Minutes of the
Erie County Fiscal Stability Authority
Finance Committee Meeting
October 19, 2012

Present: Chairman Brian Lipke, Director James Sampson, Director Louis Thomas, Executive Director Kenneth Vetter

Chairman Lipke: "Welcome to the public guests and the many governmental officials who have chosen to join us today- thank you all for being here. Today we are here with one main topic on our agenda, that is to review the County's revised 2013-2016 financial plan. We have the County Executive, Mr. Keating the County's Budget Director, Dr. Callan, County's Deputy-Budget Director here to make a presentation to us."

"I would ask that, since we have no corporate secretary, that the chair of the committee (that is me) moves the minutes that are before us from our last meeting as our first order of business before we move into the presentation."

Director Sampson moves to approve the minutes, Director Thomas seconds and the committee votes unanimously to approve the minutes of the previous finance committee meeting.

Chairman Lipke: "With that we will move right into the presentation by the County about their proposed budget."

County Executive Poloncarz: "Good morning Mr. Chairman and members of the board, Executive Director Vetter. It's my pleasure to be here today to introduce to you the first budget of my Administration; the 2013 proposed budget for Erie County. I'm going to do a brief introduction and then I'm going to turn it over to the Budget Director, Mr. Bob Keating, to talk in greater details about some of the issues associated with this budget. But, if I could go into a little detail right off the bat; this is sort of a perfect storm of costs the County has to address as well as the loss of revenues that were anticipated. In some ways it's the toughest budget Erie County's had to manage since the red/green fiscal crisis."

"As you know in 2009, 2010 & 2011 Erie County received over $105 million in stimulus money to help balance its budget which was used by the prior administration to balance the budgets and also create significant surpluses in those years. In 2012, no stimulus money. We are now projecting, as of the beginning of this week, a surplus for 2012 of $4.25 million. Mr. Keating can go into greater detail about that- if you have questions about that. So right now, even though we have had a very difficult year in 2012 we have been able to manage it and projected a small surplus for 2012."

"Which takes us to 2013 and what we are facing. Like I said, in some ways we are facing a perfect storm of increased expenses and reduced revenue. Going on the increased expense line; when I tasked my budget office to prepare the budget as if there were no changes at all from 2012 to 2013, I asked them what would be the shortfall. Under the initial work the initial shortfall would be a $33 million hole in the budget. $30 million of which was directly related to increased costs in mandated expenses we don't control."

"For example, with regards to the Medicaid line, even though we were starting to see some savings with the growth of Medicaid being reduced from 3% growth on an annual basis to what will be a 2% growth in 2013. We saw an $8 million increase in the cost of Medicaid. $4 million of it directly related to sort of a leap year type of thing that happens every 4 years in which Erie County gets hit with 53 medicaid payments in a year compared to 52. Mr. Vetter, I think you had to deal with that when you were Budget Director under Mr. Giambra."

"So, we got hit with an additional Medicaid payment in 2013. We are starting to see some savings in regards to the Medicaid cap taking effect. We will be seeing 2% growth in Medicaid next year but because of the 53rd payment that we have to make. We have no choice in that matter; we will pretty much lose the savings we were going to see. So, we will see some additional savings in 2014, 2015 & 2016 and those are actually listed in the four-year plan."

"With regards to other mandated costs that went up, we saw a $17 million increase in the area of fringe benefits directly related to health insurance and pensions. I think we have been hearing it for some time now from every municipality and not just from WNY but across all of NYS. In the dramatic rise in cost associated with the pension program that exists. We don't control that, the figures come from NYS, we have to pay the crude amount that we receive from NYS in a bill."

"Same thing with regards to our health care, the healthcare costs are based on the contracts the presently exist. We tried to negotiate a contract with CSEA, we had what we believed was a fair contract with

CSEA that would have resulted in some payment in regard to healthcare starting in2013 but that was rejected by the bargaining unit. So as result we are still working under the prior contracts, not only with CSEA but the other bargaining units that we are presently negotiating with. But until we actually have a change we have to calculate based upon the increased costs that are expected from the parties that we deal with regards to the Labor Management Healthcare Fund and what we see in many areas is a lack of contribution from the actually bargaining unit members."

