

NEWS:



Edward A. Diana
Orange County Executive

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COUNTY EXECUTIVE DIANA PRESENTS 2012 EXECUTIVE BUDGET TO THE ORANGE COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Mandates by state and federal governments dominate County budget

(Goshen, NY) – Orange County Executive Edward A. Diana formally presented his proposed 2012 Executive Recommended Budget to the Orange County Legislature on Monday, October 3, at the County’s Emergency Services Center auditorium in Goshen, for their review, pursuant to the Orange County Charter.

The gross budget that Diana proposed for 2012 is \$711 million as compared to \$716 million a decrease of .69%, of which, \$343,412,714 will be raised locally through sales tax and property tax. The property tax rate will be \$3.32 per thousand.

Diana restated his continued concern over state and federal mandates that in 2012 will consume 79% of the County’s budget, therefore accounting for \$508 million out of a \$711 million budget.

“That means that I only have \$0.21 cents from each dollar we earn to run a County with 380,000 residents,” said the County Executive.

The 2012 proposed budget included \$24 million in employee benefit costs, as New York State pension costs have increased 22%, and hospitalization costs have increased \$5 million, from \$42 million to \$47 million.

Due to the rising costs of employee benefits and pensions, coupled with New York State’s Medicaid rate cuts, and changes to the long term managed care process the County Executive proposed to defund Valley View Center for Rehabilitation and Nursing Care beginning July 1, 2012, as he said that there was no way to close the \$20 million gap needed of County dollars to further subsidize the facility.

“It would be my goal to sell the facility prior to that date in order to preserve the care the residents are receiving there, and to retain jobs for our County workers and community members,” said Diana.

The County Legislature has until November 15 to submit changes in the budget to the County Executive, and the County Executive has until December 1 to veto changes in the budget and to give notice to the County Legislature, while December 15 is the last day for the County Legislature to adopt the 2012 Orange County Budget.

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