

**MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
**Organization - Board Meeting**  
**State of the County Address**  
**Tuesday, January 8, 2013**

The Board convened at 10:30 a.m. in the Supervisors Chambers, second floor, County Office Building, Wampsville, New York with all members present.

Pledge of Allegiance.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

1. Acknowledgement received from Assemblyman Bill Magee regarding resolution 379-12 Adopting Jessica's Law.
2. Copy of a resolution from Greene County – Recognizing and Including Victims of Hurricane Irene in Tax Credit Legislation for Hurricane Sandy Victims.

**RESOLUTIONS**

**By Supervisor Degear:**

**RESOLUTION NO. 1-13**

**RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION – RETIREE RECOGNITION**

**WHEREAS**, the Madison County Board of Supervisors believes that County employees should be recognized for their faithful service to the public; and

**WHEREAS**, recognition of the distinguished service of a certain County employee with an upcoming retirement is in order,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Madison County Board of Supervisors hereby recognizes the dedicated contributions of James Yonai upon his retirement.

Dr. James A. Yonai	Mental Health	1986 – 2012
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Chairman Becker called on Dr. Jim Yonai to step forward. Dr. Yonai was thanked for his many years of dedicated service to the County and was presented with a gift. Dr. Yonai went on the thank his devoted staff for their support and good work over the years, the department heads and the Supervisors for their cooperation and support, giving a little summary of his years at the county.

**ADOPTED: AYES – 1500 NAYS – 0**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2-13**

**DESIGNATING DISPOSAL OF OBSOLETE AND/OR SURPLUS COUNTY  
PERSONAL PROPERTY**

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with the Madison County disposal of Obsolete and/or Surplus County Personal Property Policy and Procedures, County Personal Property is required to be declared obsolete and/or surplus by the Board of Supervisors; and

**WHEREAS**, the current list of County Personal Property waiting obsolete and/or surplus designation is attached.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Board of Supervisors declares the list of said items as obsolete and/or surplus.

<b>TAG #</b>	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>CONDITION</b>
354	Keyboard Tray	Fair/Good
355	Cabinet	Fair/Good
356	Epson Perfection 4490 Photo Scanner	Good
357	Visioneer Scanner	Fair/Good
358	Sharp Calculator	Good
359	Brother Typewriter (needs repair)	Fair
360	Document Holder	Good
361	Document Holder	Good
362	Bookcase, Metal	Good
363	File Cabinet, Gray, 5 drawer w/lock	Good
364	Vehicle Emergency Light Bars	Very Good
365	Vehicle Partition Panels (cage) for Chevy Impala	Good
366	File Cabinet, Lateral, 3 drawer	Good
367	Storage Cabinet, Black, Metal	Good
368	Chair, gray tweed, needs new castors	Fair
369	Chair, Black, w/o arms	Good
370	Chair, Gunlocke brand, wood frame, w/arms	Very Good
371	Chair, high back w/arms, needs new castors	Fair
372	Chair, w/o arms	Good
373	Chair, blue, high back w/arms	Good
374	Green vinyl side chair, no arms	Good
375	Bookcase, Metal	Good
376	File Cabinet, 2 drawer, legal size	Good
377	Speakers, Realistic, tower style, set of 2	Unknown
378	Printer, Panasonic KXP1180	Unknown
379	Projector, Kodak Carousel 4600	Good
380	Chair, maroon, high back, lift lever needs repair	Fair
381	Computer Rack, under the desk model	Good
382	Trash Receptable, outdoor w/built in ashtray	Good
383	Table, oblong	Good
384	Bookcase, Metal, black	Fair
385	Small typewriter desk on wheels	Fair
386	Desk w/secretarial return	Fair/Good

**ADOPTED: AYES – 1500 NAYS – 0**

**By Supervisor Salka:**

**RESOLUTION NO. 3-13**

**AUTHORIZING AGREEMENT EXTENSION FOR DOG SHELTER SERVICES**

**WHEREAS**, the Public Health Services Committee has made the recommendation for the County to renew its agreement with Wanderer's Rest Humane Association for dog shelter and population control services; and

