

GOVERNMENT OPERATION COMMITTEE
July 5, 2023

Committee members: Ed Bronson, Bonnie Percy (absent) , Rick Willson (absent), Dick Harper, Carlie Chilson, Mark Morris

Others present: Bill Holgate, Leslie Church, Pat Killen, Tim Cutler (9:02 a.m.), Doug Paddock (9:06 a.m.), Dan Banach (9:15 a.m.), Terry Button (9:55 a.m.), Nonie Flynn, Emilee Miller, Len Kataskas, Bob Brechko, Colby Petersen, Jen Clancey, Tim Groth, Kerry Brennan, Rob Schwarting, Lois Hall

Ed and Dick will do the audit this month.

Minutes of the June meeting were approved as presented.

Legislative Zoom Attendees: 0 Other Zoom Attendees: 0

Records Management: Lisa Harper

Lisa was not present, but the Committee reviewed her report and there were no questions.

Historian: Len Kataskas

Len provided an update on the various Bicentennial events & activities, highlighting: The Wagener Apple Tree Dedication Ceremony, Memorial Day Parade, Keuka Arts Festival, Village Parades, Cobblestone House Seminar, and Historic Markers.

Elections: Robert Brechko and Robert Schwarting

Bob & Rob reported that The NYS Legislature is adjourned and passed 14 bills affecting the BOE. To become Election Law, these bills must be sent to the Governor and signed.

Bob & Rob reported that Federal Security agencies have begun to predict a presidential election cycle in 2024 that is fraught with harassing FOIL requests, potential plans to disrupt the primaries and elections and serious partisan contention.

Bob & Rob reported that unresolved scheduling conflicts between the Presidential Primary, Early Voting, Easter, and state/federal petition submission is being addressed by the State BOE and the Legislature. The Online Voter Registration system (OVR) regulations have created security issues that require careful tracking and detailed work around for Election Day to handle voters with incomplete data. The Techs and Deputies have identified other issues with electronic registration files that need to be addressed and they will be using residential data from Real Property office to fix it. The BOE received notice that the Keuka Park FD pole site may be converted to an emergency medical facility (ambulance) and that voting may have to be consolidated in the Branchport FD facility. BOE continues to work out a solution.

Bob & Rob reported that they received notice of 2023 grant extensions: Cyber Sec -\$13,129; TIER-\$30,487; Absentee Postage-\$21,666 and they await the official notice of contracts.

Bob & Rob reviewed the June Objectives achieved and the July Objectives proposed.

Bob & Rob reviewed the list of Impactful Bills awaiting the Governor's signature.

Soil & Water: Colby Petersen

Colby reported that District staff have conducted 185 Watershed Inspections to date. They anticipate completing 450 inspections in 2023. Staff has conducted 32 soils evaluations and reviewed 33 designs for new and replacement septic systems. Urbana continues to improve on their past due numbers dropping to 71 in June from 102 in March.

Colby reported that the District has taken delivery of 5 cellular rain gauges. The intent is to compare the reaction of the ground water table to the precipitation to better model potential runoff. If successful, this project would be duplicated in Cold Brook and could help lead to more accurate gate management.

Colby reported that Cole, Ethan, and Jim Bagley completed the field work component of the Yates County Forest Land inventory on 6/20/2023. Jim is currently in the process of summarizing his field notes/observations. The next step is to update the parcel maps to reflect the updated timber stand boundaries that they observed in the field and digitize the old inventory documents/update the management recommendations based on recent field observations.

Colby reported in regards to Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM), that a hard freeze with significant wide-spread damage mid-May has affected vineyard farms abilities to implement projects in 2023. Many have been pushed off to 2024, but some farms are pushing ahead with 2023 implementation of projects.

Colby reported that the Canandaigua Lake grant paid out \$12,528.75 for the implementation of barnyard runoff management and contour farming projects. In regards to the Finger Lakes Round 2 Cover Cropping grant, the contract with the state has been finalized and funds should be arriving in the next month. A new grant for the Seneca Lake Watershed was recently submitted, the total grant is for \$685,060 with \$523,000 in agricultural projects. Projects range from pesticide sprayer enhancement; cropland erosion control; stream stabilization; and barnyard improvements.

