

MINUTES

GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Thursday, May 5, 2022 9:00 a.m.

Present: Supervisors Lasher, Donalty, Kolczynski, Chatfield, Miller and Eygnor, County Administrator Rick House, Fiscal Assistant Brian Sams, Human Resource Director Chris Kalinski, Election Commissioners John Zornow and Mark Alquist, Grant Specialist Jay Roscup, County Attorney Dan Connors and Economic Development Fiscal Assistant Jamie Corteville.

The following transmittals were referred to the Government Operations Committee:

--Authorization to create and fill the position of Social Welfare Examiner at the Department of Social Services and amend the Department budget. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization to approve out-of-title pay to a Nursing Home employee while she performs the duties of the Coordinator of Nurse Training. Approved 5-0.

Mr. Alquist presented a transmittal requesting authorization to hire a temporary full-time Deputy Elections Commissioner due to an upcoming retirement. He reviewed the years of experience the Office lost with a recent resignation and will lose with the upcoming retirement of a Deputy Commissioner and the need to train staff for the Deputy Election Commissioners position. Mr. Alquist stated the need for training on the functions, duties, and responsibility of the position. This will allow for the temporary position to work through upcoming primaries and the fall election. Approved 5-0.

Mr. Zornow informed the Committee there will be a second primary held in the County. The first primary is scheduled for June 28th; the second one is currently scheduled for August 23rd. The cost of a second primary was not included in the 2022 Election's budget and is anticipated to cost between \$50,000-\$60,000. The Committee will be kept up to date on State redistricting and upcoming primaries.

The monthly report for the County Attorney's Office was included with the agenda. During April the Office drafted and/or reviewed 84 contracts and 52 insurance certificates. Three accident reports and one notice of claim were filed during the month along with one employee grievance. Staff responded to 34 Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) requests which brought \$10.50 into the County.

Mr. Kolczynski asked if existing staff in the County Attorney's Office is adequate for their operation. Mr. Connors said it is and he would inform the Committee if there was a time when additional staff was needed.

Minutes from the April 7th Committee meeting were approved as written.

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Mr. Roscup informed the Committee applications for School Safety Grants have been submitted. He worked with the Sheriff's Office on these grant applications that have no matching cost.

Mr. Roscup invited Supervisors to the June 8th Community School Leaders Conference at the conference center at Wayne Finger Lakes BOCES in Newark. The event will provide an opportunity for the entire County—school representatives, municipal leaders and agencies that serve the public, to communicate to the private sector why they should invest in Wayne County. Mr. Roscup said business leaders from Rochester were invited to the event; along with individuals that often times seek out ways to financially help their community.

Supervisors were informed there is only a short period of time Federal Legislator's will remain in session, during this time grant funding may become available and will require a quick turnaround time for applications. Mr. Roscup asked for patients if last minute requests for grant applications come before the Board. Since the last meeting, Mr. Roscup provided technical support to the Director of the Wayne County Museum in completing two grant applications. One was just approved that will allow for improvements to the building's fire alarm system.

Mr. House updated Supervisors on activities in his Office since the last Committee meeting. Efforts continue to limit, or eliminate, Other Business and Rule 14 issues on the Board agenda. He wants all requests to be properly vetted before Board vote. Employees are very appreciative of the stipend the Board approved; however, retention and recruitment remain an issue in Wayne County and around the State.

Mr. House informed Supervisors, as a member of the NYSAC Board, he would be attending their June Conference. He met with Newark-Wayne Community Hospital administration, along with the County's Mental Health Director, to discuss the need to re-open the in-patient 16-bed psychiatric unit in the hospital. The discussions were good and a lot of information was brought to the table; however, there was no headway regarding re-opening the in-patient 16-bed psychiatric unit in the hospital. State representatives will attend the next meeting with the hospital. Mr. House noted a request will also be made to increase morgue space at Newark-Wayne.

Bargaining Union negotiations continue with Road Patrol and the Corrections Unit. Mr. Kolczynski questioned how the Department of Social Services is doing with maintaining their Case Worker staff. Mrs. Kalinski stated many County employees that have left employment in that area were of retirement age and leaving work for that reason. Mr. House noted the months of training needed to be a Case Worker in the Department of Social Survives. Efforts are underway to have the State provide regional and virtual training, opposed to having training in Albany for Case Workers.

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Mrs. Kalinski reported 18 employees left County employment during April; two of these were due to retirement. The Nursing Home hired seven new staff members and five resigned. The County filled 15 positions in April; four of this number were seasonal.

Mrs. Kalinski presented a transmittal requesting authorization to adopt the management and confidential position wage and salary ranges for 2023. The transmittal included all wages/salary rates. This will allow for raises to be included in the County's 2023 budget. Approved 5-0.

Mrs. Kalinski brought to member's attention the need to amend the Human Resource budget for unanticipated legal expenses. The 2022 budget for negotiations and arbitrations is \$60,500. The Department received a bill that cannot be covered by the amount remaining in the budget line. Supervisors agreed a request could be put before next week's Finance Committee for an additional \$80,000 into this budget line to come from the County's General Fund.

Mr. Verno questioned if the County has an employee residency policy. Mrs. Kalinski said she is not aware of a residency policy for County employees. The County does follow the Public Officers Law that states elected, Department Heads, Deputy Directors, and positions that fall under Public Officer Law must live in the County. Wayne County has opened examinations/positions to contiguous counties.

Mr. Kolczynski made a motion the Committee enter into Executive Session at 9:43 a.m. to discuss a personnel matter, Mr. Chatfield second. The meeting adjourned at 10:08 a.m. The next meeting of the Government Operations Committee is scheduled for Thursday, June 9th at 9:00 a.m.