

GOVERNMENT OPERATION COMMITTEE

September 7, 2022

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

Others present: Bill Holgate, Terry Button, Doug Paddock, Leslie Church, Tim Cutler, Pat Killen (left at 2:38 p.m.), Nonie Flynn, Emilee Miller, Robert Brechko, Robert Schwarting, Tom Eskildsen, Kerry Brennan, Jesse Jayne (1:09 p.m.)

Ed & Mark will do the audit this month.

Minutes of the August meeting were approved as submitted.

Public Comment

John Prendergast stated that the purpose of him coming there today is to talk about the position of Deputy County Administrator at \$132,000.00. All of the citizens of Yates County is experiencing the same inflationary costs. Yates County should be looking to cut costs, not add costs, people need to buckle down. He is afraid this next year is going to be really bad. Two years ago, when they split the Treasurer's Office job, into Director of Finance and Treasurer, they were going to save money, and John asked where the savings is. Now they are talking about bringing another person in and he's sure it's so they can train them. When someone leaves a superintendent job at like a School, they bid the job out, and they hire someone that is already trained, and the County's no different. They bring a young person in, then train them thinking they are going to stay, but there's no guarantee they're going to stay there. The people of Yates County are going to hold the legislature accountable for adding \$132,000.00 of overhead. He cautions them to take a deep breath, study this matter, and see if they can do it some way cheaper.

Elections: Robert Brechko and Robert Schwarting

Rob Schwarting reported that the State Legislature's last day was 6/1 for this session and the Governor signed three bills with minor impact on their operations.

Rob reported that the unplanned and unbudgeted elections will have a fiscal impact and an impact on their budget and staffing. The deputies will exceed their annual part time limit by approximately 140 hours. A postage grant for \$13,753.90 to defer the costs of returned absentee ballots has been received and the approval process is beginning.

Rob reviewed the August objectives achieved and the proposed September objectives.

Rob reviewed the following resolution that would be needed. After discussion the Committee approved.

- Authorize Chairwoman of Legislature to Sign NYS Elections Absentee Ballot Pre-Paid Postage Grant

Soil & Water: Tom Eskildsen

Tom reported that the district staff has conducted 310 Watershed inspections to date. They anticipate completing 400 inspections in 2022. Staff conducted 46 soil evaluations and reviewed 78 designs for new and replacement septic systems.

Tom reported that staff have applied 54 loads of hydroseed to 28 sites. They have 3 jobs lined up for next week and expect to hydroseed in full swing as some soil moisture and dewy conditions

have returned. Tom reported that through the use of Finger Lakes-Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance (FOLLOWPA) funding, the Town of Milo Highway Department was able to culvert an outlet on Rice Road for \$9,440.

Tom reported that there was a homeowner that contacted them with a well contamination issue. They partnered with NYS Ag & Markets and SUNY ESF and they completed testing. The results came back positive for human markers with none from a ruminant animal. The conclusion was that the source was the homeowner's septic system. The homeowner is working with the well company on sanitizing their well and the Canandaigua Lake Watershed program on a new septic system.

Tom reported that they are interested in the Gehl skid steer that Buildings & Grounds has declared surplus. Tom reviewed the benefits of acquiring the skid steer and their intended uses for the skid steer. The Public Works Committee discussed this in the meeting prior and they would like to keep it in the County. Joe will be working on that.

Tom provided a verbal update on the grant projects.

Cornell Cooperative Extension: Arlene Wilson

Arlene reported that the Farmland Protection Board have a meeting with LaBella Construction to start the plan of work on the Farmland Protection plan update. She has some paperwork that she need to submit to the State and is awaiting approval from the lawyers.

Arlene reported that Conservation Field day is scheduled for September 22nd. That's their annual education program in conjunction with soil and water, the Health Department, and their other community partners. The legislative luncheon is scheduled for Tuesday, October 11th.

Ed stated that Jim Smith, CCE President, was supposed to be there, but he was unable to come and present, so perhaps he can be incorporated in October.

County Clerk: Lois Hall

Lois was unable to attend, the Committee reviewed her report and the following resolution and after discussion, the Committee approved.

- Authorize County Clerk to Sign Amended Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for E-Recording

Personnel: Kerry Brennan

Kerry reported that collection for August is toothpaste and toothbrushes.

Kerry reported that she will be attending the annual conference from October 2 through October 5, and will be unable to attend the October Government Operations meeting.

Kerry reported that the Department Heads requested changes to the Vacancy Review Policy. The changes requested are that positions that are currently established in the budget, which became vacant would no longer require a vacancy review and prior Legislative approval in order to fill the vacancy. Vacant positions would be reviewed annually during committee meetings in October, if they are vacant prior to June 1 and remained vacant at the time of the committee meeting. The Committee and legislators present discussed the proposed changes. The consensus of the Committee is that they change 3 months to 6 months in the current policy.

Kerry reviewed the proposed Vacancy/Position Authorization Form and the Committee approved.

Kerry reported that the County's insurance carrier recommends passing an Abuse and Molestation Policy because it is a risk management. Kerry will submit the policy in October for adoption.

Kerry reviewed the Personnel Office Vacancy Report.

IT: Tim Groth

Tim reported that for the month of July, the I.T. Help Desk took in 298 calls.

Tim reported that they are moving forward with installing the MDM solution. They have been working with Entre Computer Services with risk remediation. Munis testing is still in progress and Tim has confirmed with Tyler Technology that the County will not lose support in October because they have commence with the upgrades. Tim reported that he has budgeted for a Core Switch upgrade and he has started working with an engineer on specifications and creating a network diagram. The equipment refresh order of 30 desktops PC's arrived quicker than expected.

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

- Authorize Chairwoman to Sign Intergovernmental Agreement (NYS ITS-New York, NY)

County Administrator: Nonie Flynn

Nonie reported that because the tentative agreement was voted down by the CSEA members, they have another meeting scheduled with the negotiation team on September 15th.

Nonie reported that the Chamber of Commerce will be hosting Business after Hours in the COB lobby for their February meeting, they will be highlighting their bicentennial at this meeting.

Nonie reported that she was asked to participate

Nonie reviewed the Job Description & Duties for the Deputy County Administrator.

Nonie reviewed the following resolution that would be needed. After discussion the Committee approved.

- Authorize County Administrator to Create and Fill Deputy County Administrator Position.

The meeting was suspended at 3:00 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 4:45 p.m. with Terry Button, Dick Harper, Bonnie Percy, Doug Paddock, Ed Bronson, Leslie Church, Nonie Flynn, and Emilee Miller present.

Legislative Clerk: Emilee Miller

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

- Authorize Vice-Chairman to Have and Exercise Powers and Duties of the Chairwoman in the Chairwoman's Absence
- Amend Resolution 274-22 (Adopt Policy for Use of Yates County Facility)
- Amend Resolution 317-22 (Adopt County Office Building Hours)

Leslie asked for opinions regarding the Ad Hoc Constitutional County Committee. She stated that Mark & Carlie did a good job of keeping it on task and they didn't go over on time, but there just doesn't seem that there is the will to move forward and continue it. Those present agreed that there was not enough interest in becoming a Constitutional County and the majority of the feedback they have gotten was negative. It was commented that the Ad Hoc Committee was asked to bring a report forward to this Committee, making a recommendation. The consensus of those present, was that the Ad Hoc Constitutional County should disband.

Due to the lack of members present, they decided to hold Executive Session after the legislative meeting on Monday.

Meeting adjourned at 5:03 p.m.