FINANCE/TAX REDUCTION/MANDATE RELIEF COMMITTEE

Monday, July 20, 2026 - 10:30 AM

Michael Tyler, Chairperson
Joe Pete Wilson, Vice-Chairperson

Chairman Tyler called this Finance Meeting to order at 10:30 am with the following Supervisors in attendance: Clayton Barber, Matthew Brassard, Mary Lamphear, Tracie McGill, Steve McNally, Clayton Menser, James O'Bryan, Timothy Pierce, Richard Preston, Matt Stanley, Davina Thurston, Ike Tyler, Joe Pete Wilson and Margaret Wood. Timothy Follos, Ken Hughes and Cathleen Reusser were excused. Chris Clark was absent.

Department Heads present: Hannah Carson, Laura Carson, Mike Diskin, Judy Garrison, Michael Mascarenas, Roy Holzer and Jim Dougan. Chelsea Merrihew was excused.

Deputies present: Bill Tansey

Also present: Joe Keegan and Erik Harvey

TYLER: Good morning. Welcome to the finance committee. County Clerk is excused. Laura Carson, good morning.

L. CARSON: You've all had a chance to look at my report. Do you have any questions? I wanted to touch base, we haven't talked about cannabis in a while and that's because I really don't have anything further to report. Every two weeks I send an email with all my backup and I don't get a response out of them and now that we have another dispensary open in Westport I'm concerned because when we do receive our payments from Tax and Finance I want to make sure that the towns and villages are getting their proper portion so I'm not really sure where to go?

TYLER: Maybe our County Chair who's got a lot of connections in Albany can look into that for us?

L. CARSON: I thought about reaching out to Dan Stec as well and talking to him about it. My son has an orthodontic appointment down south on Wednesday I could just drive another hour and go visit him myself but I'm getting zero response. They don't return my phone calls.

MCNALLY: From the State?

L. CARSON: Yes from OSL and it does sound at this point it sounds like it really is a matter with OCF or maybe the dispensary and the communication. Tax and Finance sends us the portion based on the tax returns, the sales tax returns.

MCNALLY: I have a recommendation who you can contact from Warren County that's been through this because they have dispensaries for a year now and they have problems.

L. CARSON: It's a statewide problem.

MCNALLY: It's pretty consistent now I believe but I'll give you the person to contact and he may know who to contact because this is not new but once you do get establish communication with them it's pretty hard to figure out what the actual amount is but you'll have the communication.

MASCARENAS: I think our revenue is pretty consistent Mr. McNally the issue is what portion goes to what community that is hosting the dispensary so they don't really show you those numbers that are collected at each dispensary so once you have more than one which we now do I think three?

L. CARSON: Four

MASCARENAS: Right now we have four, we don't get that breakdown of the collection of each dispensary and it is a statewide issue in terms of that reporting mechanism.

MCNALLY: I think I know who to talk to he is also the Chairman of Warren County.

L. CARSON: Okay yes if you give me that information I will make sure to reach out to him.

TYLER: This conversation is very surprising when it comes out of Albany I'll tell you that right now I can't believe it.

BARBER: I believe the one in the Town of Chesterfield been running got to be a year now and the last I knew I received two checks, the Town of Chesterfield maybe another one has come in that I didn't notice?

L. CARSON: I think people have only seen two payments from the state since the Chesterfield cannabis opened.

BARBER: That's six months behind or better.

L. CARSON: Yeah they don't typically have a solid schedule.

BARBER: Well I know on the date it's a check for three months that you're receiving at a time. My first one was $5,000, my second one was $6,000 and some change the point is they are quite a bit behind.

TYLER: Contact anybody in Albany comment and say that to them good luck with that though. Anything else for Laura. I don't see anything thank you. Mr. Diskin our County Treasurer.

