

**Budget, Capital and Personnel Committee**  
 Regular Meeting Minutes – Approved 11-15-19  
 Friday, October 18, 2019 9:00 AM  
 Scott Heyman Conference Room

**Attendance**

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Michael Lane	Chair	Present	
Leslyn McBean-Clairborne	Vice Chair	Late	9:06 AM
Glenn Morey	Member	Present	
Michael Sigler	Member	Late	9:06 AM
Amanda Champion	Member	Present	
Jason Molino	County Administrator	Present	
Andrew Braman	Deputy Finance Director	Present	
Lisa Holmes	Deputy County Administrator	Present	
Marcia Lynch	Public Info. Officer, County Administration	Present	
Megan McDonald	Deputy Planning and Sustainability Commissioner	Present	
Michelle Cocco	Chief Deputy Clerk of the Legislature	Present	
Rick Snyder	Finance Director	Present	

Guests: Cornell University students

**Call to Order**

Mr. Lane, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**Changes to the Agenda**

There were no changes to the agenda.

**Minutes Approval**

September 20, 2019

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Glenn Morey, Member
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Amanda Champion, Member
<b>AYES:</b>	Lane, McBean-Clairborne, Morey, Sigler, Champion

October 1, 2019

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Glenn Morey, Member
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Amanda Champion, Member
<b>AYES:</b>	Lane, McBean-Clairborne, Morey, Sigler, Champion

October 1, 2019

**RESULT:** ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]  
**MOVER:** Glenn Morey, Member  
**SECONDER:** Amanda Champion, Member  
**AYES:** Lane, McBean-Clairborne, Morey, Sigler, Champion

September 5, 2019

**RESULT:** ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]  
**MOVER:** Glenn Morey, Member  
**SECONDER:** Amanda Champion, Member  
**AYES:** Lane, McBean-Clairborne, Morey, Sigler, Champion

October 7, 2019

**RESULT:** ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]  
**MOVER:** Glenn Morey, Member  
**SECONDER:** Amanda Champion, Member  
**AYES:** Lane, McBean-Clairborne, Morey, Sigler, Champion

September 9, 2019

**RESULT:** ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]  
**MOVER:** Glenn Morey, Member  
**SECONDER:** Amanda Champion, Member  
**AYES:** Lane, McBean-Clairborne, Morey, Sigler, Champion

September 10, 2019

**RESULT:** ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]  
**MOVER:** Glenn Morey, Member  
**SECONDER:** Amanda Champion, Member  
**AYES:** Lane, McBean-Clairborne, Morey, Sigler, Champion

September 12, 2019

**RESULT:** ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]  
**MOVER:** Glenn Morey, Member  
**SECONDER:** Amanda Champion, Member  
**AYES:** Lane, McBean-Clairborne, Morey, Sigler, Champion

September 23, 2019

**RESULT:** ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]  
**MOVER:** Glenn Morey, Member  
**SECONDER:** Amanda Champion, Member  
**AYES:** Lane, McBean-Clairborne, Morey, Sigler, Champion

September 24, 2019

**RESULT:** ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]  
**MOVER:** Glenn Morey, Member  
**SECONDER:** Amanda Champion, Member  
**AYES:** Lane, McBean-Clairborne, Morey, Sigler, Champion

October 3, 2019

**RESULT:** ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]  
**MOVER:** Glenn Morey, Member  
**SECONDER:** Amanda Champion, Member  
**AYES:** Lane, McBean-Clairborne, Morey, Sigler, Champion

### **Comments from the Public**

Students from the Department of City and Regional Planning and Cornell University were recognized and welcomed.

### **Committee Chair Report**

Mr. Lane said the Legislature has successfully gone through the Expanded Budget Committee process with terrific attendance by Legislators and great help and support from County staff.

