

REGULAR MEETING

August 7, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Lawrence Dolhof.

Roll Call: All Legislators were present, except Legislator Chartrand whom had been excused.

Chairman Dolhof offered the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

There were 41 persons present

Chairman Dolhof declared the July 3, 2018 meeting minutes approved by general consent.

REPORT OF THE RULES AND LEGISLATION COMMITTEE:

The Rules and Legislation Committee had met and recommended to waive the rules to allow action on late resolutions.

Signed by: Ronald Burns, Chairman
Jerry King
Randall LaChausse

Dated: August 7, 2018

Legislator Moser made a motion to waive the rules, seconded by Legislator Moroughan, and carried.

Director of Human Resources Chris Boulio prefaced that only eligible employees reaching specified milestones for longevity will be annually presented appreciation pins.

Chairman Dolhof then congratulated and presented pins to the following employees for 10 years of service to Jeffrey Suiter, Peter Waryasz IV, Mary Failing, Timothy Widrick, Ramona Carpenter, Mekesha Davis, Daniel Reed, Mark Staie, Douglas Nagy, Nicole Adams, Brett Croneiser, Deborah Lawrence, Raymond Ortlieb, III, Luanne Shafer, Lee Todeschini and Bruce Roggie, for 15 years of service to Penny Moser, Bernadette DeSantis, Tracie Pate, Amanda Waugh, Susan Kulzer and Renita Schaffner, for 20 years of service to Wayne Farney, for 25 years of service to Catherine Garito, Denise Hall, Shari Ramos, Sheila Zehr and Thomas Dubach, and for 30 years of service to Sherry Duffer, Tori Mashaw and Tina Stanford.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Sheriff Michael Carpinelli reiterated opposing previous statements to the Governor's initiative to legalize recreational marijuana. A printed article was referenced that indicates it is not merely about medicinal purposes; but for related revenue, while also purporting to impact the disproportionate incarceration of African Americans. He fervently urges local officials to

disallow business dispensaries to establish within the County, while adamantly encouraging the Board to formalize a legislative stance against legalizing marijuana.

Legislator Moser inquired whether Colorado has published research data for impacts on crime, influenced driving or effects on employment retention since marijuana legalization in their state. He cited scientific research that documents the likeliness that marijuana use leads to use of other harmful substances. Sheriff Carpinelli reported that Colorado City Managers, County Attorneys, District Attorneys and police officers have all attested at National Sheriff's Association conferences, to the negative impacts of increased crime, motor vehicle accidents, child abuse, homelessness, and the overall detriment to their society. However, perplexed, that the mainstream media will not report any negative factors. He concluded that for generations we've all been taught about the negative effect of marijuana, asserting the initiative to legalize it "Defies common sense!".

In response to Legislator King, Sheriff Carpinelli agreed to present information to the Courts and Law Enforcement Committee and the County Attorney to formulate an opposing resolution.

Director of Community Services Patricia Fralick spoke of systemic needs to retain the community, referencing the criminality factor and her support for the drug task force. There are only a few years of data from states that have legalized marijuana. Those in favor are touting the revenue, while refusing to recognize the negative fallout that communities must deal with. Appropriations are not keeping pace with the increased numbers of persons requiring medical and/or behavioral health treatment. The numbers are compounded by the gargantuan increase of child overdose cases for those indulging in marijuana laced gummy bears and other tempting forms of the drug.

Public Health Director Penny Ingham referenced a report released at the Governor's request by NYS Commissioner of Health entitled "Assessment of the Potential Impact of Regulated Marijuana in New York State". She encouraged Legislators to access the report and make pertinent inquiries for factual data. It is purportedly from a public health approach after thorough review of the benefits and risks associated with establishing a regulated program, and claims input from State agencies of health, criminal justice and public safety, economics and education. Mrs. Ingham termed the report "One of the most biased she's ever read". Although recognizing her commitment to support the NYS Department of Health, she asserted her opposition, convinced without doubt it would not be a good move for our community. Ultimately, she likens it to trying to hold back a "tidal wave"! She strongly urges decision makers to thoroughly deliberate and weigh the negative outcomes and associated costs against prospective revenue.

In response to Legislator Moser, County Attorney Joan McNichol confirmed the County Board may establish Local Laws that do not simulate State Law, but advised research to confirm that Constitutional rights would not be compromised. County Manager Ryan Piche suggested viable zoning regulations that would discourage undesirable businesses.

PRESENTATION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND NOTICES:

Development Authority of the North Country (DANC) Executive Director James Wright addressed an annual report to Board Chairman Lawrence Dolhof on their activities over the past year. He highlighted efforts for single-stream recycling, e-waste collection for Lewis County that continue at no local cost; and household hazardous waste collection day for an aggregate expense of \$38,000 on behalf of the County. The mattress recycling pilot project removed 149 mattresses from the landfill during its first two months.