**WHEREAS**, Wanderer's Rest Humane Association possesses the facilities necessary for meeting the sheltering need's of those municipalities in Madison County responsible for such provisions as mandated by Article 7 of New York State Agriculture and Markets Law; and

**WHEREAS**, Wanderer's Rest Humane Association further possesses the special skills, experience and capability to implement and provide low-cost spay-neuter services, and the outreach and promotion of such services that constitute an Animal Population Control Program as described by the aforementioned Article 7 of NYS Agriculture and Market's Law; and

**WHEREAS**, The Board of Supervisors has previously resolved to enter an agreement through 12/31/12; and

**WHEREAS**, the amended agreement will cover the period of January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013 in the amount of \$ 93,126.00;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that The Chairman of The Board of Supervisors be and is hereby authorized to sign said agreement with Wanderer's Rest Humane Association, a copy of which is on file with The Clerk of The Board of Supervisors.

**ADOPTED: AYES – 1500 NAYS – 0**

**RESOLUTION NO. 4-13**

**ENTERING INTO AN AGREEMENT TO TRANSFER  
THE OPERATION OF CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY TREATMENT SERVICES TO FAMILY  
COUNSELING SERVICES OF CORTLAND COUNTY, INC.**

**WHEREAS**, by Resolution Number 371-11 the Board of Supervisors directed the Administrative Assistant to the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors and the Director of the County Mental Health Department, in collaboration with the Madison County Community Services Board and the Social and Mental Health Services Committee, to begin a Due Diligence process to explore transferring the County operated ADAPT Program - a Part 822 Outpatient Chemical Dependency Treatment Program licensed by, and subject to approval by the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) to a not-for-profit agency; and, in the process to seriously consider measures to be incorporated that would minimize and mitigate negative impacts to employees; and

**WHEREAS**, the Task Force that was assembled to accomplish this action, after careful review and analysis, recommended that the application submitted by Family Counseling Services of Cortland County, Inc. was determined superior to the other applications, and recommended that agency to the Community Services Board and the Social and Mental Health Services Committee for their consideration; and

**WHEREAS**, by unanimous vote the Community Services Board has agreed with the intent of the Board of Supervisors to transfer the provision of chemical dependency treatment services to Family Counseling Services of Cortland County, Inc.; and

**WHEREAS**, by Resolution Number 307-12, the Board of Supervisors declared its intent to accept a proposal from Family Counseling Services of Cortland County, Inc. to provide chemical dependency treatment services in Madison County subject to further negotiation of the terms of this transfer and approval of the result of these negotiations by the Madison County Board of Supervisors and the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services; and

**WHEREAS**, negotiations of the transfer agreement for providing chemical dependency treatment services between the County and Family Counseling Services of Cortland County, Inc. have been finalized; and

**WHEREAS**, before the chemical dependency treatment services delivered by Madison County can be assumed by another agency, the transfer of these functions must be presented to and approved by OASAS in a process that may last several months; and

**WHEREAS**, the term of this Agreement shall commence the later of (i) January 1, 2013 or (ii) the receipt of authority to and the transfer of the County's Operating Certificate to Contractor to open a Certified Outpatient Chemical Dependency Treatment Program in Madison County, and shall continue through December 31, 2013; and

**WHEREAS**, Family Counseling Services of Cortland County agrees to provide the comprehensive array of chemical dependency treatment services as outlined in the agreement for a total not to exceed \$158,669 comprised of \$88,006 NYS OASAS State Aid and \$70,663 Madison County Local Share contribution with these amounts to be prorated based on the start date of the agreement.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors is authorized to enter into an agreement with Family Counseling Services of Cortland County, Inc., subject to approval by the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services, in the form as is on file with the Clerk of the Board.

