



**MINUTES**  
**GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**  
**Thursday, June 11, 2020, – 5:30PM**  
**Live Streamed - [https://youtu.be/\\_ODE2O-3Jgs](https://youtu.be/_ODE2O-3Jgs)**

**CALL TO ORDER:** By Hon. Ryan Foley, Chair

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

**OTHERS:** Chair Aileen McNabb-Coleman, Legislators Elane Daly, Heidi Nightengale, Hans Pecher, County Attorney Chris Palermo, IT Interim Director Paul Bornemann, Veterans Deputy Director Lindsey Wilkinson, Assistant County Attorney Brittany Massi, Executive Assistant County Attorney Richard Graham, County Clerk Sue Dwyer, Sheriff Brian Schenck, Board of Election Commissioners Cheryl Heary and Katie Lacey, and Deputy Clerk of Legislature Amanda Morgan

**MINUTES TO APPROVE:** May 14, 2020, Motion by Ripley, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kerr, all in favor.

**APPOINTMENTS:** none

**DEPARTMENT UPDATES FOR COMMITTEE:**

**Cheryl Heary and Katie Lacey (Board of Elections) –**

Most of our office activity during the month of May has been devoted to preparing for the absentee application process mandated by the Governor's Executive Order. We are also adjusting our anticipated needs for early voting and Election Day based on lower turnout. We expect many voters will opt for the absentee process, but the impact is a huge unknown.

Our absentee application mailing went to 27,570 active and inactive voters eligible for the five primary elections this year. We have countywide primaries in the Democratic, Conservative and SAM Parties and a Republican primary in the 126<sup>th</sup> Assembly District. We necessarily had to acquire a new postage paid return mail permit and increase substantially our return ballot envelope order. In anticipation of heavy volume of application returns and ballot mailing, two poll workers have temporarily joined our staff.

Adjustments necessitated by the Covid 19 virus have included plans for sanitizing poll sites, providing protection for poll workers and relocating the two locations in the senior citizen apartment houses. We had planned to add a fourth early voting location, but have decided to stay with three sites. We have encountered some difficulty in scheduling a sufficient number of poll workers for early voting and Election Day. We are still short of our staffing needs for Election Day and may have to consider some poll site consolidation as we get closer to the election.

While all of this Covid related adjustment has been going on we have also assisted eight local school districts with their need for voter lists, ballot preparation and counting machines for their mandated June 9<sup>th</sup> vote. We have also had to keep up with our usual new registrations (128), in-State transfers (62) and name changes (12).

Other than that it was a quiet month!

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

- Legislature and Committee Meetings are still being held remotely and are going well.
- Auditing: John Chomyk is on board and is now doing the auditing. I thank you for giving me the opportunity to do the auditing, I gave it 100%, it was a great learning experience and the group of employees I worked with were always very helpful.
- Financial Disclosures have been either mailed, e-mailed or put in Department Heads mail slots, please remember to fill them out and get them to either Amanda or me.

**Christopher Palermo (County Attorney) –No updates**

### **Susan Dwyer (County Clerk) – No updates**

Discussion:

Dwyer discusses the difficulties of not having the full staff at the DMV. Foley says Covid has had a pretty drastic effect on all county departments and a lot of businesses. He says Cayuga County and our DMV is not immune to that and we will continue to work through it and do the best that we can.

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

- Operations/Support: end user support, server & application consolidation where possible, patching and updates, application system updates, phone system training for staff
- COVID: Planning, implementing, and testing online systems to support reopening plans.
- Project: Munis upgrade – systems upgrade scheduled for June 18/19 in “TEST”
- Project: Network Security / consolidation to Sophos edge security technologies
- Administrative: IT Staff time and equipment financials associated with COVID response
- Administrative: Provide supporting information for Audit re: IT systems operations, backups and disaster recovery.
- Administrative: Spending assess our opportunities to minimize expenditures that do not result in improved security or cost efficiency.
- Administrative: NY BOE Cybersecurity Grant – develop project & draft budget to provide people, process, products needed to align county board of elections security protections with NYS recommendations and best practices. We hope to include portions of 2020 IT spending for cybersecurity improvements.

#### **July Plan**

- Project: Munis Upgrade (completion is based on Tyler schedule)
- Project: Network Security – Sophos implementation
- Potential involvement in reopening support
- Project: Secure Forms & workflow

Discussion:

Kerr asks about the Wi-Fi cellular coverage in our rural areas and if there are any new programs that could potentially be accessed. Bornemann says normally he would have attended a spring conference where other IT Directors meet. He says instead they did a virtual vendor shows of conversations about what vendors are doing for counties in the area. He says one vendor presented some information that they are doing with Sullivan County where the county is becoming an internet provider. He says the county had to get licensed by New York State to become an internet provider and they are putting in infrastructure to provide wireless Wi-Fi coverage for some of their rural communities on towers they had existing for radios. They have so far put up one tower at a cost of about \$300,000 and they plan on billing the residents for access to that system. He says they have also outsourced the management and support of that, so they do not have to take phone calls of why people cannot get their internet. He says it is something to keep in mind to possibly address our rural areas. He spoke with NYSAC and they told him that the Governor and they are pursuing cellular now more instead of broadband because cellular provides internet connectivity, telecom and other capabilities. They are also working with the Inter County of Western of NY and looking to drive federal aid to help roll out better cellular coverage to the exiting carriers in the area. He says simultaneously the federal government are looking to revisit broadband connectivity in rural areas and looking to push that agenda as well. He says between the two he does not know if we will see anything, but between improved cellular coverage and broadband there seems to be some hope for funding.

### **Jessica Strassle (Veterans) – No updates**

#### **RESOLUTIONS:**

6-20-GO-1 Authorizing the Chairman of the Legislature and the Commissioners of the Cayuga County Board of Election to sign contract for NYS HAVA CARES Act Grant Program for the Board of Elections. **Motion by Petrus, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kerr, all in favor.**

**Motion by Ripley to go into executive session at 6:23PM, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lattimore, all in favor.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Contact Negotiations

**Motion by Ripley to come out of executive session at 6:48PM, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Pinckney, all in favor.**

**Motion by Ripley to adjourn at 6:50PM, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Petrus, all in favor.**