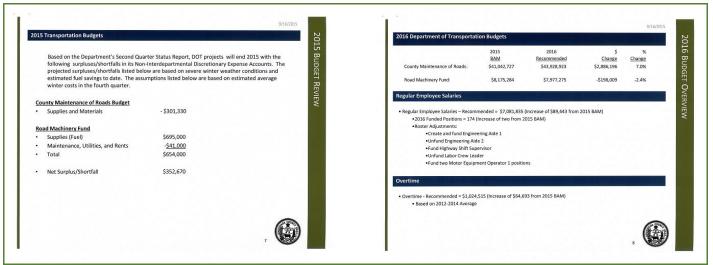
Mr. Donnelly thanked the Committee for the opportunity to present the 2016 Operating Budget



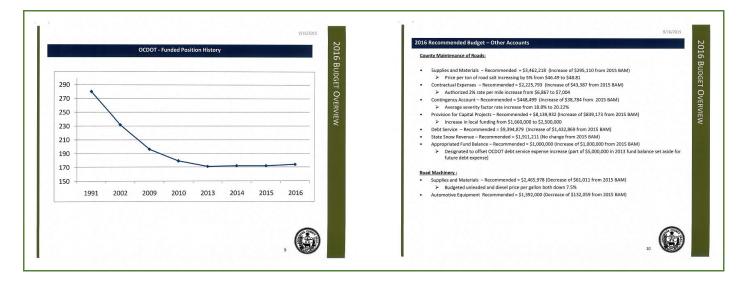


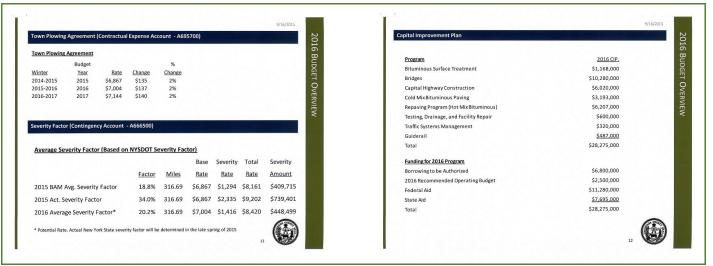
- OSHA Construction Class
- OSHA Respiratory Class
- OSHA Aerial Lift Training
- Ground Force Heavy Dump Training
- Ground Force Train the Trainer Evaluations on Heavy Equipment
- Ground Force Train the Trainer OPP
- Ground Force Gradall Training
- Reasonable Suspicion Training
- Green Rehab Ergonomics Training
- Game of Logging Chainsaw Training
- Dig Safe Seminar





Unleaded PPG – 2015 BAM - \$2.96, 9/1/2015 - \$1.67, 2016 Rec. - \$2.73 Diesel PPG – 2015 BAM - \$3.38, 9/1/2015 - \$1.59, 2016 Rec. - \$3.14



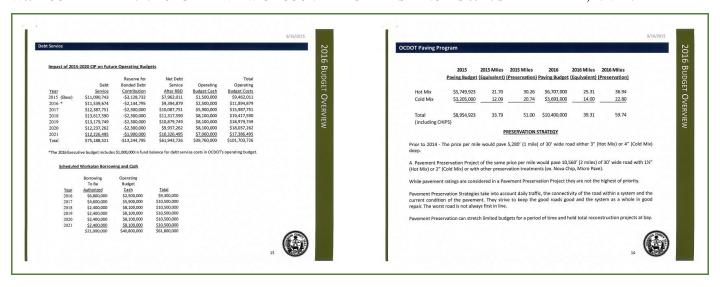


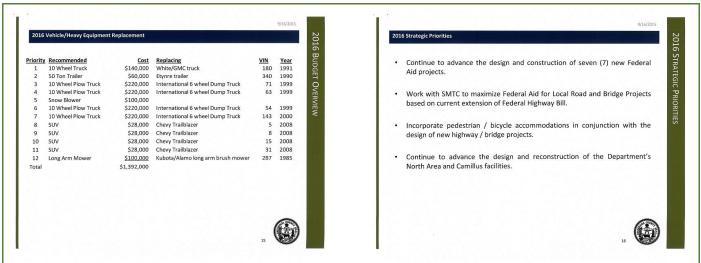
 Cold Mix
 Workplan

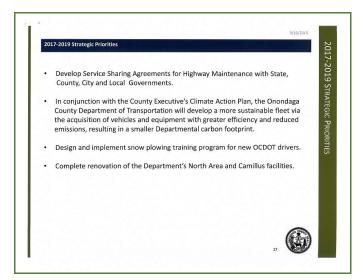
 Funding
 \$3,505,000

 Miles
 13.23

 Cost Per Mile
 \$265,000







Chairman Knapp commented on the training portion of the presentation, stating that driving a snowplow is an entirely different experience and anything that we can do to help on that front is key.

