
STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF SCHENECTADY

THE MINUTES

of a Special Meeting of the Schenectady County Legislature held October 19, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. at Legislative Chambers Schenectady County Office Building, 620 State Street, Schenectady, New York

October 19, 2022,

Chairman Jasenski delivered some remarks on the budget process and thanked County Manager Rory Fluman, Finance Commissioner John McPhillips, and newly appointed Finance Commissioner Jackie Falotico. As well as all the others involved in the preparation of the proposed 2023-2028 Capital Improvement Budget.

Chairman Jasenski called the 2023 Budget Adoption Meeting of the Schenectady County Legislature to order and instructed the Clerk to call the roll.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present:	13	(Fields, Ruzzo, McGill, Constantine, Gatta, Frisoni, Cuomo Patierne, Ostrelich, Vellano, Hess, Hughes, Jasenski)
Absent:	2	(Pratt, McDonald)
Excused:	0	
Vacant:	0	

Legislator Hughes explained the Amendments to the Operating Budget.

The invocation was given by the Clerk of the Legislature.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Legislator Hess.

Reading of the Notice of Special Meeting

The Chair instructed the Clerk to read the Notice of Special Meeting

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to Subdivision three of section 2.03 of Article II of the Administrative Code of the County of Schenectady, there is hereby called a Special Meeting of the County Legislature by the Clerk thereof, at the direction of Chair Anthony Jasenski, Sr., to wit:

THERE SHALL BE a Special Meeting of the Schenectady County Legislature on Wednesday, October 19th at 6:00 p.m. by the call of Chair Anthony Jasenski, Sr. to be held in the Chambers of the Schenectady County Legislature located at 620 State Street, Schenectady, New York, 6th Floor, for the consideration of resolutions adopting the proposed Schenectady County 2023 Program Budget and the proposed 2023-2028 Capital Improvement Program.

Resolutions

Chairman Jasenski recognized Legislator Hughes. Legislator Hughes explained proposed Majority Amendments to the 2023 Operating Budget.

Legislator Hughes moved that the Majority Amendments to the 2023 Operating Budget be moved to the floor for consideration. Legislator Fields seconded the motion.

Seeing no further discussion, Chairman Jasenski called for a vote on the Majority Amendments and asked the clerk to call the roll.

Ayes:	12.9351	(Constantine, Cuomo, Fields, Frisoni, Gatta, Hess, Hughes, Jasenski, McGill, Ostrelich, Patierne, Ruzzo, Vellano)
Nays:	0.0000	
Absent:	2.0649	(McDonald, Pratt)
Abstain:	0.0000	
Excused:	0.0000	

Chairman Jasenski asked if there are any further amendments to the 2023 Operating Budget. There were no further amendments brought forth for the 2023 Operating Budget.

Legislator Fields summarized the 2023 Operating Budget.

Mr. Jasenski asked if there is any further discussion on the 2023 Operating Budget, as amended. Seeing none, Chairman Jasenski asked the Clerk to call the roll.

RESOLUTION 172-22

Sponsored by the Committee on Rules:

**A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE TENTATIVE OPERATING BUDGET
AS THE OFFICIAL BUDGET FOR 2023**

BE IT ENACTED by the Legislature of the County of Schenectady, as follows:

WHEREAS, the County Manager submitted to the County Legislature the proposed tentative Operating Budget in accordance with and as provided for in the Charter of the County of Schenectady; and

WHEREAS, the Standing Committee on Ways and Means received such proposed Operating Budget and conducted a series of committee meetings to review and examine same; and

WHEREAS, a Public Hearing on the tentative Operating Budget was held on Tuesday, October 11, 2022, in the Chambers of the Schenectady County Legislature, at which time, comments were solicited from members of the public with respect to the same; and

SECTION ONE: CREATE A ONE-YEAR PILOT PROGRAM TO ELIMINATE FEES FOR TAKING CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATIONS FOR COUNTY AND LOCAL POSITIONS.

