

Mr. Hull moved, seconded by Mrs. Hudak to remove the following FURTHER RESOLVED paragraph from the resolution:

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the authorization granted by this resolution is contingent on the execution and delivery of an agreement between the Industrial Development Agency and a private company within ninety (90) days of the adoption of this resolution, and be it

Mr. Howard moved, seconded by Mr. Mather, to **call the question** on the amendment. The call of the question **carried**. Ayes-18, Nays-0, Absent-1 (Coffey)

The amendment **lost**.

Ayes-3 (Hudak, Hull & Pasquale), Nays-15, Absent-1 (Coffey)

Mr. Howard moved, seconded by Mr. Pasquale to **call the question** on the resolution. The call of the question **carried**. Ayes-18, Nays-0, Absent-1 (Coffey)

The resolution **carried**. Ayes-18, Nays-0, Absent-1 (Coffey)

Mr. Shafer moved, seconded by Mr. Lindsey to adjourn at 5:55 P.M. **Carried**. Ayes-18, Nays-0, Absent-1 (Coffey)

**BROOME COUNTY LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION
FEBRUARY 29, 1996**

The Legislature convened at 4:00 P.M. with a call to order by the Chair, Arthur J. Shafer. The Clerk, Richard R. Blythe, read the fire exit

announcement and called the Attendance Roll: Present-17 Absent-2 (Mr. Kavulich & Mr. Lindsey)

The Chair, Mr. Shafer led the members of the Legislature in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, followed by a moment of silent meditation.

The following petitions, communications, notices and reports were presented to the County Legislature:

WRITTEN OR ORAL PRESENTATIONS OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

1996 STATE OF THE COUNTY ADDRESS (Reproduced later in the minutes)

Letters from the County Executive, Timothy M. Grippen:

1. Declaration of Public Emergency (Highway Department -repair transmission of Trojan Loader).
2. Nominating T. Sullivan to membership on Airport Advisory Board.
3. Nominating 29 persons to membership on Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board.
4. Nominating 19 persons to membership on STOP-DWI Advisory Board.

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, NOTICES & REPORTS:

PETITIONS: NONE

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. 1996 Adopted Broome County Budget and Adopted Capital

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Improvements Program (1996-2001).

2.Minutes from:

- a. Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board
- b. Community Services Board
- c. Willow Point Nursing Facility Board
- d. EMC Solid Waste Committee & Nanticoke Landfill Task Force

3. Environmental Management Council (Indoor Air Quality Assessment, Phase I).

NOTICES: NONE

REPORTS:

1. Monthly Report from Broome Community College (Budget Transfers, January, 1996).

Mr. O'Day moved, seconded by Mr. Pasquale to receive and file the above referenced report and to authorize and direct the Clerk to index said report in the 1996 JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS and to publish pertinent portions of said reports as may be directed by the Chair.

Carried, by voice vote.

The Chair invited the County Executive to present his 'State of the County Message.'

1996 STATE OF THE COUNTY ADDRESS BY BROOME COUNTY EXECUTIVE TIMOTHY M. GRIPPEN

MR. CHAIRMAN, HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE

IT IS WITH PLEASURE THAT I REPORT TO YOU TODAY THE STATE OF THE COUNTY. I WILL PROVIDE YOU WITH MY ANALYSIS OF WHERE WE ARE TODAY, WHERE WE WILL BE AT THE END OF THIS YEAR, WHAT PROBLEMS WE ARE LIKELY TO ENCOUNTER, AND WHAT WE NEED TO DO ABOUT THEM.

I PUT THIS ANALYSIS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE LOCAL, STATE AND NATIONAL ECONOMY AND THE LIKELY CONSEQUENCES OR OUTCOMES OF STATE AND FEDERAL POLICY -- ESPECIALLY BUDGET POLICY -- AND WHAT THE AFFECT WILL BE ON US IN BROOME COUNTY.