**ADOPTED: AYES – 1500 NAYS – 0**

**By Supervisor Monforte:**

**RESOLUTION NO. 5-13**

**APPROVING THE ISSUANCE OF CERTAIN OBLIGATIONS BY MADISON COUNTY CAPITAL RESOURCE CORPORATION TO FINANCE A CERTAIN PROJECT FOR COLGATE UNIVERSITY**

BE IT ENACTED by the Board of Supervisors of Madison County, New York, as follows:

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 1411 of the Not-For-Profit Corporation Law of the State of New York, as amended (the "Enabling Act"), Revenue Ruling 57-187 and Private Letter Ruling 200936012, the Board of Supervisors of Madison County, New York (the "County") adopted a resolution on July 14, 2009 (the "Sponsor Resolution") (1) authorizing the incorporation of Madison County Capital Resource Corporation (the "Issuer") under the Enabling Act and (2) appointing the initial members of the board of directors of the Issuer; and

WHEREAS, in August, 2009, a certificate of incorporation was filed with the New York Secretary of State's Office (the "Certificate of Incorporation") creating the Issuer as a public instrumentality of the County; and

WHEREAS, to accomplish its stated purposes, the Issuer is authorized and empowered under the Enabling Act to acquire real and personal property; to borrow money and issue negotiable revenue bonds, notes and other obligations therefore; to lease, sell, mortgage or otherwise dispose of or encumber any of its real or personal property upon such terms as it may determine; and otherwise to carry out its corporate purposes in the territory in which the operations of the Issuer are principally to be conducted; and

WHEREAS, in December, 2012, Colgate University, a New York not-for-profit education corporation (the "Institution") submitted an application (the "Application") to the Issuer, a copy of which Application is on file at the office of the Issuer, which Application requested that the Issuer consider undertaking a project (the "Project") for the benefit of the Institution, said Project consisting of the following: (A) the refinancing, in whole or in part, of the outstanding Tax-Exempt Civic Facility Revenue Bonds (Colgate University Project), Series 2004A in the original aggregate principal amount of \$45,905,000 (the "Prior Bonds") issued on or about April 2, 2004 by Madison County Industrial Development Agency (the "Prior Issuer"), the proceeds of which Prior Bonds provided financing for a project (the "Prior Project") consisting of following: (1) various capital projects located on the approximately 515 acre campus located at 13 Oak Drive in the Village of Hamilton, Madison County, New York (the "Initial Land"), including (a) the reconstruction and renovation to various academic buildings, (b)(i) the reconstruction and renovation of the Everett Needham Case Library (the "Library"), and (ii) the construction of an addition to the Library (the "Initial Addition") to contain approximately 53,000 gross square feet of space, (c) the acquisition, reconstruction and renovation of various student residences, (d) the reconstruction and renovation to various student life and administrative facilities, (e) the reconstruction and renovation to various athletic facilities (such academic buildings, the Library, the Initial Addition, student residences, and student life, administrative and athletic facilities are hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Initial Facility"), and (f) the acquisition and installation thereon and therein of various machinery and equipment (the "Initial Equipment") (the Initial Land, the Initial Facility and the Initial Equipment are hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Initial Project Facility"), all of the foregoing to constitute an educational facility and other directly and indirectly related activities for use by the Institution; and (2) payment of issuance costs relating to the Prior Bonds; (B) the financing of all or a portion of the costs of the foregoing by the issuance of revenue bonds of the Issuer in one or more issues or series in an aggregate principal amount sufficient to pay the cost of undertaking the Project, together with necessary incidental costs in connection therewith, the maximum aggregate principal amount of which is presently estimated to not exceed \$46,500,000 and in any event not to exceed \$50,000,000 (the "Obligations"); (C) paying of all or a portion of the costs incidental to the issuance of the Obligations, including issuance costs of the Obligations and any reserve funds as may be necessary to secure the Obligations; and (D) the making of a loan (the "Loan") of the proceeds of the Obligations to the Institution or such other person as may be designated by the Institution and agreed upon by the Issuer; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article 8 of the Environmental Conservation Law, Chapter 43-B of the Consolidated Laws of New York, as amended (the "SEQR Act") and the regulations adopted pursuant thereto by the Department of Environmental Conservation of the State of New York, being 6NYCRR Part 617, as amended (the "Regulations" and collectively with the SEQR Act, "SEQRA"), by resolution adopted by the members of the board of directors of the Issuer on December 20, 2012 (the "SEQR Resolution"), the Issuer determined that the Initial Project constituted a "Type II action" (as such quoted term is defined under SEQRA), and therefor that no further action with respect to the Initial Project was required under SEQRA; and