WHEREAS, this Governing Body recognizes that Schenectady County, like other private and public employers, is struggling to hire qualified people for positions in the County workforce; and

WHEREAS, this Governing Body recognizes that the current requirements of the New York Civil Service laws and regulations provide additional procedural challenges to public sector employers during the hiring process; and

WHEREAS, this Governing Body already has taken certain actions to try to attract prospective employees such as modifying the residency requirements, offering signing bonuses for certain positions, and increasing salaries for various positions; and

WHEREAS, this Governing Body finds that additional measures are warranted to encourage persons to apply for employment with Schenectady County; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that this Governing Body hereby recommends the creation of a one-year pilot program for the calendar year 2023 that eliminates the fees for persons taking civil service examinations for County and local municipal positions, and hereby directs the County Manager and the Director of the Office of Human Resources to take whatever action is necessary to implement such pilot program, including the presentation of such proposal to the Schenectady County Civil Service Commission for its concurrence; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that this Governing Body hereby directs the County Manager and the Director of the Office of Human Resources to prepare and provide a summary and recommendations of the aforesaid pilot program; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Governing Body hereby directs the County Manager, the Director of the Office of Human Resources, and the Director of Workforce Development at the Schenectady County Job Training Agency to prepare and develop strategies for the recruitment of additional candidates who would be eligible to take civil service examinations for County and other local municipal positions, and to provide additional resources to these candidates if warranted.

SECTION TWO: EXPAND THE STOCKPILE OF EQUIPMENT NEEDED DURING PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCIES.

WHEREAS, this Governing Body acknowledges and applauds the dedication and effort put forth by the County workforce during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, this Governing Body recognizes that the availability of necessary resources and equipment are critical for the County's workforce to serve the residents of the County during a pandemic, crisis, or emergency; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that this Governing Body hereby directs the County Manager, the Director of the Office of Public Health, and the Director of the Office of Emergency Management, to purchase various equipment and materials, including personal protection equipment, sanitizer, cleaning supplies, and syringes, that may be deemed necessary to enable the County workforce to serve the residents of the County during a pandemic or other public health emergency; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that this Governing Body hereby directs that \$100,000.00 be appropriated for such purposes, and it further directs that the County Manager pursue potential New York State or Federal grant reimbursement opportunities to offset the aforesaid appropriated amount.

SECTION THREE: CREATE, SUPPORT, AND SEEK NEW YORK STATE AUTHORIZATION FOR A TAX REBATE PROGRAM FOR SCHENECTADY COUNTY HOMEOWNERS.

WHEREAS, this Governing Body finds that over the past few years the County has managed to maintain a healthy fund balance by wise and prudent management of County financial resources; and

WHEREAS, this Governing Body recognizes that the taxpayers should be the beneficiaries of these successful financial management practices, and it recommends the creation of the 2023 Schenectady County Homeowners \$250 Rebate Program; and

WHEREAS, this Governing Body recommends that \$9 million be made available for this program, and that these funds be returned to eligible taxpayers in the form of a \$250 property tax rebate; and

WHEREAS, this Governing Body recognizes that the aforesaid tax rebate proposal requires authorization from the New York State Legislature and the Governor for its implementation; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that this Governing Body hereby creates the 2023 Schenectady County Homeowners \$250 Rebate Program; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that this Governing Body hereby directs the County Manager to take whatever action is necessary to implement the 2023 Schenectady County Homeowners \$250 Rebate Program, including seeking New York State authorization and identifying the eligible recipients of a \$250 property tax rebate based upon the eligibility guidelines of the NYS Basic, Enhanced and Credit STAR Programs; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that said Tentative Operating Budget be and the same is hereby amended as follows:

OPERATING BUDGET

Establish Appropriation Code:

	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
A541310.429502 – Homeowner Rebate Program	\$0	\$9,000,000

Increase Appropriation Code:

	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
A544012.490 – Public Health – Medical Supplies	\$0	\$100,000

Decrease Revenue Code:

	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
A11430.1232 – Civil Service Fees	\$35,000	\$0

Increase Use of Surplus:

	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
A599 – Surplus Appropriation	\$10,188,275	\$23,323,275

; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that such proposed Operating Budget in the total amount of \$[377,996,612.00] 391,066,612.00 be and hereby is adopted as the official County Operating Budget for 2023.

10/19/2022:

Reported from the Committee on Rules (R80)

10/19/2022:

Adopted by the County Legislature

Ayes: 12.9351 (Constantine, Cuomo, Fields, Frisoni, Gatta, Hess, Hughes, Jasenski, McGill, Ostrelich, Patierne, Ruzzo, Vellano)

Nays: 0.0000

Absent: 2.0649 (McDonald, Pratt)

Abstain: 0.0000

Excused: 0.0000

Chairman Jasenski recognized Legislator Hughes. Legislator Hughes explained proposed Majority Amendments to the 2023-2028 Capital Budget.

Legislator Hughes moved that the Majority Amendments to the 2023-2028 Capital Budget be moved to the floor for consideration. Legislator Fields seconded the motion.

