

GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

October 5, 2015 at 1:00p.m.

Location: Legislative Chambers

Present: Mark Morris, Sarah Purdy, Doug Paddock, Gary Montgomery, Elden Morrison, Bonnie Percy, Jim Multer, Dan Banach, Leslie Church, Lee Sackett, Tim Dennis, Bob Clark, Connie Hayes, Julie Betts, Tim Groth, Kerry Brennan, Jim Balyszak, Bob Brechko, Arlene Wilson, Dave Hartman, Sharon Dawes, Amy Miller, Nonie Flynn.

Mark and Jim Multer will do the audit this month.

Public Comment

Bill Laffin updated the Committee on a news release that came out on September 29th. The invasive species Hydrilla, has now been confirmed in Monroe County in a farm pond on the Tankard Nature Preserve. This particular body of water has no boating, it's a farm pond. It's more of an agricultural pond. While a lot of the work that has been done has focusing on boats, obviously aquatic birds need to be taken into consideration, which most likely this was spread by, is difficult factor.

Minutes of the September meeting were approved as presented.

Legislative Operations

Elden reviewed the following resolution that would be needed.

- Adopting a Policy Regarding The Filing and Storage of Agreements and Contracts

A lengthy discussion took place around this resolution as to what contract/agreements should be filed in the Legislative office. Some felt the agreements pertaining to an employees work schedule and wages should be filed in their personnel file located in personnel.

County Attorney Falvey stated that the resolution pretty much spells out what is excluded, for instance if someone's address, social security number or other identifying numbers are on the document those should be filed in the Personnel Department.

Bonnie moved to include in the exception contracts/agreements pertaining to compensation/wages, seconded by Jim Multer. Motion lost with a 3-2 vote. Therefore, the resolution will be brought to the full board at Tuesday's Legislative meeting.

Tim addressed the Committee on the proposed options for adding 2 additional health care plans that were discussed at the workshop with the Management Group. At the workshop the Management Group asked that two additional options be given that will pose no additional cost to the county. The consensus of the Committee was to approve the two other plans for the Non-Union employees. Tim explained a decision still needs to be discussed by the Legislature as to whether there will be a change in the funding of the HRA.

Tim questioned if the Committee wanted to act on the Vacation Leave policy that is being proposed as there are some changes to the language other than what was proposed at the workshop. Mark questioned if the Management Group was made aware of the policy.

Sarah stated that the memo that is attached to the Government Operations agenda was sent to the Department Heads last Thursday evening.

Amy Miller stated that the Management Team would like to meet and discuss this if possible before it is passed. The Committee agreed.

Bonnie questioned when an employee goes into an elected position is there any way something could be incorporated in the policy so that they could be paid for their vacation, because right now it doesn't happen.

Sarah explained that the sick leave is froze and she saw no reason why vacation leave couldn't be frozen. Sarah stated there was a previous discussion on this and will check into it.

Mark stated the question has come up if the Management Compensation sub-committee should continue on with what they were doing or be disbanded.

Elden has concerns as to what the Management Group now wanted, was it the health insurance, total compensation study, or just deal with the ones that were the most out of line.

Bob suggested the Compensation Committee meet with the Management Group to suggest a path that the sub-committee should take.

Sarah updated the Committee on the NYSAC conference. Sarah stated one of the many things that came out of the conference was that the Association of Counties is going to use a strategy that focuses on trying to get change accomplished in one specific human services arena that has produced a tremendous cost shift to the counties away from the state over the course of time. Sarah explained the Safety Net Program use to be a 50/50 split, counties paid 50% of the program and the state paid 50%. Over the years this has changed to the counties paying 71% paid by the county and 29% paid by the state. The agreement coming out of NYSAC was of all the resolutions that were being sent to the state legislature, this is the one that the Association of Counties and all of its member counties would push the most. The push is to restore the funding to 50/50 and all of the counties are urged to adopt their own resolution supporting this. Sarah will talk with Amy Miller on putting together a resolution for Yates County to adopt.

Sarah attended a session on Broadband which was supposed to unveil some of the particulars of the new funding arraignment for the State Broadband program but that did not happen. The session ended up being presentations from other counties on how they have approached broadband. It did reinforce that we made the right choice not to try to run and operate broadband ourselves.

Sarah reported there was also a County Administrator's Association meeting held during the conference. The NYSAC staff reviewed several subjects such as, pension, some of the projections for the pension in upcoming years, time spent on inter-governmental transfer for nursing homes, which doesn't apply to us. Discussions about Medicaid and the status of sales tax receipts.

