

The Legislature of Rockland County



MICHAEL M. GRANT
LEGISLATOR – DISTRICT 2
CHAIR, BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE

Members Present:

Leg. M. Grant, Chair
Leg. A. Wolfe, Vice Chair
Leg. Chairwoman H. Cornell
Leg. I. Schoenberger
Leg. N. Low-Hogan
Leg. J. Murphy
Leg. J. Hood, Jr.
Leg. F. Sparaco
Leg. P. Soskin

Members Absent:

Leg. T. Earl

Others Present:

Leg. C. Carey
Leg. P. Moroney
R. McKay, Esq.
S. Grogan
A. Paul
Leg. A. Paul
N. Doliner
S. DeGroat
T. Grosselfinger

MINUTES
BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE
MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2013
7:00 PM

Chair Grant called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Chair Grant spoke of the committee's process in reviewing and revising the budget and what had to be done in order to meet the Comptroller's mandates and recommendations. Chair Grant said since the last budget review, they have been working to find other places to reduce and have found savings in utilities, cutting office supplies, printed materials and postage.

Chair Grant noted that Fiscal Analyst Nicole Doliner distributed a handout that gave a summary of the amendments to the proposed 2014 budget for the committee's convenience. The amended budget increased sales tax revenue \$3M, lowered the residential tax revenue by \$5.2M, reduced revenue estimates for bond premiums by \$750,000, created a \$1M tax overlay account to cover unpaid taxes, and put \$3M from tax certiorari borrowing into a separate fund to be used for paying down debt. The amended budget also eliminated new positions and abolished vacant positions including cutting a legislative job (\$66,610).

Chair Grant stated that during the entire budget process, all the legislators were given the opportunity to make amendments and/or give their input. None of the legislators other than B&F members submitted anything. This budget complies with the recommendations by both the New York State Comptroller's office and the O'Connor Davis audit.

Chairwoman Cornell thanked Chair Grant for his leadership and the opportunity he afforded to think and understand the entire budget process.

Chair Grant said it has been a difficult budget season and they have worked closely with Deputy County Executive Terry Grosselfinger and Commissioner of Finance Stephen DeGroat and he wished to thank them. Chair Grant said he especially appreciated the work of Legislative Fiscal Analyst Nicole Doliner stating nobody works harder than her.

Chair Grant reminded the committee the budget will be voted on by the full Legislature on Thursday, December 5, 2013 at 6:00 PM.