The Committee requested that Colby bring forward a resolution opposing the Class C Stream Bill.

Cornell Cooperative Extension: Jennifer Clancey

Jen reported that there are 67 total subscribers to the Yates County Farm Update Weekly Publication and reviewed the topics published each week May 30th, June 9th, June 16th, and June 22nd.

Jen reported that striped wheat rust, a fungal disease, has been identified in 3 fields on 2 farms in Yates County. Negative outcomes include yield loss, lowered test weight, and reduced protein. The Finger Lakes Grape Program has been working with growers, USDA, Department of Ag and Markets, NY Wine & Grape Foundation, and others to assess the amount of damage from last month's freeze and how growers can respond. Cornell Vegetable Program (CVP) is setting up and managing numerous research trials. The NYC Tour of potential growers of Asian vegetables has been postponed due to scheduling issues.

Jen reviewed the following upcoming events: 7/10 Seed to Supper Workshop, 7/12 Summer Twilight meeting for Finger Lakes Produce Auction Growers. Hosted by CVP, 7/19 GAP produce safety training for FLX Fresh growers, 7/27 Dundee Elementary School Composting Presentation and Activity.

Jen reported that they are continuing with Keuka Lake water sampling, Riparian Buffer Planting, YC Master Forest Owner Woodswalk, County Fair Prep, Summer Program Planning, 1:1 Family Education, and Workshops.

Jen reviewed the upcoming events for Natural Resources and 4-H & Youth Development:

- June 30-July 9: Great Lakes Aquatic Invasive Species Landing Blitz- various social media and tabling events will occur across the Great Lakes Basin
- July 9-15: Starry Stonewort removal in North End Marina (Branchport) via Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting
- April-October: Keuka Lake Water Sampling
- June-September: Keuka Tributaries Water Sampling
- June-October: Shoreline Monitoring Program for HABs
- July-December: Spotted Lanternfly Monitoring Program
- July 2nd and 5th – Dog Obedience
- July 9th – 16th – Yates County Fair
- July 22nd – Dundee Town Celebration
- July 31st – 4-H Geo-Caching

IT: Tim Groth

Tim reported that in the month of May, the I.T. Help Desk took in 240 calls.

Tim reported that in regards to the Laserfiche Contract Form, Elli is back through the end of September. She has continued with modifications, testing, and has reached out to a few additional departments to start working with the new form. For the electronic signature piece, the Adobe Sign solution will be an additional annual cost to the County, however he foresees additional opportunities where this option will benefit the County.

Tim reported that staff continues working on evaluating multiple POC's (proof of concepts) and demo's for various solutions to replace the existing I.T. Help Desk software. They evaluated one additional cloud-based VoIP Phone System solution in anticipation of the end-of-life support on the current hardware. They hope to have selected a replacement solution by the end of Q3 this year.

Tim reported that they have completely migrated all users to the new Anti-Virus solution provided by the State JSOC and have implemented their Falcon Complete services providing the County a greater level of protection 24/7.

Tim reported that the Sheriff's office has requested a new .GOV domain registration of YatesCountySheriff.gov to replace their current YatesCountySheriff.org domain name for the purposes of a new web site and for use related to the YCSO mobile app. I.T. has completed all work as requested and the new site is accessible either through the Yates County Website or by going directly to <https://www.yatescountysheriff.gov>.

Tim reported that in regards to the Communication Tower Upgrade Project, he is currently working on a few remaining action items including ordering another Internet circuit with static IP's for remote maintenance and support of the new Motorola equipment and the Zetron MaxD equipment by the 3rd party support vendors. He is also working on the email alert functionality for the system alerts and needs to upgrade some of the fiber cable connections to meet spec.

County Clerk: Lois Hall

Lois reviewed the following Statistical Report:

DMV transactions totaled 2145 for May 2023 with \$17,867.31 in fees collected for retention and sales tax collected totaling \$86,997.02. COPRS Internet fees collected year to date total is \$2,746.23, transactions processed on the internet in May totaled 881 in the amount of \$53,487.75 with a year to date total of \$255,086.75. The threshold is \$170,587.25.

