

**HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE**  
Monday, February 12, 2018 - 9:30 PM

Charles Harrington, Chairperson  
Noel Merrihew, Vice-Chairperson

Vice-Chairman Merrihew called this Human Services Meeting to order at 9:30 am with the following Supervisors in attendance: Robin DeLoria, Archie Depo, Shaun Gilliland, Joseph Giordano, Ronald Jackson, Mike Marnell, Stephen McNally, Noel Merrihew, Dean Montroy, James Monty, Gerald Morrow, Ron Moore, Roby Politi, Randy Preston, Michael Tyler, and Joe Pete Wilson. Charles Harrington and Tom Scozzafava had been previously excused.

Department Heads present: Linda Beers, Judith Garrison, Krissy Leerkes, Michael Mascarenas, Terri Morse and Daniel Palmer.

Deputies present: Jim Dougan

Also present: John Bernardi – United Way

News Media present: Keith Lobdell - Sun News.

MERRIHEW: Good morning everyone. We will call the Human Services committee to order. If you would all please stand and join me in the salute to the flag. Thank you very much. First item on the agenda this morning we have a presentation Mr. John Bernardi. Good morning John.

BERNARDI: Good morning and thanks for having me here. I'm not here to ask for donations today. I'm here to talk about world poverty and specifically our ALICE spot in that which some of you heard me speak about in the past. What ALICE does and you'll see it provides a very deep meek and different lens in which to view poverty. Your role as elected officials and community leaders you're well aware of the Federal poverty limit certainly Mike knows about it and you might be surprised to know that the Federal Government would have us believe that if you're an individual and you make in excess of \$11,450.00 you don't live in poverty and they also have us believe if you're a family of four and you make in excess of \$23,400, a family of four household income you make excess of that amount you don't live in poverty. You all have constituents in your towns that you care about I'd like to know if you know any family of four that is doing well on \$23,000 a year as a household income? It's impossible. What we know instead is that in Essex County and I'm going to show you the data through our research, an individual would need to make in excess of \$23,000 a year just to even begin to live without assistance. A family of four in Essex County and I'll get you the exact number in a moment would need to make somewhere around \$59,000 a year household income to be able to live without assistance so what we have is a huge gap. We have the Federal poverty limit on this hand extremely low and then we have the ALICE threshold here, the ALICE threshold being able to survive without assistance not living the high life mind you just being able to survive without assistance from Mike's office and Krissy's office and other services so in between there there's a huge gap of people. You might be astonished to know that there's tens of thousands of people right here in Essex County that fall within that gap and it's pretty astonishing. This is a study of financial hardship. It provides again a lens in which to view poverty from that has never been used before and I think you will find it quite interesting and quite enlightening. Asset Limited Income Constraint Employee, ALICE. You know this from the past what we used

to call the working poor which is still used, it's a term that's still used but it's not necessarily a friendly term it has a little bit maybe negative contention but there's nothing wrong in saying it let's call it what it is, it's the working poor. This is another way of looking at that group. It's a study of New Yorkers struggling to make ends meet. You know these people. They live in your towns some of them work in your towns, some of them work here at the county, they're cashiers, they're health care people, they're clerks, they're bus drivers, laborers you name it child care workers. The vast majority of folks that fall into the ALICE category are really descent, hard-working people. They're not the people that line up in Mike's lobby with their hands out, there's some, there's some of them everywhere you go there's certain you are always going to run into people that are looking for a hand out or looking to work the system in some way but the vast majority of people that fall into the ALICE casually are not looking for a handout. They are working two and three jobs sometimes to make ends meet and they are reluctant to ask for help.

So who is ALICE in New York State? It's 44% of the households that have incomes below the ALICE threshold nearly half of every household in the State of New York and by the way nearly half of every household in Essex county falls below the ALICE threshold that includes 15% that live in poverty by the Federal Government but another 29% of households that fall within in that gap for total of 44%.

MERRIHEW: John you said in Essex County 50%?

BERNARDI: It's right around 44% nearly half. It's close to the State average.

