

Minutes

Human Services Committee

December 11, 2019, 5:15 pm, Room 331

Gerace Office Building, Mayville, NY

Members Present: Pavlock, Rankin, Whitford, Whitney

Others: Tampio, Ames, Dennison, Chagnon, Schuyler, D. Anderson, K. Geise, Reynolds

Chairman Pavlock called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

Approval of Minutes (12/11/19)

MOVED by Legislator Rankin, SECONDED by Legislator Whitford

Unanimously Carried

Privilege of the Floor

No one chose to speak at this time

Proposed Resolution - Confirm Appointments - Chautauqua County Youth Board

Mrs. Schuyler: It's a standard procedure that you have in front of you. The five people have been recommended to be reappointed to the County's Youth Board. They have all be previously serving and to be reappointed.

Chairman Pavlock: Anybody have any questions?

Legislator Rankin: What are their responsibilities as part of this board?

Mrs. Schuyler: The County Youth Board is a little different than the Board of Health. The County Youth Board is charged with mainly advising and policy components of the money that we get from the State Office of Children and Family Services to fund the Youth Bureau. It's youth development programming money. You may recall, you have seen in the past the Resource Allocation Plan that this committee has to approve and it goes through Audit & Control, the money that we receive from the State gets channeled down through the Youth Bureau and the Youth Board hears presentations, they receive applications from various youth service agencies. They make recommendations then to us and to the County Executive as to which programs should be funded and for how much money for the allotment that we have and I (*inaudible*) exactly how much is last year, I think it was about \$147,000, I think we got from the State. It's

not a tremendous amount of money with all the need that we have with a lot of the youth service agencies but they will make recommendations and put together the Resource Allocation Plan for how the programs are funded. As far as policy and advocacy goes, they really are also here to try and move forward to get youth together to have a youth voice to advocate for things that are important to at-risk youths and we feel (*inaudible*) fortunate who are what we would call at-risk.

Legislator Rankin: Is this the whole Board?

Mrs. Schuyler: No, there are 11 members.

Legislator Rankin: Alternate years for reappointment?

Mrs. Schuyler: Yes and it's by statute. State statute is 11 members.

Chairman Pavlock: Any other questions?

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution - Amend Resolution – 164-19 - Close, Modify and Create Petty Cash Funds

Mrs. Dennison: This is a very long resolution to deal with \$50.00. The original resolution, 164-19, was proposed last year to clean-up and modify some petty cash accounts. When the resolution was proposed, we were planning to create a new petty cash account for the Jail in the amount of \$50.00. The Legislature declined to create that account but we modified the resolution to not create the account but we never specified what was going to happen with that \$50.00 what was supposed to go into the new petty cash account. So when we were reconciling the petty cash accounts at the end of 19', we realized that there is no stipulation for that \$50.00 so this resolution will propose that that money be returned to the general fund.

Chairman Pavlock: Moving forward, do we need that petty cash fund? It was never created right?

Mrs. Dennison: It was never created as I said but the \$50.00 was just kind of out there in limbo because we modified the amounts to take care of the other cash accounts that were being either abolished or modified but, as I say, that \$50.00 was left in limbo.

Chairman Pavlock: Any other questions?

Unanimously Carried

Other

Proposed Resolution - Confirm Appointment and Amend Salary Range - Chautauqua County Coroners

Mrs. Schuyler: Thank you for taking this up under “other”, of course we do appreciate that. We have been faced with a situation that we haven’t faced before with the Coroner program and one of the Coroner’s who was fully trained and does a good job for us, has requested to be on call for a decreased number of hours. Retired and wants to travel and in doing so, we were able to find somebody else who is willing to serve also in a part-time capacity. Basically splitting that position. The Coroner 101 training is required by the State and they only offer that in February so that was the reason we asked this to be heard under “other” this month. What we ran into was the way that the Coroner’s salary range was adopted. It had been between \$5,000 and \$15,000, so that didn’t give me the ability to pay someone less than that and it only makes sense and it’s only fair, especially to the other Coroner’s that if you are going to be on call half as much that you make half as much. So, that was why we are asking for the salary range to be lowered on the low end so that we can actually split the salary as well as splitting the on call hours. The gentleman who is interested and interviewed is Kenneth Haley. He lives in Ashville, New York. He’s a registered nurse so we are requesting that he be appointed as a Coroner and under that salary range, he’ll be able to start lower and so will the Coroner that’s going part-time.

Chairman Pavlock: How many Coroners will be in the Coroner’s department and how many part-time then after this resolution?

Mrs. Schuyler: We are able to appoint up to 6 Coroners. We currently have four. Each count as .12 FTE, I think each one of them counts for. Kind of odd but, this will make the 5th Coroner but he will be sharing with one of the others. I guess we have 3 what you would consider full time that are full time and then two of the part-time. So that will be 5 of the Coroners out of the 6 that we’re able to have. But by reducing, we’re staying within budget.