HISTORICALLY, WE HAVE HAD LOWER UNEMPLOYMENT RATES THAN BOTH THE STATE AND NATION. ONLY ONCE IN THE PAST TEN YEARS HAS OUR UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BEEN HIGHER THAN THE NATION'S -- THAT OCCURRED IN 1994 -- AND IT HAS NEVER BEEN HIGHER THAN THE STATE'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE. THIS WAS DUE, IN LARGE PART, TO THE PRESENCE HERE OF IBM AND SEVERAL INDUSTRIES WITH LARGE DEFENSE CONTRACTS.

AT THE END OF 1995 OUR UNEMPLOYMENT RATE STOOD AT 4.5 PERCENT -- ONCE AGAIN BELOW THAT OF THE STATE AND NATIONAL AVERAGES. HOWEVER, IT STILL REFLECTS A STRUCTURAL COMPONENT WHICH REPRESENTS THE LOSS OF MANUFACTURING JOBS DUE IN LARGE PART TO THE REDUCTION IN NATIONAL DEFENSE SPENDING. EMPLOYMENT IN THE AREA PEAKED IN 1989 WHEN 99,200 PEOPLE WERE EMPLOYED. THEN, AS A RESULT OF CUTS IN DEFENSE SPENDING, AND A NATIONAL RECESSION, THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE EMPLOYED FELL TO A

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LOW OF 91,500 BY THE END OF 1991. SINCE THEN, WE HAVE BEEN ADDING JOBS IN SPITE OF CORPORATE DOWNSIZING, AND BY THE END OF 1995 OVER 95,000 PEOPLE WERE EMPLOYED. THE FACT THAT OUR ECONOMY IS GROWING AT ALL IS GOOD NEWS OF COURSE, BUT I BELIEVE THERE ARE MORE SIGNS THAT THE LOCAL ECONOMY WILL GROW EVEN MORE IN THE FUTURE.

ACCORDING TO MANPOWER TEMPORARY SERVICES, INC. MOST RECENT SURVEY OF LOCAL EMPLOYERS, ABOUT 33 PERCENT OF BINGHAMTON AREA EMPLOYERS PLAN TO ADD WORKERS THIS QUARTER AND A RECENT REPORT FROM THE NYS LABOR DEPARTMENT ALSO SHOWS SIGNS OF AN IMPROVING ECONOMY -- ESPECIALLY IN THE GROWTH OF MANUFACTURING JOBS, WHICH ARE THE BACKBONE OF OUR LOCAL ECONOMY. THAT IS NOT TO SAY THAT THERE ARE NOT SOME DARK CLOUDS OUT THERE, BUT THE ECONOMY HAS BEEN GROWING AND DIVERSIFYING AND THAT GIVES ME GOOD REASON TO BE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT OUR FUTURE.

AS WE ADDED JOBS, OUR UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DECLINED, AND OUR SOCIAL SERVICES CASELOADS BEGAN TO DECLINE AS WELL. OUR AID TO FAMILIES WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN, HOME RELIEF AND FOSTER CARE PROGRAMS ALL HAD DECLINING ENROLLMENTS DURING 1995 AND, BY THE END OF THE YEAR, OVER 800 FEWER HOUSEHOLDS WERE RECEIVING CASH ASSISTANCE, A 14 PERCENT REDUCTION OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

THESE REDUCTIONS IN CASELOADS ARE NOT ENTIRELY A REFLECTION OF AN IMPROVING ECONOMY. RATHER, THEY REFLECT THE RE-ENGINEERED MISSION OF

OUR DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES WHICH EMPHASIZES WORK, NOT DEPENDENCY. COMBINED WITH AN IMPROVING ECONOMY, THIS NEW MISSION AT DSS REDUCED PUBLIC ASSISTANCE ROLLS LAST YEAR.