"So, we saw in total a $17 million increase in fringe benefits, pension and healthcare. We also saw a $3 million increase directly attributable to new jobs and positions that are being mandated by the Commission of Corrections at the holding center and the jail to address the problems that exist there. We have a good working relationship with the Commission of Corrections. We have a good working relationship now with the Department of Justice. The Sheriff's Office has a very good relationship with our office and as well as the negotiations we have with those parties. But the mandates are clear; we have to add more positions there. However, I will note that because of the additional positions we are adding at the holding center, we do believe we will see a significant decline in overtime at the holding center, which has been a big problem over the years.   Regardless of that fact, we ended up with $30 million in mandated new expenses we don't control."

"And on top of that, we saw and we talked about this earlier in the year when we adjusted the four year plan that was presented by Mr. Collins, a reduction in the revenues associated with the property tax assessment levy. Last year Mr. Collins presented a four-year plan that proposed a 2% growth in the property tax levy. That was a conservative estimate based on numbers we had seen in the past. We did not object to that when I was in the Comptroller's Office, however, when we came in earlier in 2012 we realized there was going to be a reduction in that. So during the April plan that we presented we reduced that down to 1%. Well, now we have the hard factual numbers of what is actually going to be in the assessment rolls for all the towns, villages and cities and of course the county for 2013 and we do know now that not only isn't there a 1% assessment growth but there will be a loss of $422,000 on the assessed value of Erie County's property. The taxes we receive in 2013 compared to 2012. When you look at what Mr. Collins had originally proposed and what this board had approved last fall that is $5.5 million loss of revenue. Most of that is directly attributable to reassessment challenges that are being done by some of the largest manufactures, some of the largest big box retailers and some of the largest developers in Erie County. I tasked my County Attorney's office to play a role in these reassessment challenges where prior County Executives did not. We were at the mercy of whatever was negotiated by the town assessors, developers and parties challenging the assessments. That will not continue. I've challenged, or should I say charged the County Attorney to be involved with any reassessment challenge that could have a negative tax impact on Erie county of $25,000 or more. It's not the Mom & Pops of the world that are challenging the reassessments that are having the negative impact on county government. It's actually these large manufactures, big box retailers and developers cozying up to the assessors and getting reductions that don't impact the towns but generally do impact Erie county and we are seeing it in 2013 with the $5.5 million reduction in revenue."

"When we came through and looked at the budget we needed to do additionally more things. Just by addressing these problems and as Mr. Keating and others will be going forth and talking about into greater detail, there was a huge hole we had to deal with. The first thing that we looked at is, what can we do to reduce the size of government, reduce the cost associated with government. We took an above all approach…we are all in this together. As a result we cut in every department, all lines that could be cut. Such as, out of area travel, professional service contracts, you name it, if it could be cut, it was cut."

"One of the advantages of being County Comptroller is I realized over the years when I did my analysis of prior budget of the County Executives that there were times in which they were overinflating cost structure lines in this are sometimes to build up surpluses. Well, we realized we can't overinflate those lines, we need to cut them down to reality & that's what we did. So every department in county government saw a cut. Then we looked at it and said, what else can we do? Well, we also said there is a possibility of eliminating some positions in county government so we delete 63 positions in the 2013 budget as compared to the 2012 budget. Erie County government will be much smaller on January 1, 2013 than it is today and it will be significantly smaller than what it was on the last day of the Collins Administration with almost 200 jobs less than it was on December 31, 2011. So 63 positions are being cut in the budget, 10 are actually occupied, 53 are vacant. Some of those are vacant because we saw as this year was going along that there were going to be significant problems with the 2013 budget. We have not been bringing in people to all of these vacant positions under the understanding that we would not be able to use them in the future. Especially in the social services area, the majority of the vacant positions are in the social services area. With NYS taking over the Medicaid administration now, some of the positions we are deleting would have been deleted in 2013 or 2014 anyway as a result of NYS take over the Medicaid program, the administration of it though not the dollars and cents of it…I wish they would take over the dollar and cents of it."

