

**GOVERNMENT OPERATION COMMITTEE**  
**September 6, 2023**

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

Others present: Bill Holgate, Terry Button, Leslie Church, Tim Cutler, Pat Killen (left at 2:17 p.m.), Jessica Mullins, Nonie Flynn (Zoom), Emilee Miller, Robert Brechko, Sheila Burt, Jen Clancey, Tim Groth, Kerry Brennan, Lois Hall, Molly Linehan, Colby Petersen

Ed and Mark will do the audit this month.

Minutes of the August meeting were approved as submitted.

Legislative Zoom Attendees: 0 Other Zoom Attendees: 2

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

John Prendergast, Chairman of the Republican Party, stated that he is there specifically in support of the Board of Elections. They are coming upon one of the most important elections for this Country for continuation of the United States of America, the next Presidential Election 2024. A lot of things are changing across the State & the Nation every day. New York State has been changing election laws for the last couple years. They are calling upon, and they're requesting that the legislature approve full time deputies for this position in Yates County instead of part time. He knows they're looking to bring on some people. The Republican Election Commissioner, Rob Schwarting, will be leaving at the end of the year, and the legislature has approved a replacement. The Town of Benton is already doing their budget. They all have to have their budget completed by November. They already had one major meeting at the town and they'll have another one just prior to their board meeting next week. The legislature need to be aware of the situation. It's imperative that they do this from their point of view at the Republican Party, he stands in support. He's not sure if there's anybody there from the Democrat Party today, there should be, and if not, then he'd like that noted. He think that's a misjudgment by the Democrats.

Rich Stewart, Co. Chair of the Democratic Party, stated that he is kind of Jacks counterpart and he agrees with him 100%. He would have been there and he may be there at 3 p.m., but he couldn't make it at 1 p.m. They need to have the people hired as soon as possible so that they can get trained and the whole deal there.

John Prendergast stated that he wanted to publicly thank Rich for that, and he apologized for what he said prior.

**Elections: Robert Brechko and Sheila Burt**

Bob & Sheila reported that the State Legislature has ended session and after another 30 days, the 10 bills of concern previously passed by the State Legislature have not yet been submitted to the Governor to be signed.

Bob & Sheila reported that the Online Voter Registration system (OVR) regulations and associated security issues are still being addressed with vendors; and locally the first one was processed without any of the suspect errors found. The Board of Elections has resolved that the Keuka Park Poll Site will be used without interference. The legislature needs to reconsider tabling the full time Deputy Election Commissioner request until the budget workshop. They

feel it is for the best interest of the County to start training someone during the election period starting 10/1 in order to be prepared for the Presidential Election year which starts in February.

Bob & Sheila reviewed the July Objectives achieved and the August Objectives proposed.

Bob & Sheila reviewed the following resolutions that would be needed. After discussion the Committee approved.

- Authorize Chair of Legislature to Sign Technology Innovation and Election Resource (Tier) Grant Program 2023 Contract # BOE01-C004400-1110000
- Authorize Chair of Legislature to Sign Absentee Ballot Pre-Paid Postage Grant Amendment Contract # BOE01-T004625-1110000

Bob & Sheila reviewed the following resolutions that would be needed. After discussion the Committee decided that this should be brought up again at budget time.

- Authorize Board of Election Commissioner to Create and Fill Two (2) Full Time Deputy Election Commissioner Positions
- Authorize Republican Board of Elections Commissioner to Create and Fill Full Time Deputy Election Commissioner Position

### **Cornell Cooperative Extension: Jennifer Clancey**

Jen reviewed the following publications: Chronicle Express and Dundee Observer 1 article regarding late blight, WFLR Open Mic 7/25 8-Year Ag. District Review and 8/29 Master Gardeners, Yates County Farm Update Weekly publications on 7/24, 7/31, 8/8, 8/15, 8/22.

Jen reported that in regards to agriculture, they visited 18 sites; 5 vegetable farms, 11 field crops/dairy, and 2 home gardens/community horticulture. On 7/27 they did a composting presentation at DCS and on 8/24 they held a Soil Health Day at Klass Marten's farm. In regards to the Finger Lakes Grape program, Yates County has been named s Disaster Designation County due to the May frost event and the 2023 Grape Price Listing for the Finger Lakes was released. Cornell Vegetable Program (CVP) is working with 4 Yates County Farms to create GAPs Food Safety Plans; 2 apple orchards and 2 organic produce farms.

Jen reported that in regards to the Master Gardeners the Community Garden Beds have harvested 297 pounds of food for Milly's Pantry and the Hope Food Pantry. The "Snack Schack" youth group met throughout August.

Jen reviewed other program updates and various upcoming events.

### **IT: Tim Groth**

Tim reported that in the month of July, the I.T. Help Desk took in 203 calls.

Tim reported that with the DocuSign product and ICC-CDS, they are not currently licensed with Laserfiche to support the DocuSign integration and they are working on resolving this issue. There was an issue to resolve with the communication of the door access system from the County Court House side to the County Office Building side. Joe is currently working with the company to resolve this. They have been working with Buildings & Grounds and the new camera system vendor on the network and server equipment installation and configurations. The remainder of the equipment that he ordered at the end of last year has finally arrived and they will be scheduling the upgrade to take place in Q4. Tim ordered the two required inverters needed for two of the tower sites and they should arrive the 1st week of September. Tim has

been working with a few Firewall vendors on provisioning some equipment for POC's in order to select what direction to move forward with replacing the current equipment.