Why does it exist? We have a high cost of living here you all know that but that's not unique to Essex County. It's not to unique to New York State's high cost of living in many cases throughout the country and income and assistance falls short of meeting the needs and there's a lack of high paying jobs. That's not to say we don't have some very good jobs in New York State and Essex County and the Adirondack region we have a lot of very good jobs and more coming. For example if Norsk Titanium does what they claim they are going to do you're going to have people from Essex County driving to work for Norsk for \$40.00 an hour, they are going to drive the 45 minutes or they are going to drive the hour because those jobs are going to pay \$40 or \$50 an hour some of them so it's not saying we don't have good jobs we have some good jobs and we have more coming but we need more. There's never enough good, high paying jobs so that at a household of four can make in excess of \$59,000 which they need to make ends meet that's a lot of jobs to get tens of thousands of people in Essex County above the ALICE threshold.

Household survivor budget just to give you an idea of what we're looking at. This is the New York one. I'm going to get to specific Essex County data. This is the New York average and you can see what the cost is single adult on the left hand column and then family of four on the right you can see the cost on average in New York State for housing, child care. The average cost for child care is \$13,063 a month for a family of four, for child care, food, transportation and the list goes on you can see that per single adult to even begin to make ends meet you need to make \$10.77 an hour and for a family of four somewhere in the \$31.24 range and then along the bottom you can see the Federal poverty limit for a single adult, \$11,490 again I'd love to know if you know anybody who is living without assistance and making \$11,490 and \$23,550 for a family of four. So again, there's a huge gap between the Federal poverty limit and the ALICE threshold. We'll go right to Essex County. ALICE in Essex County it's going to be harder to read but if you look from where you're sitting but I know Mike has the full report, Dan might as well, Linda does and maybe we can get that to everybody. I think it may be have been sent to everybody here but we can resend it so we can see it up close but on the left here we have every township and/or hamlet depending on how it's broken down. It gives you a total number of

households and it gives you a percentage of households that are living below the ALICE threshold and there's pockets and they vary for example it's going to be hard to read from where you're sitting but Witherbee is 65% of the households in Witherbee are living below the ALICE threshold.

What are the economic conditions here in Essex County? And I'm preaching to the choir you all know this as well as anybody but housing affordability actually against the State average is rated a good effort. Which is a good thing. Job opportunities are actually rated as fair and community resources are rated as good. This is important if you go back to Clinton County I won't go back but if I were to go back at Clinton County's and you looked at Community Resources it would say fair and here on Essex County it says good and at first glance people are asking me how can that be? Because you think about Clinton County you think there is a non-profit on every corner. You think about Essex County and you realize that people have to drive sometimes 50-70 miles to get to a service from their location to whatever service they need. I spent a lot of my career working right here in Essex County with ACAP and other agencies so I know that distance and I dug into that. How can that be? That Essex is rated good community resources in Clinton and Franklin for that matter are rated as fair or even poor? And I drilled down into the research and what I realized and this is an estimate of the agencies here in Essex County, county agencies of course but also the non-profits what that means and this is a very good thing is that the population that we service and that is eligible for those services are actually being reached more so here in Essex than in Clinton County so this is a very positive thing again a testament to the agencies that are working here.

The household survival budget in Essex County you can see the housing costs, you can see the child care costs, the average cost for child care for a family of four in Essex County is \$1208.00 a month. A family of four would need to make just shy of \$30.00 an hour to be able to make ends meet so they don't have to wait in Mike's lobby or call Krissy's office or whatever the case maybe Linda's office for that matter and a single adult would need to make right around \$10 an hour again, just to begin to make ends meet. Questions so far? Anybody?