DISKIN: Good morning. I'll start with sales tax I want to give you a quick update. I looked back to what we got for the year and the first quarter we had gained $547,428 in the first three months, we gained another $750,200 and the second quarter and year to date through the end of July we are at, we gained another $277,398 so in July for the year we are running a $1,575,000 and change over last year so we're doing well. Obviously it's contributed to gas but some of it is also contributable to the sales tax on short term rentals, sales tax is going well and based on my sheet from other counties it is pretty consistent with everybody else in the state running about 7% ahead of last year.
Occupancy we gained another $50,000, we took in $487,155 last month and we are running not quite over $100.000 from last year about 3.8%, 3.9% over last year.
I do have one thing that I didn't put on the agenda but I did want to discuss it with the committee this morning and we had that presentation from Three plus One back a month or so ago and I did find out that it is available to all towns if you're interested. If you do find out you are interested I can give you their contact, they can do the same thing for the towns they do stuff for towns all around the State of New York and all over the country. For those of you that are interested in it

they will be able to quote you a price. For ours pricing quote is $32.946 I talked to quite a few counties around the state and everybody was in consistently saying they gained anywhere from 30% to 40% investments in the first year. I was down at a conference in New Orleans and while I was away I talked to my counterpart out in Oswego County and he was also at the same conference so he went from a little over a quarter of a million to about three and a half million in a little over a year and a half they do a lot for you. My recommendation would be to look into a contract with them and see how we do. It's a year-to-year contract if we find out they don't work well for us but I think we are going to see more than enough to cover what the contract costs us.

MASCARENAS: Is that at state contract Michael?

DISKIN: I don't know that but I can check it.

THURSTON: Is there any risks?

DISKIN: I would say if we do a resolution it would contingent upon.

MASCARENAS: I want to make sure of two things number one we are following procurement properly in terms of hiring an outside firm and number two if is a state contract the numbers they provided us were consistent with the amounts within the state contract.

DISKIN: They did tell us they are under what they call a single source.

MASCARENAS: Sole source?

DISKIN: Yeah, sole source.

MASCARENAS: We'll double check.

TYLER: Anything for Michael?

THURSTON: Is there any risks involved?

DISKIN: Risks? No there's no risks they will, what they will do is review our investment in the last year, they will look at our cash flow and make recommendations to us. It's not a guarantee, it's nothing we have to do if they suggest it to us we can take it or leave it. If we don't like it. I did find out they tend to want to put a lot of money in long-term investments and not keep us too liquid and I would like to see so it's something we would have discuss with them to be more equity. I talked to a few other counties in particularly Oswego County the Treasurer there was there with me at this conference, said the same thing they don't always take the recommendations because they try to tie up longer term stuff and they feel they don't need the equity but my personal feeling we need equity so we don't always take the recommendations but there's no risk, there's money involved in it. The risk is we don't like the work, we don't contract with them anymore.

MASCARENAS: So if we were to gain $32,000 in revenue based upon their recommendations we break even and anything above that we gain and anything below that we lose.

DISKIN: At a 30% increase you are looking at probably another quarter of a million dollars or more in revenue I think will more than cover the cost of the contract.

THURSTON: Thank you.

TYLER: Anything else?

DISKIN: Do you want to do a resolution?

MASCARENAS: If it's okay with Mr. Brassard we could bring it to ways and means.

DISKIN: Okay I will look into whether it's a sole source also a state contract.

MASCARENAS: Yes, okay thank you.

TYLER: Thank you. Ms. Carson, Real Property.

H. CARSON: Good morning. First on my list is a resolution to accept the omitted and pro-rata tax amount for the 2027 tax rolls. For any of the new supervisors that are not sure what those are when a property sells or if a property owner passes away and there are exemptions on the property we calculate these amounts because at that sale date or the date of death the property is no longer entitled to the exemption so that's how we come up with these amounts and also you will have to include the column for town highways special districts in your '27 town budget as revenue.

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE OMITTED AND PRO-RATA TAXES FOR THE 2027 TAX ROLLS. Barber, McGill

TYLER: Any discussion? All in favor, opposed – carried.

