

ECFSA
November 3, 2008
Finance Committee

Chairman Goodell: “This is a meeting of the finance committee of the ECFSA. We are here to decide upon what the committee will recommend to the Board as a result of our analysis and staff’s analysis of the Erie County Budget and four year plan. There will be no minutes because they are not finished but we will catch them at the next meeting. We received the budget from the County on October 15th. We had a meeting of the finance committee on October 21, 2008 which generated a number of questions that were sent to the County. Those questions were received at the end of the day on October 24th. Since then there has been analysis, conversations with the County, outsiders and the State in order to bring forth the recommendation that this committee will vote on shortly. There are sales tax, property tax, revenue items, fees and the issues involving the medical center which have been widely publicized and the County Comptroller has commented on and we agree with him on that issue. The result is that we believe that the four year plan and the budget are defective in the terms of the law. I will ask Mr. Kruly if you have any comments that you would like to add?”

Director Kruly: “Just that we have a wide range of issues that we looked at. The hospital is the foremost and troubling because of the dollar amount involved and the fact that it impacts the 2008, 2009 budget and the four year plan. There are some concerns about some personnel related expenses; some revenues based on some assumptions that are out there, questions about things like sales tax given the economy and the Canadian dollar. Many of things I am talking about we discussed on October 21st and parallel many of the things that Comptroller Polancarz has reported on in his report. I think the basic conclusion at this point is that we have a problem with both the budget and the four year plan. Of course the Legislature has not acted on it yet and we will go through this one more time in December after they have acted on that. That will be more of the final judgment. So this a preliminary to that finality but these are some of the issues that are of serious concern to us.”

Exec. Director Vetter: “Mr. Chairman just to concur with Mr. Kruly, there are significant issues with the budget and financial plan. There are some assumptions that are not doable in the analysis that was done cooperatively between Board members and staff. It does appear that are significant dollars that are not receivable or significant

dollars that might need to be spent that are not in the budget and it appears to be out of balance at this time.”

Chairman Goodell: “Mr. Kruly would you like to make a motion as to what this committee will recommend to the Board?”

Director Kruly: “I would like to recommend that we comment by indicate that at this stage both the budget and four year plan are out of balance and would recommend appropriate action to the full board.”

Chairman Goodell: ”I don’t have any additional comments. I second the motion and will recommend this action to the board at 2:00pm.”

Director Kruly moved to adjourn and Chairman Goodell seconded and the committee voted unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Stanley J. Keysa
Secretary

December , 2008