THE DEPARTMENT'S NEW WELFARE TO WORK EFFORTS SAW A RECORD ELEVEN HUNDRED AND THIRTY-NINE CLIENTS ENTER EMPLOYMENT DURING 1995. THE NEW SELF SUFFICIENCY CENTER ASSISTED ANOTHER 100 PEOPLE TO BECOME COMPLETELY SELF-SUFFICIENT. THE SUCCESS OF OUR SELF SUFFICIENCY CENTER DID NOT GO UNNOTICED -- WE RECEIVED NATIONAL RECOGNITION FROM THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES IN 1995 FOR THIS CENTER.

OUR DSS EMPLOYMENT UNIT HAS EXCEEDED ALL THE GOALS SET BY NEW YORK STATE FOR HOME RELIEF JOBS IN 1995. AT THE END OF THIS YEAR, OVER 400 HOME RELIEF CLIENTS WERE WORKING IN 130 GOVERNMENT AND NOT-FOR-PROFIT COMMUNITY AGENCIES. THIS PROGRAM PROVIDES THESE CLIENTS WITH THE WORK EXPERIENCE, TRAINING, AND SKILLS THEY WILL NEED TO COMPETE IN THE LOCAL JOB MARKET AND THESE EFFORTS ARE LARGELY RESPONSIBLE FOR A 22 PERCENT DROP IN THE HOME RELIEF CASELOAD LAST YEAR.

IN 1995, OUR SOUTHERN TIER REGIONAL CAREER CENTER, LOCATED IN DOWNTOWN BINGHAMTON, SERVED ALMOST 400 DISLOCATED WORKERS WHO HAVE LOST THEIR JOBS DUE TO DEFENSE CUTS, PLANT CLOSINGS AND GLOBAL COMPETITION. THREE HUNDRED AND FIFTY THREE PEOPLE FOUND JOBS AFTER RECEIVING SERVICES FROM

JTPA STAFF AT THE CAREER CENTER AT AN AVERAGE WAGE OF \$12.90 PER HOUR FOR AN AVERAGE ANNUAL SALARY OF \$26,902.

BEYOND FINDING JOBS FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE CLIENTS AND DISLOCATED WORKERS, WE ALSO HELPED TO RETAIN EXISTING JOBS AND TO CREATE NEW EMPLOYMENT.

OUR JTPA STAFF IS WORKING RIGHT NOW WITH LOCAL AND STATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES TO HELP KEEP ONE OF OUR AREA'S BEST EMPLOYERS FROM LEAVING BROOME FOR PENNSYLVANIA. I HOPE TO GIVE YOU MORE DETAILS ON THAT SUBJECT IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE.

THE BROOME COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE, OF WHICH WE ARE ONE OF THE ORIGINAL FOUNDING MEMBERS, MADE NEARLY ONE MILLION DOLLARS IN LOANS AND COMMITMENTS TO SMALL BUSINESSES LAST YEAR. THIS WILL CREATE 250 JOBS IN SMALL BUSINESSES IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE.

THE CREATION OF THREE NEW ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ZONES IN BINGHAMTON, JOHNSON CITY AND ENDICOTT IS ALSO PAYING OFF FOR THIS COUNTY. THE ALLIANCE STAFF HAVE ALREADY CERTIFIED 42 NEW BUSINESSES WHO WANT TO MOVE INTO THE THREE DESIGNATED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ZONES. THE TOTAL CAPITAL INVESTMENT WILL APPROACH 20 MILLION AND THE NUMBER OF NEW JOBS CREATED WILL EXCEED 700 OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS.

THE ALLIANCE IS ALSO VERY CLOSE TO RECEIVING

FINAL APPROVAL FROM THE U.S. AIR FORCE TO ACQUIRE PLANT NUMBER 59 WHICH WILL RETAIN LOCKHEED MARTIN AND ITS WORKERS IN WESTOVER. RIGHT NOW, THE ALLIANCE STAFF IS WORKING WITH US ON A GRANT WHICH WILL BE USED TO CONVERT THE LANDER BUILDING IN DOWNTOWN BINGHAMTON INTO AN URBAN HI-TECH INCUBATOR WHICH WILL BRING EVEN MORE NEW JOBS TO OUR AREA. WE WILL BE SENDING YOU LEGISLATION IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE TO ACCEPT THIS GRANT.