**County Clerk: Lois Hall & Molly Linehan**

Lois reviewed the following Statistical Report:

DMV transactions totaled 1764 for July 2023 with \$13,926 in fees collected for retention and sales tax collected totaling \$72,501.35. COPRS Internet fees collected year to date total is \$5,604.55, transactions processed on the internet in July totaled 549 in the amount of \$35,949.25 with a year to date total of \$343,035.00.

County Clerk transactions totaled 2236 and fees collected were \$164,834.83.

Total fees collected County Clerk July 2022 were \$278,284.24.

Total fees collected DMV for retention July 2022 were \$13,639.81.

Lois reported that a new law was passed 8/1 which auto-enrolls drivers across the state in supplemental spousal liability coverage that will cost \$20.00 to \$84.00 annually. If an accident occurs and a spouse is injured, supplemental spousal liability coverage would allow the injured spouse to sue and seek payment from the driving spouse's insurance company for damages, including pain and suffering. The new law requires insurance companies to add all drivers in the state to supplemental spousal coverage, married or not. About half of New York's population will not benefit from the extra coverage because they are not married. Governor Hochul was informed of this by the insurance companies and signed the bill into law anyway. If the insurance company allows they can opt out of the coverage, but many do not.

Lois reported that in regards to Pistol Permits, there will be some new changes being made to the NYS background checks for purchase of ammunition. Dealers can begin "registering their account" beginning 8/16 and the NYS NCIS system is scheduled to go live 9/13. Dealers must have an account to register in the NYS NCIS System and dealers will set up either a bank account or credit card that the background check charges will be drawn from.

Fees are on top of what the dealer will charge for transaction fees as follows:

Firearm background check - \$9.00

Ammunition background check - \$2.50

Lois reported that notification of approval or denial should be just as quick as using the federal NCIS system and that appeal process will be very similar to the current federal NCIS process per NYSP in Albany. Dealers will continue to use their 4473 form for firearm transactions and no form is required for ammunition. All questions should be directed to the NYSP office in Albany.

Lois reminded Pistol Permit folks that carry concealed permits now have 3 year recertification requirements. If their permit was issued prior to 9/1/20 they must recertify online at the NYS Trooper's website <https://troopers.ny.gov/firearms> by 8/31/23. If they recertified after or obtained their permit after 9/1/20, they can wait 3 years to recertify.

Lois reported that court work has been steady, passport issuance has slowed some, and Real Estate remains slow.

Lois reviewed the Financial Reports.

### **Personnel: Kerry Brennan**

Kerry reported that the collection for September is underwear and socks.

Kerry reported that as a result of discussions that took place during the 4th quarter of 2022 regarding the succession planning for the County Administrator, the need to have a policy was discussed. She is bringing this to their attention to see how they would like her to proceed at this time.

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

- Amend 2023 Non-Union Exempt Employee Salary Schedule
- Ratifying Tentative Agreement with Corrections and other Employees Unit and Authorizing Execution of the Successor Collective Bargaining Agreement

Kerry reviewed the Vacancy Report.

### **County Administrator: Nonie Flynn**

- Nothing to report

### **Legislative Operations:**

- Nothing to report

### **Legislative Clerk: Emilee Miller**

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

- Authorize Vice-Chair to Have and Exercise Powers and Duties of the Chair in the Chair's Absence

### **Soil & Water: Colby Petersen**

Colby reported that District staff have conducted 272 Watershed Inspections to date. They anticipate completing 450 inspections in 2023. Staff has conducted 50 soils evaluations and reviewed 55 designs for new and replacement septic systems.

Colby reported that utilizing FLOWPA funding, the District was able to help the Town of Barrington fund a stream/road ditch stabilization project on the east end of Welker Rd.

Top left: Large rip rap placement, Highway Department uses a large excavator with thumb

Top Middle: Initial ditch looking west from Chubb Hollow Rd

Top Right: Erosion, bank collapse

Bottom Left: Erosion, washout after the failure of a previous stabilization project

Middle Bottom: Picture for erosion scale

Bottom Right: Cobble rock in ditch bottom to create a stable base for the rip rap



Colby reported that the erosion control projects in the Canandaigua Lake, Keuka Lake, & Seneca Lake Watersheds have all been either started or finalized. Additional projects include agrichemical mixing facilities for vineyard farms, secondary fuel containment, stream erosion control, and cropland/vineyard erosion control projects. Over 80,000 feet of drain tile have been GPS mapped over the last month. A small dairy farm has continued construction on an overall waste management plan. In 2019 through a NYS grant, two separate manure storages were constructed. One for solid manure and one for liquid manure and other liquid waste streams from the farmstead. Through an additional NYS grant, this liquid manure storage is now irrigated to pastures on the farm through a subsurface drip tape.

Colby reported that the 2023 Soil Health & Climate Resiliency Field Days hosted over 150 attendees at the Klaas Martens Farm on 8/24. Topics included: tillage reduction, improving soil health in organic rotations, and adaptive management strategies to reduce risk.

Colby reported that the Hampton Inn Penn Yan is hosting the annual meeting of the New York Association of Conservation Districts 10/24-10/26.

Colby reported that Rick Ayers is going to be retiring after 35 years.

Meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.