So what are we doing about it? How are we helping? We are investing in education income and health programs and services that assist these households. In some cases these are households that have been forgotten, not purposely nobody purposely said let's forget about these people it just happened. It happened because our society has been somewhat based on the Federal poverty limit and we base a lot on that and we forgot in terms of leaving a group of people behind is that there's a huge number of households and families that are not eligible for things based on the Federal poverty limit and are working again and you know these families they live in your towns working two or three jobs yet they're a flat tire away from a crisis or a broken furnace away from a crisis. I think I actually shared this story it's worth sharing again when I was here in the fall I shared this story. If I get a flat tire tomorrow that's going to be a pain in my neck. I think when I was here I said if Ike Tyler gets a flat tire tomorrow it's going to be a pain in his neck either way it's going to be an inconvenience, it's going to mean maybe some rescheduling, it's going to mean possibly calling for a ride maybe it may mean you're going to be late for a meeting or cancel a meeting or use some credit card you didn't want to use because you were trying to get rid of it. It's going to be an inconvenience. What that flat tire is not going to mean for me and Ike is we're not going to lose our job because of that flat tire, we're not going to have to use our grocery money to get that tire fixed or go without medication to get that tire fixed because if we don't get the tire fixed we could lose our job because we missed work last week because we had some issues with child care or any other issues. It's going to be an inconvenience for Ike and I but it's not going to cause a catastrophic chain of events that could lead to unemployment, homelessness, health issues because you might be surprised to know that people are making decisions on a daily basis whether or not they should go without their medication or that might mean the grocery money or that would be the rent

money and they are making decisions that we wouldn't even dream of having to make and they're doing this every day it's just astonishing that in 2018 we're still facing these times and conditions for certain people. We're supporting access to information about health and human services through 211 and other avenues as well NY Connects through Krissy's office is another excellent resource for people and we're building awareness of the challenges and needs that ALICE households face that's really important and that's what we're doing here today. I'm hoping that you'll go back in your towns this afternoon with a greater understanding of some of the conditions and some of the challenges that people are facing and that's a start. We can't fix this overnight but being aware of it is an important start and I hope that this will help with that level of awareness and then of course we are engaging stake holders in conversations about ALICE and ways we can address some of ALICE's challenges and one of the things that we're doing is we're creating new partnerships and collaborations that can address some of these issues. For example, some of you will remember the wheels to work program that we used to have in the region? It was through the One Work Source Centers. It was a program that assists workers with transportation needs so that they could either get a job or keep a job. That program is sorely missed and we're working with a number of stake holders, the One Work Source Center, the Workforce Development Board, ACAP and other organizations to try and bring it back. There's a real interest in bringing Wheels to Work back to assist people with transportation needs or specifically for employment purposes and all of you are well aware of the challenges when it comes to public transportation and how difficult it is to get people from one point to another especially in rural areas like Essex County. I know the struggles that this board has had over the years in trying to maintain that public transportation system and it's a real challenge. The truth of the matter is we live in an automobile society. Essex County is driven by automobiles not mass transportation because of the rural nature we are an automobile society, Clinton is too so is Franklin it's the way it is. Public transportation is helpful, it's needed. It's not the solution for everybody so we live in an automobile society it's just the way it is especially when it comes to employment purposes so the Wheels to Work is just one example in an area that we're building a partnership and a collaboration with a variety of organizations across the region to try and reestablish that. That is the end of the power point. Judy I was going to – would love to show a brief video. Do I have time?

MERRIHEW: How long is your video?

BERNARDI: It's only about six, seven minutes.

MERRIHEW: Go ahead.

BERNARDI: I don't know if it is going to work though. Judy do you think I will have enough sound?

GARRISON: You should. If the speakers are up high enough I think it will carry.

- VIDEO SHOWN -

BERNARDI: I want to thank you for having me here this morning and would love to take any questions.

MERRIHEW: Comments or questions for John?

MORROW: We as Supervisors in our offices we often, I know I do have people either call or

come into the office personally that ask for our help that are working people that need a little help because the fuel prices went up or whatever whether it be gasoline or cars travel back and forth to work or heating fuel for their homes we can't do everything for them. Government is not the answer to everything so feel free to tell them to call 563-0028 which is the United Way's office in Plattsburgh because they have over forty partner agencies that every time I've had people call there and some of them have called back and thanked me and said that the United Way is very receptive, their people in the office is very receptive and they'll do what they can to help them. Thank you John and your staff for that.

