

Mr. Jemzura noted that these benefits are a courtesy of the taxpayer. He said that there are 17 supervisors participating in the retirement plan and that some work one day per month and others work 15 hours per month. Mr. Jemzura said that this is not a bad deal in return for health insurance, retirement benefits, mileage reimbursement and over \$13,000 per year in salary. He said that he calculated that the proposed pay raise amounts to \$.68 per day. Mr. Jemzura said that Mr. Mastro earns \$6,800 per year from the Town of Sherburne. He suggested that if the supervisors want a raise then they should get it from their township. Mr. Jemzura asked the Board if the \$.68 per day was really needed.

Mr. Jemzura mentioned an article about Chenango County that had been printed in the Evening Sun. He stated that according to that article Chenango County is one of the highest taxed counties in the country. Mr. Jemzura said that there are just over 3,000 counties in this country and Chenango County is one of the highest as far as home values versus taxes. He asked if that deserves a pay increase. Mr. Jemzura said that he realizes that Chenango County is meeting its tax cap. He said that it is not his tax cap, it is the governor's tax cap and Governor Cuomo doesn't live, vote or shop here.

Mr. Jemzura said that there are a lot of 90 year old widows living on fixed incomes in Chenango County. He said that the good people of Chenango County gave \$5,000 to the farmers' market and \$9,000 for a hotel study. Mr. Jemzura stated that the good people of Chenango County have also agreed to a 30 year lease for a new courthouse. He said enough is enough; that is a lot this year and he cannot afford the \$.68 anymore. Mr. Jemzura asked the supervisors to remember that there are a lot of single mothers out there who are getting their hours cut at work. He said that he was speaking with a single mother earlier in the day. Mr. Jemzura said that this single mother is getting her hours cut and she cannot afford to purchase school pictures for her children. He said that Christmas is coming and people are having garage sales just to try to make some money. Mr. Jemzura said to go out and try to buy anything; even a paperback book is \$5.

Mr. Jemzura said he sees a lot of fellow card carrying Republicans at this meeting who believe in less government, fewer taxes and less spending. He mentioned a quote from the newspaper from a gentleman who stated that people in his township are struggling to pay their taxes. Mr. Jemzura said that members of the general public feel that this pay raise ranges anywhere from deplorable to laughable. He said that this Local Law is also subject to permissive referendum.

Chairman Wilcox asked if anyone else would like to address the board. He repeated his request.

With no one else wishing to speak, Mr. Cook moved, seconded by Mr. Kreiner, to close the Public Hearing at 11:11 a.m. Carried.

#### LOCAL LAW

The Personnel Committee offered the following, and moved its adoption:

STATE OF NEW YORK

COUNTY OF CHENANGO

PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. 2 OF 2014

A LOCAL LAW FIXING ANNUAL SALARIES OF CERTAIN COUNTY OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR 2015

BE IT ENACTED, by the Board of Supervisors of Chenango County.

Section 1. The flat annual salaries of the following named County Officers shall be in the amount set opposite each, to wit:

Commissioner of Social Services	\$	74,641
Director of Public Works	\$	73,583
Personnel Officer	\$	63,774
Commissioner of Elections (2) ea.	\$	33,069
Board of Supervisors (23) ea.	\$	13,108
County Sheriff	\$	79,521
Clerk of the Board/County Auditor	\$	67,323
County Attorney	\$	101,309
County Clerk	\$	62,709
District Attorney	\$	152,500
Public Defender	\$	91,800
Director of Real Property Tax	\$	68,396

Section 2. The above specified salaries shall be effective on and after January first, Two Thousand and Fifteen.

Section 3. In the event a vacancy shall occur in an appointive position for which a term of office is prescribed by law after this local law is adopted by the Board of Supervisors, the salary amount for a new appointee shall be set by the Board of Supervisors having the authority to make such an appointment.

Section 4. This law shall be subject to a permissive referendum as provided in Section 24 of the Municipal Home Rule Law of the State of New York, but if no petition for a referendum be filed, then this law shall become effective upon filing same with the Department of State.

Seconded by Mr. Kreiner.

