

MINUTES
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
Thursday, January 9, 2020, Chambers – to follow HHS

CALL TO ORDER: By Hon. Ryan Foley, Chair at 7:00 PM.

MEMBERS: Legislators Tricia Kerr, Timothy Lattimore, Christopher Petrus, Paul Pinckney, Charlie Ripley, and Ben Vitale (Vice Chair)

OTHERS: : Legislators Hans Pecher, Elaine Daly, Aileen McNabb-Coleman, Heidi Nightengale, Paul Pinckney, IT Interim Director Paul Bornemann, Board of Elections Commissioner Katie Lacey, Veterans Director Jessica Strassle, Benefits / Tax Collector Associate Kristy Capone

MINUTES TO APPROVE: December 3, 2019, Motion by Petrus, 2nd Vitale, all in favor.

APPOINTMENTS: None

Cherl Heary and Katie Lacey (Board of Elections)

1-20-GO-1 Authorizing the Chairman of the Legislature and the Commissioners of the Cayuga County Board of Elections to sign NTS Maintenance and Support. **Motion by Ripley, 2nd by Petrus, all in favor.**

Discussion:

Lacey says we are required by the state board to determine early in February our voting locations for the year. She says we are going to change the voting location in district 11 in the City. She says we currently use the Auburn Grove Apartment Complex and North Brooke but we are going to go back to the Alliance Church on Seward Ave and have all three districts in one location. Lacey says the main reason is parking, there is not a lot of parking available the Grove Apartments and we have had to repair the lawn and several other thing. She says we were in the Alliance Church before and we had a little disagreement with them over political things, they got upset and asked us to leave. She says we have since went and spoke with them nicely and they have agreed to use the facility again. Lacey says early voting, right our plans are to add a second location in the City of Auburn because we expect with the presidential year we are going to have more people turn out. She says the location will most likely be at Casey Park.

Sheila Smith (Clerk of the Legislature) – No updates

Christopher Palermo (County Attorney)

Discussion:

Foley says Chris has come to me and said we have kind of an issue with this minority/ majority leader, the majority leader in state statues has certain duties and obligations and they are appointed to certain boards as part of that position, which is the Tobacco Asset Board. He says because we do not have a majority leader appointed we missing out on those we need to figure that out. Foley says his suggestion is that we change our rules to reflect that whatever party received the most votes during the process because minority/ majority leader based on the weighted vote. He says I think this will be a simple fix to it and offers clarification. He says if any one has any other better ideas please feel free to bring them forward. We will probably try to take this up in February's meeting and I will ask him to designated a resolution to bring this forward with the changes. Petrus says I just wanted to say yet again that the weighted voting is an issue, we are treating the symptom not the disease and we need to address this issue.

Discussion:

Foley says it was discussed to get the ball rolling on the auditor, I talked with Chris Petrus a little bit about having this happen at Ways & Means and he says sure. Foley says I thank you for that. So, Chris Palermo will have a short presentation on the back story of the auditor position so we can start wrapping our minds around a solution. Palermo says County law says that like towns the board is required to do the clam audit so basically every bill that comes in the County is audited by the board of supervisors and in our case it is the Legislature. He says then you pass a resolutions saying these claims are all lawful charges and the Treasurer is authorized to write the checks, which is called a warrant. He says the board does not have the authority to delegate that authority to other committees or individuals but you can have a committee recommend, review and prepare a resolution but it must be done by the full board by resolution. Palermo says the state legislature have said that it is permissible to have the position of auditor that is in office and that