IN ADDITION, THE BROOME COUNTY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY APPROVED OVER \$12 MILLION IN NEW INVESTMENTS LAST YEAR WHICH CREATED AN ESTIMATED 250 NEW JOBS.

OUR DIVISION OF SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN CONVINCING PRMS, INC., A PRIVATE PLASTICS RECYCLING COMPANY, TO RELOCATE HERE. WE WORKED WITH MAYOR BUCCI AND HIS STAFF TO FIND A SUITABLE LOCATION IN BINGHAMTON FOR THIS NEW COMPANY AND THESE EFFORTS WILL ADD ANOTHER 100 PRIVATE SECTOR JOBS IN 1996. MOST RECENTLY, THIS LEGISLATURE APPROVED A RESOLUTION FOR SLI, INC. WHICH COULD BRING 400 NEW HI-TECH JOBS TO THE AIRPORT.

IF WE ARE SUCCESSFUL WITH SLI -- AND I HAVE EVERY REASON TO BELIEVE WE WILL BE -- AND WE ADD THE BLUE CROSS AND BLUE SHIELD JOBS WHICH WE HELPED SAVE FROM MOVING TO BUFFALO AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR JOBS AT AMERTEC AND ALLEGHENY COMMUTER AIRLINES (BOTH OF WHICH WE HELPED RELOCATE FROM PENNSYLVANIA) THEN THE TOTAL NEW JOBS CREATED IN THE AIRPORT ROAD CORRIDOR ALONE

WILL APPROACH 1000.

MOVING PUBLIC ASSISTANCE CLIENTS FROM WELFARE TO WORK, ASSISTING DISLOCATED WORKERS FIND NEW JOBS, FACILITATING SMALL BUSINESS EXPANSION AND ATTRACTING NEW JOBS TO OUR AREA HAS IMPROVED OUR LOCAL ECONOMY AND WILL PLAY A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN THAT SUCCESS.

I PLEDGE TO CONTINUE THESE EFFORTS TO DIVERSIFY THE LOCAL ECONOMY AND PROVIDE JOBS FOR OUR PEOPLE IN 1996.

WE ARE NEARING COMPLETION ON OUR MASTER PLAN FOR AIRPORT IMPROVEMENTS AND WE HAVE MADE PROVISIONS FOR OVER \$2 MILLION TO BE INVESTED IN EITHER THE RECONSTRUCTION OR CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW TERMINAL FACILITY AT THE AIRPORT. MOST IMPORTANTLY, THIS WILL BE DONE WITHOUT TAX DOLLARS. AT THE SAME TIME, WE WILL PURSUE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES TO ENTICE FUTURE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT TO THE BINGHAMTON REGIONAL AIRPORT.

PARTNERSHIP 2000 HAS MOUNTED A CAMPAIGN TO DESIGNATE OUR AIRPORT AS A REGIONAL CUSTOMS PORT OF ENTRY. THIS DESIGNATION WILL HELP US ATTRACT NEW INTERNATIONAL CUSTOMERS AND SPUR NEW ECONOMIC ACTIVITY AT THE AIRPORT. WE ARE WORKING VERY CLOSELY WITH CONGRESSMEN HINCHEY AND WALSH, AND SENATORS D'AMATO AND MOYNIHAN IN WASHINGTON, TO ACHIEVE THIS IMPORTANT DESIGNATION.