Ms. Nabinger said that a couple of years ago Supervisor Schlag brought up the fact that it had taken the Board Supervisors a long time to get a raise. She said at that time the Supervisors decided to give their annual raise to the United Way. Ms. Nabinger said that many of the supervisors do that.

Mr. Khoury said that the gentleman's point was that the Evening Sun article said there are only 32 counties in the entire country that pay higher taxes than we do based on the value of property. He said that we are living in a stagnant economy, property values are not going up and we are looking for ways to raise money. Mr. Khoury said that the county is not attracting businesses or people and we are really left without. He said that Mr. Jemzura made some very solid points as to where we are as a county. Mr. Khoury said that while there is a sense of austerity here, for the most part we have not cut the budget or stemmed the growth of government. He said while Mr. Jemzura focused on pay raises there is too much government in Chenango County and it is squeezing out the private sector. Supervisor Khoury asked the Board to compare Chenango County to the Chenango County of 1983. He said that the contrast is obvious.

Mr. Mastro said that he told Mr. Jemzura that he would support him today. He said that this is his fourth year doing this and during the first two years there was quite a discussion about this and he voted against the raise for both of those years. Mr. Mastro said that the reasoning for the raise was that it made more sense to raise the salaries a little bit every year instead of a lot at once. He asked why the Supervisors can't get a raise once every three years. Mr. Mastro said that he doesn't think supervisors need a raise every year. He said Mr. Jemzura made some very good points. He said he didn't know anything about the United Way and asked how many supervisors actually contribute their raises to that charity. Mr. Mastro said that Mr. Jemzura has familiarized himself with this process and a permissive referendum could be expensive.

Mr. Mastro made a motion to exempt the Supervisors' raises from proposed Local Law #2 of 2014.  
Mr. Grace seconded the motion.

Mr. Jeffrey asked why we do a Local Law for this. He said it seems as if these are salaries that should be built into the 2015 budget and that the Board should be looking at the raises through that process. Mr. Jeffrey asked why these raises are put through in this manner when other local governments do not do it this way. Mr. Woodford explained that certain term appointments require a local law by statute. He said that this is the only way that salaries for certain term appointments can be amended mid-term. Mr. Woodford said that these are all local appointments and they are all currently mid-term as they are not up for election this year. He said that this is a function of the adoption of the compensation schedule. Mr. Woodford said that this local law is normally proposed during the committee cycle after the compensation schedule has been adopted. He said that these salaries are built into the 2015 tentative budget as it sits to date.

Mr. Woodford clarified that Mr. Mastro is proposing to eliminate that one line of the proposed Local Law. Mr. Mastro confirmed that to be his intention.

Mr. Heisler said that his feeling during a previous discussion of this issue was that there were eight new Supervisors that didn't deserve a raise at that time because they hadn't learned their job yet. He said that he has a slightly different perspective now. Mr. Heisler said that he has tried to take on additional duties to represent the taxpayer. He said, however, that perception is reality and the point he made a couple of years ago is that if we were doing a great job Chenango County would be doing wonderfully and there would be plenty of jobs. Mr. Heisler said that if the Board was doing a great job it would be just wonderful to live here. He asked if the Board of Supervisors is doing a great job. Mr. Heisler said that a couple of years ago the explanation that was given was that if you separate out the supervisory raises it would be a big discussion and a big fight every time. He said that he thinks that is part of the process. Mr. Heisler said that he believes that every raise should be merit based instead of longevity based. He said that every supervisor should do a little soul searching as they cast their vote on this issue today.

Chairman Wilcox said that this budget that we will be submitting in a few weeks proposes seven fewer full time employees. He said that we are reducing the size of government as we are well beyond a reduction of 25 employees in the time that he has been here. Mr. Wilcox stated that he believes that this board is constantly looking for ways to save the taxpayers money. He said that he is here to support the taxpayers and while they may not agree with him all of the time, they also don't always have all of the information.

Dr. Wansor said that we have a great infrastructure and all of the department heads do their best to run a tight budget and keep the cost to the taxpayers at a minimum. He said that in spite of that he still has his doubts about giving supervisors an annual raise just for annual raise purposes. Dr. Wansor said that the supervisors are serving the public and receive a very generous reimbursement for the services provided and for the hours worked.

