

Minutes

Administrative Services Committee

April 15, 2019, 5:00 pm, Room 331

Gerace Office Building, Mayville, NY

Members Present: Scudder, Davis, Starks

Members Absent: Muldowney

Others: Ames, Dennison, Sanderson, Stearns

Chairman Scudder called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

Approval of Minutes (03/18/19)

MOVED by Legislator Starks, SECONDED by Legislator Davis

Unanimously Carried

Privilege of the Floor

No one chose to speak at this time.

Proposed Resolution – Amend 2018 Budget for Year End Reconciliations – Information Technologies and Communications System

Mrs. Dennison: When we were doing the final review and reconciliation of the telephone system upgrade capital project, it was determined that there were some monies that were spent in general operating funds of Information Technologies that really are part of that project. So this resolution proposed to move the budget out of the operating fund or general fund and move that amount into the capital fund. Then essentially the operating fund, funds the revenue portion in the capital fund. So we're taking the expense out of the I.T. Department but we're increasing interfund transfer. So the A fund sends money over to the capital fund to allow the capital fund to spend money on telephone system upgrades. So bottom line is, we want to spend the money on the capital project and not in regular day to day operating funds, from the day to day operating funds.

Chairman Scudder: Any discussion?

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution – Authorize Extension of Grant Funding for Help America Vote Act (HAVA) SHOEBOS Grant

Mrs. Stearns: We would like to request that we carry our grants fund from 2019 to 2020 for this grant. We anticipate using approximately \$11,000 of that towards our new voting machines which we've already budgeted but we needed a little bit more for that. Then we also will be getting electronic poll books for early voting. We're going to have 10 days of early voting coming up this year which requires us to get electronic poll books. We anticipate using some of the funds for that as well.

Chairman Scudder: I'd like to ask a question about early voting? What is early voting? I have more people coming at me with early voting.

Mrs. Stearns: We're going to have poll sites, one in the Jamestown –

Mrs. Dennison: Because the ladies asked me to present the resolutions in Audit & Control so -

Mrs. Sanderson: Because we're having a presentation on our poll books all this week.

Chairman Scudder: Well you can explain to Audit & Control early voting.

Mrs. Stearns – We're going to be required to have early voting poll sites. We're going to have one in Jamestown, one in Dunkirk and then we're going to be using our office here in Mayville as the third one, 10 days before the election. It's a New York State law that was passed.

Chairman Scudder: In November.

Mrs. Stearns: Yes, in November, not for the primary.

Chairman Scudder: So who comes to this early voting?

Mrs. Stearns: Anybody that is a registered voter.

Chairman Scudder: So I can come in and vote?

Mrs. Sanderson: Yes. In your district –

Chairman Scudder: Isn't that going to greatly increase your expenses?

Mrs. Sanderson: It's going to increase expenses, absolutely because you'll have staff at two off sites. We have to have a north and south and of course, this will be the central and what they'll so is, they will break out those districts, north would be like in Dunkirk, South will be your Jamestown, Frewsburg, those people would be directed to go to those sites that they live closest to, to vote.

Chairman Scudder: So this isn't going to replace absentee or anything like that?

Mrs. Sanderson: No.

Chairman Scudder: This is just in addition to?

Mrs. Sanderson: Correct.

Chairman Scudder: Do we know what that's trying to accomplish?

Mrs. Stearns: Just to give more of an opportunity for everyone to vote, even though they can do absentee, typically. But it's just extending their opportunity.

Chairman Scudder: Do we know where this idea came from?

Legislator Davis: It's has to be for more metropolitan areas.

Mrs. Sanderson: I'm sure that it is. The Commissioners could probably explain it a lot better. It's a new law that came down.

Mrs. Stearns: It's New York State so it came down from Albany.

Mrs. Sanderson: Everybody is rushing, even the State Board of Election, trying to figure out how everything is going to work going forward. Where the monies are coming from and all of that also, so, with all these new elections laws that come down from our Governor.

Chairman Scudder: Is it true that you don't have to be registered, you can just show up with I.D.?

Mrs. Sanderson: It will be same day registration, yes, but you won't be able to – same as current, you won't be able to vote on that machine. You would vote by an affidavit ballot, provision ballot.

