

SPECIAL SESSION – WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2015

The Yates County Legislature convened in special session, Wednesday, September 9, 2015. Chairman Dennis presiding with Legislators Holgate and Dunn absent.

Chairman Dennis stated as follow up from the Government Operations Committee meeting this afternoon, possible dates were given for a meeting with the Management Group at 3:30 p.m. The consensus of the Legislature was to hold this meeting on September 28th at 3:30p.m. in the County Auditorium.

RESOLUTION NO. 287-15

Mr. Morris offered the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Mr. Morrison.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Morris made the following comment:

I am voting yes for this agreement because we have been able to get some concessions, but I have major concerns I want to share with the public. These comments apply to this resolution.

I do not feel Yates County has been very transparent about compensation. I have been after the legislature for months to share the fact that total compensation, pay, benefits, and pension has grown by over 2 times the rate of inflation (26%) over the past 10 years. I have been prevented from sharing this information until now.

I have advocated strongly for the Yates County taxpayers that Yates County be more aggressive in our negotiations, especially on health care, where most people in Yates County are lucky to have a partially paid high deductible plan versus near- Cadillac plans that the union has. I have tried to get a legislator added to the negotiation team to get some more taxpayer representation.

I am not against Yates County employees or public safety. I just feel the public deserves to get an unfiltered version of what we are doing.

I have a lot more information to share on this subject and hopefully the other legislators will join me in sharing it.

Chairman Dennis thanked the negotiation team that represented the County and also thanked the negotiation team that represented Council 82. Chairman Dennis feels the bargaining was done in good faith and in a timely manner.

RATIFYING LABOR AGREEMENT WITH COUNCIL 82

WHEREAS, the collective bargaining teams for the County of Yates, the Yates County Sheriff and the Law Enforcement Officers Union, AFSCME Council 82 have concluded negotiations for a successor collective bargaining agreement covering the

period of January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2017 for the Corrections and Other Employees bargaining unit,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Yates County Legislature hereby ratifies said agreement and authorizes the expenditure of the necessary funds therefor, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Chairman of the Yates County Legislature is hereby authorized to execute said agreement on behalf of the County, and be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be given to the Sheriff, the Council 82 Unit President, the County Administrator and the County's Labor Attorney.

VOTE: Unanimous

RESOLUTION NO. 288-15

Mr. Smith offered the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Mr. Sackett.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Smith stated that he had the opportunity to visit the plant about two weeks ago with the plant manager. Mr. Smith was impressed the condition overall had been preserved quite well. They had a number of workers in there doing some maintenance on various pumps and transformers. They are also in the process of cleaning up the facility and they have employed a local construction firm to do quite an extensive amount of work. The work that is being done there is already putting money back into Yates County. When the plant restarts there will be a number of good paying jobs, which is really needed in this community and in addition it would put them back where they would increase their contribution to property taxes which is also something we are in need of. Over all it is a great benefit and the fact that they have made the decision to never again burn coal, and quickly as possible switch to clean gas, Mr. Smith feels is a win for everyone and supports this.

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE REOPENING OF THE GREENIDGE POWER PLANT

WHEREAS, the Greenidge Power Plant in the Village of Dresden has been part of the local landscape for generations and a long source of good jobs for local residents, along with being a reliable source of revenue for local schools and governments for many years, and

WHEREAS, the decision to place the Greenidge Power Plant into temporary layup status by the previous owners resulted in the loss of good jobs and much-needed tax revenues, and

WHEREAS, the new owners of the Greenidge Power Plant have agreed to restart the facility by firing biomass and natural gas, without the use of coal and to subsequently convert its generating operations to natural gas as the primary fuel, and

WHEREAS, the NYS DEC has accepted Greenidge's proposal to include in the Title V Permit enforceable language that permanently eliminates the ability of the facility to ever run on coal, and the proposed restart included in the Draft Title V Permit will resolve any issues related to disruptions caused in years past by trains carrying coal to the Greenidge Power Plant, and will also ensure the Greenidge Power Plant's emissions are well within State and Federal guidelines, and

WHEREAS, the restart of the Greenidge Power Plant will mean new jobs, increased economic activity in Yates County, and increased tax revenues for local schools and governments, and

WHEREAS, the new owners of the Greenidge Power Plant have agreed to implement the best technology available to protect fish and water quality in Seneca Lake and local business leaders, including owners of tourist-attracting wineries, have voiced overwhelming support for restarting the plant, and

WHEREAS, the New York Department of Environmental Conservation, after a comprehensive review, has issued a draft Title V permit allowing for the restart of the Greenidge Power Plant,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Yates County Legislature urges the New York State DEC to finalize the Title V permit and allow for the restart as soon as feasible, and urges the Federal Environmental Protection Agency to allow the restart to proceed without delay, and be it

RESOLVED, that the Yates County Legislature urges U.S. Senator Charles Schumer to support the restart and to work with the Obama Administration to avoid any delays in this important project for our region, and be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be provided to the New York State DEC, Federal Environmental Protection Agency, Senator Schumer, Senator Gillibrand, Assemblyman Palmesano, and Senator O'Mara.

VOTE: Unanimous

RESOLUTION NO. 289-15

Mrs. Church offered the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Mr. Banach.

SUICIDE PREVENTION WEEK

WHEREAS, in the United States, one person dies by suicide every 12.8 minutes, with 41,149 deaths by suicide in our country during 2013;

WHEREAS, in our country, suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death for 15-24 year olds, and is the 10th leading cause of death for people of all ages;

WHEREAS, each person's death by suicide intimately affects at least six other people, with over 200,000 newly bereaved each year;

WHEREAS, in 2013, 1637 New Yorkers died by suicide, and several thousand friends and family members were changed forever by losing those people;

WHEREAS, in 2013, 3 Yates County residents died by suicide, 15 individuals were hospitalized due to a suicide attempt and 10 individuals were seen in the Emergency Department for self-inflicted injuries.

WHEREAS, Actual suicide death and attempt numbers are unknown due to lack of a determination, identification as an accident or failure to seek care.

WHEREAS, many of those people never received effective behavioral health services, for many reasons including the difficulty of accessing services by healthcare providers trained in best practices to reduce suicide risk, the stigma of using behavioral health treatment and the stigma associated with losing a loved one to suicide;

WHEREAS, the social and economic toll to the community is significant and could be eliminated.

WHEREAS, the local Public Health Department has identified deaths by suicide and accidental injuries priorities in the current Health Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED that, this Legislature recognizes Suicide Prevention Week September 8-14, and supports efforts to reduce suicide risk, the stigma of using behavioral health treatment and the stigma associated with losing a loved one to suicide;

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be provided to Deborah Minor, Public health Director and George A. Roets Community Services Director.

VOTE: Unanimous

Mrs. Percy moved to enter executive session to discuss the employment history of an individual with the Legislature, County Administrator and Personnel Officer present, seconded by Mrs. Church.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50p.m.