Mr. Brown asked the County Attorney if the Board will have to bring the whole local law forward again if it is changed. Mr. Gordon said that he doesn't see any reason why the local law cannot be amended.

Mr. Kreiner asked for clarification regarding the compensation schedule. He said that the compensation schedule has been approved to include the supervisors' raises. Mr. Kreiner asked what will happen to the compensation schedule if the proposed amendment passes today. Mr. Woodford said that a local law would trump a compensation schedule line item.

Mr. Grace said that Mr. Khoury made some very good points. He said that the supervisors can afford to take \$.68 less per day in comparison to someone who is right on the brink of being able to pay their taxes.

Mr. Mastro said that the current salaries would remain in place. Mr. Woodford said if that line is eliminated there would be no authority for change of salary from 2014 to 2015.

Mr. Outwater said he can live with or without a raise but Chenango County is ranked second in the state as far as financial stress in concerned. Mr. Williams said you don't hear about that. Mr. Outwater said that we are creating jobs in Chenango County, not a lot, but a few here and there. He said it is not all bad news.

Mr. Brown said that he would like to think that by not giving us a raise it would solve all of our problems. He said us doing our jobs is what will solve the problems. Mr. Brown said that eliminating a raise for the Board of Supervisors is not going to buy school pictures for that lady's children. He asked how much that woman pays for school taxes or village taxes. Mr. Brown said that we need to focus on doing our jobs well. He said that he hates to see the Board have a knee jerk reaction to this.

Mr. Kreiner said that Mr. Brown is correct with his knee jerk reaction statement. He said that Mr. Jemzura's comments went beyond that; this is philosophical. Mr. Kreiner said that doing this today isn't going to solve our problems but it is a step in the right direction. He said that we need to change the things that we can affect. Mr. Kreiner said that we cannot change the salary for the District Attorney because he must be paid the same as the County Judge. He said but maybe we could go back to a part time District Attorney position so that we aren't mandated to pay that amount. Mr. Kreiner said that is just one example. He said that this is just recognizing the fact that we can do a better job by looking at how we do things.

Mr. Heisler said that he is not taking objection to the term knee jerk reaction. He said that our economy hasn't been good since 2008; this is not new this year. Mr. Heisler said that if you are pounding the pavement trying to make a living in the business community you know how difficult it is. He asked how we keep giving ourselves raises under these circumstances despite the fact that this discussion may be somewhat philosophical. Mr. Heisler said that the supervisors are going to keep doing their jobs either way but this would send a message. He said that continuing to give ourselves a raise when things haven't gotten better in four or five years sends the wrong message.

Mr. Khoury said that this vote would really represent symbolism. He said that this is not a knee jerk reaction as this is not the first time we have heard this. Mr. Khoury said that long time people are talking about leaving Chenango County. He said that when jobs leave, people leave and we have to raise taxes. Mr. Khoury said that it is a vicious cycle and in this case symbolism has some value to show people we hear them and are taking action.

Mr. Brown said that our energy needs to focus on what we can do to do the best job possible. He said that we are going to spend a million dollars to send kids to college this year and Mr. Craine's office has put together a plan to keep us above water. Mr. Brown said that we are very fortunate to have qualified department heads and supervisors and that is what we need to focus on. He brought up some of the various changes made by the department heads this year.

Mr. Kreiner said that Mr. Brown is bringing up some great points and our department heads are doing a great job. He said that we need to look beyond that. Mr. Kreiner asked what we are doing to change how the things that are so costly are run. He said that we need to focus our efforts on changing some of the things that are currently out of our control.

Mr. Outwater said that everyone around this table and the public needs to understand is that we can only focus on about 20% of what costs us money. He said that the other 80% of the cost is mandated.

Mr. Law said that he doesn't care about the raise but he is concerned about our young people. He said that they are not being taught to learn to work. Mr. Law said they want to either start out earning \$15 or \$16 per hour or sit home and play with their computer all day long. He said that we are educating our children wrong.

Chairman Wilcox put the proposed amendment to a vote.