The Authority assists with projects to further infrastructure, housing and telecommunications. Their staff worked with Village of Harrisville officials to conduct an efficiency study resulting in their dissolution into the Town of Diana. Progress continues on the Lyons Falls Remediation and Redevelopment project; and assistance to administer the NYS Department of State's Brownfield Opportunity Area Grant for Lyons Falls.

A book de-binding machine enables diversion of thousands of hardcover books from the waste stream. These collective initiatives resulted in the Authority's recognition by the NY Department of State with the "Best Partner Award" for their work to help municipalities share services and improve efficiencies.

The Board acknowledges receipt of resolutions from the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board and the Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages to request suspension of demolition of the Gooley Club Camp on Third Lake of the Essex Chain pending further review. The sporting camp has been in continuous use since 1866 and has made major economic and social contributions to the surrounding towns. Suggestions include repurposing the camp as a ranger substation, an interpretive/educational center or as a necessary link between Indian Lake and Newcomb for the proposed "Hamlet to Hut" program.

REPORTS OF COUNTY OFFICERS AND DEPARTMENTS:

Legislators have received copies of the Treasurer's July report, and the 7/24/18 Highway and Solid Waste Audit Reports.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

Legislator John Lehman, Social Services/Office For the Aging/Youth Bureau Committee Chairman, reported the Youth Advisory Council would host the annual "Night Out" event on 9/7/18 at the Fairgrounds. Office For Aging Director Kelly Hecker continues to research alternatives for the senior meals program. The Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) has provided jobs to 39 youths. The HEAP cooling program has assisted 73 applicants; and 81 applications have been received for the furnace clean and tune program.

Legislator Lehman made a motion to authorize DSS Commissioner Jennifer Jones to provisionally refill a Senior Social Services Program Examiner, due to a pending retirement, seconded by Legislator Osborne and carried.

Legislator Lehman made a motion to authorize refilling full-time provisional Social Services Program Examiner due to a potential promotion, seconded by Legislator Burns and carried.

Legislator Randall LaChausse, Taxation, Information Technology/Election Committee Chairman announced that school tax bills would be mailed in late August.

At the request of Legislator LaChausse, Information Technology Director Adam Zehr reported that new towers would soon be activated to expand broadband capabilities in Harrisburg, Lowville and Barnes Corners. By this fall other towers will be installed in the Harrisville and Lake Bonaparte areas. North Country Broadband is erecting and will retain ownership of the towers and will continue to expand services throughout the County.

Legislator Bryan Moser, Veterans' Services/Junkyards/Human Resources Committee Chairman, made a motion to authorize Human Resource Director Chris Boulio to refill a part-time Personnel Assistant position, effective immediately. The motion was seconded by Legislator Lehman and carried.

Legislator Moser reported 2nd quarter Lewis County Veteran receipts for disability compensation of \$275,467, pensions of \$47,379, education benefits of \$60,932, and vocational rehabilitation benefits of \$4,297; as well as 31 new healthcare enrollments. A total of \$388,076 was infused into the local economy.

As a Board representative on the Lewis County Cornell Cooperative Extension Board of Directors, Legislator Moser recognized their staff involvement in various community sponsored programs. He listed a number of meetings, trainings, projects and workshops for 4-H, dairy, livestock, equine and libraries to name a few, and their structured outreach through personal and media resources. Their County and State fair booths appropriately inform the public about their several programs and available resources. The County contracts with Cooperative Extension to assist Social Services with the Parenting and Family Development Program with 18 families currently enrolled, some who are struggling with substance abuse. Six families are being assisted to get their children released from foster care. Legislator Moser commended Kelly Kunz for her compassion and commitment to assist these families.

Legislator Jerry King, Ways and Means/Buildings and Grounds Committee Chairman, made a motion to authorize Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds Matt O'Connor to refill a vacant full-time HVAC System Technician effective immediately, seconded by Legislator Osborne and carried.

Legislator King referenced the District Attorney's request for additional personnel, inquiring the Board's input on whether to approve, and if so, the challenge to fund the unbudgeted cost. He cited depleted contingency funds, asking their willingness to pass the cost onto taxpayers estimated at \$270,000 over three years.

Legislator Thomas Osborne, Public Health/Community Services Committee Chairman, reported that Director of Community Services Patricia Fralick and Sheriff Carpinelli are working

with Jefferson County officials to coordinate treatment to inmates with substance abuse issues by the Credo Community Center.

Legislator Osborne reported the United Way Campaign annually allocates an average of \$35,000 to Lewis County non-profit and volunteer agencies, encouraging persons to contribute, volunteer and advocate for fund raisers such as the Renee Beyer Memorial Fund. The goal of the 9/7/18 inaugural "Golf Ball Drop" fund raiser is \$5,000; of which \$4,000 will be given as prizes.

The Public Health agency has been notified that the U.S. Department of Agriculture and NYS Department of Health will be dropping oral rabies baits from 8/7 to 8/14/18 in Lewis County for prevention in wild animals.