Mr. Morey said he found the majority of departments using the time at the meetings to present their annual report and suggested those reports be given at full Legislature meetings. Ms. Champion agreed and said there is time at each Legislature meeting. Mr. Morey also commented that TCAT had not invited Legislators to attend a budget presentation as it has in the past and asked why as he has found them helpful. Mr. Molino said that is a good question and he will follow-up with Scot Vanderpool, TCAT Manager.

Mrs. McBean-Clairborne and Mr. Sigler arrived at this time.

### **Director of Finance Report**

Mr. Snyder reported on the annual update document Moodys is required to publish on all of its clients and will share that write-up on Tompkins County when it is complete.

### **County Administrator Report**

Fund Balance Policy (ID #8951)

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Mr. Molino brought forward a discussion of the Fund Balance policy and how it ties into transfer and use of the General Fund Balance to the Capital Fund and tied into the Capital Plan. Part of the proposed budget was a transfer of unassigned Fund Balance from the General Fund of \$2.5 million to the Capital Fund to help provide some cash liquidity to the Capital Fund as some of those projects will have cash matches and some will have budgets that are bonded. The schedule that was developed when the Budget was put together caused the fund to dip close to zero a few years out as debt begins to be incurred and some of the projects in the Capital Program that are not bonded; therefore, the cash needs to be available at the time it is needed. That cash would be pulled from Fund Balance and the annual appropriation would be able to pay for those projects.

Mr. Molino said the Legislature would need to take action to transfer the cash into the Capital Fund but before doing so he and Mr. Snyder felt the Fund Balance Policy in place should reflect that procedure and that the Fund Balance is still within the target ranges that are identified. He and Mr. Snyder will be working on drafting a revised policy for consideration and if adopted, a resolution will be prepared to transfer the unassigned fund balance from the General Fund.

Mr. Molino said at this time the Fund Balance Policy identifies an unassigned Fund Balance target of 10% and there is approximately 29%. He stated if the Legislature were to have 10% for a budget of the County's size (\$193 million) there would be an underrepresented amount of reserves available should there be any catastrophic needs or failures. He and Mr. Snyder recommend a target unassigned Fund Balance target of 18% and this is consistent with best practices and GFOA (Government Finance Officers Association) standards. He said in time as the County continues to build the Fund Balance and improve its financial health it would make sense to increase it or start putting it in specific reserves for designated purposes. Mr. Molino said the review of the policy will include looking at enterprise funds as well (Solid Waste and Airport) and will address what remedial action should be taken to get back to the target level from being either over or under.

Mrs. McBean-Clairborne questioned how a recommendation of 18% was arrived at, noting it is lower than Moody's recommendation. Mr. Snyder said 18% mimics very close to what two months of revenue and what the GFOA standards show. This will be part of the fuller discussion when the draft policy is presented. Mrs. McBean-Clairborne said the explanation provided may alter the Capital Plan funding. Mr. Molino said he thinks this would get the County through a time when it will incur a significant amount of debt while it is using a large amount of cash; he expects it will drop off and not continue. Part of this also includes increasing the capital appropriation from .5% to 1% and that may go down in the future when needs decline; this is an area that will need monitoring.

Ms. Champion questioned how the County arrived at a 10% Fund Balance. Mr. Snyder said it was about ten years ago when there was a push for Counties to have policies in place.

In response to Mr. Sigler, Mr. Molino said he doesn't view this as being a "Rainy Day Fund" but from a "locked box" perspective. The reason for having two months of revenues set aside is to provide cash to be able to operate and for situations that are unknown or unforeseen.

Mr. Lane said the idea of transferring into the Capital Fund was presented during the Expanded Budget Committee meetings and sees no reason to not move forward. He requested having documentation for the Legislature showing fund assigned and unassigned fund balance levels and the elements within each. Mrs. McBean-Clairborne would also like to see a comparison of what both the 10% and the 18% levels presently look like.