WHEREAS, the Institution has requested that interest on the Obligations be treated by the federal government as excludable from gross income for federal income tax purposes pursuant to Section 103 and Section 145(a) of the Code; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Madison County, New York (the "Board of Supervisors") has been advised by the Issuer that the Issuer proposes to issue, subsequent to the adoption of this resolution, the Obligations from time to time in a principal amount sufficient to fund all or a portion of the costs of the Project; and

WHEREAS, interest on the Obligations will not be excludable from gross income for federal income tax purposes unless, among other things, pursuant to Section 147(f) of the Code, the issuance of the Obligations is approved by the "applicable elected representative" of Madison County, New York after the Issuer has held a public hearing on the nature and location of the Project Facility and the issuance of the Obligations; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the authorization contained in a resolution adopted by the members of the board of directors of the Issuer on December 20, 2012 (the "Public Hearing Resolution"), the Chief Executive Officer of the Issuer (A) caused notice of a public hearing of the Issuer (the "Public Hearing") pursuant to Section 147(f) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code") and, as provided in the Certificate of Incorporation, pursuant to the applicable provisions of Section 859-a and Section 859-b of the General Municipal Law of the State of New York (the "GML"), to hear all persons interested in the Initial Project and the financial assistance being contemplated by the Issuer with respect to the Initial Project, to be published on December 15, 2012 in the Oneida Daily Dispatch, a newspaper of general circulation available to the residents of the Village of Hamilton, New York, (B) caused notice of the Public Hearing to be posted on December 14, 2012 at the Village Courthouse located at 60 Montgomery Street in the Village of Hamilton, Madison County, New York, (C) caused notice of the Public Hearing to be mailed on December 17, 2012 to the chief executive officers of the county and of each city, town, village and school district in which the Initial Project Facility is (or will be) located, (D) conducted the Public Hearing on January 2, 2013 at 9:00 o'clock, a.m., local time at the Village Courthouse located at 60 Montgomery Street in the Village of Hamilton, Madison County, New York, and (E) prepared a report of the Public Hearing (the "Public Hearing Report") which fairly summarized the views presented at such Public Hearing and caused copies of said Public Hearing Report to be made available to the members of the board of directors of the Issuer and to the Board of Supervisors of Madison County, New York (the "Board of Supervisors"); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 147(f) of the Code, the Board of Supervisors desires to allow the interest on the Obligations to be treated as excludable from gross income for federal income tax purposes;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of Madison County, New York, as follows:

Section 1. For the sole purpose of qualifying the interest payable on the Obligations for exclusion from gross income for federal income tax purposes pursuant to the provisions of Section 145(a) and Section 103 of the Code, the Board of Supervisors, as the elected legislative body of Madison County, New York, hereby approves the issuance by the Issuer of the Obligations, provided that the Obligations, and the premium (if any) and interest thereon, shall be special obligations of the Issuer and shall never be a debt of the State of New York, Madison County, New York or any political subdivision thereof (other than the Issuer), and neither the State of New York, Madison County, New York nor any political subdivision thereof (other than the Issuer) shall be liable thereon.

Section 2. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Please note that this resolution requires a 2/3's vote as follows:

**ADOPTED: AYES – 1500 NAYS – 0**

**By Supervisor Goldstein:**

**RESOLUTION NO. 6-13**

**AUTHORIZING 5-YEAR SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL AGREEMENTS WITH  
COMMERCIAL PERMIT HOLDERS**

**WHEREAS**, in order to continue to retain solid waste and recyclables within the County's existing system to ensure the proper management and disposal of all waste generated in the County; and

**WHEREAS**, in order to provide further long-term stability for the solid waste management system to support all of the costs associated with recycling and environmentally responsible solid waste management, including the Landfill Expansion Project, without the use of taxpayer funding; and

**WHEREAS**, in order to provide long-term price stability to haulers and residents of the County; and

**WHEREAS**, the contract for Haulers will provide for a lower tip fee than the tip fee for Haulers who do not enter into contracts with the County for disposal of all waste and recyclables at the County facilities; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Madison County be permitted to enter into a 5-year Solid Waste Disposal Agreement with Commercial Permit Holders that are willing to deliver both solid waste and recyclables to the Madison County Landfill and Recycling Facility in accordance with provisions of the Solid Waste Disposal Agreement, a copy of such Agreement is on file with the Clerk of the Board; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Solid Waste Disposal Agreement shall cover the period from January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2015; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Commercial Permit Holders listed below are hereby permitted to enter into a Solid Waste Disposal Agreement, and that the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors is authorized to execute such Solid Waste Disposal Agreement on behalf of Madison County with the following Commercial Permit Holders:

