RESOLUTION NO. *DOC ID: 7009*

Establishment of 2018 County Financial Goal

WHEREAS, the County Administrator has requested the Legislature to establish a tax-levy guideline to use in working with departments and preparing his recommended budget for 2018, and

WHEREAS, it is currently estimated that the 2018 property tax cap imposed on all local governments and school districts by New York State would be approximately 2.4% for Tompkins County, which is equivalent to approximately $1.15 million over the 2017 property tax levy, and

WHEREAS, as of April 25, 2017, the County Administrator estimates that a 2.4% increase in the County's property tax levy, including a 0.5% increase dedicated to capital improvements identified in the County's Capital Program, will support a maintenance-of-effort budget for all County departments as well as addressing other critical needs and priorities, and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that the County's fiscal policy allows departments and agencies to request funding in excess of their 2018 spending targets via an "Over-Target Request," thereby allowing the Legislature to consider exceeding the County Administrator's Recommended Budget in the event that compelling reasons to expand or maintain a program or service are presented, and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that, if the 2.4% property tax-levy increase is met, then the additional cost on a $178,000 2016 assessed median-value Tompkins County home will be approximately $24.62 per year, and

WHEREAS, it is acknowledged that certain economic and fiscal conditions remain volatile and may improve or deteriorate prior to the introduction of the formal 2018 Recommended Budget in the fall and that the tax cap estimate may change as more precise information becomes available, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Budget, Capital, and Personnel Committee, That the Legislature directs the County Administrator to establish departmental and agency spending targets and develop a 2018 operating and capital budget that can be supported with a property tax levy that is 2.4% above the 2017 level.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20