appointment position or office of auditor needs to be of a term that is the same as the Chairman of the Legislature. He says it wasn't that long ago that we requested an opinion on what that language meant and at the time the County attorney had been appointed for a four term thinking Legislators served also for four years, Comptroller gave the opinion that this board with the staggered terms rolls over every two years so the appointment of the County Attorney should also be a two year term. He says the language in these sections of county laws for auditors is the same for county attorneys, they shall be appointed for the same term as the Legislature so following that logic it is a two year appointment. He says the law allows the board to establish the position, appoint the auditor and to limit the duties of the auditor in which claims they can or cannot audit. For an example, you do not want them auditing their own claims. He says this is also not a mandatory position, you can choose to have it or not. He says it began in 2009 is when we first established that office and the reason was because the board met once a month so we weren't able to get the warrants to the treasurer often enough to secure discounts that we would have been entitled to and things were just not being paid in a timely manner. He says so the office of the auditor is required in order to do the warrant, without the auditor it would go back to the board and to accomplish two warrants a month the full board would have to meet twice a month to pass the resolution authorizing the warrant. Palermo say in September of 2010 was when you appointed your first auditor , two months later you made that same person your compliance officer however those duties were never included in the local law that create the office of the auditor. He says I do not want to give you the impression that those two positions necessarily go together, that is just what has been done here for a significant period of time and up until 2017 the compliance officer and the auditor positions were held by the same person even though the original law did not require that. In 2019, we amended the local law eliminating a significant number of duties of the auditor, changed the qualifications of the position and really just focused on the claims audit because in order for the treasurer to pay the bills you have to have an audit. He says the amount of money we are saving on with the discounts by having two audits a month is substantial and it saves you guys from changing your meeting schedule. The person that is in that position right now is Sheila, her term expired December 31, 2019 so she is a hold over and it is the Comptrollers opinion that the office of Clerk of the Legislature and the office of Auditor are not incompatible and the same person can hold both. Foley says eventually the Legislature is going to have to decide what they want to do with that because as I also understand it can be left up to Ways & Means committee to do the auditing. Palermo says they can review and recommend but they cannot perform the audit, the audit must be done by the full board by a majority vote. Foley says like how we do it every month with resolutions 1A & 1B. He says we will be send this over to Ways & Means to figure out but I think it was good to have everyone hear all of that to start thinking about what everyone would like to do with it, as a legislator what you would like to see from that office.

Susan Dwyer (County Clerk) – No updates

Paul Bornemann (Information Technology)

- 2020 Phone System Replacement project, kickoff meeting with 8x8, working out deployment plans, will schedule configuration meetings with each department
- CPS – Northwoods Application Implementation, in coordination with NYS, notebook PC's deployed in 2019, training and CPS usage scheduled to begin by the end of January possibly extending into early February.
- Work planned/budgeted for 2020
 - Move to Microsoft 365 for Government: this annual subscription includes EXCHANGE email, SHAREPOINT document/forms/workflow and MICROSOFT WINDOWS OS – all of these are hosted or managed in Microsoft for Government facilities. We plan to implement advanced protection and cyber security features as a critical part of this implementation.
 - Multi-Function Printers: a majority of the Toshiba Multifunction devices will be up for lease/contract renewal in OCTOBER of 2020. IT will be evaluating products from Xerox, HP and Lexmark as alternatives. Xerox will be providing a Color Multifunction device to the County for use on the 6th floor of the County Office Building, the County only has to agree to pay for monthly usage costs (toner and maintenance). This is expected to be implemented by mid-February. Other devices will be ordered and evaluated by AUGUST to provide input prior to the renewal period.
 - Consolidation: Toshiba Business Systems proposed replacing a number of the county B&W and Color Laser single-function printers with Multifunction equivalents due to the lower operating costs. This proposal involves re-locating a number of the existing Toshiba Multifunction B&W devices to departments that need them, replacing them with new Color Toshiba Multi-Function devices.

Discussion:

Foley says another thing that has come up for us is that last year's committee put off the IT contact for somewhere down the road and so IT doesn't currently have a contract with the County and we are going to have to find a solution to this so I would like Chris to briefly go over what we need to do to resolve this. Palermo says so what we have done in the past is this would go out for RFP and Entre of course was chosen because they had a lot of our IT needs with a master agreement which set forth the parameters of the relationship. He says I believe that is how the RFP was initially set up and then what happens from that master services agreement there is the ability to have statement of work. He says so for various projects it's almost like sub-contracts the big terms are in the master services agreement and the specific terms for a project are in the statement of work. Palermo says we have had several over the duration of our relationship with Entre and our master services agreement expired December 31 and we had the sudden resignation of our former IT director that this committee discussed last year for several months what the IT department was going to look like going forward. He says at that time we decided to continue with Entre and have them head up our IT department. Bornemann says the last conversation that I was involved in was during budget sessions with Tucker, we decided to move forward without a new IT Director salary in the budget and the dollars were moved into the professional services line which is what funds me. Palermo says will continue this for another year then and that should give the committee plenty of time to figure out what they want to do. Foley says that is the way we are going to go unless there is a better ways that anyone can think of and bring forward.

Jessica Strassle (Veterans) – No Reports

1-20-GO-2 Authorizes Cayuga County Veterans Services to fill a Part-Time Driver. **Motion by Vitale, 2nd by Petrus, all in favor.**

Motion by Petrus to go into executive session at 8:12 PM, 2nd by Vitale, all in favor.

Motion by Pinckney to come out of executive session at 8:20 PM, 2nd by Petrus, all in favor.

Motion by Pinckney to adjourn at 8:21 PM, 2nd by Petrus, all in favor.