**RESULT: COMPLETED**

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Expansion of Local Law Chapter 133 (ID #8954)

Mr. Molino said this issue has arisen during his time with Tompkins County and conducting Department Head searches. He addressed the definition of a Public Officer and said they are not clearly defined in Public Officer's Law and there are many interpretations that prove to be challenging as they are required to comply with several criteria, one being age, citizenship, and residency. The problem is that there is no description of positions that fall under the definition and this has created issues with interpretation over the years across the State and discrepancies. As a result it has also led to significant changes to the Public Officer's Law through Home Rule Legislation, particularly around the residency issue and not requiring residency to the municipality that the person works for.

Mr. Molino said under the County's Charter, Department Heads are appointing authorities and are policy-influencing. This is what has dictated that Department Heads must be a certain age, be citizens, and live within Tompkins County; one could argue that a Deputy should also be residents because they act in the absence of the Department Head but it is not interpreted that way in Tompkins County. There are also other positions in the County such as District Attorneys, attorneys, Sheriff's Deputies, and Corrections Officers, that could be deemed as Public Officers because they have different levels of independent judgment, and could be subject to the residency requirement.

Mr. Molino said due to the ambiguity the Law becomes difficult to enforce and there is a question as to what the enforcement would be. Another challenge is that because of the ambiguity there have been Home Rule requests approved by the State Legislature to exempt the residency requirement or in most cases alter the requirement in ways such as allowing an employee to reside in a contiguous county, adjoining county, or a New York State county. He said Tompkins County has all of these exemptions: Probation Officers can reside in any New York State county, Deputy Sheriffs can reside in an adjoining county, and Corrections Officers can reside in any county in New York State.

Mr. Molino spoke of two primary reasons why this is becoming an issue aside from the being ambiguous. People work and travel differently, mobility has become different than it was several years ago, and job changes are more frequent, commuting is also very different, and as a result residency has become a hindrance in recruitment because people now have to relocate into a different community to obtain a position. He said during his time as County Administrator he is aware of individuals who have withdrawn from the process knowing that residency was a requirement and they could not get a waiver. As the County is about to embark on six to seven Department Head positions this is the time to discuss whether there is interest and value to creating an exception to the residency requirement to all County Department Head positions excluding the County Administrator position and elected Department Heads such as the County Clerk and the District Attorney.

Mr. Molino provided the following areas that hinder relocation to Tompkins County:

- Significant higher cost of housing;
- Residence is dependent on the location of spouse's employment;
- There are currently Deputies that do not reside in the County; therefore, will not be able to aspire to the Department Head position unless residency is complied with.

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He said this is not an easy discussion but from a recruitment perspective he thinks a change would add value and open the door to a greater pool of candidates.

Mr. Lane spoke to why the requirement was initially put in the law and said he thinks municipalities like to have the people who work for them to live in their community and to be a part of the community and dedicated to it. They would like the money that is paid to them to be re-circulated in the County and payment of taxes and goods and services they purchase. He also raised discussions that took place a few years ago that resulted in the Legislature deciding that all advisory board members have to reside in the County with the exception of specialized positions. He said there is a good argument in trying to attract the best people for positions and the County always has a goal of increasing.

Ms. Champion said Mr. Molino made a good case for this but referenced a presentation by David West and the Environmental Management Council last evening that highlighted that the biggest thing that contributes to greenhouse gases is personal transportation; the focus was also on getting people to live where they work and this is contrary to many of the efforts that are currently underway.

Mr. Molino said there is always an issue with employment that employees having more at stake and more investment in a community they reside in and doesn't believe this is an absolute; if there are good leaders and good workers in place they will take pride in the organization and support the community they work in. Second, when people purchase goods or services it is difficult to relate to a residence because of internet sales and when people spend the majority of their day at work they will be spending money to purchase goods and services here. These are two changes in society that are different from when the Law was created and the generation was likely from a one- or two-job generation perspective.

Mr. Braman agreed with Mr. Molino's comments and said as an out-of-county employee he patronizes local businesses often.

