

Martin, AnnMarie

From: Chelsea Roth
Sent: Tuesday, December 9, 2025 2:57 PM
To: Martin, AnnMarie
Subject: Comments for the public hearing on the budget tonight

ITS ADVISES CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Annmarie,

Although I am unable to attend the public hearing on the proposed budget tonight, I wish to have my written comments included in the minutes:

Ladies and Gentleman of the Legislature,

As a resident of Sullivan County I wish to comment on the overall budget increase, specifically the 9-16% increase proposed in order to buy back "The Care Center". While I am in favor of the county having The Care Center back within its ownership and perview, an increase of this amount is outrageous! We are living in very stressful economic times with enormous pressure on families, young people and seniors trying to get by with rising healthcare, inflation, a housing shortage and overall economic uncertainty... This tax increase is simply something we cannot afford.

One obvious way you can save money is to NOT give yourselves a raise. This is a VERY bad look for you all... it says that you are not sharing the burden with us. Your taxes will also be increased, but, lucky for you they will be off-set with the raise you granted yourselves... The rest of us are likely NOT going to be so lucky! Shame on you especially when raises are generally rewards for work well done- finding ways to finance and balance a budget without simply raising our taxes to do it. Get back to work and find a way to stay below the 2% tax cap (The Town of Mamakating was able to).

I have heard from a credible source that Infnitecare owes the county somewhere in the range of 8 million dollars, however, their contract does not specify how or when the money is to be paid back. Meanwhile the county (taxpayers) are fronting all costs and Infnitecare continues to profit from all kinds of subcontracts without any oversight whatsoever! This seems like a good place to start if it's not a solution in and of itself! Get our lawyers, state politicians, advocates- whoever you need to pressure this, for all intents and purposes, criminal enterprise for the money they owe.

As much as this situation draws my ire, I am most angered by the legislators who made the decision to privatize The Care Center in the first place. What an absolute waste of time and money- not to mention all the neglect suffered by our county's most vulnerable members at the center... all to be in the position to buy it back at an unfathomable cost each of us will feel each month.

Find a way to do better especially if you want a raise.

Chelsea Roth