H. CARSON: The next resolution request I have is to amend our fee schedule. I've highlighted those changes for you guys. We have been receiving a lot of requests for colored copies of the customer maps and they have been requesting like larger size so $5.00 was really not cutting it especially when they want colored ink so this is just to allow us to charge more depending on the size of the map and whether it's color or black and white.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE REAL PROPERTY FEE SCHEDULE. Thurston, O'Bryan

TYLER: Discussion?

MCNALLY: I'm not opposed to this but is this new rates for the general public but new rates for towns?

H. CARSON: The customer maps are really just for the general public.

TYLER: All in favor, opposed – carried.

H. CARSON: Sorry I was not here last month when the 100% Veteran's exemption was discussed but if anybody has any questions I can try and answer those.

TYLER: Thank you.

O'BRYAN: Where is the state right now on that?

H. CARSON: It was put in the state's '26-'27 budget so it's a go to my knowledge they are not amending it anymore or there's not an amendment currently being pushed through whatever was put in the '26-'27 budget is what stands right now so it was changed it should be a local option instead of mandatory and they took out a lot of the requirements so now instead of them needing to be 100% disabled and have the permanent and total disability rating they can be whatever percent, they can be 50% but as long as they have that permanent and total disability rating from US Veteran's Affairs then they would qualify for the exemption.

MENSER: I was going to ask you, you said 50% but it has to be 100% from the Veteran's in order to get this discount correct?

H. CARSON: No. So, somebody can be 100% have a 100% disability rating but they have to have the permanent and total disability designation in order to qualify for the exemption and those two don't go hand in hand.

PIERCE: I'm not on this committee but I used to do this for a living. I explained it the last time there's two different ways to get 100% one is the straight 100% rating but there's the other what they call unemployability which you can be 50%-70% but you're not able to obtain and maintain gainful employment which would then give you that total rating. This is the one, Clayton may be correct I'm going to talk to the attorney for the Division of Veteran Services, I know quite well and I will try to get some clarification because office over here is saying this is the one time they made a distinction on that right, I hear you but the attorney has told the office here that it is just the total 100% not the unemployability one so I don't have an answer on that but I'm going to contact him and I will have an answer.

TYLER: Call back and get a different answer.

PIERCE: Yeah and then they tell in court they end up being 100% because it has always been understood 100% is 100% no matter how you got there it was always the way it was understood by the state but this is the one exception so I want some clarification on that before we do anything.

MASCARENAS: One more issue with that we're really struggling to get what the impact will be so it's really hard to give you information and make a decision without understanding the impact of the tax shift and how that's going to play out. We've been trying to get numbers nobody seems to be able to get at those easily so still a work in progress.

H. CARSON: Depending on what he finds out, if the 100% disability rating is one of the qualifications then I could run a potential impact given however many people have that 100% designation just to give you an idea.

BARBER: So if I recall the towns have until October to decide whether or not they are going to pass it? Am I correct?

H. CARSON: October 1st is still the date when it applies.

BARBER: Officially passes, correct?

H. CARSON: Yes.

BARBER: Thank you.

PIERCE: I will call in and get that information back to Hannah. I will call Benjamin today.

STANLEY: I'm not on this committee but I will change gears to another exemption, to the fire and emergency worker exemption. I know when we first talked about this the county passed it and then it was up to the towns to pass it and then I think the school districts need to pass it too, correct? And to try and find out whether that exemption actually makes sense over the income tax credit I mean now that assessments are pushing up and up it's making more sense to possible do the exemption on property taxes but I know that they were also talking and I think it either passed through the house or assembly or senate to increase that income?

H. CARSON: I think it was increased to four hundred dollars.

STANLEY: Was it increased?

H. CARSON: I believe so.

STANLEY: Okay so once again it now pushes out – if the school doesn't make the exemption it doesn't make sense to pass it at the town level I mean the county obviously could give 18 towns it makes sense but at the town level it might not make sense without school doing it. Is it still either the income credit or –

H. CARSON: Yes.

STANLEY: I'd rather push it to the state to pay that as opposed to pushing it to the rest of the residents within our town.