- 1. OAK SHADE NURSERY**

**PENDING BOARD APPROVAL**

**At 10:45 a.m. Chairman Becker announced the scheduled public hearing on Local Law No. 8 for 2012 – Modifying the Weighted Voting. Supervisor Salka made the motion to open the hearing, seconded by Supervisor Bono and carried. Chairman Becker then called for speakers. Mr. Rick Kinsella of Oneida addressed the Board speaking on consolidating services which ties into the weighted voting system, and stated that**

**Madison County has more government than needed and he would like to see these issues worked on.**

**There being no further speakers, Supervisor Henderson made the motion to close the hearing, seconded by Supervisor Rafte and carried.**

**Please note that the resolution adopting Local Law No. 8 of 2012 has been pulled at this time by the Administration and Oversight Committee for further review.**

**Chairman Becker then called for a 10 minute recess.**

**Following recess, at 11:00 a.m. Chairman Becker announced the scheduled public hearing on local Law No. 9 for 2012 – Fixing Salaries for Certain County Officials for 2013. Supervisor Henderson made the motion to open the hearing, seconded by Supervisor Bradstreet and carried. Chairman Becker then called for speakers. Mr. Rick Kinsella of Oneida addressed the Board stating that the budget does not reflect the correct salaries, which is very confusing to the public. He also mentioned it would be helpful to have management salaries available electronically for public review. There being no further speakers, Supervisor Degear made the motion to close the hearing, seconded by Supervisor Cary and carried.**

**By Supervisor Degear:**

**RESOLUTION NO. 7-13**

**ADOPTING LOCAL LAW NO. 9 FOR THE YEAR 2012**

**WHEREAS**, there has been duly introduced Local Law No. 9 for the year 2012 entitled "FIXING THE SALARIES OF CERTAIN COUNTY OFFICIALS FOR 2013"; and

**WHEREAS**, a public hearing on said local law was duly held by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Madison on December 27, 2012;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Local Law No.9 for the year 2012 be and the same is hereby adopted.

**Supervisor Degear made an amendment to this resolution, seconded by Supervisor Bargabos and carried to change the date of the public hearing, to today, January 8, 2013.**

**A final vote with amendment was then taken:**

**ADOPTED: AYES – 1500 NAYS – 0**

**Chairman Becker then did his State of the County Address as follows:**

**FELLOW SUPERVISORS, EMPLOYEES, CITIZENS, TAXPAYERS:**

Good morning; welcome everyone.

It is a privilege and an honor to give this great County's State of the County for my fifth year. While 2012 was a challenge, 2013 will be an even larger challenge.

Here are just some of the highlights of 2012 from our departments:

#### **DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**

In 2012, the DA's Office undertook the prosecution of more than 150 felony cases, an increase of more than 20 percent over the last four years. The Office also is responsible for prosecuting cases in town, village and city courts.

#### **E-911 COMMUNICATIONS**

The new public safety radio system was completed and connected to four surrounding counties. County departments and agencies are on the new system, and fire departments are scheduled to switch in early 2013. Consolidation netted payment of \$286,559 for national interoperability channels at three sites, and the County received nearly \$2 million from the state Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services.

#### **ELECTIONS**

The inability of the legislature to combine the federal and state/local primaries from September to June (called by the Department of Justice for the federal primary) required mailing two sets of ballots to military voters for the general election. By consolidating districts for both primaries, we used fewer inspectors and saved taxpayer money.

State legislators need to combine the federal and state primaries before 2014 to avoid the fiscal burden of 2012.

The five-year warranty on voting machines expires in May; technicians must train in basic repair before we face expenses for breakdowns.

#### **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**

A multi-year training/exercise regime organized by the Emergency Management Department was realized.