Sarah spent some time talking to Solar City and obtained a lot of information from them that she passed on to Joe Reed. They are very interested in forging a relationship with Yates County. They have worked with other counties on placing solar panels on landfills.

Sarah also spoke to the coordinator of the Saint Lawrence County Recreational Trails Program. Sarah feels this individual would be a good person to consult with for information if the County is inclined to move toward a CFA application next year on behalf of the Outlet Trail.

Sarah also spoke with several people on benefit plans including salary studies.

Tim also updated the Committee on NYSAC conference. Tim reported that Maggie Brooks is the new president of NYSAC and lead a county leaders' meeting and talked about this concept of pushing for 50/50 funding on the Safety Net Program. Ms. Brooks kept bringing the meeting back to focusing on one main item so that at the end of the year it can be seen that traction was gained on something that costs the counties a lot of money.

Tim reported he is a member of the Agricultural Standing Committee. Committee discussion took place around Chinese lanterns. In Western New York they have become quite an issue, it is legal to sell them, legal to own them but not legal to light them. Other discussion topics were the Governor's proposed budget which pretty much each year Ag dollars get zeroed out. This gets put back in by a bargaining process in which the legislators have to give things up to get the funding back, the Committee would like to address this.

In the session on the Health Insurance Consortium, Tompkins County has created a Health Insurance Consortium and all municipalities within Tompkins County can join. They run it themselves, have good buy in over the year and looks like they are saving up 10 to 15%, with most plans being through Excellus. They will be considering contiguous municipalities to join, there may be a possibility a year or two down the road that if a contiguous county to Tompkins, such as Schuyler, has joined the consortium then Yates would become a contiguous county and we might be able to look at this.

Tim went on to say that he feels attending these meetings are useful and encourages more legislators to attend.

Connie reviewed her memo pertaining to bringing a motion back to the floor. A suggested change to the Legislative Rules of Procedure was given to amend the 14th rule to cover who can bring a motion forward. The consensus of the Committee was to take no action at this time.

County Attorney – Scott Falvey

Scott reviewed a position review form to refill the Assistant County Attorney position. The consensus of the Committee was to refill the position.

Soil & Water – Jim Balyszak

Jim reported the annual conservation education program sponsored by Soil and Water and Cooperative Extension was held on September 24th at Keuka Lake State Park with approximately 150 sixth grade students participating.

Jim reported it was another successful year of removing water chestnut plants from the Penn Yan marsh and two sections of the West River tributary to Canandaigua Lake.

Jim reported the staff and the board have completed the District's 2016 Annual Plan of Work. This document guides the District's work during 2016 and provides the basis for state reimbursement for delivering local conservation programs.

Jim reported all of the NYS contract submission requirements along with the completed initial project design surveys have been completed for the NYS Environmental Protection Fund grant that is being made available through the efforts of Senator O'Mara's office. Chemung Soil & Water District's engineer will complete the final stream bank stabilization designs and the next step will be for Soil & Water to apply for the necessary DEC permits. Jim explained the Chemung and Schuyler Soil & Water District will be partnering with us to complete the project installations during 2016.

Cornell Cooperative Extension – Arlene Wilson

Arlene reported 4H had a successful Geo Caching event on September 2nd.

Arlene reported the 4H Shooting Sports event was held September 11th thru the 13th.

Arlene reported there was a Parent/Leader recruitment meeting held last month regarding the 4H program.

Arlene reported this week is National 4H week, October 4th thru 10th. There will be a banner put across Main Street and a poster contest is also being held.

Arlene reported the 49th Annual Conservation Field Days was held on September 24th with 150 6th graders participating at 9 educational stations at the Keuka Lake State Park.

Arlene reported with regards to the TANF Life Skills Program, 13 families have graduated to date. Referrals from partnering agencies are being received which is quickly filling up the remaining spots for 2015. There have been 11 of the 17 workshops completed today with 4 additional workshops scheduled.

Arlene reported there is a nutrition program scheduled in October for free food preservation classes in Penn Yan and Dundee.

Arlene reported the Finger Lakes Grape program is doing well, focusing on strategies to prevent birds from eating the grapes during harvest season. Some of the strategies being tried are air dancers, netting, squawkers, cannons and scarecrows.

Arlene reported in partnership with Keuka College they are working on a Wild Parsnip removal project. Cornell has also provided training for volunteers who will assist with monitoring that vegetation along the Outlet Trail.

Arlene reported she participate in a webinar on the Emerald Ash Borer as well as responding to requests from community members to identify invasive species both aquatic and terrestrial.

Arlene report the Boat Launch Steward program has wrapped up for 2015 and CCE is working with the Keuka Lake Association to analyze data and determine strengths and areas for improvement. Cornell also assisted with the monthly Keuka Lake water quality sampling.

