



Tioga County Legislative Worksession Minutes November 7, 2019 – 1:00 p.m.

Legislators Present:

Legislator Balliet
Legislator Hollenbeck
Legislator Mullen
Legislator Roberts
Chair/Legislator Sauerbrey
Legislator Standinger
Legislator Sullivan
Legislator Weston

Legislators Absent:

Legislator Monell

Guests:

Matt Freeze, Reporter, Morning Times
Chris Meyer, Motorola (*departed @ 1:48 p.m.*)
Bennett Anderson, Motorola (*departed @ 1:48 p.m.*)
Lance Hamilton, Motorola (*departed @ 1:48 p.m.*)

Staff Present:

County Attorney Peter DeWind
Legislative Clerk Cathy Haskell
Director of Emergency Services Mike Simmons (*departed @ 1:48 p.m.*)
Chief Accountant/Budget Officer Rita Hollenbeck (*arrived @ 1:02 p.m.*)
Personnel Officer Bethany O'Rourke

Call Meeting to Order –

Chair Sauerbrey called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Budget Update –

Budget Officer Hollenbeck reviewed the following four (4) budget documents:

- **Apportionment** – This yearly comparison represents 2019-2020 total taxable assessment, equalization rates, 2020 apportionment, and delta change from 2019 to 2020 for the towns. Ms. Hollenbeck noted some changes such as actual decreased assessments for the Towns of Barton and Newark Valley. Ms. Hollenbeck reported the actual percentage for the tax levy has changed due to both equalization rates and values.



- **Actual Assessment, Equalization Rates, and Combined County & Recycling -** This document also compares 2019 to 2020 for the actual assessment and tax rates combined through the recycle tax levy and regular County tax levy for a total rate per 1,000.
- **Local Government Exemption Report for Tioga County –** This report represents all of Tioga County exemptions. This report reflects the entire equalization of 26.45%. In comparison, Ms. Hollenbeck reported she previously distributed a report referencing 2015- 2019 and in 2015 the percentage was 23.42% and in 2019 was 26.78%, which was higher than the current year.
- **PILOTS –** Total increase of \$100,000 from last year partly due to new PILOTs such as Spencer-Tioga Solar, Owego Gardens, and Midwestern Pet Foods.

2020 Tentative Budget Public Hearing – The 2020 Tentative Budget Public Hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, November 12, 2019, at 9:30 a.m. Ms. Hollenbeck will do a PowerPoint presentation and inquired as to whether the Legislature was interested in including a presentation slide representing staffing changes. Ms. Hollenbeck reported she included a staff change slide in last year’s presentation for the first time and recommends doing the same for this year.

Legislator Sullivan reported Personnel Officer O’Rourke prepares a staff change resolution in December and a staff changes report for the Legislature.

Legislator Mullen reported a majority of the staff additions are due to State mandates, therefore, would like to see a presentation slide that carves out this data in the budget presentation.

In addition to 2020 staff changes, Ms. Hollenbeck reported there were 2019 budgetary staff changes due to mandates, attrition, etc., as well as 2019 resolutions requesting staff changes that impacts the 2020 budget.

Ms. Hollenbeck reported she will mention the Criminal Justice Reform, Cashless Bail, and Early Voting mandates in the budget summary letter to the public and Legislature, as well as a presentation slide showing the original nine (9) mandates and the growth of new mandates over time.

Ms. Hollenbeck reported this is her last budget presentation, therefore, wants to establish a practice for future presentations.

Legislator Sullivan reported headcount changes are primarily due to change in mandate requirements. Legislator Sullivan will discuss with Ms. O’Rourke and Legislator Hollenbeck, Chair of Personnel, capturing this information in the report produced by Personnel Office.

Legislature



Chair Sauerbrey reported NYSAC reported last year that 99% of our budget is mandated programs. Ms. Hollenbeck reported she is not sure if this number has changed, but clarified this was 99% of last year's tax levy.

Approval of Worksession Minutes – October 24, 2019 -

Legislator Sullivan motioned to approve the October 24, 2019 Legislative Worksession minutes as written, seconded by Legislator Standinger with Legislators Balliet, Hollenbeck, Mullen, Roberts, Sauerbrey, Standinger, Sullivan, and Weston voting yes with Legislator Monell being absent. Motion carried.

Action Items -

Currently, there are no action items.

Legislative Support – Legislative Clerk Haskell -

Approval of Legislative Support Committee Minutes – October 10, 2019:

Legislator Weston motioned to approve the October 10, 2019 Legislative Support Committee minutes as written, seconded by Legislator Hollenbeck with Legislators Balliet, Hollenbeck, Mullen, Roberts, Sauerbrey, Standinger, Sullivan, and Weston voting yes with Legislator Monell being absent. Motion carried.

