



**MINUTES**  
**GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**  
**Tuesday, August 13, 2019, Chambers – 5:30PM**

**CALL TO ORDER:** By Hon. Joseph DeForest, Chairman called the meeting to order at 5:30PM

**MEMBERS:** Legislators Elane Daly, Andy Dennison, Michael Didio, Ryan Foley, Patrick Mahunik, and Aileen McNabb-Coleman (Vice Chair)

**EXCUSED:** Patrick Mahunik

**OTHERS:** Chairman Tucker Whitman, Legislators Chris Petrus, Timothy Lattimore, Joseph Bennett, Paul Pinckney, Charlie Ripley, County Attorney Chris Palermo, County Clerk Sue Dwyer, Interim IT Director Paul Bornemann, Commissioners Board of Elections Cheryl Heary and Katie Lacey, IT Senior Technician Bryan Lamb, Veterans Director Jessica Strassle, Youth Bureau Director Lloyd Hoskins, Citizen Reporter Ryan Franklin and Deputy Clerk of the Legislature Amanda Morgan

**MINUTES TO APPROVE:** July 9, 2019, Motion by Foley, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Daly, all in favor.

**APPOINTMENTS:** None

**DEPARTMENT UPDATES FOR COMMITTEE:**

**Jessica Strassle (Veterans)**

**Office Operations**

- Supported 421 veterans to include: 89 walk in clients, 47 scheduled appointments, and 100 follow up services provided for existing clients.
- Submitted 12 new claims for disability benefits.
- Completed 5 pension applications for veterans and/or spouses
- Assisted 3 veterans with obtaining aide and attendance
- Submitted 12 applications for VA health care
- Referred 11 veterans to the Auburn Clinic or Syracuse Hospital.
- Transported 112 veterans to and from Syracuse VAMC for scheduled dr. appointments.
- Supported 16 families with burial benefits
- Helped 2 homeless veterans get connected to housing and employment services
- Helped 1 veteran with GI Bill Benefits

**Community Support**

- 4 home visits
- Attended doctor's appointment with 1 veteran
- Outreach in Aurora, helped 8 veterans
- Veterans Resource Fair: over 40 veterans attended, connected 5 veterans to benefits
- Veteran Services Officers attended Adult Mental Health First Aide
- Attended open house at the new VA clinic

**Monthly Expenditures**

- 10 claims were awarded with monthly earnings totaling \$38,613.39 and retroactive payments were made to local veterans with service connection totaling \$13,435.00 in VA payments. Monthly payments to veterans will range from \$135.00-\$4,564.00

**Discussion:**

Strassle discusses some of the barriers they have been seeing in the community for veterans and our still military members when it comes to access to care. She thinks some of the concerns she thinks have local solutions, but some concerns are at the federal level. They have been having some veterans come into the office lately who have been getting transferred to either Auburn Hospital or to the Syracuse VA and if they only have VA healthcare and no other form of health insurance sometimes the VA does not pick up all of the care. She says the concern she has seen recently is veterans are being transferred to the hospital and their emergency transportation is not getting reimbursed and there is nothing she can do about it. She recently discovered to get the ambulance reimbursed even if they go to a VA affiliated hospital is they either have to be 30% service connected or more, which means they got sick or injured while

they were in the military and it has been documented and they are getting compensated for it or they have to be below a certain income threshold. They had a gentleman come in who has a \$2,500 ambulance bill to a VA hospital and he only makes \$1,500 a month, but it is too high for Medicaid and too high for VA. The only thing she can do at a local level is to encourage the veterans to enroll in another form of health insurance like Medicare, but this seems to her that if someone only has VA healthcare and enrolled in VA then the VA should be covering emergency transportation especially to a VA Hospital. She says it is something she would love to try to advocate, but it is not something that we can fix at a local level. She wanted to bring it to the legislature's attention and says it is happening and nothing she can do about it besides working with the company that transports them to at least out them on some sort of payment plan, so they are not up against an immediate payment.