Dan would like to see a table as to how that goes from year to year. Bill Laffin stated that that information is available on the Keuka Lake Association's website, which is keukalakeassociation.org.

IT – Tim Groth

Tim reviewed his monthly statistics which showed 226 help desk calls with 4 of those being considered user error. The spam filter identified 10789 spam and 623 viruses were identified.

Tim reported website training is scheduled for a dozen people on October 19th. This will allow departments to update their own webpages as opposed to IT doing it.

Tim reported on the E911 phone system upgrade. The main Time Warner fiber link to Seneca County is in place and the secondary Verizon fiber link to Seneca County is due to be completed this week. The new dedicated Time Warner internet circuit is being installed today and 9 new trunk lines have been installed. The main cutover is scheduled for November 4th at the Seneca site, and November 11th at our site.

Tim reported the Wilmac Recorder installation and configuration of the new sever took place last week. Training for all E911Dispatchers will start on October 6th and the old Wilmac recorder will be decommissioned after the E911 phone system cutover. The old server will be kept for the historical recordings for the period of 1 year.

Tim reported a new web protection device, Firesight/Firepower was installed last week. Tim will be working with SMP to continue configuration and training.

Tim reported he and Joe Reed met with ECC and a representative from the fiber construction and went over all the campus infrastructure which they would need to utilize. The county's needs as it relates to fiber were also discussed and a walkthrough of the POP location in the basement of the County Office Building was done.

Tim will be attending the IT fall conference in Syracuse this week.

Elections – Robert Brechko/Amy Daines

Bob reviewed the monthly activity report. Lee questioned how much a primary election cost, Bob explained the cost is approximately \$26,000. Bob stated a primary is the party's election to choose who runs for that party. Our county normally just has a republican primary. It has had conservative primaries in the past and democratic primaries although not locally. The primary makes the choices, and if you don't win in your party you have the ability to run as an independent.

Gary questioned the timing of ballots in that it seems to be late and is this typical. Bob explained it is typical. The first weekend in October is when the military ballots have to go out and when there is a federal election it has to go out earlier. NYS does not have the same requirements as the federal military ballots. This is why they have the extra elections.

County Clerk – Julie Betts

Julie reviewed her statistical reports for the Clerk's office and DMV.

Julie updated the Committee on the Real ID ACT. In 2005, Congress signed into law the Real ID Act. The act changes the standards for identification for license holders who wish to travel on domestic flights. New York has had 10 years to develop a standard license that will comply with the Real ID Act, however, remains one of only four states still offering non-compliant licenses, including New Hampshire and Minnesota.

At present, a standard New York license is sufficient for domestic air travel, however by early 2016, this will not be an acceptable practice. NYS DMV is hoping for an extension to 2020 to produce an acceptable Real ID driver's license. Twenty-eight other states and territories have already sought and received extensions.

However, New York offers drivers the option of upgrading their standard drivers' license for an Enhanced Driver's license (EDL) for an addition \$30 fee and by presenting proof of citizenship, date of birth and identification.

Current license renewals being mailed out by NYS DMV do not indicate the new regulations for identification for domestic air travel. Clearly a Passport is required for any foreign travel and can also be used for identification for domestic travel.

Julie reported Yates County's internet transactions surpassed \$170,587, therefore, Yates County will receive \$517.36 in internet revenue to date.

Julie reported local residents have received forms in the mail entitled "Recorded Deed Notice" from a company located in California. Periodically and unfortunately this happens and is an opportunity for this company to obtain money from recent property purchases for copies of their deeds. Julie explained the form states that homeowners should pay \$83 for a deed copy, whereas copies obtained directly from the County Clerk cost approximately \$3.

Legislature – Connie Hayes

Connie reported the last resolution needed for the renewal of the 1% sales tax extension has been sent to the 4 state agencies along with the extension request documentation. Connie has not heard if the extension has been approved.

Personnel – Kerry Brennan

Kerry reviewed the Worker's Comp Budget resolution. The Committee approved.

Kerry reported she attended the first week of training at the Civil Service Institute for training and will be going back for the second week at the end of October and the final week at the end of November.

Kerry updated the Committee on Catalog & Commerce. As of 8/20/15 all requested documentation was uploaded. Kerry has been spending time getting acclimated with the database and up loading roster cards. Kerry hopes to start trying in October or November with the appointing authorities so it can be up and running and utilized.

Kerry reported currently the county is recruiting for are DSS is recruiting for an Employment & Training Counselor, Highway is recruiting for a working supervisor.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30p.m.