Legislative Clerk Haskell reported the following:

- The 2020 Tentative Budget Public Hearing is Tuesday, November 12, 2019 at 9:30 a.m. in the Hubbard Auditorium.
- The November Legislative Meeting is Tuesday, November 12, 2019, at 12:00 p.m. in the Hubbard Auditorium. Finance/Legal Committee will meet at 10:00 a.m. in the Legislative Conference Room.
- Special Guest, Danielle Ingram, Retired US Air Force Nurse Corps will do the prayer and pledge at the November 12, 2019 Legislature meeting.
- Legislator Weston will start the voting process at the November 12, 2019 Legislature meeting.
- Attended Performance Management Supervisor Training video conference with attorney from Roemer Wallens Gold & Mineaux on October 29, 2019.
- Attended Leaders Meeting on October 30, 2019.
- Personnel – Resolutions presented for Legislature consideration for the hire of Deputy Legislative Clerk and Appointment of County Auditor and Deputy County Auditor.

Proclamations (2) –

- **National Healthy Lung Month** – This resolution has been read and presented in year's past, therefore, will just be noted in the minutes of the November 12, 2019 Legislature meeting.



- **Adoption Awareness Month** – This resolution has been read and presented in year's past, therefore, will just be noted in the minutes of the November 12, 2019 Legislature meeting.

Resolutions – All resolutions were reviewed for Legislature consideration at the November 12, 2019 Legislature meeting with the following discussion noted:

- **K04 – Mortgage Tax Distribution** – Ms. Haskell reported this resolution was received this morning and not presented at the Administrative Services Committee, however, discussed and noted that it was forthcoming. Technical difficulties with the COTT System delayed timely submission.
- **K01 – Authorize Agreement with Motorola Solutions for a P25 Phase 1 Digital Simulcast Trunked Radio System for the Period 2019-2024 – Office of Emergency Services** – Legislator Roberts suggested amending the language in the 2nd RESOLVED stating this agreement is contingent upon receipt of grant funding. County Attorney DeWind will revise resolution accordingly and present to Ms. Haskell prior to publication on the website.
- **K02 – Authorization to Impose an Additional Surcharge on Wireless Communications Service within Tioga County – Office of Emergency Services** – Legislator Weston inquired about the process of informing the public of this new surcharge. Chair Sauerbrey reported this resolution is the first step in requesting the State Legislature's consideration for issuance of the additional surcharge. If State approved, Tioga County would need to amend our current Local Law and proper notification to the public would occur through the media and social media outlets. Legislator Sullivan inquired about the ten-year expiration. Chair Sauerbrey reported the State requires a sunset clause for possible consideration. At the conclusion of the expiration period, the Legislature can re-visit and amend accordingly.
- **K09 – Create Positions Public Defender's Office** – Ms. Haskell reported this resolution was revised, per Personnel Committee recommendations. Revised resolution emailed to Legislators and hard copies provided in the meeting packet. Revisions reflect changes in hire date with confirmation of Year 2 ILS funding availability.
- **K12 – Authorize Appointment of Deputy Clerk to the Legislature** – Ms. Haskell reported she has selected a qualified candidate to fill the vacant Deputy Clerk to the Legislature with a hire date of December 2, 2019 at an annual salary of \$38,500 noting no salary increase available in 2020.
- **K13 – Appoint County Auditor and Deputy County Auditor and Amend Resolution 8-19** – Ms. Haskell reported this resolution simply appoints her as



County Auditor and the new Deputy Legislative Clerk as Deputy Auditor. There is no funding tied to this resolution.

- **K17 – Amend Resolution 127-16 to Declare Work Day Status for Elected and Appointed Officials** – Legislator Sullivan requested clarification on this resolution as the Director of Veterans Service is not a full-time position, but is listed on resolution as five-day work week, seven-hour day. Ms. O'Rourke reported this resolution is exclusively for retirement reporting purposes and establishment of the calculation/formula used by the State Retirement System. This resolution does not change the status of the current position.

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

Other –

- **Town of Newark Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO)** – Chair Sauerbrey reported she has received correspondence from the Town of Newark Valley, Legislators Hollenbeck and Standing, as well as constituents regarding the CAFO pig farm located on Route 38B in the Town of Newark Valley. Chair Sauerbrey reported Public Health, DEC, and Soil & Water have all been on-site and noted no issues of compliancy or deficiency. Chair Sauerbrey reported the constituents were seeking County assistance in advocating for a change to the State's Right to Farm Law. Chair Sauerbrey reported she has responded to the correspondence. Chair Sauerbrey reported she brought this forth to the Legislature as a point of information, as the County has no jurisdiction on this issue.
- **Animal Abuse Registry** – Chair Sauerbrey reported the Animal Abuse Registry is back for discussion and several posts and comments are on Facebook including the names and addresses of all Legislators. Chair Sauerbrey reported she also received an anonymous email, which she responded that she would be happy to meet in her office to discuss all that is involved with the establishment of this type of registry. To date, Chair Sauerbrey reported she has not received a response.
- **Residency for Illegal Immigrants** – Legislator Sullivan inquired about the status of the email received regarding residency for illegal immigrants. Legislator Sullivan reported other counties have either adopted a resolution or passed some form of legislation regarding residency for illegal immigrants.

Executive Session –

Motion by Legislator Mullen, seconded by Legislator Hollenbeck to move into Executive Session to discuss an individual personnel matter. Motion carried to go

Legislature



into Executive Session at 2:10 p.m. with County Attorney DeWind remaining in attendance.

Executive Session adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Next worksession scheduled for Thursday, November 21, 2019, at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Haskell

Legislative Clerk