

GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

March 1, 2021

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

Others present: Terry Button, Rick Willson, Connie Hayes, Nonie Flynn, Pat Killen, Earl Gleason, Dan Banach, Leslie Church, Colby Peterson, Doug Paddock, Rob Schwarting, Kerry Brennan, Arlene Willson, Tim Groth, Lois Hall, Bill Holgate and Tim Groth by Zoom.

Ed and Jim sign the audit this month.

Minutes of the February meeting were approved as presented.

Legislative Operations

Jim reported he has been against this section of the Rules of Procedure. He checked with other counties and can find no other county that has this statement. Jim is most opposed to the second to the last paragraph and the last statement. Jim suggests that the second to the last paragraph be eliminated or reworded so that legislators would be able to talk to each other.

- *EXECUTIVE SESSION: A motion for Executive Session of the entire Legislature must state the reason for the Executive Session and must pass by a majority vote of the full strength of the Legislature. Attendance at such Executive Session shall be limited to any member of the Legislature, as well as any other persons authorized by a majority of Legislature members present.*
- *A motion for Executive Session of a Committee must state the reason for the Executive Session and must pass by a majority vote of the full strength of the Committee. Attendance at such Executive Session shall be limited to any member of the Committee, as well as any other persons authorized by a majority of the Committee members present. Inclusion of members of the Legislature that are not members of the Committee is encouraged.*
- *Any discussion conducted during any Executive Session shall not be revealed to **persons not in attendance** unless agreed upon during the Session by a majority of Legislature members present. If information is to be revealed to **persons not in attendance**, it is preferred that said information be clearly defined and that a spokesperson be appointed during the Session.*
- *Persons who violate this rule shall be subject to censure by the Legislature in a manner to be determined.*

Doug gave a brief explanation of how this wording came about.

After discussion by the Committee, Ed will work on some different wording and have the County Attorney review it and bring it back to Committee next month.

Doug reported the Adult-Use Cannabis has not been passed as of yet but based on information received during a NYSAC webinar, proposed legislation includes an opt-out for counties. Local municipalities may adopt local laws pertaining to the time, place and manner of adult-use dispensaries through zoning requirements similar to liquor stores (500 ft. from schools). Once

the legislation is solidified, Scott stands ready to give the County an assessment of its options and required actions.

Doug reported a meeting with Tom O'Mara and Phil Palmesano is set for Saturday, March 20 at 2:30 p.m. in the legislative chambers. Please send questions you would like to have addressed to Connie by March 15 so that they may be compiled and forwarded to Tom and Phil.

Elections – Robert Brechko/Robert Schwarting

Rob updated the Committee on State Legislative issues:

- a bill was passed that reschedules the petition passing period to March 2nd thru the 25th and reduces the number of signatures required on party designating petitions from 5% to 1.5% of registered voters in each of the 4 parties. Another bill for no excuse absentee balloting was passed and will go on the ballot as a proposal to amend the State Constitution.
- A bill has been introduced that requires the Boards of Elections to commence counting absentee ballots on the Sunday prior to Election Day at the close of early voting. This will require the BOE diverting part of its Election Day Election Inspectors to a lengthy period of absentee ballot inspection, opening, and casting. These ballots will have to be reported to the state, scrubbed against all other voting methods in all other counties and then if found to be valid, opened on the 10th day following the election.
- A bill was introduced that requires the counties to register without an excuse a new or transferred voter on Election Day and permit the voter to complete a ballot. It is not yet clear how fraud will be prevented or how the registration will be screened with the state.
- A new law has been passed that requires the BOE to accept electronic registrations from all state agencies without an original signature, and then to obtain confirming identification and a signature when the newly registered voter appears for the first time at a polling site. The state must create the governing regulations by January 2023.

Carlie expressed her concern regarding proposed bills and not having signatures and so on. Rob will put a resolution together for Monday.

Soil & Water –Colby Petersen

Colby reported staff are continuing to conduct watershed inspections in the towns and villages despite the frigid temperatures and snow covering. Colby anticipates completing 500 inspections this year.