Mr. Sigler said voters generally do not like to see their tax dollars going outside of the County and questioned whether there could be a middle-ground such as contiguous towns since counties are very large. He understands the difficulty in recruitment and also with deputies not being able to move into a Department Head position. Mr. Molino said there are different forms that this could take. There are currently 13 different counties in which employees live; however, he thinks this was constrained to adjoining counties it would be reasonable. He said this can restrict applicants in a number of ways including cases of where people live close to the County line but have children in a different school district.

Mrs. McBean-Clairborne said she doesn't support this but would consider doing something creative. She spoke of the exemption granted to law enforcement personnel and said that was the result of safety issues. She believes if the County builds the kind of organization that people will want to come to work for it. She repeated comments she has made in the past about the need for a compensation study and said she feels strongly that people who are heading up County departments should reside in the County but recognizes the cost of housing and said she would consider a timeframe to allow a period of integration into the community. She is also concerned with issues related to travel and impact brought on by pollution; she also thinks leaders are impacted negatively by travel. She added that this community has amazing talent but can get compensated better elsewhere.

Mr. Molino spoke of Schenectady and said residency is preferred but there is ability for exemptions to be granted based on circumstances and the ability for an exemption provides for some leniency.



Office Supplies (ordered in 2018, charged to 2019). 8020.54303 \$1,091

**SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-26**

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**Resolution No. - Budget Adjustment and Appropriation of Unspent Funds from 2018 and Prior Years to Various Accounts of the Departments that Report to the Government Operations Committee (ID #8910)**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>RECOMMENDED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Amanda Champion, Member
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Glenn Morey, Member
<b>AYES:</b>	Lane, McBean-Clairborne, Morey, Sigler, Champion

WHEREAS, Section 4.06 of Tompkins County Fiscal Policy on “Re-appropriation (Carryover or Rollover)” authorizes County Department Heads to “request re-appropriation of unspent funds from the previous year, provided that such funds are certified by the Director of Finance to be available and provided that this re-appropriation is authorized by the established appropriation procedures of the Legislature,” and

WHEREAS, various departments have been certified by the Director of Finance to have available unspent appropriations and excess revenues from 2018 totaling \$617,239, which, combined with balances from prior years, results in an available rollover balance of \$901,559 on the County’s books as of December 31, 2018, and

WHEREAS, pursuant to County Fiscal Policy, surplus funds have been requested for use in the current year’s budget by departments that report to the Government Operations Committee in the amount of \$43,767, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Government Operations and the Budget, Capital, and Personnel Committees, That the Finance Director is hereby authorized and directed to make the following adjustments to the 2019 Budget:

**BUDGET APPROPRIATION:**

**FROM:** General Fund Balance \$43,767

**TO:**

<u>Dept.</u>	<u>Use of Funds</u>	<u>Account</u>	<u>Requested Rollover</u>
<b>Assessment</b>			
	Additional money to purchase EV that was included in 2019 Budget (under anticipated the cost of an EV Crossover)	1355.52231	\$22,000
	MS Surface for New Data Collector position	1355.52206	\$1,092
	ImageMate Desktop Application and ImageMate Online upgrades/fixing broken links.	1355.54442	\$5,000

**County Administration**

Split cost of Law Enforcement Co-Location Study with City of Ithaca - original appropriation was in 2018, but expense delayed.	1230.54442	\$10,000
Additional funding for Travel Training - conference attendance for Mgt Fellow, etc.	1230.54412	\$2,000

**County Attorney**

Replace Suzi and Bill's desks	1420.52214	\$2,500
Replace Suzi's laptop	1420.52206	\$1,175

**SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-26**

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**Resolution No. - Commitment of Additional Tompkins County Program Income Funds to the Community Housing Development Fund (ID #8913)**