Daly asks if someone was covered by the VA and then they decided to sign up for Medicare - Part B would VA still be primary and Strassle says yes. Daly says these individuals are trying to avoid paying the \$135.00 Medicare. Strassle says if they enroll in Medicare Part C which ranges around \$25 a month and varies. She says she was looking into that and it would cover at least emergency department visits and ambulance transportations. She says there has been some miscommunication and misunderstanding in our community and others that veterans in the community at large do not understand how a veteran gets emergency care.

DeForest asks Strassle if she could draft a letter of concern and have the committee review, sign onto, and pass it on to our state and federal representatives.

Strassle discusses the problem with access to care for people like her who are still in the military. She says there is Tricare for veterans who are in the guard or reserves and active duty military, so there are still a lot of members in this community that might be at a guard or reserve base, but they are still full time active duty. She says there are two types of Tricare – there is Tricare prime, which is for active duty members and there is Tricare select reserve, which is for members like herself. She says there are very few people in network in Auburn. She says she has to drive 45 minutes to an hour and a half for everything she needs. She goes to physical therapy locally and pays out of pocket because she does not want to drive to Syracuse for it. She asked her physical therapist if it was an Auburn or Tricare problem and her physical therapist thought that she was in network with Tricare and that she signed the contract. She would like to try and get a list of all the providers in Cayuga County and send out a survey to see if they are in the network, or why they do not want to be in network. She would like to schedule a conference locally with providers and have a spokesperson come in from Tricare to try and answer some questions.

#### **VETERANS:**

8-19-GO-3 To adopt the By-Laws for the Cayuga County Veteran's Services Advisory Board (VSAB). **Motion by Didio, 2<sup>nd</sup> by McNabb-Coleman, all in favor.**

#### **Susan Dwyer (County Clerk)**

- The Records Advisory reviewed and made changes to the **Cayuga County Records Management Policies and Procedures Manual** and I presented it for the for the committee's review.
- Acting IT Director Paul Bornemann and I will be at the August Government Operations meeting will be available for any questions/discussions of the manual.

#### **COUNTY CLERK:**

8-19-GO-1 Creating Cayuga County Policy Section 10, "Records Management Policies and Procedures". **Motion by Dennison, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Foley, all in favor.**

8-19-GO-2 Authorizes Cayuga County Clerk to fill a full time Senior Clerk. **Motion by Dennison, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Foley, all in favor.**

#### **Christopher Palermo (County Attorney) - no updates**

#### **Paul Bornemann (Information Technology)**

##### 2020 Budget Planning

- Incorporate 2019 IT Assessment Recommendations (will schedule meetings to prioritize)
- Phone System – updated budgetary estimates
- Office 365 Government & Advanced Security Services w/Professional services to implement
- Consolidation of IT systems where possible

##### Active Projects

- IT – implementing SOPHOS CLOUD Security Suite for end point protection, expect to be fully implemented on desktops/laptops end of July, will be implementing on Servers until December 2019
- Providing recommendations to departments – regarding consolidation of printers where possible (single-function to multi-function) based on department input/approval – working with Toshiba Business Systems to finalize

- Windows 10 OS deployments (including new notebook systems), Server OS Upgrades (all need to be completed by end of December)
- Evaluating T-Mobile alternative carrier for iPhones and Fleet management. Potentially significant savings vs current Verizon Wireless systems – testing coverage, performance, quality.
- BOE – coordinating Electronic Polling and Voting Cyber Security Measures
- DSS – Northwoods Application Implementation, in coordination with NYS
- Mental Health
  - Scheduling TelePsych solution demo
  - Support NYS Medicaid value based payments initiative with regional PPS:CNYCC – contract with IBM / WATSON
  - Online Referral Website Project – pilot
- Veterans – implementing tablet/laptop based benefits enrollment
- IT – Implementing ConnectWise helpdesk, monitoring and management software, expect that it will be implemented by end of September 2019
- Records Committee
  - Records Management Update