BOTH STATE SENATOR TOM LIBOUS AND I ARE WORKING TO SECURE THE IBM/GLENDALE DEAL FOR NEW

YORK STATE. THOSE JOBS ARE TOO IMPORTANT TO US AND THE ECONOMY OF WESTERN BROOME TO LET THAT DEAL FALL THROUGH FOR PURELY PARTISAN POLITICAL REASONS. WE HAVE MADE THE CASE FOR THESE JOBS IN ALBANY AND I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT I WILL DO EVERYTHING WITHIN MY POWER TO SECURE THESE JOBS.

WE ALL REALIZE THAT WE ARE IN A FIGHT FOR OUR VERY ECONOMIC SURVIVAL HERE -- AND I AM GOING TO TAKE THAT FIGHT TO ALBANY, OR WASHINGTON, OR WHEREVER IT TAKES, TO DIVERSIFY OUR ECONOMY AND SECURE JOBS FOR OUR PEOPLE. WE KNOW THAT IT WILL TAKE ALL OF US -- DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS -- BUSINESS AND LABOR -- ALL WORKING TOGETHER TO WIN THIS FIGHT. WE WILL WIN IT, I ASSURE YOU OF THAT.

OUR ECONOMY HAS CHANGED AND WE HAVE TO CHANGE WITH IT. WE KNOW WE FACE AN UPHILL BATTLE AND IN MANY WAYS THE DECK IS STACKED AGAINST US. NEW YORK HAS THE SECOND HIGHEST STATE AND LOCAL TAXES IN THE NATION, THE HIGHEST UTILITY RATES, THE HIGHEST WORKERS COMPENSATION RATES, BURDENSOME OVER-REGULATIONS ON BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY, AND THE MOST COSTLY PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IN THE NATION.

THAT IS A HEAVY BURDEN TO CARRY, BUT WE ARE NOT WITHOUT ASSETS -- WE SERVE AS A REGIONAL EDUCATION CENTER AND WE PROVIDE REGIONAL HEALTH CARE AND TRANSPORTATION SERVICES. WE ARE THE CENTER FOR CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN THIS REGION. OUR COST OF LIVING IS LOWER THAN THE STATE AND NATIONAL AVERAGE. OUR HOUSING COSTS

ARE LOWER. OUR WAGES ARE COMPETITIVE AND OUR WORKERS ARE AMONG THE MOST PRODUCTIVE IN THE NATION. THIS AREA PROVIDED THE NATION WITH THE TECHNOLOGICAL KNOW-HOW TO PUT A MAN ON THE MOON AND TO WIN THE COLD WAR. SURELY, TOGETHER WE CAN FIGURE OUT A WAY TO OVERCOME OUR CURRENT ECONOMIC PROBLEMS.

WE CANNOT TALK ABOUT DIVERSIFYING THE LOCAL ECONOMY AND PROVIDING MORE JOBS FOR OUR PEOPLE WITHOUT DISCUSSING THE ROLE THAT COUNTY GOVERNMENT HAS TO PLAY IN RE-ENGINEERING GOVERNMENT ITSELF.

IN A NUMBER OF AREAS, WE HAVE ALREADY ACCOMPLISHED A GREAT DEAL, MOST NOTEWORTHY AMONG THEM:

* THE PRESIDENT, THE CONGRESS AND, MOST OF THE GOVERNORS WANT TO REFORM WELFARE. TO A LARGE EXTENT, WE ALREADY HAVE. LOOK AT OUR JOBS PROGRAMS WHICH I HAVE ALREADY MENTIONED, OUR NATIONALLY ACCLAIMED MANAGED CARE PROGRAM FOR MEDICAID, OUR FRAUD DETECTION SYSTEMS AND OUR EFFORTS TO FORCE DEAD BEAT DADS TO ACCEPT FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR CHILDREN -- ALL ARE EFFORTS TO "REFORM WELFARE AS WE KNOW IT." WE ARE DOING WELFARE REFORM RIGHT HERE IN BROOME COUNTY -- WE ARE NOT JUST TALKING ABOUT IT -- WE ARE DOING IT AND IT WORKS.