Legislator Rankin: Does it seem to be enough (*inaudible*) need with what you have (*inaudible*)?

Mrs. Schuyler: Currently yes. They seem to be able to cover the calls. The number of calls have decreased since we really are following the State’s guidelines (*inaudible*) on what really does rise to a Coroner case. So they have not had as many calls.

Legislator Whitford: You don’t see that there is any added expense based on the two part-time? It would be equivalent to one full time I mean, as far as overall expense?

Mrs. Schuyler: The only concern that I had was health insurance because the Coroner’s are able to have single health insurance. But Mr. Haley already has health insurance so he is not interested in ours.

Legislator Whitford: He doesn’t have an opted out?

Mrs. Schuyler: He can have an opted out but I don’t think it will have a significant impact on the budget as far as what we’re looking for. Another option would have been to have told the

other Coroner that he couldn't go down, that it was all or nothing and hired another Coroner. But this is a (*inaudible*) position to find people who really want to do and are committed to being on call in the middle of the night and going out and doing what they have to do. Plus with the (*inaudible*) already being trained and proficient in what he does and already out there, administratively I think it's in the County's best interest to keep on a Coroner who's already trained and I don't think there is any significant impact budgetary at all and well worth it because we do have to have coverage. It's not one of those non mandated optional things that we can do. I think the more we have trained like this, the better and then their case rate is their case rate. So it all depends on how many cases they get really of what this will turn into.

Chairman Pavlock: You have enough equipment, computers, things like that?

Mrs. Schuyler: Yes because when the State gave us equipment, we put in for six.

Legislator Rankin: How does the new Coroner get trained? Who trains them?

Mrs. Schuyler: They train with the other Coroners. So when there are calls, they start out and go with the other Coroner, learn it and the Coroner 101 is kind of the nuts and bolts in February at Syracuse.

Legislator Whitford: Is there a State certification for that or is it –

Mrs. Schuyler: There is no certification. There really are no requirements in New York State to be a Coroner. Some County's Coroner's are elected, some are appointed, unless you have a Medical Examiner's office, the Medical Examiner obviously have requirements and qualifications and so do investigators that work within the Medical Examiner's offices but as far as County Coroner programs go, they are no minimum qualifications, there is no certification.

Legislator Rankin: Do you think that there should be?

Mrs. Schuyler: I absolutely think that there should be. I actually think that it should be Federal. I think that it should come under the CDC or the Federal Department of Health and Human Services or someone to say a consistent death investigation program across our country. Because we really don't have good morbidity mortality data because it's different in every State and different within every County of every State. Some States have a State run program so at least there is consistency in that State but there is absolutely no consistency in most States that have a County run program like this. It's just not there. I don't think that this has ever been looked at as something that's really as important as it is.

Legislator Rankin: That would have to come from the State level or could a County decide on their own, to have certification?

Mrs. Schuyler: I believe, I'm not an attorney, I believe that we could require minimum qualifications. Actually I had drafted a job description when we were taking over the program which included minimum qualifications and I based that on the qualifications in civil service for death investigators that work within Medical Examiner offices and then tweaked it according to

County law with having to work with the Coroners physician and the other requirements that come to being a Coroner per State statute. But, it wasn't decided to go that route here. I just figured it would be County employee and a job description and qualifications to go along with it but that didn't happen.

Legislator Rankin: So that didn't weigh in hiring County (*inaudible*)... or any of them.

Mrs. Schuyler: You could say that. I mean, people that we have hired, you need, I feel, you need to have some background whether it is in a medical field, such as, Mr. Haley is a nurse, which is good, a lot of years of experience, mainly in the emergency room and the other Coroners are funeral directors and that is one of the other requirement that you could have established. Mortuary science, is one of the minimum requirements so yes, I think all the Coroners we have would meet minimum requirements but I guess I'm more in the policy and procedure kind of – I just felt that it should be –

Chairman Pavlock: A little more informed and laid out.

Mrs. Schuyler: I think there should be qualifications so if somebody's sister or brother moves into town and wants to be a Coroner and they sell copiers, I don't think that's really a good fit. That didn't happen. Maybe in the future we could present as a simple policy, I feel, a policy decision that could be made but that would have to be approved by Human Resources and I guess the Executive and the Legislature.

Chairman Pavlock: Any other questions?

Unanimously Carried

Report – Temporary Assistance – Diane Anderson and Katie Geise

Chairman Pavlock: Anything else under "other"? Seeing none.

Legislator Whitford: Move to adjourn

Legislator Rankin: Second.

Unanimously Carried (5:55 p.m.)

Respectfully submitted and transcribed,
Olivia Ames, Deputy Clerk/Lori J. Foster, Sr. Stenographer

Presentation – 4-H Kids – Robots Presentation – Emily Reynolds