

Minutes

Human Services Committee

December 12, 2018, 5:15 pm, Room 331

Gerace Office Building, Mayville, NY

Members Present: Wilfong, Whitford, O'Connell, Rankin

Member Absent: Pavlock

Others: Tampio, Ames, Chagnon, Dennison, Lis, Schuyler, M. Spanos, Boria

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

Approval of Minutes (11/14/18)

MOVED by Legislator Whitford, SECONDED by Legislator O'Connell

Unanimously Carried

Privilege of the Floor

No one chose to speak at this time.

Proposed Resolution- Authorize Agreements and Amend 2019 Budget for the Health Care Proxy Registry

Mrs. Spanos: So, the healthcare proxy registry was previously managed by the Chautauqua County Health Network. They've been looking for a new home for it because they do not have the personnel to – just haven't been able to retain the personnel to keep it up. Over 33,000 proxies are on the registry. It really fits well with the work of the Office for the Aging and out New York Connects program. So, CCHN would like us to take it over and they are going to support it monetarily for the next three years. At that point, we'll figure out if there is other grant opportunities or someplace else that makes sense. So, this is just money in and we're not adding any personnel or anything.

Chairman Wilfong: Alright.

Legislator O'Connell: Their monetary commitment is going to be the same each year?

Mrs. Spanos: No, there's a bigger chunk the first year- \$5,000 and then it's a little bit less- transferring the database, we have IT costs, so it's about \$2,500 the subsequent two years.

Chairman Wilfong: Alright. Any questions? All in favor of this resolution please say aye. Opposed?

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution- Amend 2018 Budget for Computer Purchases for Public Health and Jail Nurses

Mrs. Schuyler: Good evening. This resolution actually is a decrease in the use of the unassigned fund balance. We got permission from the State Health Department to modify our Family Planning grant budget because we were not in need of as many medical supplies as we budgeted for. So, the State is allowing us to change that to equipment and we're able to purchase new computers for our nursing staff through that and it will also include new computers for the jail nurses. As we move forward in implementing our electronic medical record over there, they'll have the equipment now necessary to do that.

Chairman Wilfong: How many nurses are in the jail?

Mrs. Schuyler: Three and a half RN's, one full time LPN, one part time LPN, two part time RN's, we're short two full time RN's and one part time LPN right now. We're trying to recruit but we're not having very good luck.

Chairman Wilfong: That's pretty good for spur of the moment.

Mrs. Schuyler: Don't hold me to that.

Chairman Wilfong: OK. Any questions for the ladies? All in favor of this resolution please say aye. Opposed?

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution- Acceptance of New York State Municipal Restructuring Fund Grant

Mrs. Schuyler: This grant is through the Regional Solutions Commission and Government Reduction Initiative. We were fortunate enough to have our application approved. For those of you that don't know Bill Boria, he's our senior water research specialist and he can tell you the particulars of the grant better than I can.

Mr. Boria: This actually spawned from the 2017 Municipal Consolidation and Efficiency Competition that the County was one of the finalists- the three finalists in that competition. The State liked this proposal. It was for water and wastewater operators. There's a shortage of certified operators and there's more people retiring than are going into the field. So, we proposed to develop a regional cooperative where we would share operators, staffing, shared purchasing of laboratory services and chemicals, purchase equipment- a significant amount of equipment could be shared that would better maintain water and wastewater systems. For example, valve exercising machines. A lot of valves don't get exercised and when they're not exercised and are needed in emergencies, they do

not work. So anyways, the State liked this part of the proposal so much that they came back to us and said why don't you submit a separate proposal to us because we did not win the competition for the \$20 million shared services program. We did that, they like it and now they're telling us to develop a plan and the budget for 2019. It would be about a 5 year project and it would involve approximately 17 communities in the County.

Mrs. Schuyler: What you're accepting here is just phase one of that grant. That's the \$50,000-

Chairman Wilfong: And this is what I've-

Legislator Whitford: And that's to develop-

Mr. Boria: Actually, it will develop plans for an agency or some entity that would oversee the whole program.

Chairman Wilfong: Within the County?

Mr. Boria: That's to be determined. It could be a non-profit-

Mrs. Schuyler: A co-op-

Mr. Boria: Yes.

Chairman Wilfong: Cooperative as with other counties?

Mr. Boria: At this point, no.

Mrs. Schuyler: Communities within our County.

(Cross-talk)

Ms. Lis: We will be administering the grant, but it may be a separate agency that's actually going to do the operations. The grant would funnel through us to them.

Chairman Wilfong: OK.

Legislator O'Connell: You haven't done the study, but the study is more or less a formality to ensure that the \$1.2 million is going to come this way? *(Inaudible.)*

Mr. Boria: No, the \$1.2 million depends on all of the- all 17 municipalities joining in on this program. So, if not all of them participate we will get less money.

Mrs. Schuyler: Depending on the number of municipalities that join into the co-op.