MERRIHEW: Thank you Jerry.

MONTY: Thank you John for coming down here and sharing that but I'd like to just piggyback on one thing that you've said about the services provided, it is credit to our people that run these departments what we're providing for the people that we're head and shoulders above these other two counties the logistics of the regions are the same yet we have people that truly care about what they are doing and giving the best options they can for these people also the non for profits in our area ACAP, the Families First these areas are there helping these people every single day so that they're not living in poverty which unfortunately they still are but are getting better about it and I want to thank you and I really encourage anyone that has someone in your community that needs help to get a hold of one of our agencies within county at the least and at the most get a hold of John and his people at the United Way. They are there to help. Thank you.

MERRIHEW: Thank you Jim. Absolutely. Further questions or comments for John?

TYLER: I just want to again I mentioned it and other supervisors have here but to challenge all supervisors to donate to the United Way whatever they want to it directly affects your constituents here in Essex County. I think it's a great thing to do and if you want to donate something please donate to this to help out all these people that are living in ALICE. I think we should lead by example. That's the bottom line. Thank you.

MERRIHEW: Thank you Ike. Any further questions or comments?

BERNARDI: Thank you all very much and please call upon us anytime. We want to be a valuable resource for you as community leaders. You have great county departments. We work closely with all of them and if you call upon us you'll have our full attention and we'll be a valuable resource for you. I appreciate the time this morning.

MERRIHEW: Thank you very much John. It's always a pleasure to have you here.

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The first item on the agenda was the Department of Social Services with Mike Mascarenas reporting as follows:

MERRIHEW: Good morning Michael.

MASCARENAS: Good morning I just want to thank John for coming today and I know a couple of you have brought it up in the past I think it's important to realize that no one agency or group of agencies or Government really meet the needs of everybody in every community and as

you're looking at my report you can see when John said 50% of our families approximately give or take are ALICE communities that's about 19,000 people in our county you know that are struggling really to make ends meet and when you look at what we provide even through the food stamp program that we have about 3500 that take advantage of that so that's 15,500 people that could be wondering where their next meal is going to come from depending on that you know that flat tire that may happen so without people like the United Way, without people like ACAP and all those agencies our eligible requirements simply don't allow us to help them so those agencies are critical to make sure the needs of our people are met and I thank you for doing that presentation and I will move along because I know that we are stretched for time. I do have a couple of budget amendments this morning. These are really carry over funds do to fiscal years that differ from ours. They are Stop DV dollars. I need an increase in appropriations account #5487, the account name is Family Assistance. It's \$25,000. The revenue account is account #44609, Federal Aid Family Assistance \$25,000.

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A BUDGET AMENDMENT IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES INCREASING REVENUES AND APPROPRIATIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$25,000.00 STOP DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CARRY OVER FUNDS.  
Moved by Mr. Politi, second by Mr. Monty.**

MERRIHEW: Questions or comments on the resolution? Being none, all those in favor, opposed – motion carries.

MASCARENAS: Thank you. I have one more. Same account numbers appropriation account #5487, Family Assistance \$6,568.00 and revenue account #44609 federal aid family assistance in the amount of \$6,568.00.

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A BUDGET AMENDMENT IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES INCREASING REVENUES AND APPROPRIATIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$6,568.00 STOP DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CARRY OVER FUNDS.  
Moved by Mr. Monty, second by Mr. McNally.**

MERRIHEW: Questions or comments? Being none, all those in favor, opposed – motion carries. Thank you Michael.

MASCARENAS: One last bit of information I wanted to leave you with is I did attach the lifeguard training flyers. Those have went out to communities and schools so if you have any at the end the month, I know it's winter out there but before you know it we'll be trying to get summer programs and those things off the ground. The lifeguard training is expensive. We usually have a really good response to that training and once that training is complete I will get the board a list of qualified lifeguards in our area so that you will have a list to hire from hopefully for the summer.

MERRIHEW: Thank you Michael. That is always appreciated. I know how problematic that can be with the lifeguards. Any questions for Michael while he's here? Being none, thank you very much.