Legislator Osborne made a motion to authorize Public Health Director Penny Ingham to refill a Per Diem nurse, due to an impending October retirement, seconded by Legislator Burns and carried.

Legislator Ronald Burns, Economic Development/Planning Committee Chairman, was pleased to report the owners of a new restaurant on State Street in Lowville have started building renovations.

Legislator Gregory Kulzer, Courts and Law Enforcement/Fire and Emergency Management/Building Codes Committee Chairman, reported a proposed 2019 budget allocation of \$10,000 for secured detention related to "Raise the Age" regulations. He had requested District Attorney Leanne Moser's earlier presentation to the whole Board for consideration of an additional part-time investigator for the Drug Task Force.

On behalf of Hospital Committee Chairman Legislator Richard Chartrand, Hospital CEO Gerald Cayer reported he has begun to formulate the 2019 budget and update the 10-year capital budget. He invited Legislators to an 8/13/18 ribbon cutting ceremony to open the Neurological Services Clinic and welcome Board Certified Neurosurgeon Nicholas Qandah, D.O.

Legislator Andrea Moroughan, Transportation/Solid Waste Committee Chair, reported that Stan Jantzi continues recycling building repairs; and affirmed the Saturday hours of operation at the Croghan Transfer site are from 8 a.m. to Noon.

Legislator Moroughan reported that steel decking from rehabilitated bridges will be used on the trail system. Highway personnel were recognized for their excavation work at the JCC site, as well as removal of identified trees and installation of the water line.

Legislator Kulzer inquired the impact of increased tip fees, requesting whether the Solid Waste Enterprise figures could be included with monthly meeting minutes, as formerly available. Legislator Moroughan concurred. Ryan Piche reported the County paid \$957 to the Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Facility for processing recyclables last month.

COUNTY MANAGER REPORT:

Mr. Piche reported the JCC Educational Center project was on schedule to open for the 2019 spring semester. He echoed Legislator Moroughan's appreciation for the flexibility of Highway employees and the Town of Croghan to prepare the construction site and install the water line. The Phase I construction contractor has been chosen, and the Phase II bids have been advertised.

He has met with all Department Heads to discuss their proposed 2019 budgets, and has received outside agency requests. Preliminary budget figures will be formulated by next week, predicting tough deliberations, most notably State revenue cuts for Social Services and Public Health programs, while sustaining services.

Mr. Piche recently attended a State sponsored conference along with County Judge Daniel King, DSS Commissioner Jennifer Jones, Probation Director MaryJo Burkhard and Atty. Michael F. Young on behalf of Lewis Defenders. It was a very beneficial exchange amongst participants for planning reforms for juvenile justice outcomes respective of the "Raise the Age" regulations to commence 10/1/18 for 16 year olds.

COUNTY TREASURER REPORT:

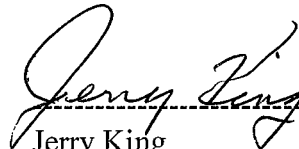
Treasurer Patricia O'Brien recited the balances of the Special Legislative Contingency Fund - \$71,747.75; Contingency Fund-\$278,357.23; Capital Data Processing Fund- \$96,967.05 and Capital Equipment Fund - \$561,304.71, of which \$158,431.24 is the Highway portion. She stated that year-to-date sales tax revenue of \$5,679,105.59 is slightly above projections; and the Hospital debt balance of \$700,000 was paid in full and has been applied toward the JCC Educational Center project. The balance of the Internal Service Fund is \$3,615,223.04.

REPORT OF THE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE:

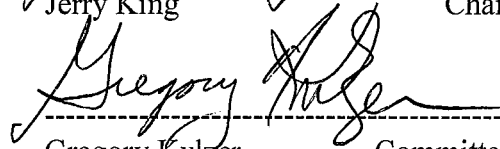
**REPORT OF
WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE
ON THE EXAMINATION OF CLAIMS**

To: The Honorable County Legislators

The Ways and Means Committee reports that they have examined the claims presented for payment in the total amount of \$ 1,400,353.41 and recommend that they be audited and allowed for the amounts claimed.



Jerry King Chair



Gregory Kulzer Committee

Richard Chartrand Committee

Dated: August 7, 2018

Approved on motion by Legislator Moser , seconded by
Legislator Kulzer , and carried.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Legislator Moser relayed concerns of New Bremen Supervisor Peter Keys and adjacent neighbors about rats that will be displaced when the Lewis Dairy property, formerly the Hoffman & Dudo plant, is cleaned up. He inquired whether the County could have the rodents exterminated. County Attorney Joan McNichol stated that the Environmental Protection Agency is administering the cleanup, and would inquire during her periodic updates with representing counsel.

In response to Chairman Dolhof, Atty. McNichol informed that upon completion of the cleanup, the County would request a temporary order to access the property to determine whether to accept property ownership and proceed with the sale pursuant to the delinquent property tax law.

There being no other business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned on motion by Legislator Lehman at 10:08 a.m., seconded by Legislator Burns and carried.