Mr. Jordan, on a parochial level I have spoken with you regarding Taft Road and whether there are any additional improvements that can be made to improve the safety of the section from Buckley Road to Henry Clay

Mr. Donnelly:

- We have two Federal Aid projects, we incorporated a safety review into the design of the new facilities, particularly around Wegmans on Taft Road to see about pedestrian accommodations
- We have put in some pedestrian accommodations in that area and will become functional before the end of the season
- Will be looking at accidents along the corridor and see if anything needs to done with regards to some of the side roads

Mr. Jordan, in speaking with a mechanic and discussing that the salt in this area destroys cars,

- Are there any other options
- Are we reducing the amount of salt we use
- Is there some other type of substance

# Mr. Donnelly:

- Choices are limited
- Some jurisdictions use sand with a small amount of salt mixed in
- Oswego County doesn't use any salt, only uses sand
- With sand you have to have a base of snow built up on the road first, then they put down the sand for traction
- Onondaga County's standard for service has been; to get the snow off of the roads, to make sure that it's not icy or slippery
- No disrespect to Oswego County, Onondaga County has ten times the traffic volume than they do
- Onondaga County has larger metropolitan and suburban areas
- We do try and limit the amount of salt used
- Every new truck purchased over the past few years have included saddle tanks for brine and actually prewet the salt, which makes the salt active as soon as it hits the road, and also reduces the amount of scatter
- Always looking at ways, primarily due to the cost of salt
- Would not be a proponent for shifting away from the use of salt, there are other types of deicer, they all have some level of corrosive impact on concrete and metal

Mr. Jordan asked what other New England states use on their roads, salt or something else

Mr. Donnelly responded, based on how hard it was to get salt last winter, I would have to say that everyone was using it, it does vary based on the jurisdiction but salt is the industry standard

Chairman Knapp asked what about beet juice or molasses

# Mr. Donnelly:

- The Thruway Authority has tried using beet juice as an experiment, has not heard what the follow up was
- Any type of sugar will lower the melting temperature
- As much as people are concerned about the use of salt and the chlorides getting into the water table, they
  actually had concerns about the sugars getting in and changing oxygen level of the waterways
- There is no perfect solution, there is a product called Clear Lane that's not beet juice but it does have a sugar additive to it, it's a wonderful product that the county use to use exclusively until is it went to almost the double price per ton of road salt

Chairman Knapp asked if it was a liquid and Mr. Donnelly responded that it is a granular, a treated salt Chairman Knapp stated that if we went to some sort of liquid all we would need is to refit all of the trucks Mr. Donnelly responded that even with the brine tanks the trucks might need to be fitted with different nozzles depending on the consistency of the liquid

Mr. Donnelly stated for the record that the County absolutely does not use hydrofracking fluid

# Mr. Jordan:

- You're showing an increase of \$50,000 on your 5700 line, Contractual Expense and asked what it was for Mr. Donnelly:
- That is for the town plowing
- The 2% base rate increase over last year

# Mr. Jordan:

You're showing a Travel and Training increase of \$67,000

# Mr. Donnelly:

Our Travel and Training line is as a 90/10 split, which we pay meal claims out of

- We are contractually obligated with CSEA to pay a meal claim if an individual comes 2 hours before their shift or stays 3 hours after their scheduled shift, that is a \$7.00 meal claim
- With harsh winters and the amount of overtime we bumped up the number for meal claims for 2016

Mr. Jordan asked if mileage was for the drivers coming to and from work

Mr. Donnelly responded no, it's just a title line. It's for travel and training, the DOT doesn't do a lot of travel so a preponderance of the line is used for meal claims.

Mr. Knapp added, for a lack of a better place to put it

Mr. Morgan responded that was the correct classification, any employee reimbursements would typically come out of that account

Chairman Knapp asked regarding the simulator, is that something that we can rent, lease, or do we have to buy it

Mr. Donnelly responded that he wasn't sure

- Assumption is that we to need buy it because it is customized
- Depending on the controls you'll need, it would need to be specked out by the manufacturer
- Believes it would need to be a flat purchase but haven't explored all of the options

Mr. Jordan, regarding the pothole killer, do we own or lease it

Mr. Donnelly:

- This piece of equipment we bid out every year
- It is a piece of proprietary equipment
- We don't own it, we have looked into buying it but the company is not interested in selling it
- It is a challenging piece of equipment
- Patch Management is the company that provides it
- Have had some hiccups with it, that's the nature of the beast, because the stone, air and oil all go through
  one nozzle