#### **HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

Through a pro-active and collaborative public health effort, Madison County took successful action to address the growing problem of synthetic drugs (e.g. "bath salts"). Adapting and aligning our work force and diminishing resources in more efficient and effective ways while

continuing to be responsive to existing and emerging health issues will be the top challenge we face in 2013.

#### **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

IT achieved the launch of a new county website that allows easier content management, more information for our residents and a clean and simple design that is easy to navigate. The biggest challenge for 2013 will be finalizing compliance with all federal and state laws and implementing redundant systems to eliminate network down time.

#### **HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

The Highway Department paved 20.08 miles of road, 10.67 miles of which were recycled. In addition, 30.97 miles of road were preserved by either chip sealing or micro-surfacing. A large concrete box culvert was installed on Timmerman Road along with two aluminum box culverts on Erieville Road.

The top challenge for 2013 will be looking for new and creative ways to maintain the County infrastructure and provide necessary services, with a continuously shrinking budget and increasing operating costs.

#### **MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT**

A retirement allowed three staff to assume new responsibilities, and a new Chief Cleaner was hired; all are excelling. As of Dec. 1, despite a period of short-staffing, the team performed 6,467 service requests and preventive maintenance items, addressed emergencies, and completed numerous building projects. Maintenance also streamlined its cleaning staff.

#### **PERSONNEL**

The Personnel Department was able to successfully negotiate long-term collective bargaining agreements with both CSEA bargaining units encompassing more than 350 employees; 32 civil service exams were administered to 282 applicants; and new employee orientations were provided for 25 new employees.

The Personnel Department faces balancing the wants and needs of County employees with the public's desire to maintain reasonable tax rates. In order to accomplish this, we are

forced to look for creative, economical ways to provide required benefits and services to employees, municipalities and the public while working within the laws, rules and mandates that govern us.

#### **PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

In 2012, the Planning Department redesigned the Madison Transit System, completed Nichols Pond improvements, realized 27 installs through Solarize Madison, completed agriculture district consolidation, assisted 29 first-time homebuyers, harvested five lakes, and produced the Trails of Madison County.

Though a great step forward for Madison County, the merger of Planning and Workforce Development will create unique challenges and opportunities – doing more with less.

#### **PROBATION DEPARTMENT**

The Probation Department supervises an average of 300 adults and 30 juveniles on daily average. The majority of adult caseloads are comprised of DWI, sex offender and domestic violence defendants; however, we have seen a rise in the number of individuals involved with methamphetamines. It is our job to see offenders follow court orders while working toward positive outcomes. In 2012, 91 probationers were successfully discharged from their probation term.

#### **SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

The Sheriff's Office received a grant for video conferencing that will reduce inmate transportation costs and allow attorneys to "meet" with their clients remotely. The Corrections Department obtained and transformed a bus for inmate transportation that allows transport of more than two inmates at once.

#### **SOCIAL SERVICES**

Medicaid continues to challenge Social Services and the County; in April, the Legislature enacted laws capping county contributions toward Medicaid, saving more than \$200,000 over the next three years. The Legislature capped reimbursement for administrative tasks, potentially reducing administrative funding.

Madison County prepared a response to the “statement of interest” that sets the stage for state assumption of administration; the County submitted the required survey in September.

Medicaid administration will continue to be the largest challenge facing Social Services, and many recipients of Medicaid will have their eligibility re-determined through a centralized call center staffed by state and contract staff.

### **SOLID WASTE AND SANITATION**

The Madison County Reuse Store opened this year at the Landfill through a partnership with the Rescue Mission; the facility fulfills the state Department of Environmental Conservation’s directive to exceed recycling to reuse.

Recycling in the county has led the way through innovation, education and ecologically responsible policies. The top challenge this year will be completing the state SEQR process so the County can begin developing the Agricultural Renewable Energy Park. The first project is construction of a new sewer line from the landfill site to Oneida to carry leachate from the landfill and wastewater from the ARE Park businesses.

### **VETERANS SERVICE AGENCY**

The VSA assists veterans in pursuing federal, state and local benefits. The FAVOR veteran discount program implemented this year successfully attracted veterans to learn about benefits while enrolling for discounts offered by county businesses. Every successful claim reduces reliance on Social Services by obtaining federal benefits.