H. CARSON: And who pays attention to whether they are getting one or the other I don't know? I don't know if it is the assessors responsibility but I feel like somebody needs to be keeping an eye on that to make sure they are not getting both.

STANLEY: Well the exemption side of things are incredibly hard to keep track of usually because you have to have active fire departments keeping active rosters of the individuals it's a really, burdensome like way to keep track.

H. CARSON: It's all on the assessors and I think it's one of the hardest ones for them to keep track of.

TYLER: Thank you. Have a great day. IT – Mr. Mascarenas.

MASCARENAS: Good morning. We have a presentation here so I'm going to be super brief. We have started budget again and many of you are probably in the same boat where you've either started or procrastinating and dreading it one of the two but it's going to happen here shortly. A little more difficult for us this year, in the middle of a contract negotiation so we don't really have set numbers for staffing and wage increases and those types of things so first iteration is going to be a guess on my part which is going to create some more work down the line when we actually get to an agreement but it's the only way to get kind of an accurate depiction of where we stand and so that's where we are at.

TYLER: Thank you. Mr. Keegan and Mr. Harvey, North Country Community College budget.

KEEGAN: I'm going to yield the microphone to our Chief Financial Officer. Good to see you all It's always nice to report and thank you for your support. Our Chief Financial Officer is here to present our '26-'27 budget.

HARVEY: Thank you Joe. Some new faces here. Did everyone get a copy of my report? I did bring some extras in case. For the new folks I will go through my report more in depth than I usually do.
North Country Community College presents a $17,645,322 operating budget and $383,000 capital budget. It's predicated on enrollment of course the college is up to 1,115 AAFTE, that's the full-time equivalent students. The revenue is driven by the full-time equivalency and our head count obviously drives expense at their service. I like to speak to the full-time equivalent because that's what pays the bills. Core enrollment when we are operating is 985 AAFTE, that includes our bridge and our out of state exclusive prison program. So the in and out of state enrollment is projected to be 735 AAFTE that is a 21 uptick or 3% over the prior year that's a little modest and I'll talk about our forward-looking data here in a minute. The bridge program is projected to be 5% less it's simply because we had a really good year this year. The 5% less next year will actually bring it back down to a historic level of around 250 AAFTE which is what the college typically sees in a year. It was a bit of a down turn losing some St. Lawrence County schools that are now being serviced over there as they always should have been we filled the gap and then we made some changes internally to bring that back. I just feel some of those changes are not really sustainable so it doesn't really move the needle on any of the numbers I just mention it because it's a value add to your constituents and I know how much you appreciate that so that's where we are at.
The prison program is projected to be flat. We had a prison closure up in Malone the Barre Hill facility. Our folks did a lot of advocating to keep those folks that were enrolled in college local so that they could continue on. We're not exactly sure how it's going to impact our overall pool but we are not seeing a huge dip by losing that facility at this point. I'll talk a little bit more about an opportunity in that area in a bit.
The college is investing in a lot of student success initiatives. Something called Edsights, Achieving the Dream, SUNY Academic Momentum, Advancing Success in Associate Pathways. We have some student success coaches that we hired these folks on board to help them through their school process or academic process and we have a mental health counselor on board now for the first time in a long time she has been on board for a couple of years now and we feel that is extremely helpful to students she is getting a lot of activity and supporting a lot of our students. Confirmed fall applicants when I wrote this were up about 15% and you know it's really a misleading number because we are in the middle of our registration process. Some folks are not ready but the ones that are we are trying to get them on board sooner, we are trying to get them in the process sooner all that technical stuff out of the way so that when they come to us in September they are ready to hit the ground running and have all the materials, got all their tech set up, they are comfortable and it's not a last-minute rush. We feel that the data tells us that that improves our outcomes so adding all that up compared to the previous year we are getting quicker registrations it's raising havoc with our comparisons. I can tell you that our look at it as of this morning from our student research area tells us that we are up about 5% to 10% head count and that is probably 5% to 8% AAFTE so that's where we really wanted to be and actually a little bit more than we thought we would be so that's really good.
The budget reflects a $366 thousand increase in revenue or 2% and $489 thousand dollar increase in spending or 3% the budget will be neutral after we transfer $197 thousand from fund balance we are still leaning on that healthy fund balance at the college built up over the years of aid and pretty frugal in spending.