Mr. Jordan asked if there is anticipation of as much or more use for it

Mr. Donnelly responded that they will used as much; usually get it around mid to end of February, because the oil stays heated, it can be sent out on cold days

Mr. Jordan asked if the pothole killer is operated by county personnel

Mr. Donnelly responded yes; the company supplies the equipment and a tank for the oil

Chairman Knapp, We are going into our 4<sup>th</sup> year with towns, when do you start renegotiating that for the next, hopefully 5 years

Mr. Donnelly:

- At the end of this season we'll start some preliminary discussions
- I haven't received negative feedback
- There has been some discussion that some of the towns want to take more mile
- No concrete offers at this point
- By the end of this season, we should be starting discussion with the Town Highway Superintendents Association, then with the Town Supervisors

Chairman Knapp:

The fact that you haven't heard any negative comments is a good thing that things seem to be working wonderfully, with the support of Mr. Donnelly the County Executive, and the County Legislature it was a good team effort

Mr. Donnelly, the 5 year agreement worked great

Chairman Knapp, what are your year-end projections for overtime

Mr. Donnelly responded, overtime will have short fall but will be offset by the surplus in the salary line, it will balance out

Chairman Knapp asked if the salt contract was an annual contract

Mr. Donnelly:

- The contract is a one year bid with 2, one year renewals with the option to negotiate
- Bid it last year the low bid was at 18 ½% over the previous year
- This year American Road Salt has the low bid with a proposed 5% increase

- As expensive as this contract is, other municipalities and counties are paying upwards of \$80-\$90 a ton
- We felt that the 5% was reasonable, we renewed the contract and will again make the determination at the end of this season as to whether or not we'll want to renew for a third year or whether we want to rebid

Chairman Knapp asked how many tons a year do we use

Mr. Donnelly:

- Anywhere between 58,000-70,000 tons, depending on the type of winter we have
- Budgeted for 59 tons this year

Chairman Knapp as far as the Northside Garage, at this point are we looking at keeping the two separate Mr. Donnelly responded yes:

- Weren't able to come up with a price structure based on the new construction that we felt was reasonable
- Higher than we wanted to advance for a highway facility
- What will happen, Camillus will get a larger salt shed, currently they have 2,500 ton shed and should have 5-6,000 ton shed
- Most of the Camillus facility will be rebuilt; the foundations will stay, the skin of the buildings will be rebuilt
  and will be designed the way it should be for a highway facility
- With the North area we'll be looking at the Demolition of a portion of the building and setting it up the way a
  highway facility should be with overhead doors on both sides to allow for access to building, currently there
  is one door in and one door out
- We have not appropriated any capital funding for the construction, we will come back to the Legislature for funding when we are at about 90% design and have a hard estimate
- Right now the schematic is right where we said it would be, between 17-18 million dollars

Chairman Knapp, regarding the highway bill are you seeing any major ups or downs for 2016 Mr. Donnelly responded no:

- Congress hasn't deteriorated to the point where anyone is talking about stopping funding existing projects
- The discussion have been very robust; every highway bill since the early 1990's has been 5 year bills, this one was on a 2 year bill and is on an extender
- It's fully funded at this point but does put uncertainty into your outer years as to what's going to be available
- At a minimum they will come up with an additional extender, hope is that they come up with a 5 year highway bill

Chairman Knapp, I'm glad to see a snow blower in the budget, will it need a special truck

Mr. Donnelly responded no, it will fit on a pay loader

Chairman Knapp asked how old the other ones are

Mr. Donnelly responded in the 80's, with last winter as hard as it was they were used in areas that they haven't been used in before, like in Cicero, Clay and Lysander. With banks getting so large, the snow blowers were critical

Mr. Knapp asked if we were able to help out some of the towns if they needed it

Mr. Donnelly responded that we usually do; wasn't sure if they had any requests last year, have certainly helped the towns out using the new wrecker for stuck snowplows

Chairman Knapp, I like the 1 million dollar fund balance; is great idea, and a perfect use for that to get us over the hump

The meeting was adjourned at 2:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Memory

KIMBERLY MEMORY, Assistant Clerk Onondaga County Legislature

# **ATTENDANCE**

COMMITTEE: W&M REVIEW OF COUNTY FACILITIES COMMITTEE DEPARTMENTS P. M.

DATE: 9/22/15

DEPARTMENT/AGENCY
OCPL Board
OCPL.
OCPL
ocel
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OCPL
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Personel
OUL
OUPL
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POT
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