Ms. McDonald said this program began in 2009 and is a joint partnership between the County, Cornell University, and the City of Ithaca of which all contribute funds. The program began with a Memorandum of Understanding and that was renewed for an additional six years; the current program will run through 2021. Under that Tompkins County and the City of Ithaca each contribute \$100,000 per year; Cornell contributes \$200,000 and made an announcement recently that they will be increasing that over the next two years by \$100,000 each year. They have also indicated that they will commit to an additional six years. The funds are used to hold grant rounds where anyone can be a non-profit or for-profit developer of any affordable housing unit which is defined as at least 49 years for rent or for sale of any number of units. She said the program has been very successful in leveraging other funds that are needed to build or rehabilitate for affordable housing.

In response to Mr. Lane, Ms. McDonald said the City of Ithaca is considering further funding for the program. Mr. Lane said the Town of Dryden has begun a discussion of potentially funding this as well. Mr. Molino commented that this is a good program and there is a good process with accountability. It is a calculated, prudent, and responsible program that has worked.

Mrs. McBean-Clairborne said she has seen how this program works and likes it; she is glad to hear enforcement will be looked at.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>RECOMMENDED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Leslyn McBean-Clairborne, Vice Chair
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Glenn Morey, Member
<b>AYES:</b>	Lane, McBean-Clairborne, Morey, Sigler, Champion

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Legislature through Resolution No. 2009-31, authorized funding for the Community Housing Affordability Program and the Community Housing Trust Program, jointly known as the Housing Fund, and accepted and approved the Memorandum of Understanding among the County of Tompkins, the City of Ithaca, and Cornell University that established the Housing Fund for the period of time spanning 2009 to 2015, and

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Legislature through Resolution No. 2015-154, authorized funding for the Housing Fund under the new name, "Community Housing Development Fund," and accepted and approved the Memorandum of Understanding among the County of Tompkins, the City of Ithaca, and Cornell University that extended the Community Housing Development Fund for the period of time spanning 2015 to 2021, and

WHEREAS, the CHDF Program helps communities, organizations, and housing developers throughout Tompkins County respond to the diverse affordable housing needs of residents by providing grant funds towards the construction and rehabilitation of housing units that will remain affordable to successive buyers or renters, and

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Comprehensive Plan (2015), the Tompkins County Housing Needs Assessment (2016), and Tompkins County Housing Strategy (2017) detail policies, data, and goals related to housing affordability for Tompkins County residents and the importance of ensuring an adequate supply of affordable housing in the community, and

WHEREAS, in its first ten years of existence, the CHDF Program has awarded \$3.8 million towards the construction and rehabilitation of 491 affordable housing units, of which 385 units have already been built or are currently under construction, and

WHEREAS, in recent years, CHDF award requests have begun to exceed available funding, and the shortage of funds as compared to requests is anticipated to worsen in the remaining years of the current program period, which could potentially delay or prevent a number of affordable housing units from moving forward to construction, and

WHEREAS, each of the current CHDF partners have been asked to consider increasing their contributions for the CHDF's November 2019 - November 2020 and November 2020 - November 2021 funding years, and

WHEREAS, the CHDF Program is an established program that is successfully advancing Tompkins County's affordable housing policies and targets, while serving as an effective public-private partnership and community-driven solution to local affordable housing challenges, and

WHEREAS, the County's past and current contributions to the CHDF Program use funds from Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) awards from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and New York State for homeownership assistance loans, repayment of which began in September 1995 and, under HUD rules, these program income funds must be re-spent for like purposes as the original grants, and

WHEREAS, under the CHDF's current Memorandum of Understanding (2015), Tompkins County has committed at least one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00) per year for six years and now seeks to increase that amount by an additional one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00) per year during the last two years of the current agreement, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Housing and Economic Development Committee, That for the final two years of the CHDF Program under the 2015 Memorandum of Understanding, Tompkins County shall provide an additional one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00) in funding per year in a cumulative amount not to exceed an additional two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000.00) over two years, through the Community Housing Development Fund,

RESOLVED, further, That the Finance Director is authorized and directed to make the following budget adjustment:

Fund Balance: CD 30909000	Unassigned Fund Balance	\$200,000
Appropriation: 8695.54400	Program Expense	\$200,000

RESOLVED, further, That the County Administrator or his designee is authorized to execute any required amendment to the Community Housing Development Fund Memorandum of Understanding or other documents required in order to affect this program consistent with this resolution.

**SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-26**

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**Resolution No. - Commitment of Tompkins County Program Income Funds for 9% Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Contingent Fund of the Community Housing Development Fund (ID #8914)**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>RECOMMENDED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Leslyn McBean-Clairborne, Vice Chair
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Amanda Champion, Member
<b>AYES:</b>	Lane, McBean-Clairborne, Morey, Sigler, Champion

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Legislature through Resolutions No. 2009-31 and No. 2015-154, authorized funding for the Community Housing Development Fund (CHDF), previously known as the Housing Fund, and accepted and approved the Memoranda of Understanding among the County of Tompkins, the City of Ithaca, and Cornell University that established the program and then extended it through November 2021, and

WHEREAS, the CHDF Program provides grant funds towards the construction and rehabilitation of housing units that will remain affordable to successive buyers or renters, and

WHEREAS, the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) Program is the single most significant federal resource to support the construction of affordable housing in the United States, and

WHEREAS, 9% LIHTC funding is highly competitive, resulting in few projects typically being funded each year in any community, and

WHEREAS, demonstrated local funding support for 9% LIHTC-eligible projects enhances their competitiveness, and

WHEREAS, CHDF awards are critical in helping affordable housing proposals successfully compete for limited 9% LIHTC awards, and

WHEREAS, the CHDF Program typically only has adequate funding to support up to two projects applying for 9%LIHTC awards in a single year, and

WHEREAS, the County’s past and current contributions to the CHDF Program use funds from Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) awards from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban

Development and New York State for homeownership assistance loans, repayment of which began in September 1995 and, under HUD rules, these program income funds must be re-spent for like purposes as the original grants, and

WHEREAS, it is the intention of the Tompkins County Legislature to provide a funding source to allow the County to support additional 9% LIHTC-eligible projects which have gone through the CHDF process in order to increase their competitiveness for 9% LIHTC awards, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Housing and Economic Development Committee, That Tompkins County hereby commits three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000.00) in program income funds to a “9% Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Contingent Fund” of the Community Housing Development Fund,

RESOLVED, further, That these funds will be granted and/or loaned pursuant to designated funding opportunities through a Notice of Funding Availability for the Community Housing Development Fund only when more than two 9% LIHTC projects apply for CHDF awards and the CHDF Program both lacks sufficient funding to support the additional requests and more than two 9% LIHTC awards are made to CHDF projects in a single LIHTC award cycle,

RESOLVED, further That the disbursement of these funds will be contingent upon an awardee successfully securing a 9% LIHTC award for the proposed project,

RESOLVED, further, That the Finance Director is authorized and directed to make the following budget adjustment:

Fund Balance: CD 30909000	Unassigned Fund Balance	\$300,000
Appropriation: 8695.54400	Program Expense	\$300,000

RESOLVED, further, That the County Administrator or his designee is authorized to execute any required amendment to the Community Housing Development Fund Memorandum of Understanding or other documents required in order to affect this program consistent with this resolution.

