



financially and fairly. He stated that he is also a tax attorney by trade. He stated that there was a 28% debt reduction over 8 years which amounts to approximately 3.5% annually. He stated that having the general fund reduced by 11.8% over a one (1) year period, yet our debt reduction overall has decreased 3.5% annually, he stated that he did not care what credit bureaus give ratings, he did not believe this was good economics. He stated that a 2% property tax increase from 2018, 2019 and 2020 is much greater if you compare it to the 2011 budget. He stated that it is not a 2% increase over that budget, but a 2% increase over an increased budget year after year. He stated that the numbers do not work long term. He stated that we have to make them work or else we will be in trouble whether we get good ratings from credit bureaus or not.

Legislator Sullivan thanked the individuals for coming to the meeting tonight and for their feedback; we do appreciate it. He also thanked the County Executive and her staff for working so hard to provide us with what looks like a very sound and fiscally responsible budget. He stated that we looked forward to going through the budget in great detail, looking at all line items and seeing if we think there is any need for change.

Legislator Montgomery thanked everyone for attending. She thanked the County Executive for the Budget Presentation. She stated that she hoped that we come to a point where we can bring you closer and come to the table with our public and have a budget where we can provide for you as well. She stated that her hope for this budget, which she will advocate for, is the priority of our County employees and the need for a contract, but also the need for climate action and the need to combat the opioid crisis. She stated that she has not seen yet in the budget where we have increased our funding to address these issues. She was hoping we could reconsider putting some funding towards dealing with both these issues.

There being no further comments on the proposed budget; at 7:47 P.M., Chairman Castellano made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Legislators Nacerino and Sullivan. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Diane Schonfeld, Clerk.