The efforts of the office provide annual federal VA funds to county veterans in the amount of \$12.1 million for compensation or pension benefits, \$1.6 million in education and rehabilitation, \$343,000 in life insurance payments and provide medical care for 1,402 Madison County veterans in the VA healthcare system, a \$11.2 million value.

### **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

In 2012, staff handled 2,505 visits from customers and placed 126 people in training; 66 customers were referred from Social Services and found jobs, lessening their demand on public assistance. Without the federal re-authorization of the Workforce Investment Act, funding for

Workforce Development becomes vulnerable, thus hindering staff from providing the highest level of services.

## **YOUTH BUREAU**

The Youth Bureau and its community-based contract agencies continued to provide cost effective primary prevention and youth development programs for young people, including leadership skills development, job shadowing and volunteer opportunities, mentoring, after-school programs, teen counseling services, school-based substance abuse prevention programs, children's performing arts, summer recreation programs, and temporary housing and case management services for our housing vulnerable youth. These programs positively impacted more than 5,000 children and youth in 2012.

## **Mental Health**

In our Mental Health Department, we saw the privatization of the ADAPT Program and we will seek to privatize more of that department as we see resources dwindle at the County. We will not be able to invest in that department to fully or efficiently bring the services of that department to the public, as well as a private non-profit can.

**2012** also saw the continuation of consolidation and realignment of departments. We are 90-percent finished with this and should see a full realization of consolidation in 2013.

For our department heads and staff, as well as our employees, the private sector has gone through this very painful process, and government should not be immune to these trends, either. My hat is off to all of our employees for doing the job that needs to be done to make us a more efficient, stable work environment, as well as a leaner government.

Continuation of New York's legislature to be lethargic at best, to do what is right by its taxpayers and not its tax consumers will be a huge problem in 2013; however, the train is coming and make no mistake: whether it is New York State or the locals paying, continuation of our public pension system and Medicaid in the current fashion is unsustainable and over the next 10 years we will be seeing even more people leave New York State for cheaper places to

live. Cost-drivers continue to be unfunded mandates; we will see some relief from Medicaid costs in 2013, but not enough.

Our County is lucky to have an agricultural heritage, and one that is still strong today. As a County, we have invested heavily in this sector of our economy, whether it is the ARE Park, Cooperative Extension or the AED Program, this sector will continue to consolidate and thrive and be the biggest driver of our economy here in the county.

We have also invested heavily in our economic development and asked it to be revitalized, headed by Kipp Hicks. One thing seems to be a constant: that Kipp is one of the best economic development directors in the state.

When I became chairman, realigning the County and economic development were a priority and will continue to be in 2013. A good, strong, economic development program helps our property taxpayers as well as all of our citizens in Madison County.

With a good retail environment and program encouraging people to “buy Madison County” being implemented under the leadership of Planning Committee Chairman Ralph Monforte of Cazenovia, we should be able to drive sales tax dollars to help bring down property taxes. This spreads the burden of taxation across everyone, not just targeting and over burdening property owners.

## **Conclusion**

As I close, I hope that we see a calmer, more balanced approach to problems whose solutions seem to have eluded many, whether it is in the government or general public.

As you have seen, our main approach has been on economic development. A key to this was missing when I became chairman. In 2007, I asked the supervisor from Cazenovia, my good friend Liz Moran, to come up with some sort of economic development plan for our County. Well, five years later, we have one. She has worked with our Planning Department, as well as Regional Planning David Botar and his group to develop this strategy.

We will roll this out in just a few minutes.

By the way, Oneida Supervisor Jim Rafte will be president of the Central New York Regional Planning & Development Board for 2013.

Have a prosperous and healthy New Year. Remember that the glass is half full and not half empty.

Chairman then called on Liz Moran, David Botar, Director of CNYRPDB and Kipp Hicks, Director of IDA to step forward to give a report on the how the economic development plan is progressing, which they along with Planning Director Scott Ingmire, members of the Planning Committee and others have been working on for the past almost five years. Mr. Kipps then handed out an Executive Summary Report on Economic Development Strategy.

**There being no further business, Supervisor Rafte made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Supervisor Monforte and carried. Reminder that the next scheduled Board meeting will be February 12, 2013 @ 2:00 p.m.**