**SEQR ACTION:** TYPE II-26

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**Resolution No. - Resolution Calling on the Governor and State Legislative Leaders to Provide Counties with Permanent Local Authority Over Their Existing Sales Tax Rates (ID #8919)**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>RECOMMENDED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Leslyn McBean-Clairborne, Vice Chair
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Glenn Morey, Member
<b>AYES:</b>	Lane, McBean-Clairborne, Morey, Sigler, Champion

WHEREAS, like many counties in New York State, Tompkins County continues to face significant challenges in balancing its budgets while also meeting the goals of the property tax cap, and

WHEREAS, the two primary revenue sources for Tompkins County are its real property tax and local sales tax, and

WHEREAS, it is critically important for Tompkins County to have confidence and stability in its revenue projections in order to efficiently and prudently develop its annual operating budgets, as well as to develop and implement long-term capital and infrastructure plans, and

WHEREAS, the State has made the property tax cap permanent, therefore limiting a key county revenue in the face of rising costs and service needs in our community, and

WHEREAS, in recent years, five counties have seen their home rule revenue authority held hostage in unrelated state policy fights, resulting in the temporary lapse of local sales and mortgage recording tax collections, and

WHEREAS, the loss of these revenues caused fiscal stress and budget uncertainty for these counties while increasing pressure on property tax rates, and this threat extends to all counties, including Tompkins, under the current state sales tax renewal process, and

WHEREAS, in addition to addressing local quality of life services expected by its taxpayers, Tompkins County must also administer and pay for more than 40 State and federal programs that regularly consume close to two thirds of its entire budget, and

WHEREAS, Tompkins County's elected officials rely on their home rule authority to determine what balance of local taxes works best in their community, and

WHEREAS, New York City was granted permanent local authority over their sales tax rate a decade ago, while county requests for the same authority have been repeatedly denied, and

WHEREAS, Tompkins County must share its sales tax revenues with its constituent municipalities to help pay for services they deliver, or to directly lower the amount of property taxes levied in these jurisdictions, and

WHEREAS, the pass-through of local sales tax revenue from Tompkins County to its constituent municipalities will likely exceed \$10 million in 2019, and

WHEREAS, it appears that all counties, including Tompkins, will be further required to use some of their sales tax revenues to make up for the elimination of AIM funding to their constituent municipalities, and

WHEREAS, making Tompkins County's existing local sales tax rate permanent would still allow for appropriate State legislative review in the future upon any change, and

WHEREAS, permanent home rule sales tax authority will provide more budget certainty and stability for counties, including Tompkins, and

WHEREAS, permanent home rule sales tax authority at existing rates will reduce administrative expense and duplication of effort to process the necessary paperwork, forms, legislative hearings, filings and notices, resulting in improved government operations and fiscal savings at both the State and local levels, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Budget, Capital, and Personnel Committee, That Tompkins County calls upon the Governor and State Legislature to provide parity with New York City by

granting permanent home rule sales tax authority to counties at their current tax rates,

RESOLVED, further, That the home rule process should be reformed so it works as efficiently as possible for local taxpayers and eliminates unnecessary and duplicative legislative activity at the State and local level, while retaining state legislative review,

RESOLVED, further, That the Clerk of the Legislature send copies of this resolution to Governor Andrew Cuomo, Temporary President of the Senate Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Senators Pamela Helming, Tom O'Mara, and James Seward, Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, and Assembly Member Barbara Lifton.

**SEQR ACTION:** TYPE II-26

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### **Report from the Human Resources Commissioner**

Ms. Holmes reported today was Employee Benefits Day and people from Human Resources and many administrators such as Excellus and ProAct were on-site for this opportunity for employees to confirm and make changes to benefits. It is also an opportunity for Management, Confidentials, and Legislators to switch to the Platinum Plan for 2020. She announced the Department's Leave Manager has begun employment. An Information Aide will be welcomed on October 21 and the process of interviewing for recruitment position continues.

### **Report from Workforce Diversity and Inclusion Committee**

Mrs. McBean-Clairborne said the next meeting will be December 9th.

### **Report from Public Information Officer**

Ms. Lynch said the Public Information Advisory Board will meet on October 21 and will be led by Pat Pryor. They will be talking more about Census outreach. She asked for input on the recent community budget forum and encouraged the Committee to provide feedback. Mr. Lane said it was better-attended but would like to see more than just a couple of topic areas addressed.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 10:52 p.m.