

GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

February 3, 2020

Committee members present: Ed Bronson, Dick Harper, Carlie Chilson, Tim Cutler, Jim Multer, Bonnie Percy

Others present: Dan Banach, Leslie Church, Earl Gleason, Pat Killen, Doug Paddock, Connie Hayes, Rick Willson, Terry Button, Nonie Flynn, Bob Brechko, Rob Schwarting, Kerry Brennan, Los Hall, Tom Eskildsen.

Ed and Dick will sign the audit this month

Minutes of the January meeting were approved as presented.

Legislative Operations

Doug explained that numerous attempts through various agencies have been made to obtain information on individuals who have become U.S. Citizens in Yates County. Doug reached out to Allison Hunt, in Congressman Reeds office. Connie received a call from Tom Hyland of Senator Reeds office stating that due to the Privacy Act, Government agencies cannot disclose the information. Individuals would have had to sign a release. He suggested reaching out to immigration advocates to see if they can help but even those organization should not be disclosing the information. Doug suggested putting something on the website or reaching out to various organizations that help individuals become citizens. Background information would be needed on the individual/individuals and then have them come to a legislative meeting and lead the pledge.

Doug and others reported on the sessions that they attended at the NYSAC Legislative Conference. Doug stated he has a packet of resolutions that he will leave on the counter in the legislative office for review by legislators to see if they would like any of them to be brought forward. Doug stated that a packet will be sent out to the department heads for their review and possible adoption by the legislature.

Doug questioned if the legislature wished to have a meeting with Tom O'Mara and Phil Palmesano this year? The consensus of the Committee was to have a meeting. Doug will set this up.

Doug reported that most of the legislators were at the U.S.D.A announcement regarding the \$10 million dollar Broadband Grant. It was very successful.

Elections – Robert Brechko/Robert Schwarting

Rob reported there is some concern at the State Board of Elections that the Governor has not adequately funded the Counties for Early Voting and longer voting hours on primary elections. Rob went on to explain there was a bill introduced in the Senate at the request of Boards of Elections to correct a conflict in the revised election calendar and the mailing of required annual address check cards.

Rob updated the committee on events at the winter conference.

Rob reviewed the department goals.

Soil & Water –Colby Petersen

Colby could not attend the meeting today Tom Eskildsen reported in his absence.

Tom reported staff are continuing to conduct watershed inspections in the Towns of Barrington, Jerusalem, Milo, Torrey and the Villages of Dresden and Penn Yan. Staff are finishing up a

website for Keuka Watershed Improvement Cooperative. The website should be online March 1st.

Tom reported the Ag Value Assessments are underway. Staff have completed 134 so far in 2020. March 1st is the deadline for completing the worksheets.

Tom reported staff are working on completing a culver inventory and assessment for the Town of Jerusalem. This assessment will complete the entire town and all 112 miles of town roads.

Tom reported the 2020 Soil Health Workshop is planned for March 4th at the Finger Lakes Produce Auction. Topics will include runoff control practices for farmsteads, fields, and manure applications.

Tom reported Soil & Water has received a grant for implementation of projects in the Keuka Lake Watershed. The projects included 10 farms in Yates & Steuben Counties totaling over \$280,000. Work on the projects is slated to begin this fall hopefully and will run through 2022.

Tom reported a new grant will be applied for to assist several local vineyard farms to help manage soil erosion at a higher rate. A mower that will be able to mow vegetation underneath the trellis will be applied for. This will allow the farms to use less herbicide and significantly increase the volume of vegetation in the vineyard.

Cornell Cooperative Extension – Arlene Wilson

Arlene updated the Committee on activities in the following programs:

- Agriculture
- Horticulture
- Youth
- Nutrition
- Life Skills
- Natural Resources
- Community Development

Arlene reviewed upcoming events which are 4-H Spaghetti Dinner at the Elks Lodge on 2/12, 4H Public Presentation on 2/11, 18 and 22nd, Slow Moving Vehicles on 2/13, Soil Health Workshop on 3/4, Pesticide Safety – Spanish on 3/23, On Farm Mortality Composting on 3/27, Gardening Matters Day on 4/4, Sustainable Law Care on 4/18, Earth Day on 4/22, Arbor Day on 4/24.

Arlene explained that CCE will not be doing a recycling day this year for Earth Day but will be giving away trees.

IT – Tim Groth

Tim reported his monthly statistics which showed 196 help desk calls for the month of December.

Tim updated the committee on various projects which included, Microsoft Emergency Patching of Windows 10, Server 2012, 2016, & 2019, the Migration of Siemens Software off Windows 7 to Windows 2012 Server, the installations of conference room TV/Computers, the cut over to the new phone/fax circuit and the firewall upgrade.

Tim reviewed the following resolution that would be needed. The Committee approved.

- Resolution Authorizing the Chairman to Sign a Contract with layer 3 Technologies

County Clerk – Lois Hall

Lois reviewed her statistics which showed DMV fees for retention collected for December 2019 were 18,283.42 with \$30,006.36 sales tax collected. Internet fees collected year to date were \$6,485.98.

Lois explained that if individuals has come into the office or mailed their renewals into the local office it would have generated \$47,009.81 in revenue. Instead the county lost \$40,524.02 in revenue.

Lois reported the County Clerk transactions were 1923 and fees collected were \$331,191.47.

Lois explained the New York State Legislature passed a law amending Real Property Law §291 to require that the County Clerk mail a written notice to the owner of record of a conveyance recorded in the clerk's office. The New York State Association of County Clerks agree to recommend that a fee be charged of \$10.00 for the notice of each recording of a conveyance. Lois will be working with the County Attorney on how to proceed with this.

Lois reported the annual passport inspection was done on December 18th with no issues. The Passport agency was pleased with the office policies of maintaining records and following the procedures that are in place.

Lois updated the Committee on issues that were discussed at the January County Clerk's conference.

Personnel – Kerry Brennan

Kerry updated the Committee on the progress of the Administrative Guide. Kerry received revisions from John Corcoran on January 21st and the Acting County Administrator and Kerry spoke with John on January 31st regarding those revisions. Kerry still needs revisions from Legislators if there are any. Once she receives all the revisions she will work with the Administrative Guide Committee to incorporate the recommended changes. The document could potentially be brought to Committee in March or April for approval.

Kerry explained that Relph Benefit works with Align Rx to have them negotiate better pharmacy pricing with drug managers. Relph Benefit Advisors are requesting that the County sign a 3-way confidentiality Agreement between Align Rx, Relph Benefit Advisors and the County.

Kerry reviewed the following resolutions that would be needed. The Committee approved.

- Resolution to Amend 2020 Hourly Salary Schedule (Senior Account Clerk Typist)
- Resolution Authorizing the Chairman to Sing a Three-Way Agreement (Align Rx)

Acting County Administrator – Nonie Flynn

Nonie reviewed the Project Status Report as it relates to Government Operations

Bonnie moved to enter executive session to discuss the employment history of an individual or individuals, collective negotiations, consultation with the County Attorney with committee members, legislators, the County Attorney and the Acting County Administrator present.

Seconded by Tim.

VOTE: Unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 3:41 p.m.