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The first item on the agenda was the Mental Health Department with Terri Morse reporting as follows:

MORSE: Good morning. So I wanted to go over my report. Under the highlights section I say that we've reached out to CVPH at the I believe it was Mr. McNally that suggested I do that? Is that correct? So I had a meeting with them on Friday afternoon and they were interested in possibly providing psychiatric services in the future but they are not able to do that at this time. Now that they know the need that we have in Essex County they can do some planning to try and meet that need but that it won't be until at least a year before that's an option for us so I'm continuing to pursue the telepsychiatry services through Genoa and that's just kind of rolling along but every time I think I'm there somebody throws a monkey wrench in it and there's one more thing to get but I'm hoping I'd like to see by March 15 those services be in place in our county and we can bring back the people that we had to ask the primary cares to take care of psychiatric needs because that's definitely something we need in Essex County.

The mobile Mental Health worker is posted right now so if you have any family members or have anybody that has the proper credentials please have them submit an application for that. And the Community Services board unfortunately our meeting this month got cancelled given our wonderful snow storm last Wednesday we are going to be reviewing an RFP for the alcohol and substance abuse services. I've had several people ask me about that RFP that's out there so I just want to let you know that it doesn't mean that Essex County is going to get rid of St. Joe's as a provider that all it means is that we're doing due diligence in Community Services Board to make sure that we are providing the services that we need to be providing. So I keep reiterating that we are doing due diligence.

I have two resolutions one is to add Judy Feigenbaum from Keeseville as a member of the Essex County Community Services Board for a term effective January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2021.

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF JUDY FEIGENBAUM AS A MEMBER OF THE ESSEX COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD FOR A TERM EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2018 TO DECEMBER 31, 2021.**

**Moved by Mr. Monty, second by Mr. Wilson.**

MERRIHEW: Questions or comments on the nomination? Being none, all those in favor, opposed – motion carries.

MORSE: I do have a resolution of appreciation for Stephen Valley. I wish he were standing here to hear this but we are going to be getting a plaque made for him and we'll be mailing it to him because he's sitting in sunny Florida right now. Do I read the resolution?

MERRIHEW: No you don't need to.

MORSE: As prepared on the document.

MERRIHEW: Thank you very much Terri.

**RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION AND CONGRATULATIONS TO STEPHEN J. VALLEY UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM ESSEX COUNTY.**

**Moved by Mr. Gilliland, second unanimously.**

MORSE: Thank you.

MERRIHEW: Thank you Terri. Any questions or comments for Terri while she's here? Anything

further. Being none, thank you very much.

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The first item on the agenda was the Public Health Department with Linda Beers reporting as follows:

BEERS: Good morning. I have two resolutions. I'm sorry you only have one in front of you. One came late but the resolution that you have in front of you is to request the appropriation of surplus funds. In 2017 I had a lot of this money to purchase these computers. There was a glitch and they didn't get in ordered in 2017 so I just want to move the money that I have in my budget from 2017 into 2018 to purchase these three clinician computers with stylus's' it's for the Home Health agency they use them every single day and they have about a two-year life span and we replace them ongoing and I didn't have that money in the '18 but I had it in '17 so I just had to move it forward into there so I can use that money to purchase them.

MERRIHEW: Thank you very much.

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZNG A BUDGET AMENDMENT IN THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT INCREASING REVENUES AND APPROPRIATIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,000.00, 2017 CARRY OVER FUNDS AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF TWO COMPUTERS WITH SUCH FUNDS.**

**Moved by Mr. Politi, second by Mr. Wilson**

MERRIHEW: Questions or comments?

TYLER: I'm not on the committee but does that money just carry over to the next budget every year?

PALMER: Sure as long as you authorize it to be done that way yes.

MERRIHEW: Further questions or comments?

MONTY: Has the cost increased on these?

PALMER: No actually I think that was the holdup actually. Linda went back out and did a mini bid so that we were actually leveraging the lowest cost possible.