"So, we're left with this choice now, after reducing the positions, reducing the departmental lines as much as we could what kind of shortfall do we have? At that point, we were still looking at about a $15 million shortfall. At that situation I said what can we do to with regards to reduce the cost to the taxpayers to ensure we are still providing the services we need to in general to the greater public without asking more from the public so we did look at fund balance. And we're including $5.4 million use of the fund balance- which was proposed in the earlier April four-year plan that was approved by the control board. Think about it this way; considering we are trending right now to a $4.25 million surplus for 2012 what in fact we are doing is reinvesting the surplus from 2012 into 2013 to try to reduce costs that may have to be passed onto to the people of this community. So the $4.25 million surplus that is going to basically roll into the $5.4 million use of fund balance for 2013 we're still going to be right around an 8% usage of fund balance. I should say our fund balance equaling about 8% I think its 7.8% total of our fund balance, general operating fund amount and we have a charter requirement of 5% fund balance. The rating agencies truthfully prefer around 7-8% and right now we are in that category and after usage of the fund balance we will still be in that category.   After that usage we were still left with an $8 million hole and as a result to close that $8 million gap I propose a 3.4% tax increase for next year. It's $0.18 from $5.03 to $5.21 per $1,000. The average home in Erie County is approximately $100,000 in value which means the average tax increase for people $18.00. That $18.00 comes out to $1.50 per month or as I have here…6 quarters. You could probably pull that out from your couch cushions.   Are we pleased we would have to ask people to have to pay more? No, were not really thrilled about it. But otherwise, if we didn't do this we would have cut the library instead of giving them $300,000 more in and including it in their tax levy. We probably would have had to reduce their tax levy to the Collins cut level of $18 million in

2010. We would have had to have of course cut the arts and cultural community, which I was very pleased yesterday held a press conference announcing their full support for this budget, with people from all walks of life including Jim Allen from the Amherst IDA saying it's important to fund arts and cultural institutions because they are economic driver for this community. We would have had to have eliminated the rodent control program which, since reinstating it in March has received 2,800 requests for assistance from all across Erie County. We would have had to cut into the Sheriff's road patrol program which certainly would have been a public safety risk for people in this community including those in the rural areas. We would have had to cut the highways funds, instead of adding $700,000 more for the highway funds with regards to the pay-as-you-go road fund to work on truthfully what are deteriorating roads, especially in the rural areas in the Southtowns we would have had to cut that line."

"In government we have a choice, we have a choice regarding providing services or cutting ourselves into non-existence. I wasn't going to cut ourselves into non-existence. In the end it comes down to two basic questions when you're governing, what services do you want, when you go out in the community they want every service possible but the second question is a tough one, what are you willing to pay for it. In the end, we are asking the people in the community and with this budget and four-year plan we are presenting to you, this is a fair and responsible budget that addresses the needs of the community for $0.18 per $1,000, $18.00 per year, $1.50 per month , we ensuring the services the public is demanding are provided in a difficult environment when of course 90% of our budget is required for mandated services we do not control. It is a good budget, it's a fair budget, in the end the four-year plan is a fair and responsible four-year plan too. I'm hopeful you will accept it, it's a good budget for the people of this community. And I'd be glad to hand it over to Mr. Keating to answer any specific questions you may have or while I'm up here answer any questions you may have for myself."

Chairman Lipke: "Thank you, any questions from any of the finance committee members?"

Director Sampson: "Not at this point."

County Executive Poloncarz: "Ok, then I will turn it over to Mr. Keating to give you a little bit more detailed analysis."

Bob Keating: "Thanks Mark. I've always been a numbers guy, not a public speaker so this should be fun. Mark really covered most of the issues. The main things that came with this budget, first of all we had the ECMC issue. That was looming, we have a tentative deal. The deal has been signed by both us and the hospital and going for approval at the Legislature. It will keep 2013 & 2014 costs at $16.2 million, that's a tremendous help – that was a big budget breaker initially. Retirement growth is 11%- that is very difficult to handle. 8% growth in health insurance. We had COC mandates, we had to hire 35 new people for jail management this year. The assessment is also a big, big issue this year. The plan that was approved in 2011 the property tax revenue tax for county and library for 2013 was projected at $247 million with assessment growth at 2% in '12 and 3% in '13. Our levy is actually less than that because unfortunately we have less assessment growth. We are hoping in '13 that we can get our assessments back up again, the challenges are the one part but the other part is properties are being under-assessed. That's unfair to the taxpayers who have properties fairly assessed. So we are working hard this year and in '13 to get that addressed for the future. The extra Medicaid payment was a big deal. That's an extra $4 million that just due to the quirk of the calendar we have to pay this year. One thing I'm really proud about our budget this year is we really did not rely on one-shots there are for example, when you pay the retirement bill there is an option to amortize the bill. There is a one time savings but it's a long term cost with high interest rates. It's not a good decision but yet it would have solved a budget problem this year but would have made it worse in future years. So, the structure of the '13 budget is solid. The only one-shot really used was closing out capital projects and that's not even a one-shot that benefit is spread out for 5, maybe 7 years so we have some benefits this year but it will be spread out in the four-year plan. I'm happy to take any questions at this point on the '13 budget or four-year plan."