* THE GOVERNOR WANTS TO REFORM THE WAY THE SUNY SYSTEM IS MANAGED AND ONCE AGAIN WE HAVE

ALREADY DONE IT -- YEARS AGO WE WISELY TURNED OVER THE DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT OF BROOME COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND THE COLLEGE ADMINISTRATORS. WE DID IT AND IT WORKS.

THESE ACHIEVEMENTS NOTWITHSTANDING, THERE IS STILL MUCH THAT NEEDS TO BE DONE TO "REFORM GOVERNMENT AS WE KNOW IT."

FEDERAL LAWMAKERS NEED TO BALANCE THE FEDERAL BUDGET AND ARTICULATE CLEAR FEDERAL POLICY ON THEIR PRIORITIES AND HOW THEIR RESOURCES ARE GOING TO BE DISTRIBUTED TO MEET THOSE PRIORITIES. SOONER OR LATER THEY WILL LEARN THAT YOU CANNOT ELIMINATE THE FEDERAL DEFICIT BY CUTTING PROGRAMS FOR THE POOR -- THEY SIMPLY DO NOT GET ENOUGH OF THE FEDERAL PIE TO CLOSE THE FEDERAL DEFICIT. IF YOU ADD UP ALL OF THE FEDERAL PROGRAMS FOR THE POOR, YOU GET ABOUT \$194 BILLION, BUT EVEN THAT FIGURE OBSCURES THE REALITY THAT THE POOR RECEIVE LESS THAN ONE-THIRD -- \$59 BILLION -- IN ACTUAL CASH BENEFITS. THE REST -- MORE THAN 70 PERCENT -- GOES TO, YOU GUESSED IT, THE MIDDLE CLASS. OVER \$135 BILLION GOES TO LANDLORDS, GROCERS, PHARMACIES, HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS. SERIOUS DEFICIT REDUCTION WILL ULTIMATELY INVOLVE ELIMINATING CORPORATE WELFARE AND LIMITING MIDDLE CLASS ENTITLEMENTS. THE ELECTIONS THIS NOVEMBER WILL GO A LONG WAY IN TELLING US WHO THE PUBLIC WILL TRUST TO DO THAT.

STATE LAWMAKERS MUST REPOSITION THIS STATE

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TO BE ECONOMICALLY VIABLE IN THE 21ST CENTURY. PASSING A STATE INCOME TAX BREAK IS A GOOD FIRST STEP, BUT IT'S NOT ENOUGH. THE STATE MUST TACKLE THE COMBINED STATE AND LOCAL TAX BURDEN WHICH RANKS US NUMBER TWO IN THE NATION. THE WAY TO DO THIS IS THROUGH STATE MANDATE RELIEF FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, ESPECIALLY COUNTY GOVERNMENTS. AND, THE STATE MUST USE ITS ENORMOUS AID TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO RATIONALIZE THE SYSTEMS WE CURRENTLY USE TO DELIVER SERVICES. THERE HAS TO BE AN OPTIMAL SIZE FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS AND THE STATE HAS TO USE ITS VAST ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, NOT TO ENCOURAGE, BUT TO REQUIRE THE RESTRUCTURING OF WHAT CAN ONLY BE DESCRIBED AS AN ARCHAIC DELIVERY SYSTEM.

COUNTY LAWMAKERS MUST CONTINUE TO LOOK AT WAYS TO STREAMLINE AND CONSOLIDATE SERVICES: CONSOLIDATING EMERGENCY 911 DISPATCHING, LIBRARIES, ASSESSMENTS AND CENTRAL BOOKING ARE ALL GOOD PROJECTS, BUT WE HAVE TO DO MORE. WE HAVE TO SET AN EXAMPLE. YOU HAVE BEFORE YOU A NUMBER OF PROPOSALS TO PRIVATIZE, REGIONALIZE AND REORGANIZE SEVERAL COUNTY FUNCTIONS AND TODAY I AM ASKING FOR YOUR COOPERATION IN GIVING THESE PROPOSALS THE ATTENTION THEY DESERVE. WE HAVE TO BE WILLING TO CHANGE THE WAY WE DO BUSINESS -- THE OLD WAYS JUST DO NOT WORK ANYMORE.