MONTY: Thank you.

MERRIHEW: Further questions or comments?

BEERS: I have a resolution you don't have in front of you –

MERRIHEW: I'm sorry, all those in favor, opposed – that motion carries. Thank you.

BEERS: So I recently found that there was an opportunity \$1,250.00 for training we are already seeing. I spoke to you before about the DSRIP and the redesign of Medicaid and they are really encouraging the partners to attend and go to training. My staff has been diligent in doing that and so we signed up for what's called an increase in cultural competency and Health Literacy and by my staff attending free conferences that were available we actually got an incentive one.

I have a resolution to increase revenue by \$1,250.00 that DSRIP actually allotted us for our continued support of cultural competency and health literacy. It was money that we earned by going to training.

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A BUDGET AMENDMENT IN THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT INCREASING REVENUES AND APPROPRIATIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,250.00, DSRIP- AHI.**

**Moved by Mr. Politi, second by Mr. Giordano.**

MERRIHEW: Questions or comments? Being none, all those in favor, opposed – that motion carries. Thank you.

BEERS: You saw my flu increase or my report in your flyer. I would like to say that on Friday the Governor declared the influenza an imminent public health threat. I would like to tell you that on my county website as well as our Facebook page there's lots of information. We have what's called a health map you can put your zip code in and they'll tell you every place there is vaccine available. The health department does have vaccine, we have lots of it. We are able to do it. We have regular clinics on Monday and Thursday but if anybody calls my staff will schedule a vaccination at any time that can work in your schedule but we are a safety net and I do encourage that pharmacies all have vaccine as well. They take lots of different insurances. We are somewhat limited who have credential with our insurance and also the Governor has signed a waiver that will allow pharmacists to immunize or vaccinate two to eighteen year olds at this time. Two year olds to eighteen years pharmacists can now give the flu shot to so which opens up a lot of avenues and a lot of availability so my message is there's no reason not to get a flu shot.

MERRIHEW: Linda is there a cost for that now?

BEERS: In our public health department our insurance if you have county wide insurance we use our county wide insurance and we'll take our insurance as full payment.

MERRIHEW: I just had seen on the news where some counties had implemented for emergency action no cost.

BEERS: Yes. Well, I think most insurances 90% of your insurance does pay for it so if you don't have health insurance you come see me because I do have vaccines and we would do a sliding fee scale, whatever based on income. You would get a flu shot at the health department if you think that's a barrier to anybody we will certainly make sure that is not a barrier. Also I just wanted to point out we use the ALICE report. I think our community health assessments reduce slightly WIC is also another huge safety net over 50% of the children in Essex County receive an infant and child supplement which is nutritional as well as milk and formula subsidies.

MERRIHEW: Thank you. Comments or questions for Ms. Beers while she's here? Thank you very much.

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The first item on the agenda was the Office for the Aging Department with Krissy Leerkes reporting as follows:

MERRIHEW: Good morning.

LEERKES: So in my report you'll see a couple of updates one is that we do now in Essex County have the free tax preparation sites located in Elizabethtown, Schroon Lake, Lake Placid, Moriah and the North Country Community College Campus in Ticonderoga. If any of your constituents are interested in getting a free tax preparation contact our local RSVP program to schedule those events. We are very fortunate to have these sites this year and the past couple of years our folks had to travel to Plattsburgh so this is really a great benefit to our individuals.

And again, talking to the economics of our communities today HEAP is opening up a second emergency benefit. I know that the time for the in fruition is in Mike's report as well as mine so that follows the first emergency benefit guidelines so that's something that will be very beneficial for the individuals in our communities as well.

And I have two resolutions; the first is to approve the slate of officers for our Essex county Office for the Aging Advisory Council Chairperson Elizabeth Buysse, Vice-Chairman William Dolback, Secretary, Lynn Edmonds and Executive Committee, Ann Merkel and Fred Shaw.

POLITI: Moved by Mr. Politi, second by Mr. Monty and Mr. Giordano.