Chairman Lipke: "Thank you. Any questions from any members of the finance committee?"

Director Sampson: "Not at this point."

Director Thomas: "Not at this point."

Director Lipke: "We had submitted a list of 22 questions which we thank you for your response that we received this morning. We haven't of course had time to go through all of that. We will be doing that between now and when we have a full board meeting at which we will review the budget and present it to the board for their consideration. I have just one comment that I would like to make… actually two. First, I want to thank the County Executive for personally being here today to explain his budget and for bringing his team here to also to provide background and clarity on the key issues that are driving this budget. I also have to say I believe there was a very sincere effort made by the County Executive and each member of his team in putting this budget together and trying to maintain a budget without having to raise taxes. I understand many of the issues that are driving the increase in expenses each year as a person in the business community we face those issues each and every day just like county government would face those issues, all kinds of cost increases coming at us from all kinds of directions, each and every year. What I would ask though, this is a general request and it's made on behalf of the taxpayers of Erie County, you've come very close to balancing the budget without a tax increase and that's admirable. But in this day and age, when we look around the world, around this county, and every state in the union, probably every county and every city, everybody is facing a fact that our citizens in general and this is a nation- wide point right now are over taxed , and additional tax increases are simply not a good thing. And I think it's incumbent upon all governments to come up with ways to arrive at balanced budgets without increasing tax revenues. Without further burdening all of the tax payers of this country, each individual state within the country, every county within the country, every town and villages within the country. Taxpayers are simply overburdened and in NYS as we all know, this is one of the highest taxed states in the country when you add together all the various taxes that taxpayers in NYS have to pay. When I look at the total budget of approximately $1.4 billion for the county I've heard different ranges of what the unmandated portion of what that was. I think 10% is the lowest that I've heard, different times I've heard up to 15-20%. Even working with that number, if its 10% that would be $140 million of non-mandated spending included in the budget each year. Dr. Callan, your shaking you head no. (unable to hear esponse) Corrected, $102 million. If out of $102 million, if I understand it correctly, the 3.4% property tax increase would generate approximately $6 million in revenue. So, to offset that it would mean out of $102 million only 6% of spending would have to be cut to arrive at a balanced budget without having to tax the taxpayers. On behalf of the taxpayers I would ask you to go back, I know you've already done a very thorough job to get to where you are today. I would ask you to go back and see if there aren't more things that could be done to close that very narrow gap and make that property tax rate increase not necessary."

Director Thomas: "I thought we were going to have some discussion on this. I know we haven't had a chance to study it. But, are we going to make recommendations on how the county should fix their budget before we actually sit down and discuss it? I don't necessarily agree with everything you said, I think our charge as a committee is to look at the budget and determine whether or not its balanced. I think after I go through this I will have some questions to ask that might answer that question for me. I don't know that there is another alternative we can make recommendations as a committee but are we sending them back to come back with another budget? Is that what we are doing right now?"

Director Lipke: "That's not what we are doing Lou. We don't have the authority to do that. I'm simply asking them to consider going back and taking one last look at the budget to make sure there are no ways left to eliminate that $6 million gap."

Director Thomas: "Well if there is another way of assuming it, we might assume that they have already looked at everything they need to look at. Now it's our job to look at it and see if they did and to make recommendations. I'm sorry, that's just the way I see what our charge is. We haven't discussed it as a committee and like you said Mr. Chairman we haven't had a chance to study this we have some idea of what this is saying because of the documents we have already gotten. I'd like to know how some of these things have happened and whether or not they can be fixed."

Director Lipke: "This isn't precluding any of that Lou. Consider it a personal request then and not of the board."

Director Thomas: "Ok. I appreciate it."

Director Lipke: "Any other questions?"

Director Thomas: "Yeah, I do have a question. Something we all know and maybe I know a little more about I'm wondering why the numbers went up the way they did on fringe benefits. Workers compensation, state mandated pensions and medical insurance what were the reasons for the increases in all of those areas?"

Bob Keating: "Well the medical insurance is the market. We have a consultant we work with that gets us the best rates possible. We're doing better than other counties, our rates are much, much better. He projected an 8% growth for next year."