THE PROBLEM IS, WE CANNOT WAIT FOR WASHINGTON TO SET ITS PRIORITIES OR FOR THE STATE TO GET ITS ACT TOGETHER. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DECIDED THEY WOULD NOT EVEN DO A

BUDGET THIS YEAR, AND NOW THE STATE GOVERNMENT -- CLAIMING TOO MANY UNCERTAINTIES WITH THE FEDERAL BUDGET -- IS CONSIDERING NOT DOING A BUDGET EITHER. THAT IS TOTALLY IRRESPONSIBLE AND UNACCEPTABLE.

EVERY YEAR WE DO A BUDGET WITHOUT KNOWING WHAT TO EXPECT FROM ALBANY -- WE KNOW IT USUALLY IS NOT GOING TO BE GOOD, WHATEVER IT IS, BUT WE STILL PUT A RESPONSIBLE BALANCED BUDGET TOGETHER -- AND WE DO IT ON TIME.

A RECENT ARTICLE IN A RESPECTED JOURNAL PREDICTED THAT THE COMBINED FEDERAL MEDICARE AND MEDICAID CUTS CONTAINED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET WOULD HAVE FOUR TIMES THE NEGATIVE IMPACT ON OUR LOCAL ECONOMY THAN THE PREVIOUS CUTS IN NATIONAL DEFENSE SPENDING DID. THAT IS A FRIGHTENING PREDICTION, BUT APPARENTLY WE ARE NOT GOING TO FIND OUT WHAT THE REAL IMPACT OF THE FEDERAL BUDGET IS -- AT LEAST NOT THIS YEAR.

THE GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED BUDGET WILL HURT LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND COUNTIES. THE COMMISSION ON STATE AND LOCAL RELATIONS ESTIMATES THE IMPACT ON BROOME COUNTY AT 5.4 MILLION, BUT AGAIN WE ARE APPARENTLY NOT GOING TO KNOW THE REAL IMPACT OF THE STATE BUDGET UNTIL THE FEDERAL BUDGET IS IN PLACE.

JUST TRY TO IMAGINE THE AMOUNT OF ABUSE WE WOULD TAKE, AND RIGHTLY SO, IF NEXT SEPTEMBER I COME BEFORE YOU TO SAY, "I AM NOT SUBMITTING A BUDGET THIS YEAR -- THERE IS JUST TOO MUCH UNCERTAINTY AND TOO MANY UNPOPULAR DECISIONS TO

MAKE." CAN YOU IMAGINE THE PUBLIC AND THE MEDIA'S RESPONSE TO THAT?

NO, WE HAVE TO LIVE BY THE DECISIONS OF OUR STATE AND FEDERAL PARTNERS AND WE DO NOT HAVE THE LUXURY OF BEING SO FAR REMOVED FROM THE PEOPLE WE SERVE THAT OUR ACTIONS SEEM INCONSEQUENTIAL. WE ARE HELD TO A MUCH HIGHER STANDARD. WE HAVE TO LEAD. WE HAVE TO MAKE THE TOUGH DECISIONS. AND, MAKE NO MISTAKE ABOUT IT, WE HAVE MADE THE TOUGH DECISIONS.

THIS YEAR, WE BALANCED OUR BUDGET, REDUCED SPENDING, CUT PROPERTY TAXES AND PASSED THE BUDGET ON TIME. COMPARE THAT TO OUR FEDERAL AND STATE REPRESENTATIVES IN WASHINGTON AND ALBANY.

