

GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
MAY 4, 2020

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

Others present: Dan Banach, Leslie Church, Terry Button, Bill Holgate, Doug Paddock, Pat Killen, Nonie Flynn, Connie Hayes, Tim Groth, Arlene Wilson, Bob Brechko, Rob Schwarting, Kerry Brennan, Colby Peterson, Lois Hall,

Ed and Carlie will do the audit this month.

Minutes of the April meeting were approved as presented.

Chairman Paddock reported the County Office Building is closed until further notice. All offices except DMV and the Historian are open and meeting with people by appointment. The governor has indicated that reopening will be undertaken on a regional basis in phases, but has not indicated where local governments fit in.

The Chairman is coordinating with Steve Griffin to contribute Yates' views on reopening of businesses to Bob Duffy, who is the governor's representative for the Finger Lakes Region.

The Chairman reported that he and the County Administrator continue to participate in a number of teleconferences related to COVID-19.

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

- Resolution Ratifying Memoranda Of Understanding With Three Council 82 Local Unions.

Committee Chairman Ed Bronson reviewed a proposed local law to change the terms of the legislators to staggered 4 year terms.

Jim stated he had concerns with the way the law was written and could not support it. Jim explained there are no term limits. The staggered terms might have a negative impact. For instance if we have a bad year and there is a large tax increase. Everyone blames the legislators that they believe are responsible for the tax increase and the ones that happen to be up for reelection that particular year will take the brunt of that. The only people that Jim sees benefiting from this is the legislators themselves.

Carlie explained she does see much difference between 2 year and 4 year terms because you will still be doing the same work.

Tim stated that it would bring continuity to the board.

Doug stated that if the legislature wanted to include term limits he is sure it could be incorporated in the local law.

Elections – Robert Brechko/Robert Schwarting

Bob reported on the following State Legislative updates:

- The presidential primary has been canceled and candidate Yang has sued the NYSBOE to have the decision reversed.

- The County has been notified of a contest for the 7th Judicial District State Committee member in the Serve America Movement party (Yates has no registrations) that will happen on June 23rd. As a small party, the BOE can hold 9 days of early voting and a primary election over the counter at the BOE in the County Office Building

Bob explained the school elections have been postponed until June 9th, and the Village elections are postponed until September 15th.

Bob reviewed the Capital Project/Equipment requests. Bob explained the warranties for the current machines have been extended until 2022 so the purchase of new machines will be moved to 2023.

Soil & Water – Colby Petersen

Colby reported staff continue to conduct real property transfer and construction inspections along with new and replacement system evaluations and continue plan reviews as well.

Colby reported the staff have taken hydrology flow measurements on Wagner Glen and Cold Brook after the recent rainfall on 4/26. The peak flow as captured as well as a measurement 24 hours later. The only remaining data gap is to collect a few summer, low flow measurements. The data collected will be used in the calibration of the 9E SWAT (soil and water assessment tool) model.

Colby reported staff continue to assist highway departments with hydrology studies and storm water recommendations.

Colby reported staff continue to assist farmers with drainage projects. Grant projects are still underway and are being completed.

Cornell Cooperative Extension – Arlene Wilson

Arlene reviewed the program summary report of the various programs the CCE conducts which shows the number of people reached for each program.

Arlene reported staff have been busy updating the website and facebook pages. Also, the Best Practice Guide will be mailed out.

Arlene thanked Joe Reed, Buildings & Grounds and Terry Button for assisting with the NYS free hand sanitizer that is being distributed to farmers.

Information Technology – Tim Groth

Tim reported on the March help desk calls which showed 322 calls. The quarterly help desk report showed 788 calls for the first quarter of 2020.

Tim updated the Committee on the Firewall upgrade, KnowBe4 Cyber Security Training, Fujitsu/Corning on Board Ready Study for STN and the 5 County Coalition, USDA Re-Connect Grant kick-off meeting, Zoom Training and the LaserFiche Shared Services Grant.

Tim reviewed his Capital Improvement Plan.

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

- Authorize Chairman To Sign Internet Services Contract (Spectrum Business Class-Rochester, NY)

County Clerk – Lois Hall

Lois reported the following statistics.

- DMV fees for retention collected for March 2020, \$14,379.40 with \$21,829.76 sales tax collected. COPRS internet fees collected year to date is zero. County Clerk transactions 1480 and fees collected \$184,644.40.

Lois reported she received a memo from the DMV in response to a request submitted by NYS Automobile Dealers Association, Empire State Development issued guidance that essential services included automotive sales conducted remotely or electronically, with in-person vehicle return and delivery by appointment only. The DMV and County Clerks will need to process original vehicle registrations received from the automobile dealers while keeping the public facing offices closed and providing the appropriate precautions for employees.

Lois went on to explain the office is processing mail, local dealer work received and documents sent to them by the state DMV as they are not processing any dealer work at this time. The office is offering to assist people who are in need of a vehicle to be able to go to work or to dispose of a vehicle that needs to be taken off of insurance. They are not processing any boat, motorcycle registrations or any kind of licenses or permits. All customers are met on the steps, no one is allowed in the building. Appointments are necessary and all documentation must be supplied by the customer. All staff wear masks and adhere to the six feet social distancing.

Lois reported the state DMV is requiring some type of protective shield at the windows for when the department reopens to the public. Lois believes that the appointment structure will be on going as to limit the number of persons in the office at one time.

Lois reported the clerk's office is continuing to process land recordings on a daily basis. No court recordings are allowed except extreme cases and we have had only two at this time.

Doug reported that Joe and his staff are putting shields in place between staff and the public in DMV and then they will be doing the same thing in the County Clerk's office.

Clerk of the Legislature – Connie Hayes

Connie reviewed a memo regarding the renewal of the county insurance comparing the 2019 premiums to the 2020 which showed a \$4,924.00 or a 2.08% increase.

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

- Authorize Insurance Renewal
- Change Date of October Legislative Meeting
- Amend Resolution 153-2020 (Authorizing Chairman To Enter Into A Written Agreement With Dianne S. Lovejoy For The Administration Of Indigent Person Conflict Assignments)

Connie reported she will be on vacation the week of May 18th.

Personnel – Kerry Brennan

Kerry reported she had requested a Technical Assistance Review from the New York State Civil Service which was done in 2018. Kerry received the results of the review in February 2020. The review pointed out two main objectives which Kerry is working on correcting.

Kerry reported she continues to work with the County Attorney on updating the workers compensation local law. Once it is finalized, Kerry will bring it forward to the Committee.

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

- Adopt Yates County Administrative Guide

County Administrator – Nonie Flynn

Nonie thanked everyone that worked on the Administrative Guide.

Nonie reviewed the project status report as it relates to Government operations.

Public Comment

Taylor Fitch address the Committee regarding a letter that he is going to send to Letters to the Editor in the Chronicle Express. The letter is in regards to Gannett letting all their editors go from their newspapers. Taylor suggested that the Legislature might want to send a letter to Gannett expressing their concerns.

Tim stated that it was a very short sited decision on Gannett’s part.

Doug stated that he does not feel that the County can tell a business how to run their business. Doug suggested that individual legislators or members of the public should send letters to Gannett.

This meeting was recessed at 2:00 p.m.

The meeting was opened at 5:32 p.m. and Carlie moved to enter into executive session to discuss collective negotiations with all unions pursuant to Article 14 of the Civil Service Law and the employment history of a particular person or persons, with Committee members, other legislators, the County Administrator and the Information Technology Director present, seconded by Bonnie.

VOTE: Unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 6:44 p.m.