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ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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County of Erie

DENNIS T. GORSKI
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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February 1, 1999

The Honorable
Erie County Legislature
25 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, New York 14202

Re: Division of Budget, Management & Finance-Transfer of Funds

Honorable Members:

Enclosed please find a proposed resolution and accompanying memorandum to transfer funds in the budget of the Division of Budget, Management & Finance. Funding for this request is unanticipated 1998 State Aid.

Please refer this matter to the appropriate committee of your Honorable Body. Representatives of the Division of Budget, Management & Finance will be available to answer any questions.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dennis T. Gorski", is written over the typed name and title.

Dennis T. Gorski
County Executive

REF: BMGACCT.ADJ

3E-12

ACCOMPANYING MEMORANDUM
Division of Budget, Management & Finance-Transfer of Funds

I. **SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

It is recommended that the Legislature approve the use of \$50,000 from the Division of Budget, Management & Finance's Deferred Revenue-State Aid Tax Bills Account. The sum of \$32,500 shall be transferred to Account 933 – Technical Equipment and \$17,500 Account 801-Overtime, in the Division of Budget, Management & Finance.

II. **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS OF PROPOSAL**

None: this is a transfer within existing available balances.

III. **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

The additional funds are needed to supplement the Division of Budget, Management & Finance's overtime and equipment accounts to facilitate final programming changes in the tax billing and tax mapping systems.

IV. **BACKGROUND OF PROPOSAL**

The State Taxpayer Bill of Rights required municipalities to include certain information on their tax bills to make the tax bill more informative. This additional information resulted in increased programming work to bring the County's tax bills in compliance with the new legislation. The State, recognizing the additional effort needed to implement the changes, provided additional State Aid to implement the changes. The changes were made by the County to meet all requirements in the 1998-99 School Tax Bills and the 1999 County/Town Tax Bills. The additional time and effort needed to implement these changes was achieved by a redirection of priorities by the programming and other staff in the Division. This staff has now returned to its original project, digital tax mapping. In order to achieve the goal of a full-digitized tax map system in place by June 1999, it is necessary to supplement originally 1999 budgeted overtime and equipment accounts. The additional equipment is also necessary to support the County Clerk's efforts in computerizing their operation. The Division of Budget, Management & Finance will be printing map covers for the County Clerk and will have access to the County Clerk's system in order to facilitate exchange of electronic information between the two offices.

V. **CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION**

The Division of Budget, Management & Finance will not be able to implement final programming changes needed to complete the digital tax mapping system. The County is in the final stages of a two plus year program to digitize paper tax maps. The State has endorsed the program as the only means of bringing the County in compliance with State regulations.

VI. **STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL**

Schedule overtime to finalize tax maps and tax billing systems and order additional equipment needed to implement tax mapping and meet the County Clerk printing needs.

Proposed Resolution

RE: Division of Budget, Management & Finance-Transfer of Funds

WHEREAS, the Division of Budget, Management and Finance must maintain tax maps and tax billing systems, and

WHEREAS, the State implemented a Taxpayer Bill of Rights system for tax bills, and

WHEREAS, implementing the changes in 1998 required a redirection of staff from the tax mapping project to the tax billing project, and

WHEREAS, the County has completed the tax billing adjustments in the 1998-99 School Tax bills and the 199 County/Town tax bills, and

WHEREAS, additional overtime and equipment are needed to meet the June, 1999 deadline for digitized tax maps and unanticipated State Aid was received in 1998, and deferred by the County to 1999, to assist Counties in implementing the tax billing changes needed by the new law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Director of Budget & Management is hereby authorized to increase the Division of Budget, Management & Finance's, Account 933-Technical Equipment by \$32,500, and Account 801-Overtime by \$17,500, the source of these increases will be the appropriation of Deferred Revenue-1998 State Aid in the amount of \$50,000, and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Director of Budget & Management, the Director of Information & Support Services and the Director of Purchasing.