Colby reported staff have completed 70 Ag. Value Assessment worksheets so far in 2021. Today is the deadline for completing the worksheets.

Colby reported the Culvert Inventory for the Town of Starkey is now done.

Colby reported the District Board approved the creation of a plaque recognizing individuals that have dedicated over 10 years of service to Yates County Soil and Water Conservation District throughout its 80 year history. Recognition of Services.

Colby updated the Committee on the Agricultural Environmental Management projects. Construction has continued through the months of January and February on projects in the Keuka Lake Watershed grant. The fourth and final Ecosystem Based Management grant project has been completed and the reimbursement request has been submitted to the State.

Colby reported the Governor announced funding for the Climate Resilient Farming Grant Program and reviewed the projects that will be undertaken under that grant.

Cornell Cooperative Extension – Arlene Wilson

Arlene reported the Finger Lakes Grape program is hosting its Business Enology in Viticulture Workshop which will be held March 3rd thru the 5th and will be online.

Arlene reported CCE is starting the second phase of internship with Cornell's Public Health Department.

Arlene reported Extension has put together recipe booklets for food giveaways focusing on pantry staples. Booklets have been given to various entities for distribution.

Arlene reported Extension Youth Programing is still working on active kits.

Arlene reported Extension is working with Workforce Development in offering Self-sufficient workshops online.

Arlene reported Extension is working on education around spotted lantern fly.

Arlene report is working with Soil & Water on a grant for underwater surveillance aquatic equipment.

Arlene reported for the coming Earth Day and Arbor Day CCE will be reaching out to municipalities for do another tree give away. Arlene reported through a grant garden kits will be available for low income families at the food distribution on the March 18th in Starkey.

Arlene reported CCE is planning on Yard and Garden Day on May8th at Abandon Brewery.

IT – Tim Groth

Tim reported there were 282 help desk calls for the month of January.

Tim update the Committee on the following projects:

- Upgrade/Refresh of the E911 Motorola Call Taking System
- FireEve Project
- E911 Backup Site at Sherman Tower
- VoIP Phone Enhancement
- NYS BOE Cybersecurity Proposed Regulations
- BOE Risk Remediation Project

Ed questioned if the current progress report could be given quarterly and if she could go back to the normal narrative report that she use to do.

County Clerk – Lois Hall

Lois reviewed her statistical report which showed DMV transactions of 1,137 with fees for retention collected for January 2021 of \$9,535.04 and \$36,574.24 in sales tax collected. CORPS internet fees collected year to date is zero. The County Clerk transactions were 2,247 and fees collected \$304,514.05.

Lois reported the Governor has extended the executive order until March 16, 2021 for DMV. Possibly after that there will be a determination on what actual powers he has concerning the DMV. Lois hopes to be able to open the office without appointments in the near future.

Lois updated the Committee on various DMV scams that are currently going on.

Lois reported the County Booklet is in process. Keuka Quick Print will be handling the printing this year.

Lois reported her annual report has been submitted.

Lois reported there was an issue with the vendor with numbering Transfer Tax records and mortgages. The issue has been addressed and corrected.

Clerk of the Legislature – Connie Hayes

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

- File the Annual Reports with the Clerk of the Legislature

Personnel - Kerry Brennan

Kerry reported she is currently providing training support to seven outside entities. Also, there have been updates to the Title VI Training. Those that have already done the training will need to go back and complete the newly assigned training.

Kerry reported the NYS mandated plan for Pandemic Continuity Operations Plan was drafted and provided to the unions for review as required. The plan is being provided to the Legislature for consideration and adoption.

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

- Adopt Pandemic Continuity Operations Plan
- Amend Resolution 499-20 (Adopt 2021 Non-Union Exempt Employee Salary Schedule)
- Authorize Chairman to Sign Plan Management Agreement and Business Associate Agreement With Benetech
- Appoint Director of Public Health

Carlie moved to go into executive session to discuss the employment history of a particular individual or individuals with Committee members, Legislators and the County Administrator present. Seconded by Bonnie.

VOTE: Unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 3:03 p.m.