

Ways & Means Committee Special Meeting Minutes

DATE & TIME: November 2, 2022 – 3:30 PM
LOCATION: KL Binder Library, 6th Floor, County Office Building
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chair John Gavaris
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Natalie Kelder, Legislative Financial Analyst
PRESENT: Legislators Tracey Bartels, Brian Cahill & Eve Walter
ABSENT: Legislators Kenneth Ronk and Dean Fabiano
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislators Phil Erner, Laura Petit Abe Uchitelle; Legislative Counsel David Gordon; Deputy County Executive Chris Kelly; Commissioner Burt Gulnick, Finance; Director Ken Juras, Budget and Innovation; Comptroller March Gallagher & Alicia DeMarco – UC Comptroller’s Office; Director Dennis Doyle – UC Planning; Director Lisa Berger, Tourism; Deputy Director Thomas Gibney, Health; Commissioner Tara McDonald & Lucinda Kaiser, Mental Health; Director Mark Cozzupoli, Veterans Service.

Chair Gavaris called the meeting to order at 3:34 PM

Chair Gavaris opened the budget review discussion with a comparison of average expenses for ongoing items such as building maintenance, repair, solid waste disposal from 2018 to the present. The committee discussed trends in other professional services such as legal services, both the county attorney and outside counsel; election professional services; funding for space study; fuel costs; EV chargers for the county’s green fleet and other details going line by line in the budget discussing a variety of projects, updates, software upgrades in various phases of completion.

Legislative Chair Bartels requested a year-to-date “snapshot” when the budget is delivered recognizing that that it would just be a general earmark of where spending was in each line. Commissioner Gulnick expressed concern that big lines like gas and electric will not reflect the actual expense on a given day. Chair Bartels recognized such a report would be imperfect but would serve as a marker and answer many questions. A brief discussion ensued.

The committee discussed access to various reports, how to pull those reports and see the breakdowns and who has access to those reports.

Other topics discussed included emergency management; new tax system and other software; website improvements; subscriptions; hazard mitigation; future lease space for towers; conference expenses; drones and how they were used in various circumstances; use of overtime; rising fuel costs; telephone use by inmates at the jail and how that revenue is used; and requests for additional information in some areas.

Chair Gavaris stopped at line 1908. Legislators will have an opportunity to examine more detailed reports individually and Deputy Executive Kelley offered to have department heads answer any finer detail if it is not clear from the reports. Chair Gavaris said he may schedule something to continue if needed.

Adjournment

Motion Made By: Legislative Chair Bartels
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Cahill

No. of Votes in Favor: 6
No. of Votes Against: 0

TIME: 4:55 PM

Respectfully submitted: Natalie Kelder
Minutes Prepared by: Fawn Tantillo
Minutes Approved: December 13, 2022