Director Thomas: "So, this is a projection? Do we have any actual figures on what the increases were? As the County Executive said, we are dealing with less people. I can see where that isn't really going to help with pension but workers compensation and hospital medical insurance. I mean, what did we actually experience over the last year? Do we know that or are we just going by projections."

Bob Keating: "Its projection, we are actually going roughly 7-8% this year too. The retiree costs are going up each year regardless of staff level we still have a huge retiree costs. We are still paying for retiree costs for people who retired from ECMC before 2004, we're still paying for that. The comp costs we had a benefit and a levy, we had a one-time third party reimbursement, a larger credit than normal. Typically it's a flat number and we expect that flat number to continue in 2013-2014. The pension, we get the bill from the state, we have no say, they establish the rate. They say the payment date and we have to pay it."

Director Thomas: "What about the hospital medical costs? Are those costs going up because of what the providers are doing or are there more illness with less people?"

Bob Keating: "It's more the cost of the illnesses. Again, its negotiated with Blue Cross. There are caps involved so if there are a few people with catastrophic illnesses thre is a cap that the county will not have to pay above that cap so that's very helpful."

Director Thomas: **"**And also understand the majority of the workers haven't done anything with their existing hospital medical. CSEA group, for example is 6 years without an agreement, so their hospital medical benefits are the same as they were 6 years ago. AFSME did a settlement and they did some adjustments. Just out of curiosity, were the numbers with AFSME for those circumstances less because of what was negotiated? Has anyone looked at that?"

Bob Keating: "They are very small part of the puzzle, I'm sure they would be less if they had…"

Director Thomas: "If everyone was a part of it would it be less?"

Bob Keating: "If everyone was a part of it, it would be less yes. Most people in the county are on the medium plan, the CORE plan, if you were on the Value plan, the county would save a lot of money. But, that's something we are considering as part of future union contracts. That can be encouraged to take the Value plan it would save the county money and perhaps there is a way the employees could see some value too."

Director Thomas: "The other thing is overtime that seems to go up every year. I understand most of that is from the Sheriff's. There are four areas that are the main areas?"

Bob Keating: "We have taken some great steps this year. There is really three main areas, jail management in Sheriff's, correctional health and DPW. DPW is making great strides this year. They have totally revamped their process and overtime is way down there. Correctional health, we have a new person in charge there and he is doing a great job with the overtime reduction. With the new staff added in jail management with the COC request and Department of Justice were expecting with more staff there the overtime should go down. If overtime is managed due to additional staff there it should go down and we're asking the Sheriff to manage the overtime best he can."

Director Thomas: "We've got all the projections from what I understand from what the county executive said, the projections on the things you're doing in the budget are projecting forward to make those numbers better. Each step and I would be interested in looking at that closer to find out."

Bob Keating: "Whatever you need we can get for you."

Executive Director Vetter: "I had a brief opportunity this morning to look though the information provided by the County and what I've seen in terms of positions and medical insurance and other fringe benefits. Looking at a chart that's in the packet for the correctional facility for jail management, 101 positions have been added. There have been a number of cuts in administrative departments that offset that somewhat but the net additions with those cuts and netting out the county actually in 2013 has added 56 positions. Part of that is accounting for the additions in health insurance because there are more people and the rates..."

Director Thomas: "Are those the mandated position?"

Executive Director Vetter: " My assumptions, talking to Mr. Keating, I know you haven't had an opportunity to look at the charts in there, the Executive has done a good job among the divisions to look at reducing because if you look at the departments there are more departments that received reductions in full-time personnel than had increases but the overwhelming impact that contributes to that net 56 addition positions within corrections health and jail managements itself there are 101 additional full- time positions and with conversations with the county and state people are necessary to maintain safe and healthy conditions at the holding center and corrections facility. That factors into it to. We have been looking at the budget monitoring report throughout the year, at particularly health insurance benefits, and found that health insurance costs even for this year have been running higher than anticipated and I think in our last report we had indicated that the health insurance percentage should be a bit higher based upon recent trends and in this plan the county has adjusted for that. I hope that may be helpful Director Thomas."

Director Thomas: "Yes, it was. I want to take a closer look at some of the other areas too to know what it's going to look at a year from now or two years from now. That's what we've done with the other ones and what I think we have to do with this one."

