



MINUTES
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
Thursday, March 11, 2021 – 5:30PM
Live Stream Link - https://youtu.be/qp95dSt_rwc

CALL TO ORDER: By Hon. Ryan Foley, Chair called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m.

MEMBERS: Legislators, Tricia Kerr, Heidi Nightengale, Hans Pecher, Chris Petrus (Vice Chair) Mark Strong and Tucker Whitman

OTHERS: Chris Palermo, Brittany Massi, Lacey Bailey, Aileen McNabb-Coleman, Lindsey Wilkinson, Paul Bornemann, Sue Dwyer, Lisa Lippoldt

MINUTES TO APPROVE: February 11, 2021, **Motion by Whitman, 2nd by Strong, all in favor.**

APPOINTMENTS: None

Committee Chairman Foley brought up a few highlights for tonight's meeting including:

- Chair Aileen McNabb-Coleman and Lisa Lippoldt to present on the Operations Manager and Executive Secretary.
- IT Steering Committee Update.
- Lindsey Wilkinson, Veteran's Office noted that they are down to one full time person due to the Department Head being away on military leave.
- Sue Dwyer's positions.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES FOR COMMITTEE:

Cherl Heary and Katie Lacey (Board of Elections) – no updates

Sheila Smith (Clerk of the Legislature) –

- Amanda has been working on purging files and getting them ready for Records or destroyed if they have already been scanned and are being kept electronically.
- I have been going through all titles and located some that have been kept by departments and reminding all departments that when ordering vehicles, the address needs to be the County Office Building, not their department address, do that original titles do not get misplaced.
- I have checked all policies on the county website and all are up to date, I will be working on all Boards and agency's next.
- Amanda is still working remotely 2 to 3 days a week, everything is going smoothly.

Christopher Palermo (County Attorney) – no updates

Chris shared information about the new software practice management system we have instituted for our office use.

Susan Dwyer (County Clerk) – no updates

Noted that while she does not have updates here there are updates added to the County Website every month. Discussed how well the appointment system is working in DMV. Still partial in building and partial remote. Several volunteering in off hours at Health Department. Housing upswing is still going strong so our Mortgage Tax is up high. This year sent 67K to CENTRO compared to 27K last year. Doubled amount of dba's in the past month. April organ donor month. Upcoming this year 100 Association of County Clerk's and Sue is the Chair for that. Would like to schedule a discussion to begin planning for the Historian's Office. Would like to institute a Karen Dwyer Day proclamation for a 45-year employee.

Paul Bornemann (Information Technology) – no updates

Jessica Strassle (Veterans) – Deputy Lindsey Wilkinson:

- 1 case were rated for a veteran in retro payment
 - 1 veteran received \$ 27,436.00 in retro payment, and a monthly tax-free benefit of \$2150.00
 - 4 veteran family members received over \$2450.00 reimbursements for burial benefits.

- These veterans & or surviving spouses will continue to receive a monthly benefit ranging from \$135.00 - \$3,700.00 for their service connected disabilities from the Veterans Administration.
- Syracuse VA Medical Center will soon be receiving the COVID-19 vaccine, and in accordance with CDC prioritization guidelines.
- Cayuga County Veterans Transportation is transporting a maximum of 5 veterans and driver to avoid the spread of the Coronavirus we are not transporting the maximum of 14 passengers. Drivers thoroughly cleaning
- 4 education (Chapter 35) benefits were processed through the VA allowing a \$1,248.00 monthly tax-free allowance for dependent children obtaining a higher education for veterans who are at a VA disability rating of 100%. This stipend can be spent on students' needs.
- NYS Division of Veterans Services hosted virtual training on a variety of topics, and we will continue to participate.
- 8 markers, burial benefits and presidential citations were processed through our office for deceased veterans and their families.
- Our office initiated 15 new claims for pensions or compensation. We are still operating by appointment only at this time.
- Average phone calls in a workday is 25-30 to schedule an appointment to make an office visit, as we continue to operate by appointment only.

RESOLUTIONS:

COUNTY CLERK:

3-21-GO-1 (added 3-8-21) Authorizes Cayuga County Clerk to fill a full-time and a part-time Cashier Position in the Motor Vehicle Department. (2/3 vote required) **Motion by Whitman, 2nd by Nightengale, all in favor.**

Motion by Whitman to adjourn at 6:50PM, 2nd by Kerr, all in favor.