

October 3, 2019

FINANCE & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
REPORT NO. 12

ALL MEMBERS PRESENT.

CHAIR BASKIN PRESENT AS EX-OFFICIO MEMBER.

1. RESOLVED, the follow items are hereby received and filed:

a. COMM. 18E-40 (2019)  
**COUNTY CLERK:** "City of Buffalo In Rem Tax Foreclosure"  
(Chair's Ruling)

b. COMM. 19D-2 (2019)  
**DIRECTOR OF BUDGET & MANAGEMENT:** "Budget Monitoring Report for Period  
Ending 07/2019"  
(Chair's Ruling)

2. INTRO.19-4 (2019)  
**LORIGO, MILLS, RATH, DIXON, BASKIN, BRUSO,  
CHIMERA, HARDWICK, JOHNSON, LOUGHRAN & MEYERS AS AMENDED**  
WHEREAS, Enhanced STAR is a New York State supplemental property tax relief for senior citizens aged 65 and older with qualifying incomes. The program lowers the property owner's responsibility for their district's school tax each year; and

WHEREAS, 629,000 New York State residents receive the Enhanced STAR benefit with thousands of senior citizens in Erie County alone. These people often rely on the annual savings from the STAR program to help lower their cost of living here in New York; and

WHEREAS, as of 2019 NYS has changed the way STAR rebates are awarded, making it more difficult for seniors to apply for, and qualify for, the state tax rebate with added steps and new dates for application; and

WHEREAS, recent changes include requiring additional steps to provide income verification for new recipients of the Enhanced STAR program; forcing senior citizens who already qualify for the Partial Tax Exemption for Real Property of Senior Citizens also apply for the Enhanced STAR program, something that in past years was done automatically; and those who receive the Partial Tax Exemption will need to reapply for that program every year they receive Enhanced STAR benefits; and

WHEREAS, it is a finding of this body that the changes in the Enhanced STAR program have made an already confusing program more complex, which we do not support.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that this Honorable Body hereby urges New York State's elected officials to simplify the Enhanced STAR program for the benefit of senior citizens in New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this Resolution be sent to Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, the Western New York delegation to the New York State Legislature, and any other party deemed necessary and proper.  
(6-0)

3. COMM. 19E-8 (2019)  
**COMPTROLLER AS AMENDED**  
WHEREAS, the County has utilized the services of a Financial Advisor since 2005; and

WHEREAS, the services of a Financial Advisor has proved to save the County far more than it costs; and

WHEREAS, the current contract for Financial Advisory services expired this year; and

WHEREAS, the Comptroller's Office issued a request for proposals (RFP) on August 23, 2019 for a Financial Advisor contract for a three-year period and an option of an additional two years; and

WHEREAS, the Comptroller's Office Received three responses to the RFP and had them evaluated by a committee; and

WHEREAS, the RFP Committee selected Hilltop Securities to perform the service for a contract period of three years with the option to extend the contract for an additional two years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the County Executive is hereby authorized to enter into contract with Hilltop Securities for a three-year period, with the option to extend the contract for an additional two years, to provide Financial Advisory services beginning in 2019 at a cost of \$35,000 New Money Bond Sales; \$40,000 Refunding Bond Sales; and \$20,000 Note Sales plus; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution are to be forwarded to the County Executive, County Comptroller, County Attorney, and Director of Budget and Management.  
(5-0) Chair Baskin not present for vote.

**JOHN BRUSO**  
**CHAIR**