



**MINUTES**  
**SPECIAL LEGISLATURE MEETING**  
**CAYUGA COUNTY LEGISLATURE**  
Wednesday, June 5, 2019 at 6:00PM in Chambers

**CALL TO ORDER:** Hon. Tucker Whitman, Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00PM

**ROLL CALL:** Sheila Smith, Clerk of the Legislature

**EXCUSED:** Patrick Mahunik

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

**MOMENT OF PRAYER:**

**Motion by Bennett to go into executive session at 6:02PM, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Petrus, all in favor.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** re: Employment history of a particular person & contract negotiations

**Motion by Foley to come out of executive session at 7:07PM, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lattimore, all in favor.**

**Motion by Lattimore, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ripley.**

**Discussion:**

Batman says while it may be the case that there is widespread dissatisfaction in both caucuses with the leadership of the County Administrator, but he cannot agree with an outright dismissal of Mr. Woods is the best option. He says it does nothing to do with the leadership issues, it is very costly, and we have not given the evaluation process and remedies a chance to work. He says there is also not a really good day after plan. He understands that it will be done tonight, but he wants to express his opposition to both in terms of the timing of the process.

**Motion by McNabb-Coleman to add to the 3<sup>rd</sup> whereas, that the Cayuga County Administrator should be terminated with cause, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Daly.**

**Discussion on amendment:**

McNabb-Coleman says she is beyond grateful to her constituents who have entrusted her to work for them and act in their best interest. She says the people of Cayuga County are our greatest asset and deserve quality leadership. She also has a commitment to the employees of Cayuga County who work each and every day to provide the services that make our county a great place to live, work, and raise our families. She appreciates and applauds the County Employees who work to follow County Policy, are safe when entrusted with County Property, who use sound judgment, are honest in spending taxpayer dollars, and who take pride in the service they provide because they know they are working for the quality of life for our community. She firmly believes this legislative body set the stage for success for the Administrator upon his arrival. The legislature invested in consultation through the examination of rules and responsibilities of the legislature, department heads, as well as the Administrator. The legislature invested in study on the needs of our county with focus on both the government and the operations. She says upon Mr. Woods's arrival the legislature allowed space and freedom and even prepared for a shakeup of sorts. She says accounting for the history of this body that was a leap of faith. She is sure the public question the legislature's compatibility with any chief of operations. However, looking at this situation in isolation as she sits in her role today she demands we are worthy of an administrator with integrity and leadership. She believes the actions of the administrator have been reckless and not in the best interest of the county taxpayers and employees.

Vitale says he agrees 100% with McNabb-Coleman, but as a representative of his constituents he would like to do what he thinks is the most economical way to proceed. He thinks economically removal and moving on with more important issues is probably the most economical way to proceed right now. He says although he agrees with everything that was said, he cannot agree on the amendment.

**Motion by Dennison to go into executive session at 7:13PM- regarding the employment history of a particular person & contract negotiations, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bennett, all in favor.**

**Motion by Ripley to come out of executive session at 7:15PM, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Petrus, all in favor.**

**Motion on amendment defeated by majority vote; Noes – Dennison, Vitale, Petrus, Pinckney, DeForest, Ripley, Bennett, Lattimore, Didio, Foley, and Whitman; Ayes – McNabb-Coleman, Batman, and Daly; Excused – Mahunik; 630/206/47.**

**Motion by Batman to table the resolution until next legislature meeting, specifically to provide more time to consider the with cause issue, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Foley, defeated by majority vote; Noes – Dennison, Vitale, Petrus, Pinckney, Ripley, Bennett, Lattimore, Didio, and Whitman; Ayes – McNabb-Coleman, Batman, DeForest, and Foley; Excused – Mahunik; 518/318/47.**

Foley thinks that this is being done in a matter that he does not know if it was well thought out. He says there is certainly a lack of a plan for what is next, which will hurt the legislature and the county moving forward. He says it will cost a tremendous amount of money and that has not been accounted for. He says we worry about budgets every year and this will definitively add to that.

DeForest has a problem supporting this resolution because as Chair of Government Operations he was charged along with members of the legislature to gather information from both caucuses and perform an evaluation with the leadership team that was completed in the middle of April 2019. He says the evaluation contained positives for the administrator plus areas to address for improvement. He does not accept that a month or a month and a half began to allow enough time for a course of corrections to be implemented or that there are sufficient grounds for dismissal. He will be voting no.

**Pinckney calls the question**

**Motion on resolution passes by majority vote; Ayes – Dennison, Vitale, Petrus, Pinckney, McNabb-Coleman, Ripley, Bennett, Lattimore, Didio, and Whitman; Noes – Batman, DeForest, Daly, and Foley; Excused – Mahunik; 604/232/47.**

**RESOLUTION NO. 186-19                      6/5/19                      LEG ADM Separation  
TERMINATING THE EMPLOYMENT OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR.**

BY: Cayuga County Legislature

WHEREAS, the Cayuga County Legislature requested the resignation of the County Administrator on May 28, 2019; and

WHEREAS, a written letter of resignation has not been received; and

WHEREAS, the Cayuga County Legislature has determined that the employment of the Cayuga County Administrator should be terminated in accordance with Employment Agreement paragraph 9(a); now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, pursuant to Section 9(a) of an employment agreement entered into between the County of Cayuga and Mr. Woods, dated November 29, 2017 (“Employment Agreement”), the Legislature votes to terminate the employment of the Cayuga County Administrator.

Signed by Whitman, McNabb-Coleman, Dennison, Vitale, Lattimore, Petrus, Ripley, Didio, Pinckney, and Bennett.

**Motion by Lattimore to adjourn at 7:22PM, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Batman, all in favor.**