



Tioga County Legislative Worksession Minutes

April 4, 2019 – 1:00 p.m.

Legislators Present:

Legislator Balliet
Legislator Hollenbeck
Legislator Mullen
Legislator Standinger
Legislator Sullivan
Legislator Weston

Legislators Absent:

Legislator Monell
Legislator Roberts
Chair/Legislator Sauerbrey

Guests:

Jen Rodriguez, Reporter, Morning Times

Staff Present:

County Attorney Peter DeWind (*arrived @ 1:01 p.m.*)
Legislative Clerk Maureen Dougherty
Deputy Legislative Clerk Cathy Haskell
Director of Public Health Lisa McCafferty
ED&P Director LeeAnn Tinney
Personnel Officer Bethany O'Rourke (*arrived @ 1:02 p.m.*)
Chief Accountant/Budget Officer Rita Hollenbeck (*arrived @ 1:06 p.m.*)

Call Meeting to Order –

Deputy Legislative Chair Hollenbeck called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Approval of Worksession Minutes – March 21, 2019 -

Legislator Mullen motioned to approve the March 21, 2019 Legislative Worksession minutes as written, seconded by Legislator Balliet with Legislators Balliet, Hollenbeck, Mullen, Standinger, Sullivan, and Weston voting yes and Legislators Monell, Roberts, and Sauerbrey being absent. Motion carried.

Action Items -

Currently, there are no action items.



Legislative Support – Legislative Clerk Dougherty -

Approval of Legislative Support Committee Minutes – March 7, 2019:

Legislator Sullivan motioned to approve the March 7, 2019 minutes as written, seconded by Legislator Hollenbeck with Legislators Balliet, Hollenbeck, Mullen, Standinger, Sullivan, and Weston voting yes with Legislators Monell, Roberts, and Sauerbrey being absent. Motion carried.

Legislative Clerk Dougherty reported the following:

- The April Legislative Meeting is Tuesday, April 9, 2019, at 12:00 p.m. in the Hubbard Auditorium. Finance/Legal Committee will meet at 10:30 a.m. in the Legislative Conference Room.
- Legislator Hollenbeck will do the prayer, pledge, and start the voting process at the April 9, 2019 Legislature meeting.
- Attended Department Head meeting last month.
- Budget is tracking well.

Recognition Resolution (1) –

- ✓ **Resolution Recognizing Teresa Saraceno’s 20 Years of Dedicated Service to Tioga County** – Legislator Weston will read and present at the April 9, 2019 Legislature meeting. Ms. Saraceno and ED&P Director Tinney will attend.

Proclamations (2) – The following proclamations will just be noted in the April 9, 2019 Legislative meeting minutes:

- ✓ **Donate Life Month in Tioga County**
- ✓ **Child Abuse Prevention Month**

Resolutions – All resolutions were reviewed for Legislature consideration at the April 9, 2019 Legislature meeting and discussion occurred on the following:

- **Resolution to Oppose New York State Senate Bill S.1947 and New York State Assembly Bill A.1261 related to hours, wages, and supplements in contracts for public work** – ED&P Director Tinney reported the Tioga County IDA adopted a similar resolution last evening.
- **Rescind Resolution No. 117-17 Authorizing the Implementation and Funding in the First Instance 100% of the Federal Aid and State-Aid Eligible Costs of a Transportation Federal-Aid Project and Appropriating Funds** – Based on discussion at today’s Public Works Committee, Ms. Dougherty revised the 3rd WHEREAS with the removal of a specific dollar amount. Ms. Dougherty reported this information is not necessary for a rescind resolution.
- **Authorizing the Implementation and Funding in the First Instance 100% of the Federal Aid and State-Aid Eligible Costs of a Transportation Federal-Aid Project and Appropriating Funds** – Ms. Dougherty reported the dollar amount



for \$299,000 is in question and may need to be increased, however, this requires NYS DOT verification which is not available until April 8, 2019. Ms. Dougherty advised Public Works to proceed with the resolution as is and in the event the amount needs revision the resolution can be amended at the April 9, 2019 Legislative meeting.

- **Resolution Pursuant to Section 131-B of the Highway Law Dedicating Corporate Drive as a County Road** – County Attorney DeWind reported the purpose of this resolution is to provide clarification and formally recognize Corporate Drive as a county roadway.

Late-File Resolutions – Ms. Dougherty reported she is unaware of any late-file resolutions at this time.