THE REASON BLOCK GRANTS ARE SO POPULAR IN WASHINGTON AND ALBANY IS THAT SOME OTHER LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT -- PRIMARILY US -- MUST MAKE THE TOUGH DECISIONS ABOUT HOW SCARCE RESOURCES WILL BE UTILIZED. TO THAT I WOULD SIMPLY SAY TO BOTH OUR FEDERAL AND STATE LAWMAKERS: "IF YOU WON'T LEAD, GIVE US THE BLOCKGRANTS, BUT GET OUT OF OUR WAY."

WHEN I WAS WRITING THIS REPORT, I DID NOT WANT THE ACTIONS -- OR MORE PRECISELY, THE INACTIONS OF FEDERAL AND STATE LAWMAKERS TO CLOUD MY REAL MESSAGE WHICH IS ONE OF GENERAL OPTIMISM REGARDING OUR FUTURE. SO LET ME CONCLUDE THIS REPORT WITH THE FOLLOWING CHALLENGE.

WHEN WE WERE RECENTLY AT THE NYSAC CONFERENCE, MANY OF YOU ASKED ME WHY CARL

MCCALL WOULD NOT JUST JUDGE THE IBM GLENDALE PROPOSAL ON ITS MERITS -- AND I THOUGHT, WHAT A NOVEL APPROACH TO GOVERNMENT! HOW NICE IT WOULD BE IF EVERY PROPOSAL THAT CROSSED OUR DESK WAS JUDGED SIMPLY ON ITS MERITS -- NOT ON THE POLITICS -- NOT ON WHAT SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS WANT OR DON'T WANT -- BUT ON ITS MERITS. JUST THINK HOW MANY GOOD THINGS WE COULD DO FOR THIS COMMUNITY IF THE ONLY STANDARD WE USED TO JUDGE A PROPOSAL WAS WHETHER OR NOT IT WAS GOOD FOR THE COMMUNITY.

JUST GO BACK AND LOOK AT SOME OF THE ITEMS WE'VE DISCUSSED TODAY -- THE NEW EMERGENCY 911 SYSTEM, PLAN C AT THE COLLEGE, WELFARE REFORMS, AND EVEN OUR LOBBYING EFFORTS -- ALL WERE THE RESULT OF BI-PARTISANSHIP. LOOK AT THE SUCCESSES WE HAVE HAD IN RETAINING AND ATTRACTING JOBS TO THIS AREA WHEN WE HAVE HAD BI-PARTISAN COOPERATION. IN FACT, ALL OF OUR SUCCESSES HAVE BEEN THE RESULT OF BI-PARTISAN EFFORTS AND ALL OF THESE EFFORTS HAVE IMPROVED OUR COMMUNITY IMMEASURABLY.

TODAY, THE MOST IMPORTANT CHALLENGE FACING THIS COMMUNITY IS SECURING GOOD JOBS FOR OUR PEOPLE AND IT IS GOING TO TAKE EVERYONE OF US, WORKING TOGETHER TO IMPROVE OUR ECONOMY. A BIG PART OF THAT EFFORT INVOLVES RIGHTSIZING GOVERNMENT AT ALL LEVELS. SO WHEN IT COMES TO IMPROVING OUR LOCAL ECONOMY, LET US CONTINUE THIS SPIRIT OF BI-PARTISAN COOPERATION, LEAVE OUR POLITICS AT THE FRONT DOOR OF THE COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING AND GET ON WITH THE JOB WE WERE ALL ELECTED TO DO. IF WE DO THAT, WE WILL BE ABLE TO HOLD OUR HEADS HIGH AT THE END OF THIS YEAR AND SAY WE HAVE DONE EVERYTHING WE COULD TO MAKE BROOME CO. THE BEST

PLACE TO LIVE, WORK AND RAISE A FAMILY. THANK YOU.

Mr. Whalen moved, seconded by Mr. Pasquale to **adjourn** at 4:24 P.M. **Carried** by voice vote.