

MINUTES

GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Thursday, October 5, 2023 9:00 a.m.

Present: Supervisors Lasher, Donalty, Kolczynski, Rose, Groat and Eygnor, County Administrator Rick House, Human Resource Director Chris Kalinski, County Attorney Dan Connors, Board of Elections Commissioners John Zornow and Gerry Clingerman, County Clerk Michael Jankowski and GIS Coordinator Zakk Hess. Supervisor Chatfield was not present for the meeting.

Minutes from the September 7th and 18th Committee meetings were approved as written.

Public Health's Children with Special Needs Program Supervisor, Lisa O'Dell, presented a transmittal requesting authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign an inter-municipal agreement with Ontario County for transportation services for developmental and physically handicapped children receiving services from the Early Intervention Program and Pre- K Programs. This request is needed to accommodate the transportation needs of one child. Approved 4-0.

One pass thru transmittal was presented to create and fill a temporary full-time Radiological/HazMat Officer position in the Emergency Management Services Department. Approved 3-0, Supervisor Kolczynski did not vote on the request stating the vote from this Committee does not affect the outcome of the transmittal.

Mr. House reviewed with members his activities since the last Committee meeting. Progress continues on the countywide ambulance service; although necessary, this will have a County cost. The County's negotiation team will be meeting with the Teamsters tomorrow. County administration continues to work on the 2024 budget; any budget appropriation increase is in need of justification. At this time, it is anticipated the tax rate will drop, mainly due to an increase in property valuation. Appropriations in the 2024 budget are up 6.4%; the main driver of this is Medicaid. Operational costs increased in the budget to reflect the new ambulance service, funds to pay increased Indigent Legal Services cost and other mandated services. Mr. Kolczynski voiced concern that a municipality can do a property re-val and within one year the State says the prices do not measure up to actual values. He would like to see the State re-assess how they set property values.

Mr. House informed Supervisors there was discussion at a recent Regional County Administrators meeting about the Mayor of New York City providing rent vouchers to homeless people and bussing them to upstate counties. This would free-up temporary housing not being used by the homeless for asylum seekers. Wayne County has not received any homeless individuals from New York. Supervisors questioned earlier in the week if the County should put forth a resolution in opposition to accepting rental vouchers from New York City, as Wayne County does not have housing for these individuals.

Mr. House said he believes it would be in the best interest of the County to start auditing records of outside agencies that receive an appropriation from the County. He noted the amount of funds the County gives these agencies without monitoring their financial records. He said both the County Treasurer and County Auditor were in favor of this action. Mr. Kolczynski questioned if the County audits all their contractors. Mr. House said a decision will have to be made if an audit is necessary for contractor who receive a small appropriation or not. He warned the Committee the Attorney General could come to the County at any time questioning how taxpayer dollars are spent.

Supervisor Groat left the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

The monthly activities report for the County Attorney was included with the agenda. Staff drafted and/or reviewed 47 contracts, two notices of claim and two accident reports. The Office responded to 52 Freedom of Information requests, received one subpoena and received six poor person applications. The County paid for repairs to two Sheriff's vehicles that were involved in accidents during the month.

Mr. Connors noted the State Legislature left session without adopting any new legislative process or procedure for former property owners to make claim to the excess proceeds from municipal tax foreclosure sales. The County Treasurer is holding all profits from this year's tax sale in a designated account. Mr. Connors said six motions have been filed on behalf of former property owners to receive the funds remaining as excess proceeds from the tax sale. The County has filed responses to these motions opposing the request on the basis that there is now no existing law to govern priority claims to excess proceeds, and the Appellate Division 4th Department has held in two separate cases in 2019 that the procedures under Real Property Actions and Proceedings Law, Article 13 do not apply to Real Property Tax Foreclosure Proceedings under Article 11 of the Real Property Tax Law. He will keep the Committee updated on this legal issue.

A transmittal was presented requesting authorization to amend Board Resolution #293-23 in relation to establishing pay rates for Election Workers. Election Commissioners believe it is better to pay Poll Workers by the day, not hour. The resolution will be amended to pay Poll Workers \$320 a day and Chairs/Co-Chairs \$400 per day. Mr. Kolczynski questioned the number of hours a Poll Workers works. He also questioned if the number of Poll Workers will be reduced once voting is all performed electronically. Mrs. Kalinski said flat rate payment is allowed under the Labor Law. Approved 4-0.

Changes in some polling sites for fall elections were reviewed: the Palmyra Fire Hall is being renovated so the Community Center will be used and the Presbyterian Church in Ontario closed so the Ontario Fire Hall will be used.

The monthly report for the GIS Department was included with the agenda. Mr. Hess continues to work on the structure and function of the ArcGIS HUB Project. A presentation on the GIS program was made. Mr. Hess explained how the system will offer efficiencies and controls for

who has access. Various data sets from a few Departments/Agencies are ready to be put out on the web. At this time, applications are simple. Mr. Hess reviewed other resources that are available on the GIS site. He will continue to work with IT staff to have the program on line in the next few months.

Ms. Hess noted interviews scheduled for the GIS Needs Assessment and Implementation Plan were not well attended. Only 20 of 28 Department Heads attended, five towns out of 15, and two villages out of seven had a representative present for their scheduled assessment review. He hopes those who did not attend will reschedule, as their input is important for the Plan.

Prior to review of third quarter financial reports for the Clerk's Office, Mr. Jankowski stated mortgage rates above 7% and this is having a dramatic impact on property sales. The power point presentation showed Clerk's revenues down 15.4%, mortgage tax down 20%, DMV revenue up 1.5%, Clerk's Office expenses down 1%, documents processed down 14%, deeds filed down 17%, mortgages filed down 30%, DBAs file up slightly, pistol permits down 72.5%, gun additions down 10% and civil foreclosures up 9.3%. The Historian's Office had 16% less revenue than last year at the same time and 31% more expenses.

Mrs. Kalinski informed the Committee local Civil Services rules have been updated; a copy of the update will be provided to all municipalities and school district by year's end. During September, there were 22 new full-time hires and eight full-time staff terminations. The Office is looking into the possibility of increasing tuition reimbursement for County employees in any medical field, as it has been very difficult to recruit these individuals. Mrs. Kalinski checked with HR Consultants and they said this would be allowed.

The meeting adjourned at 10:13 a.m. The next meeting of the Government Operations Committee is scheduled for Thursday, November 9th at 9:00 a.m.