Other –

- **Employee Recognition Committee** – Personnel Officer O'Rourke reported the Personnel Committee has been discussing the current Employee Recognition Program (ERC), as some of the current ERC members attended the March Personnel Committee meeting to explain their difficulty in keeping the program viable due to number of nominations received for the quarterly awards has decreased. In addition, the ERC members explained the committee structure in that when a board member's term expires the board member is responsible for finding their replacement and this recruitment has been difficult.

Ms. O'Rourke reported Chair Sauerbrey addressed this at the last Leaders Meeting and requested input from the Department Heads. Ms. O'Rourke reported there are many departments conducting their own employee recognitions, which may in part be the reason for decreased participation in the countywide program. Ms. O'Rourke reported the Department Heads are of the general opinion that by discontinuing the quarterly and yearly employee awards through the countywide ERC Program and maintaining the yearly pin ceremonies and luncheon for employees with 25 or more years of service would be a nice way to revamp the current program. Personnel Committee was in favor of this recommendation, but wanted to make sure the entire Legislature had an opportunity for discussion.

Ms. O'Rourke inquired as to whether the Legislature was in favor of eliminating the quarterly and yearly employee awards, but continuing the annual pin recognition ceremonies and luncheon.

Legislature



Legislator Sullivan reported when first brought to the attention of the Legislature, the consensus was that the Legislature did not want to eliminate a program that employees have repeatedly expressed over the years their appreciation to the Legislature for their program support.

Ms. O'Rourke reported the ERC approached the Personnel Committee last month and were moving in the direction of this recommendation, therefore, supports this recommendation.

Ms. O'Rourke reported the annual luncheon is via invitation for current year honorees with 25 or more years of service, past year honorees, Department Heads, and Legislators.

Legislator Mullen inquired as to whether there was any concern for the smaller departments and their employees not getting any recognition, as they do not conduct their own departmental recognition ceremonies. Ms. O'Rourke reported some departments may not do an award recognition, but they bring lunch in and do teambuilding.

Legislator Sullivan reported the departments who are independently conducting recognition award ceremonies started these on their own, therefore, every department head is welcome to do the same.

On a straw poll vote, all Legislators in attendance were in favor of the ERC and Department Head recommendation to eliminate the ERC countywide quarterly and yearly employee awards and maintain the annual Employee Recognition Week with the pin ceremonies and luncheon.

- **Analog vs. Digital Communications** – Deputy Chair Hollenbeck brought this topic forward as a point of information stating further discussion will be required.

Legislator Mullen provided history, as well as the status of the County's radio communication system. Legislator Mullen reported Chair Sauerbrey and Emergency Services Director recently met with a radio communications vendor to begin the process and discuss possible options.

Legislator Sullivan inquired about the interoperable grants we currently receive. Legislator Mullen reported the \$400,000 interoperable grants have been used for equipment maintenance.

Discussion is currently in the preliminary stages and the County has time to develop a plan. Legislator Sullivan reported she would like ITCS Director



Camin to be part of the preliminary discussions. Legislator Sullivan further suggested forming a dedicated committee including ITCS Director Camin, County Treasurer McFadden, Chief Accountant Hollenbeck, Emergency Services Director Simmons, and any other staff deemed appropriate for plan development. Legislator Mullen will discuss this committee recommendation with Mr. Simmons.

- **Annual Policy Review Attestation and Financial Disclosure Forms** – Ms. Dougherty reported she sent an email reminder to the Legislature stating the annual policy review attestations were due 3/31/19 and the financial disclosures are due 5/15/19. In addition, two additional trainings will be forthcoming from the Safety Officer that will need to be completed.
- **Hearing Testing** – Legislator Sullivan reported different options have been discussed at the HHS Committee with the Director of Public Health. Mr. DeWind reported we are not held to a specific date as long as a plan is in place this year. Going forward, Mr. DeWind reported this would be handled through the Safety Officer.

Legislator Sullivan reported the Legislature would need to decide whether to proceed contractually with the provider who is already conducting physicals or enter into a stand-alone contract.

Executive Session –

Motion by Legislator Hollenbeck, seconded by Legislator Mullen to move into Executive Session to discuss an individual personnel matter. Motion carried to go into Executive Session at 1:38 p.m. with County Attorney DeWind and Personnel Officer O'Rourke in attendance.

Executive Session adjourned at 1:53 p.m. Meeting adjourned at 1:53 p.m.

Next worksession scheduled for Thursday, April 18, 2019, at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Haskell

Deputy Legislative Clerk