**Discussion:**

Bornemann says Jon Budelmann contacted him in regards to a new state law that is a mandate that has to be done by January and is called CPL 245. He says that it will affect the DA, 911, Sheriff, Probation and pretty much anyone in evidence collection and sharing and documentation sharing in court cases. He says the way people are addressing it across the state is by taking paper documents, scanning them, and storing them in a cloud system that the DA subscribes to. He says that this will increase some technology use in the county by quite a bit and could impact internet speeds, bandwidth and things like that. He says there will be some unfunded spending that is required by the state that the county has to do by the end of this year. He says they are getting quotes and working with the Purchasing Director Don Carr to look at different vendors, prices, and processes. He says there will be some group meetings to see how it affects each department. He says after talking with Budelmann it appears they are intending to put scanners on every desktop, scan all their documents, put them in the cloud, and then have tablets. He says it is all about getting evidence to the defense attorneys in a timely fashion and it is a very aggressive ruling.

**Cherl Heary and Katie Lacey (Board of Elections)**

- Commissioners to discuss changes in duties at the BOE - Attached

Heary says when she first started at the Board of Elections she had to be there during petition and election time and not much else. She says they had two part-time commissioners, two part-time clerks, and two full-time senior clerks. She says they have changed the title to deputy commissioner because the commissioners were not in the office full-time. She says in 2008 when the new voting machines came in everything changed and now with early voting the office is changing considerably. Lacey explains the way it used to be and the towns covered the elections. She says the voting machines were kept in the towns, clerks hired all of the inspectors, and the only thing the county really did was train one day for election inspectors and collect paperwork from the towns and mailed it into Albany. She says as soon as they go the new machines the county had the responsibility for all of the elections. She says the paperwork has become burdensome and they are reporting back to Albany for everything. She explains everything that the Board of Election office has to do and refers to the chart comparison of other counties. DeForest asks if the budget that Board of Elections will reflect the change in salaries and they respond yes.

**Discussion: Status of filling the IT Director Position, long term plan going forward**

DeForest asks for an update because we have gone a number of months without discussion about IT and asks if the Chairman or someone from the Leadership team has some insight. Whitman does not think there has been a lot of discussion about it. He says he has started throwing some ideas around. DeForest assumes we will keep a line in the budget for an IT Director and Whitman thinks that would be a good idea. DeForest says he wants to make sure with budget time coming up that we address the status quo and beyond the status quo. Daly says the general thought is that there is not enough IT staff in the County to manage all of the works load and Bornemann says that is true. Daly says Bornemann has done a great job on an interim basis, but the question is do we go ahead and fill the director position and then reevaluate the staff. Bornemann says more staff is needed and he says that can be done with staff or hiring outside services. Whitman says that if this committee wants we can have a resolution ready for Ways to authorize to fill the position, so we can at least go out and advertise. DeForest would like to see exactly what Bornemann's services have cost us, priorities on the list, see what the costs are, and see the costs of a contract with the company Bornemann works for and that compared with how much a IT director would be. McNabb-Coleman says she would also like to hear from the other employees in IT. Foley says that he does not think it is going to be more to have an IT Director. Bornemann says it will just depend on what their needs are.

**Sheila Smith (Clerk of the Legislature)**

- Codification is moving smoothly, Chris Palermo is working on the legal analyses
- Our part-time student summer help is helping Amanda with contracts and indexing and is working out nicely
- Working with the HR department for the Employee Recognition Luncheon

**CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE:**

8-19-GO-4 Authorizing the amendment of the RULES OF ORDER CAYUGA COUNTY LEGISLATURE. **Motion by Dennison, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Didio.**

**Motion by Foley to amend the Rules of Order that calling a caucus cannot exceed one hour and can be extended by majority or minority leader. The final approval of extension be granted by the chair, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Daly, motion to amend defeated – Noes – DeForest, Didio, and Dennison, Ayes – Foley, McNabb-Coleman, and Daly.**

**All in favor of original resolution and Rules of Order except Didio.**

**Motion by Dennison to adjourn at 7:07PM, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Daly, all in favor.**