Ms. Lis: It's the amount that's tentative, but they signed on for the original grant application and now we have to work out with them the revised-

Mrs. Schuyler: It's very exciting.

Chairman Wilfong: Do we have reasons to believe that they wouldn't? The other 17 communities?

Mr. Boria: No, they've already expressed significant interest-

Mrs. Schuyler: They're going to be in deep trouble if they don't have the right staff and equipment and their water systems fall in disrepair if this is a way to help maintain them.

Chairman Wilfong: Sure.

Mrs. Schuyler: I give Bill a lot of credit for this. He works very closely with all of the public water systems and operators and knows how the operators are and how difficult it is to find qualified operators and they're aging out.

Chairman Wilfong: Any questions? All those in favor of this resolution please say aye. Opposed?

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution- Compensation for County Coroners

Mrs. Schuyler: As the resolution explains, compensation for coroners was changed from \$70 to \$80 a day and then was changed to \$150 per case in April of 2018 and continued through June 27th. When the local law 11-18 amended our County Charter, you'll recall it transferred the responsibility for administration of the county coroner program from the Legislative branch to the Executive branch. Within that County Administrative Code, the County Coroner division was added under our Health and Human Services Department. That code section does stipulate that coroner compensation may be by salary, by hourly, per diem, per case rate or any other method that the Legislature approves. I'd like to recommend to you that we adjust the method of compensation for the coroners to reflect their appropriate time that they spend on call and also for administration duties, educational duties and requirements. The County, I'm hoping you're familiar with, the County has a management salary plan and the coroners are already listed as a non-scheduled area on there. So, now that would change from a per case rate to a salary range of \$5,000 to \$15,000 annually plus the \$150 per coroner case rate. You'll notice there is no financial implications that go along with this. We're staying within the budget for 2019 with what was passed in the County budget. This is just the method of payment.

Legislator Whitford: This will stay within the budget that was approved?

Mrs. Schuyler: Yes, as far as what the coroners receive. The wild card always is the number of cases. We don't know how many coroner cases there are going to be.

Chairman Wilfong: Didn't this group decide that instead of having a flat payment to the coroners, we were going to put \$20,000 into the budget and let Christine distribute as she saw fit?

Legislator Whitford: It was a set amount, but what- correct me if I'm wrong, but what you're saying is this non-scheduled salary range of \$5,000 to \$15,000 is within that amount of money that was allocated in the budget for your department for the coroners.

Mrs. Schuyler: Yes. Honestly this resolution is follow up to the conversations that we had at budget time. When we presented the budget to you we did recommend that there was a base salary. The coroners are on call 24/7 whether they get a case or not. I feel it's only fair that they are compensated something for being on call, plus there are administrative responsibilities. (*Inaudible*) knowing that at a minimum a case takes four hours and sometimes like in the case such as yesterday in the Village of Fredonia, that's going to take days and that's still \$150. So, this is what we had talked about before. We're not asking that any additional money be budgeted; we're working that out with what was budgeted under the point ones for coroner salaries.

Chairman Wilfong: So, what happened to the \$20,000 that we put-

Legislator Whitford: It was more than that. What she's saying- this isn't any change to what we did. What we did was we budgeted X amount of dollars for the salary range to her department and we weren't going to make the decision where that money went. That would be your responsibility.

Mrs. Schuyler: Right.

Legislator Whitford: So, this isn't any change to that.

Mrs. Schuyler: Right. The change is in the method of payment because right now, per the County Charter, it says it's per case.

(*Cross-talk*)

Legislator Rankin: The key thing was to say how much the maximum we could spend, but let Christine decide how it's going to be-

Legislator Whitford: Right, on the non-scheduled salary. It's still \$150 per case and then she's just saying that the non-scheduled salary is going to be between \$5,000 and \$15,000 at your discretion. Correct?

Mrs. Schuyler: Yes.

Legislator Whitford: And it doesn't go above and beyond what was approved through the budget.

Chairman Wilfong: OK.

Mrs. Schuyler: The Legislature, right now, the way- the Legislature has to approve any change in method of payment to the coroners.

Chairman Wilfong: OK.

Mrs. Schuyler: This doesn't have anything to do with the dollar amount-

(Cross-talk)

Mrs. Schuyler: Right. The Legislature has to approve the pay being changed from just \$150 per case to a base salary plus \$150 per case, but we're within budget.

Legislator Whitford: It was budgeted, but we didn't vote on the change for method of payment.

(Cross-talk)

Mrs. Schuyler: That has to formally go through this resolution in order for that change to be made.

(Cross-talk)

Legislator Whitford: We're just approving the method.

Mrs. Schuyler: Correct.

Chairman Wilfong: Alright. Any other questions? All in favor of this resolution please say aye. Opposed?

Unanimously Carried

MOVED by Legislator O'Connell, SECONDED by Legislator Whitford to adjourn

Unanimously Carried (5:32 p.m.)

Respectfully submitted and transcribed,
Olivia L. Ames, Committee Secretary