Seeing no further discussion, Chairman Jasenski called for a vote on the Majority Amendments to the 2023-2028 Capital Budget and asked the clerk to call the roll.

Ayes: 12.9351 (Constantine, Cuomo, Fields, Frisoni, Gatta, Hess, Hughes, Jasenski, McGill, Ostrelich, Patierne, Ruzzo, Vellano)

Nays: 0.0000

Absent: 2.0649 (McDonald, Pratt)

Abstain: 0.0000

Excused: 0.0000

Chairman Jasenski asked if there are any further amendments to the 2023-2028 Capital Budget. There were no further amendments brought forth for the 2023-2028 Capital Budget.

Legislator Fields summarized the 2023-2028 Capital Budget.

Mr. Jasenski asked if there is any further discussion on the to the 2023-2028 Capital Budget, as amended.

Legislator Ruzzo spoke positively on Resolution 173-22, as amended.

Legislator Hughes spoke positively on Resolution 173-22, as amended.

Chairman Jasenski asked the Clerk to call the roll.

RESOLUTION 173-22

Sponsored by the Committee on Rules:

**A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE CAPITAL PROGRAM AS THE
OFFICIAL CAPITAL PROGRAM FOR THE YEARS 2023 - 2028**

BE IT ENACTED by the Legislature of the County of Schenectady, as follows:

WHEREAS, the County Manager submitted to the County Legislature the proposed Capital Program in accordance with and as provided for in the Charter of the County of Schenectady; and

WHEREAS, the Standing Committee on Ways and Means received such proposed Capital Program and conducted a series of committee meetings to review and examine same; and

WHEREAS, a Public Hearing on the proposed Capital Program was held on Tuesday, October 11, 2022 in the Chambers of the Schenectady County Legislature, at which time, comments were solicited from members of the public with respect to the same; and

WHEREAS, this Governing Body recognizes that Ellis Medicine has discontinued its dental services and dental residency program as of June 30, 2021, which has resulted in approximately 9,000 patients, comprised mostly of underserved children and adults, being without a dental provider; and

WHEREAS, this Governing Body recognizes that Hometown Health Centers has assumed responsibility for many of these dental patients by opening a second dental practice at the vacated Ellis Medicine campus on McLellan Street in the City of Schenectady; and

WHEREAS, this Governing Body recognizes that Hometown Health Centers, in August of 2021, paid \$1.36 million out of its reserves to purchase the former Rite Aid store at the corner of State Street and Brandywine Avenue in the City of Schenectady, which is to be converted into a modern dental facility; and

WHEREAS, a team of architects, construction managers, NYS regulators, and environmental experts have presented a compliant plan to Hometown Health Centers for the renovation of the aforesaid former Rite Aid building into a new dental facility; and

WHEREAS, Hometown Health Centers has informed this Governing Body that the estimated cost of such renovation project is \$6.04 million, and Hometown Health Centers has asked this Governing Body for financial assistance with this project; and

WHEREAS, this Governing Body recommends that \$4 million be provided to Hometown Health Centers for such renovation project; and

WHEREAS, this Governing Body recommends that the funding to be provided to Hometown Health Centers be appropriated from a portion of the funding provided

to Schenectady County from the Federal Government through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that such proposed Capital Program for 2023 – 2028 be and hereby is amended as follows and adopted as amended as the official Schenectady County Capital Program Budget for 2023 – 2028;

CAPITAL BUDGET

Establish New Capital Project 8020230083 – Hometown Health Dental Clinic

Increase Expense String By:

H548020.401001 Capital – Economic Development and Planning \$4,000,000

Increase Revenue String By:

H99901.503101 Interfund Revenue - General \$4,000,000

Increase Appropriation Code By:

A599950.906 Transfer to Capital \$4,000,000

; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Manager be and he hereby is authorized, after approval of the County Attorney as to form and content, to enter into any necessary agreements with Hometown Health Centers for the providing of such monies.

10/19/2022: Reported from the Committee on Rules (R81)

10/19/2022: Adopted by the County Legislature

Ayes: 12.9351 (Constantine, Cuomo, Fields, Frisoni, Gatta, Hess, Hughes, Jasenski, McGill, Ostrelich, Patierne, Ruzzo, Vellano)

Nays: 0.0000

Absent: 2.0649 (McDonald, Pratt)

Abstain: 0.0000

Excused: 0.0000

Adjournment

On the motion of Legislator Hughes, seconded by Legislator Fields without objection, the special meeting was adjourned.