Results of a Roll Call vote were: Yes – 1186, No – 541, Absent – 0  
 Opposed: Supervisors Schlag, Cook, McNeil, Williams, Wilcox, Brown and Blanchard  
 The Amendment Carried.

Mr. Kreiner said that he would like to ask his colleagues not to stop here. He said that while we may be able to control only 20% that is not all that we can look at. Mr. Kreiner asked his fellow supervisors to try to send a message to those areas of government that are making the mandates.

Chairman Wilcox put amended Local Law #2 of 2014 to a vote.  
 Results of a Roll Call vote on the Local Law as Amended were: Yes – 1727, No – 0, Absent – 0  
 The Chairman declared the Local Law adopted.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

### **PREFERRED AGENDA**

1. AUTHORIZING ONE-YEAR EXTENSION OF A NATURAL GAS PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH EMPIRE NATURAL GAS CORPORATION OF GREENE, NEW YORK
2. AUTHORIZING EXTENSION OF LEASE OF OFFICE SPACE FOR SUPREME COURT JUSTICE
3. AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FOR THE PURCHASE OF E911 ADDRESSING VEHICLE – SHERIFF'S OFFICE
4. AUTHORIZING ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY – LT. WARREN E. EATON/CHENANGO COUNTY AIRPORT
5. AUTHORIZING THE CHENANGO COUNTY TREASURER TO APPROPRIATE PRIOR YEAR FUNDS RAISED FOR CERTAIN BENEFITS
6. ESTABLISHING DATE FOR PAYMENT OF UNPAID 2014 – 2015 SCHOOL TAXES AND 2014 VILLAGE TAXES AND FINAL DATE TO ACCEPT SCHOOL AND VILLAGE TAXES FROM SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND VILLAGES
7. SALE OF COUNTY OWNED LAND IN THE TOWN OF LINCKLAEN – DELINQUENT TAX SERVICES
8. AUTHORIZING TRANSFER OF FUNDS FOR EXTRA HIRE EXPENSES – PUBLIC SAFETY BUIDLING – PUBLIC SAFETY DISPATCHERS
9. AUTHORIZING TRANSFER OF FUNDS FOR OVERTIME EXPENSES – TREASURER'S OFFICE
10. CREDITS TO TOWNS FOR PART-COUNTY SALES TAX
11. ENDORSING CHENANGO COUNTY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD MISSION AND OBJECTIVES
12. AMENDING COMPENSATION SCHEDULE FOR 2015
13. APPROVING LABOR AGREEMENT BETWEEN CHENANGO COUNTY AND THE CHENANGO COUNTY CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION (CSEA) UNIT 6400 OF LOCAL 1000
14. AUTHORIZING ADOPTION OF STANDARD WORK DAYS FOR CHENANGO COUNTY ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS PARTICIPATING IN THE NEW YORK STATE AND LOCAL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
15. AUTHORIZING TRANSFER FOR COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH NURSE – COMMUNITY MENTAL HYGIENE SERVICES
16. ESTABLISHING NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER MEETING DATES FOR THE FALL TERM OF ANNUAL SESSION – YEAR 2014
17. AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FOR THE PURCHASE OF PREVENTION MATERIALS FOR SCHOOLS – ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE SERVICES
18. AUTHORIZING SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE EXPENSES
19. AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FOR HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (HEAP) – DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
20. AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATION OF FEDERAL TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES FUNDS FOR NON-RESIDENTIAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAM – DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
21. AUTHORIZING TRANSFER OF FUNDS FOR SENIOR ACCOUNT CLERK – DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
22. ADOPTION OF CHENANGO COUNTY INDIGENT BURIAL/CREMATION POLICY AND AUTHORIZING AGREEMENTS RELATED THERETO – DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

### **NON-PREFERRED AGENDA**

23. PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER “COOPERATIVE EXTENSION AND 4-H MONTH” IN CHENANGO COUNTY
24. AUTHORIZING THE EMERGENCY REPLACEMENT OF MEDIUM VOLTAGE SWITCH AT CHENANGO COUNTY LANDFILL – DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS – WASTE MANAGEMENT