

**November 1st 2007
Meeting Minutes****Location**

6th Floor Legislative Conference Room, Broome County Office Building, 44 Hawley Street, Binghamton, NY

Attendance

Constituent Members: Supervisor Debbie Preston, Town of Conklin; Supervisor Mike Marinaccio, Tarik Abdelazim, City of Binghamton, Town of Dickinson; Supervisor Gordi Kniffen, Town of Kirkwood; Supervisor David Hamlin, Town of Fenton, Harry Lewis, Village of Johnson City

Associate Members: None

Other Attendees: Barbara Fiala, Broome County Executive, Nathaalie Maxwell, Broome County Budget Director, Rita Petkash, Broome County Department of Planning and Economic Development; Eric Denk, Broome County Legislative Clerk; Kara Grippen, Broome Department of Planning and Economic Development, Louise Vanderkulk, Jean Gow, League of Women Voters; Catherin Glover Greater Binghamton Chamber of Commerce; Joe Burch, Broome-Tioga BOCES

Convene

Supervisor Debbie Preston convened the meeting at 4:08 PM.

County Executive's Budget Address

Supervisor Preston welcomed everyone and expressed appreciation for the presenters that came to the meeting and regret that more members had not chosen to attend this meeting with the County Executive. Supervisor Preston then went on to address County Executive Fiala regarding the tone of the Budget. Supervisor Preston stated that the local municipalities found County Executive Fiala's tone to be offensive and inappropriate. She also requested that in the future an effort should be made by both the Greater Binghamton Council of Governments and the County Executives office to communicate better in order to facilitate better understanding between the County Executive's office and the Council.

County Executive Fiala thanked the Council for inviting her and then proceeded to respond to the concerns addressed regarding the tone of the Budget Address and stressed that unlike the State of the County Address the Budget Address is addressed only at the County Legislatures and not at the local municipal government officials. She also stated that her tone came out of her dissatisfaction with the previous Legislature, the budget they left her with, and their handling of MEDICADE that changed the budget formula midway through 2005.

County Executive Fiala stressed that while she appreciated each municipality's supervisor's respective positions she has to make every decision with the whole County in mind.

Broome County Sheriff's Department

A discussion of the upcoming study of the Broome County Sheriff's Department began in which County Executive Fiala and Budget Director Nathalie Maxwell discussed the financial logistics of the cost of the upcoming study, the issue of deputy overtime, and how much revenue is generated by the housing of inmates in the jail and where the general revenue goes. County Executive Fiala assured the Council that the County has no intention of hiring 24 new full time staff members for the Sheriff's Department. Budget Director Nathalie Maxwell explained that part of the purpose for conducting the new study was that need to figure out what operational adjustments could be made within the Sheriffs Department to reduce overtime expenditures without hiring 24 new deputies.

Supervisor Preston expressed concern that it seems like there is a lack of communication between the Sheriff's office and the Office of the County Executive. Supervisor Preston went on to state that it seems as though everyone is communicating through the media instead of communicating directly. County Executive Fiala acknowledged that this was a problem and stated that the Sheriff's Department had refused to hand over their report until it was already time for the County Executives Office to respond.

Hotel/Motel Tax Revenue

Supervisor Preston asked for clarification regarding where exactly the revenue generated by the Hotel/Motel Tax levy was going to be allocated. Supervisor Present felt that in the initial plans she had been under the impression it was going to be spread so broadly throughout projects.

County Executive Fiala explained that there were several projects already underway that were intended to be funded by this revenue, these projects were all referred to collectively as falling under "Brownfields" when the plan was agreed upon. A discussion ensued regarding which County department would be administering the funds to the projects. County Executive Fiala stated her intention of not giving all the money to the County Legislature or the IDA and her desire for the Broome County Planning Department and City of Binghamton to be in charge of some of it.

Exciting Future Projects

Broome County Executive Barbara Fiala and Broome County Department of Planning and Economic Development Commissioner Rita Petkash both discussed some exciting projects that are in development throughout the County. Particular mention was made of available grant money for river access projects in the Town of Vestal.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 PM

Recorded and edited by: Jeremy Evans
Approved by: Debra A. Preston