

GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 23, 2010

GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Henke, G. Hall, Lindsay, Haff

GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Brown, Sady, Watkins

SUPERVISORS: Rymph, LaPointe, Banks, Tatko, Campbell

Debra Prehoda, Clerk

Roger Wickes, County Attorney

Phyllis Cooper, Treasurer

Bill McCarty, Director RPTS

Barbara Winchell, Personnel Director

Harrison Steves, Supt. Buildings

AGENDA AS PRESENTED IN COMMITTEE NOTICE:

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Approval of Minutes – October 20, 2010
- 3) Department Requests/Reports:
 - A. Buildings & Grounds
 - a. Monthly Updates
 - B. Personnel/Workers' Compensation
 - a. Benetech Contract 1/1/11 – 12/31/13 – Self-Insured Workers' Compensation Third Party Administration Services
- 4) Other Business
- 5) Adjournment

Chairman Henke called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. Mr. LaPointe, Vice Chairman of the Board, making the quorum.

A motion to approve the minutes of the October 20, 2010 meeting was moved by Mr. Lindsay, seconded by Mr. Haff and adopted.

PERSONNEL/WORKERS COMPENATION: Barbara Winchell, Personnel Director, addressed the following item:

Benetech Contract 1/1/11 – 12/31/13 – Self-Insured Workers' Compensation Third Party Administration Services – The annual fee for the next three years will remain the same as in 2010, \$49,934. Typically, the contract increases by 2% each year. A motion to accept three-year contract with Benetech, Third Party Administration, was moved by Mrs. G. Hall and seconded by Mr. Lindsay. Discussion. Mr. Haff asked where in the contract does it state they cover the towns. The Treasurer stated Benetech also administrates the disability and that is also remaining at the same cost, \$7,941. A motion to amend the motion to include a three-year contract for disability was moved by Mr. Lindsay but did not receive a second. It was suggested that the original motion be withdrawn and restated with disability. Mrs. Hall and Mr. Lindsay withdrew their motions. The motion to accept three-year contract with Benetech for third party administration of Workers Compensation and Disability was moved by Mrs. G. Hall, seconded by Mr. Lindsay and adopted.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS: Harrison Steves, Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds, addressed the following items:

Mr. Brown arrived at 10:08 A.M. making a quorum of the Government Operations Committee.

- ✓ Monthly Updates:
 - Closed the parks
 - Site work done at Carport – footings poured. Will pour piers on Thursday
 - New door unit for Motor Vehicle is installed
 - Remodeling back entrance to basement vault
 - Started furnace work at the Head Starts

- Completed furnace work at the Highway and Solid Waste barns
 - Finishing mowing lawns and putting mowers away
 - Get out snow equipment
- ✓ He is waiting for a sample from the lighting representative. He is investigating a retrofit option rather than replace the entire system.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. Campbell stated the AT&T tower on Presbytery in Hebron was turned on yesterday.

Chairman Henke mentioned concern with the nine big mandates that make up between 80% and 90% of the budgets in New York State. He stated if the County stopped doing everything, if we did not have for example a Motor Vehicle department, Sheriff's department, District Attorney's office, we would decrease our tax down by only about 10%. The same people that are giving us 90% of our budget are also trying to institute a tax cap. He would like the people to see the true cost. Chairman Henke has asked Bill McCarty, Real Property Tax Director, about the feasibility of putting this information on the tax bill. He would like a line indicating State mandated programs. Mr. McCarty stated there is probably room on the tax bill for another line. Chairman Henke feels this is important information for people to have. Kevin asked how is our sales tax used to offset mandates. Mandates include: Medicaid, child welfare, temporary assistance, safety net, indigent defense, early intervention, probation, preschool/special education, youth detention and retirement. Kevin suggested referring people to a website for additional information on mandates. A motion to direct Bill McCarty, Director of Real Property Tax Services, to list the Medicaid gross amount on the tax bill as a separate line was moved by Mr. Henke, seconded by Mr. Haff and adopted. Roger Wickes, County Attorney, stated he will check to see if the tax bill can be altered, it might require a local law.

BOARD OF ELECTIONS – Leslie Allen and Jeff Curtis, Election Commissioners, addressed the following item with the committee:

Leslie stated that compensation time and furloughs, voluntary leave, has to be used by December 22nd and they have employees with a considerable amount of compensation time due to the election to use by that deadline. The compensation time is for the deputy commissioners. Mr. Campbell stated this will be a yearly issue with November elections. The department will have all their furlough days in by December 22nd. Leslie stated the employees that earned this time have a very limited time to use this time and she does not feel it is fair to the employees. The policy states that employees can either take the time or be paid. The Treasurer stated the employee's handbook states the maximum amount of time an employee can accumulate is twenty-four hours of compensated time. The dollar value for the compensated time in the Board of Elections for the deputy commissioners is \$639 and \$398. A motion to have them follow policy, either take time off or be paid, was moved by Mrs. G. Hall, seconded by Mr. Henke and adopted.

Artwork Damaged at Voting Site (Georgi Museum, Salem) – The Board of Elections used the community room at the Georgi Museum. Leslie Allen, BOE Commissioner, stated the day after the primary she received a call indicating three pieces of art were damaged during the primary. The inspectors' coats fell on the artwork damaging the three pieces. They have filed a claim requesting payment for the items, \$800 range. Pictures of the damaged artwork were displayed. The Town of Salem has paid the claim submitted by the Georgi Museum and they would like the County to reimburse. Chairman Henke stated if the County pays the claim then the items should be in the

County's possession. A motion to request this matter be added to the Finance & Personnel Committee agenda was moved by Mr. Henke, seconded by Mr. Haff and adopted.

Voluntary Leave Update – Kevin Hayes, County Administrator, stated six departments are non compliant with the voluntary leave request. Three departments have a plan to address the voluntary leave and will be in compliance, District Attorney, Public Defender and Board of Elections and three departments have been instructed to submit a plan, Probation, Information Technology and the Department of Social Services. Kevin talked with the union this morning and he has instructed them were we are going with this. Layoffs probably will start after the next pay period, December 1st through December 22nd. Kevin stated there has been a very good response to the voluntary leave request.

The meeting adjourned at 11:13 A.M.