The state aid increases by $150 thousand this year that's very notable. We've been leaning on that 100% floor that they extended to colleges from Covid and forward and now getting our AAFTE around 1115, it exceeds the floor and we can now start to use the old methodology and pick up an extra $150,000 in base aid which is extremely helpful and we are thrilled not just because of the $150,000 which obviously is very helpful but just the fact that the college rebounded and is doing well. We are seeing an increase enrollments semester over semester a lot of pivoting on our programing quick pivots by the academic folks is really good to see and I think our marketing people are doing a great job of getting the word out.

There are a lot of expense provisions in here, a lot of the same things you folks are seeing in your budgets labor increases for union contracts, we are seeing health insurance premium increase, retirement contribution increases now, 3% rent increase which we were aware of it comes every year, utilities we don't really know about that global energy volatility you'll see that is up again who knows where it's going to go I just wanted to make sure we were covered, advertising expenses that we typically in the last couple of years leaned on some grant funding by SUNY we are going to need that funding now so we are going to bring that money back on the books, we have $40 thousand in for a facility master plan assistant provision in case we can get that accomplished if the money looks good we'll do that. Spending a lot of money on facilities. To this date we've used our 2019 master plan to lean on I just want to make sure that if we get more money to invest that we are doing it in line with our overall strategic plan and what that master plan tells us what we should be doing so that refresh on that will be very helpful and we have additional institutional scholarships which is a good thing because we have additional enrollments, we have more eligible students for those scholarships so we need to make sure we are marking funding for that. Our foundation is doing a super job of fundraising, they are kicking in some cash that will cover that it's just a really good relationship going on right now with the foundation and their efforts have really helped. We also got insurance increases for liability and auto so a lot of the same things you are seeing.

Our unrestricted fund balance at the end of this next year '26-'27 will be $4.8 million still it's a 27% of net operating costs again, for those of you that are new to SUNY we like to see that number around 15% they say anymore than that you are kind overcharging your students and banking money we don't agree and I haven't met anybody in the community college that agrees with that. We are a very volatile business our funding can go away in a second so we need to make sure that we have this fund balance here to preserve our human capital which is the whole basis of our college is everything we do and all of our successes based on the people and then also so we can invest in opportunities these initiatives and student success, new programs, we need to have capital to be able to do that so having that fund balance allows us to continue to do those things even in a down turn so that's the importance of that.

On the capital side for those of you who have been here you'll notice it increased from $320 thousand to $383 thousand and the main point I want to make there is no additional incorporation from the county for that. What we have done is we have realized that some sublease income from Saranac Lake from a daycare operation in our River Street Hall Building we can use those funds to get a match from DASNY if we invest in capital so we chose to take that revenue out of operations slide it over to capital and we'll let DASNY match it and it will give us $60,000 more for our capital budget so that $320k now becomes $383k again, no change in what you folks provide us.