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF THE FOLLOWING TO THE 2018 ESSEX COUNTY OFFICE FOR THE AGING ADVISORY COUNCIL, CHAIRPERSON ELIZABETH BUYSSE, VICE-CHAIRMAN WILLIAM DOLBACK, SECRETARY, LYNN EDMONDS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, ANN MERKEL AND FRED SHAW.**

**Moved by Mr. Politi, second by Mr. Monty and Mr. Giordano.**

MERRIHEW: Questions or comments? Being none, all those in favor, opposed – motion carries.

LEERKES: And the next one is just to bring unexpended DSRIP funding from 2017 to 2018 in the amount of \$74,000.25.

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A BUDGET AMENDMENT IN THE OFFICE FOR THE AGING DEPARTMENT INCREASING REVENUES AND APPROPRIATIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$74,000.25, UNEXPENDED 2017 DSRIP FUNDS.**

**Moved by Mr. McNally, second by Mr. Giordano.**

MERRIHEW: Questions or comments? Being none, all those in favor, opposed – motion carries.

LEERKES: And one other quick update as noticed in the past I've talked about our lack of legal services through the Office for the Aging our prior attorney retired back in February 2017 despite our effects of going out to RFP four times we did not receive any proposals but I'm very, very glad to announce that just last week Purchasing had received two proposals so we'll be reviewing them and hopefully in the near future we'll be able to award contract to get those services back in Essex County instead of again having our folks traveling out of county for those services.

MERRIHEW: Thank you. That is good news Krissy.

LEERKES: Any questions?

MONTY: Local attorney?

LEERKES: Yes.

MONTY: Wonderful.

MERRIHEW: Further questions or comments for Krissy?

McNALLY: I have a question on this DSRIP funding what happens if we don't, is that something that we, how is that funding work on this? If we don't spend it do we lose it?

PALMER: DSRIP funding is really Medicaid redesigned money that was allocated out to virtually every State that was participating in the Medicaid programs. It is limited funding so to speak so when the Federal Government runs out of it we will no longer receive it but while it's out there there is absolutely no reason why you would not take advantage of the funding while it's out there because ultimately it is supposedly money that is saved under the redesign and Medicaid that's allocated out to localities but you have to take advantage of it.

McNALLY: So if we receive that in 2017 we should spend that in 2017?

PALMER: Well it doesn't matter again you get to cross over fiscal years so whenever, ours is a calendar year the State's goes to April 1<sup>st</sup>, the Feds go to September sort of whenever they happen to get around to passing a budget but ultimately so you always have that kind of carry over period so you will see us doing that on a regularly basis where we don't happened to spend in in '17 we'll ask to move it into our fiscal year which is the following year that's all we're really doing. It doesn't limit our ability to access that funding it just changes the resolution that says it was available in '17 we are now going to make it available to us in '18.

McNALLY: Okay thank you.

LEERKES: And for DSRIP purposes it will end in 2020 so we have up until that time to spend any money that we are awarded.

McNALLY: Thank you.

MERRIHEW: Thank you. Further questions, comments? Anything else? I'll let you go. Thank you again Krissy.

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The first item on the agenda was the Transportation Department with Dan Palmer reporting as follows:

PALMER: Transportation really I need a resolution authorizing us to go out to bid for an automobile. It was budgeted for. We have \$25,000.00 in funding available to put another Medicaid transport car out there so we are looking for a resolution authorizing us to do that.

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASING AGENT TO GO OUT TO BID FOR THE PURCHASE OF AN AUTOMOBILE IN THE TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT, IN AN**

**AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$25,000.00, WITH FUNDS TO COME FROM THE TRANSPORTATION RESERVE ACCOUNT.  
Moved by Mr. Giordano, second by Mr. Wilson.**

MERRIHEW: Questions or comments on the resolution? Being none, all those in favor, opposed – motion carries. For the record, Ms. Patty Bashaw was formally excused from the committee meeting this morning. Any further business to come before committee? We stand adjourned. Thank you all very much.

As there was no further discussion to come before this Human Services Committee it was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Garrison, Clerk  
Board of Supervisors