Bob Keating: "Just to address Brian's comments… we take a tax increase; we don't take it lightly at all. We take it very seriously and it was the last resort. And the alternatives were bad decisions like the retirement amortization is a bad decision. Short term it's great- you get more money now but you're paying a lot more for it in the future. There is no benefit. Even use of additional fund balance, we examined that too but its short sited too. We need a healthy fund balance and $5.4 (million) we felt was the most we should take this year. Unfortunately, we are left with a tax increase."

Director Lipke: "Please don't mischaracterize my request. I wasn't saying you did that lightly in any way shape or form."

Bob Keating: "Not at all, I'm a taxpayer too."

Director Lipke: "I first started out applauding your efforts for putting together the budget that you did, with the many challenges the County Executive noted and I'm very familiar with and completely accept. I was just making a simply request on the basis of the taxpayers to see if there was anything that can be done to push off the 3.8% real estate tax increase. Only because tax payers are heavily burdened already. That was my simple request."

"Any other questions or comments?"

"Thank you very much Mr. County Executive, Budget Director, Assistant Budget Director."

Director Sampson: "I guess I would have a couple questions. I don't know if this would be for Dr Callan or Mr. Keating? You do project an increase in tax assessment in out years. How comfortable are you that this would happen? That we're not going to have another year of zero assessment or a reduction of the assessment?"

Bob Keating: "We had some real big hits this year. The Huntley assessment dropped $194 million. Related to the Huntley decision, there were other ones too."

Director Sampson: "What did that Huntley decision cost in revenue for the county?"

Bob Keating: "It cost us in 2012 $1.4 million."

Director Sampson: "That one assessment?"

Bob Keating: "That one reassessment. The issue is that it adjusted the back years and going forward we have a PILOT instead of getting a tax payment were getting a PILOT of roughly $800,000 versus tax payment of roughly $2.2 million. So, every year we have to deal with that going forward. That's $1.4 million off our bottom line every year and there are other challenges as well. We are now going to fight assessment challenges, starting in 2012 we are going to work with assessors to properly assess properties that ones that are under-assessed are no longer under-assessed and we feel comfortable that 1% for 2014 is reasonable."

Director Sampson: "Thank you. The second question deals with the ECMC agreement. In the previous meetings we've had here was the budget for $16 million but other payments looming out there and you didn't know what they were going to be. The agreement seems to suggest you are going to flatten them out. Does that reduce the liability or does that just reduce the cash."

Bob Keating: "It's a flattening mechanism. That's all it is."

Director Sampson: "But the liability is still there?"

Bob Keating: "We pay the bill to the state and ECMC will give us credits to offset the costs of about $16.2 million."

Director Sampson: "So you're comfortable going forward with the $16 million or whatever it may be."

Bob Keating: "The costs are definitely going down. There are quite a few factors there. The Affordable Care Act will help in the future. The claiming requirements in the DHS program, Disproportionate share there are some loopholes that have been tightened. The feds are reviewing the claims there not going to give the hospital, for example, they can claim long term costs, they can't claim that any longer. The hospital will be opening the new nursing home in February, that's much more streamlined, costs are much less there. We are expecting in 2015 & 2016 costs would go way down and the hospital agrees with that too. So, we consider our biggest needs in '13 & '14. Without this deal our costs would be $30 million each year. Now with the deal we are looking at $16.2 million in '13, '14 & '15."

Director Sampson: "One last question, there was a reference in a newspaper article that you were projecting sales tax revenue was going to increase by 3.8% but your plan is 3%."

Bob Keating: "Its 3% in '13 but then 2.75% in the out years. So, its proving very conservative there, throughout this year were running 3%+. We have nothing to make us think 3% is not a reasonable number."

Director Sampson: "You're not projecting 3.8% like the paper referenced?"

Bob Keating: "No, its 3.15% this year with '12 growth with 3% growth in '13."

Chairman Lipke: "One last meeting detail, I'd like to ask Dr Callan and Budget Director Keating- we have a full board meeting of the ECFSA on Friday October 26th at 9am and we will be discussing the budget at that meeting and would appreciate it one or both of you would be available for that meeting. Or if the County Executive would like to come and provide the full board the very eloquent overview of the budget that he did that would be greatly appreciated as well."

Director Sampson moves to adjourn, Director Thomas seconds and the committee votes unanimously to Adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

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James Sampson
Chairman

February 11, 2013