Joe has put a document together, we do quarterly capital planning and we've kind of come together as a college at those quarterly meetings and reprioritize and we allocate our capital funding to what's necessary. Joe has taken the time to put together a document some of you've seen I'm sure all of you will see eventually it really outlines all the deferred needs that's left over at the college because we have a ton invested in our IT technology infrastructure, we've had a lot of investment in our science labs and our nursing labs and our laboratories a lot of customer touch

points but there's a whole lot more to go and a lot of HVAC issues that we are picking away at so Joe has a good document for that and just rest assure that we do a lot of time prioritizing and reevaluating and assessing what we need here with this funding not a lot of funding as you can see so it's necessary that we do that to make sure it's helping in the right spots.
The county sponsorship again for those of you that are new it's $2,757,400 overall for both counties. This does not include the $50,000 one time from last year which we were very appreciative of both counties giving those funds for services. Each county will give us $1,328,700 towards operations and $50,000 towards capital. I also want to point out that you provide almost $1.1 million in capital and operating chargebacks that we are allowed to keep. We bill those other counties for when their students come to our college and we are allowed to keep those receipts and that is also a big portion of that aid that you provide us.
Overall the counties both give us about $3.9 million or 22% of our revenue. You can see the state is just above you now with 24% and the students taking in 42% that's the number that we are sensitive to that 42% we had to increase our tuition by 2% all community colleges are doing such but we are very sensitive to that student payment. I think years ago the model was a 1/3, a 1/3, 1 1/3 the state, the county and students all pitch in a 1/3 that just wasn't possible and went to the wayside but we are always trying to do the best we can for that student.
On the budget opportunities some of the same things we've had over the years SUNY Reconnect has been a good shot in the arm for us and for those of you that don't know that's for adult learners 25-55 who do not have prior degree with us. It's a really good program that SUNY basically gives those folks free tuition and its really helped us especially our mental health counseling area and health services we are starting to see a gain. Health services and Allied services are a precursor to nursing which is our cash cow and we do really well so seeing that cohort starting to grow is really promising for our future.
SUNY did come up with some more money $12 million fund that they allocated in our community college. North Country will get about $75,000 in restricted funding we will have to put a plan together on how we are going to use that money, it will get approved by the State and we will then invest it in programming new things to help grow our enrollments part of that though is $50,000 in unrestricted funding we'll be able to take that and use it how we wish. I believe the talk now is we are going to spend it on our students success initiatives that I outline our Achieving the Dream, etc. etc. to help cover some of the costs for that.
We do have a stronger more qualified LPN applicant pool which is very nice because again that is a precursor to our nursing. We have Upstate Correction Facility has requested that we go in and fill a void that they have educating those incarcerated individuals. It looks like the college is going to step up and do that so that should be some sort of uptick there. We'll be modest on that to start but overtime we expect to at least replace that void and hopefully help them out.
Again the college foundation has been a great partner and they are doing super work in terms of raising funding for the college they've provided capital funds for our sports facility, they've provided scholarships, special needs funding for students they are doing a super job and I just want to give a shout out to Erin Walkow who leads that.
There's a lot of budget risks here again the same ones that you folks see. One the revenue side we have Federal student aid timing, we have second chance Pell prison enrollment volatility which is a lot of risk with that program anything can happen with those facilities at any time. We have enrollment growth assumptions in the budget that may not come to fruition right now our looks like they are going to and then we have some market sensitivity in high demands programs. We have cybersecurity and we have addiction counseling which are two newer programs and they are really hot right now. When will that bell curve start to go the other way? Your guess is as good as mine when that starts to happen that's going to be a risk for us.
Information technology - we put a lot of money in technology a lot of it offices to make things more efficient for staff but also better service to our customers. We just put a new student information

system in it went live last Monday it's going well.
We have some health insurance premium growths, capital overruns all these capital projects that we're doing and we have overruns in colleges to take in overages so that's the budget in a nutshell and as I like to do I like to turn it over to you folks for questions, comments, discussion?

MCNALLY: I appreciate you coming today and presenting. I'm a big fan of Joe Keegan, he's been receptive to the board on anything we've ever asked him, however, have you ran any kind of numbers on your state return to your six to tier four conversion?

HARVEY: Yes and the impact on us was I want to say $65,000.

MCNALLY: Total?

HARVERY: Total, yes.

MCNALLY: Because I believe the school's are going to be impacted by that.

HARVEY: Yes, we are definitely going to be impacted by that. We did a quick number on that and it was about $65,000.