County Clerk transactions totaled 2648 and fees collected were \$164,092.94.

Total fees collected County Clerk May 2022 were \$319,731.42.

Total fees collected DMV for retention May 2022 were \$16,248.57.

Lois reported that there have been a number of outages again with statewide issues. They were down 6/5, 6/12, 6/14, and 6/15. The I.T. Team at NYSDMV indicated that this is because they are updating from the old legacy system and some of the outages affected other state offices as well. There was no communication from the state letting them know there was indeed an issue with the system. They have to call IOCU and report being down with no idea the ETA of coming back up. The Sales Tax Department indicated that the April sales tax check had not been received. The check was for \$111,712.45 written on May 8. Lois verified the sales tax report and bank statement. The check had been processed through the bank on May 18. She notified the Sales Tax Office with a copy of the cashed check and they required more information. She is waiting to hear back from them to see where this has been credited and to get it corrected. Implementation of the NYVIP3 (New York Vehicle Inspection Program) is expected to be finalized by the end of the year. Questions have come up as to residence requirements for NYS driver's licenses. All New York license holders no matter what class are required to reside in New York State. The only exception is for military personnel that have not declared permanent residency on base. New Regional Custom Plates will be available for purchase by the end of June.

Lois reported that the land recordings are very low, there is very little property available for sale, and the mortgage rates are quite high. Pistol Permits are holding their own. They are quite busy with Passports, the Passport Agency has contacted them for an audit in July. Lois reported that Clean Slate Legislation looks to be on the horizon. More information will forthcoming once the law has been signed and it will be time-consuming and costly.

Lois reviewed the financial reports.

The Committee requested that Lois draft a resolution opposing Clean Slate Legislation.

Personnel: Kerry Brennan

Kerry reported that the collection for July is items of their choosing.

Kerry reported in regarding adopting the NYS Updated Model Sexual Harassment Policy and Complaint Form. She consulted with the Labor Attorney and she agreed adopting the model policy would be the best path forward.

The consensus of the Committee was to form a Committee (Kerry, Nonie, Carlie, and Leslie) to discuss the NYS Updates Model Sexual Harassment Policy and Complaint Form.

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

- Appoint Republican Election Commissioner (Burt)

Kerry reviewed the Vacancy Report.

County Administrator: Nonie Flynn

- Nothing to report

Legislative Operations:

- Nothing to report

Legislative Operations: Emilee Miller

Emilee reviewed the following resolutions that would be needed. After discussion the Committee approved.

- Standard Workday Resolution

PUBLIC COMMENT

John Prendergast, Yates County Republican Chairman, stated that he had a few things surrounding Sheila's nomination. She's done a very good job, in his opinion, working for Rob, as Charlie pointed out in their Republican meeting, she was unanimously recommended. So he thinks that's good. He will be coming to the board, a few years ago he came to the board probably 3, 4 years ago, asking them to review the Election Commissioners position. The value to the County and their general financial status. He thinks they're grossly underpaid for the job they do, especially when he's around to different counties with other commissioners, and in general talk, he thinks, Yates County is the pay as well. Also in his discussions with Rob Schwarting and the Democrat Commissioner, under some of the legislation that's coming, they're going to have to have a full time position for the deputy directors. The reason he's saying all this is, they're in budget time or pre-budget time. He requested that the legislature please put these thoughts in their process as they move forward planning. Just like they nominated Sheila, they know that in the summertime they don't have a lot of meetings. They were mandated, he believes, by the State to get this new recommendation to the legislature for the Commissioner, which they've done. The other thing he thinks they need to do is go back out to the towns and remind the towns that all these expenses for the elections the County pays them. It comes back to the towns, the towns pay this. People have to understand these expenses. They blame the County because they're paying the bill, but that falls on the town. It comes down through it all, goes to the State, which is a bit of a problem right now.

The Committee went into further discussion regarding these issues.

Meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.