Mrs. Dennison: With the early voting, will there be voting machines?

Mrs. Sanderson: Yes there will.

Mrs. Dennison: I mean and they will have the ballots for all nine different districts or whatever it is?

Mrs. Sanderson: Yes. So we're currently sitting through several different presentations, our reason we won't be here Thursday, and each presentation is a little bit different. So we could do a ballot on demand where when we're printing – John comes in from Frewsburg, we can print a Frewsburg ballot. And we could print a Dunkirk ballot or whatever district that you are in, just by you signing that poll book, tells us where you are at, it prints your ballot, then you go and you vote it and so on.

Legislator Starks: So it's all electronic?

Mrs. Stearns: It will eventually.

Mrs. Sanderson: Eventually we'll be electronic but we haven't decided if that is the way we're going yet.

Mrs. Stearns: So currently it could be the poll books as we've had them previously.

Mrs. Sanderson: All that information, from all the early voting, will then be inputted into the paper manual poll books that you see at your poll sites now and it will say that John Davis voted, early voted.

Legislator Starks: Because they are not printed until like the night before.

Mrs. Sanderson: We're going to be printing the night before, correct.

Legislator Starks: So it will have a list of who has already voted so they can't sign in and vote –

Mrs. Sanderson: Correct. Actually we're going to be printing those books the night before the election.

Mrs. Dennison: That would be all of the poll books then?

Mrs. Sanderson: Yes.

Chairman Scudder: Also in theory, an election could be won before election day if everyone went out and voted.

Mrs. Stearns: It could be but we wouldn't know the results.

Chairman Scudder: But I'm just saying

Mrs. Sanderson: Right.

Legislator Davis: Exit polls and things like that won't be happening in the early voting, so it would just be, go cast your ballot and leave.

Mrs. Sanderson: Correct.

Mrs. Stearns: We'll know really, (*cross talk*) the people that have voted, we won't know how they voted.

Mrs. Sanderson: Correct. You'll know like where the votes are, of course, but - we're learning too.

Chairman Scudder: Thanks for the info. A lot of people are asking what it is all about.

Mrs. Sanderson: Feel free to tell them to call the Commissioners. Like I said, we're all really learning.

Chairman Scudder: So the \$11,000 is going to cover the voting machines and the –

Mrs. Sanderson: It would be the balance of the voting machines that we ordered this year and then it will cover a partial cost of the electronic poll books. It's an eligible cost, it's already been preapproved from the State as an expense that we can use it on.

Chairman Scudder: It's your money. I kind of find it interesting that we have to keep doing this. I don't mind.

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution - Authorize Extension of Voter Education/Poll Worker Training and the New York State Poll Site Access Improvement Grant

Mrs. Stearns: On this one, we would like to extend our grant from 2019 to 2020. With these funds, we would like to use them towards, as we explained before, we are going to have poll sites for early voting outside of our office, one being the Dunkirk Fair Grounds and in order to use that site, we need to make it ADA compliant and we would foresee using these funds to meet that criteria so that we can use that as a poll site.

Legislator Starks: What's the current poll site?

Mrs. Sanderson: We don't currently have any early voting poll sites so this is new to us.

Legislator Starks: So if you were using the school or somewhere else, they are not going to let you do it.

Mrs. Stearns: Because it's 10 days in a row.

Mrs. Sanderson: Right, it's 10 days in a row, including Saturday and a Sunday.

Mrs. Stearns: So that eliminated churches and schools. So it was kind of tough to find places that we could have for 10 days. That's why the Fair Grounds worked out well.

Legislator Starks: So early voting to include weekends?

Chairman Scudder: What is your problem with weekends?

Legislator Starks: I love weekends. I just wouldn't have thought that I would be voting on weekends.

Chairman Scudder: It's a bonus.

Legislator Starks: It is.

Chairman Scudder: O.k., sounds fair. All in favor?

Unanimously Carried

Other

Chairman Scudder: Any other?

Legislator Starks: I have no other, other.

MOVED by Legislator Starks, SECONDED by Legislator Davis to adjourn.

Unanimously Carried (5:15 p.m.)

Respectfully submitted and transcribed,
Olivia Ames, Deputy Clerk/Secretary to the Legislature, Lori J. Foster