MCNALLY: We did some quick calculations 63% Mike of our employees are Tier 6 if that ever comes to the county it will be millions of dollars so apparently you have a lot of Tier 4 on staff.

HARVEY: I had my comptroller run the numbers for me.

MASCARENAS: I think it's pretty consistent you're probably 60% plus in terms of your Tier 6's it's been around long enough.

KEEGAN: Yeah and our CSEA employees seem to be much longer serving we have fewer Tier 4 than Tier 6.

MCNALLY: $65,000 is a very low number.

HARVEY: I was surprised.

MASCARENAS: How many people do you employ?

HARVEY: On the CSEA side? About 28.

MASCARENAS: Take 28 add $400 to that and that's your county impact.

MCNALLY: That's great that you've calculated that, it is smaller than I guessed.

HARVEY: Yes I had no idea what he was going to come back with I was pleasantly surprised.

TYLER: Anything else?

MASCARENAS: Yes this budget represents actually a reduction from last year's ask of $50,000 each county was asked to add an additional $50,000 last year for capital planning that number is no longer there both Franklin and Essex County spent $2.75 million last year combined this year

the ask is at $2.657 million. Kudos to Joe and Erik for being able to pull off what they knew they leave no stones unturned when you're going after DSNY funding. I feel really good about our college operations and how you're approaching the data today. I would say is that those reductions are no feasible over time yes, on paper it looks like you've got a nice healthy $4.8 million dollar fund balance what I would say is I'd like to see deferred maintenance numbers that you actually had and I'm guessing if that number actually goes away that you actually took care of all of the other ones that you needed to take care of. One thing that happened here at the county years ago is nobody was really looking at the depreciating assets and at some point in time somebody is going to have to deal with those depreciating assets and the cost doesn't go down on an annual basis the cost continues to climb. There becomes a point in time financial you can't afford not to do it. The redic is we can't afford it, we can't afford it well, people that pushes projects out nine and ten years I have seen grow by millions of dollars locally and I would fight strongly for that $50,000 next year to be placed back into a more permanent status. I could never recommend that our board spend more than Franklin County being that we our responsible for this college together but I do think both parties really need to look at their cost increases are the same as ours, we're at 22% of funding we should be more around 30% it's a testament to what these gentlemen and the staff at the college are doing to keep the cost down for our locals so I do applaud your work. I recognize the difficulty in what you're proposing today even though you don't say it I'm going to say it for you.

MCNALLY: I would support that completely on the reduction this year and in my time on the board you've decided that a lot of this might start these capital improvements instead of the having the $400,000 you need next year or $50,000 it makes sense just for budgetary purposes if you can get the other county to sign onto this I would not be opposed to it raising that $50,000. We've done it at the county. I've done it at my town you have to have improvement funds. It takes the guess work out of what can happen two years from now, three years from now with that little cushion.

MASCARENAS: One thing I would add Mr. McNally is that proper facilities strictly correlate to enrollment you know changing the vestibule when you walk into that college, that's the first thing you see that was a huge improvement. So having those facilities that can attract students I learned just a couple weeks ago and if I say it a little wrong you gentlemen can correct me that North Country Community College is graduating the second most LPN's and RN's in New York State. That's a huge number.

MCNALLY; It's a big draw, it's never been compared to Harvard but's a big draw. (laughter)

MASCARENAS: EMS, we continue to put additional request on that without them doing our EMS, things like Ironman would be in jeopardy we wouldn't be able to staff it.

MCNALLY: Sewer operators. The list goes on and on.

TYLER: Anything else? Thank you gentlemen. Anything else to come before this committee? I would just like to add, next Wednesday the 29th the grand opening of the fair it's at 5:00 hopefully supervisors will show up for the county. We are adjourned. Thank you.

As there was no further discussion to come before this Finance/Tax Reduction/Mandate Relief committee it was adjourned at 11:13 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Garrison, Clerk
Board of Supervisors