

Minutes

Administrative Services Committee

December 7, 2020, 5:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting via Zoom and Live-Streamed for public viewing

Gerace Office Building, Mayville, NY

Members Present: Scudder, Davis, Starks, Vanstrom

Member Absent: Muldowney

Others: Tampio, Ames, Dennison, Chagnon, Button, Crow, Abdella

Chairman Scudder called the meeting to order at 5:14 p.m.

Approval of Minutes (11/9/2020)

MOVED by Legislator Vanstrom, SECONDED by Legislator Starks

Unanimously Carried

Privilege of the Floor

Clerk Tampio: I have not received any comments from the public.

Local Law Intro. 3-20 – Amending Local Law 7-90 Providing for a Management Salary Plan for County Officers and Employees

Mr. Abdella: The law has been sponsored by Chairman Chagnon, Legislator Gould and Legislator Nazzaro. You will recall during the budget deliberations that the adopted budget did generally reflect a 3% increase for managers. However, in some cases, the departments may not have appropriated those monies for individuals who are at the cap of the salary plan. What this local law would do is, adjust the salary plan to increase it by 1½% which I think was about to be closer in line with inflation. So those managers at or near the top of their salary range, would be eligible not greater than this 1½% increase, depending where they were in the range. So that's why the distinction between the 3% generally appropriated, in most cases, and what is appearing here as a 1 ½% adjusted to the range.

Legislator Starks: Would you know how many of the managers would be receiving the 1½% and how many might be receiving the 3%?

Mr. Abdella: I would not. I think actually the department heads had a deadline of last Friday to put in their recommendations to the County Executive so I don't think those are finalized yet. But Kitty or Kathleen may be able to speak to what number of managers are at or near the top of their range as compared to those who are not. But, I don't know that they know that off the top of their heads.

Mrs. Dennison: I don't know the exact number. My best guess is about a dozen that are already at the top of the range and would not be eligible for any increase without this change in the local law.

Chairman Chagnon: When we discussed this in the 2020 budget discussions, Jean Riley was present, Director of HR, and I believe that she indicated the number was more like 6 who were at the top of the range.

Chairman Scudder: Thank you Pierre. Christine, does that answer your question?

Legislator Starks: How many total managers – like six or twelve out of what 20, or 30 or 60, or 100. Like how many managers are there? Just to get an idea.

Ms. Crow: Roughly more than 80, right Kathleen, I think. As far as the process goes, yes, each department head was requested to provide their salary recommendation for the managers within their department to HR. So, while whatever might be budgeted for, there is still a performance review that is done, a recommendation for the salary increase that has been submitted. So, if it were in the case that a manager were close to or at the top of their range, they may not receive the full amount that is budgeted.

Legislator Starks: Thank you. That gives me a conceptual idea of how many people that it encompasses. Thank you.

Chairman Scudder: Kitty, you said 80?

Ms. Crow: I think that's roughly the number. I don't know if Kathleen, do you have that handy from other times when you've given what the cost impact would be.

Chairman Scudder: That's good enough for me. I just want to make sure that I heard 80 and not 18.

Ms. Crow: Not 18, no.

Mrs. Dennison: And I'm just looking quickly, my schedule shows, yea, it's at least 80. I have a schedule that has a 100 people on it, 98. This schedule is all managers except for the MNSR Grade which is the positions that are set by statute and there are 98 managers on this list.

Legislator Starks: Thank you that gives me conceptually an idea of how many people. Thank you.

Mrs. Dennison: Like I say, getting back to Chairman Chagnon's comment, I know that when I assisted the Sheriff with his budget because he has quite a few people that are at the maximum salary cap, I would say there are more than 6 within his organization but that number includes some of his Lieutenants that are in the Sheriff's Lieutenants Union. So when I say 12, it could be - I'm thinking about those positions and perhaps Jean's number of 6 probably does not include the unionized Lieutenants because they have their own schedule.

Chairman Scudder: Anyone else have any questions, concerns, comments? O.k., we're going to take a vote on this. I guess I will state that I'm not going to be voting in favor of this in committee. I want to hear some more discussion and see some more numbers. I know where we ended up with our budget talks for 2020 and I don't know where we're going to be next fall. Are we going to be addressing these same concerns or are we going to be so flush with money that it will be a concern, so I'm just letting you know that I'm going to be voting, not necessarily against this but not in favor of it, if that makes any sense, let me know. So, all in favor?

Legislator Starks: I'm voting yes because my understanding is that it's been budgeted for, correct?

Mrs. Dennison: That's correct, yes.

Defeated w/ Chairman Scudder and Legislator Vanstrom voting "no"

Proposed Resolution - Confirm Appointment - Chautauqua County Ethics Board

Chairman Scudder: Any questions, comments, or concern on this individual?

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution - Authorize Collection of Fines, Civil Penalties, Rent, Rates, Taxes, Fees, Charges and Other Amounts via the Internet

Ms. Crow: With one of our new agreements for the utility billing software, we would potentially be taking payments through the Internet and a resolution to allow us to do that is required. We also kind of made it a little bit more broad so that we wouldn't have to come back to you with any individual department would necessarily want to - if there were software available for different applications for different fees, that it would just encompass any items that the County would potentially receive payment for via the internet.

Chairman Scudder: Sounds like a good idea to me. Any questions, comments or concerns?

Legislator Starks: With the internet receiving a payment, does the third party vendor take fees from that payment or does that depend on the software and that's just not that at the moment? Does each department use a different software so that would vary?

Ms. Crow: There is only a handful of departments that charge fees but in the case of the utility billing system, I believe in that agreement there is a fee charge but not in excess of what we're allowed charge for a fee.

Chairman Scudder: So that fee is passed on to the person making the payment, yes?

Ms. Crow: I believe so.

Mr. Button: Kitty, as I recall, it's done automatically by the billing service so it doesn't even really flow through the County. It's done on the billing end by the company that handles that transaction.

Chairman Scudder: Because I know when we take payments for like at the tax auction, there is a credit card fee but that's paid for by the person buying the parcel. So as a County, we don't absorb any of those fees.

Mr. Button: It would be the same general idea.

Chairman Scudder: Good question. All in favor?

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution - Quit Claim Deeds

Chairman Scudder: Todd, I was going to call you and ask you about these properties. Can you just share with us, real quick, what is going on here?

Mr. Button: My understanding is that, these are current vacant lot parcels that were - originally that were demolition. That's why there is so much in taxes showing as outstanding. The properties were demoed and now I believe we're turning them over to the Land Bank and then they are going to the purchasers.

Chairman Scudder: Thank you. Any questions, comments, concerns?

Unanimously Carried

Chairman Scudder: Unless I'm mistaken, I've gotten a lot of emails, do we have any other resolutions, Kathy?

Clerk Tampio: No, I haven't received any other resolution for you.

Chairman Scudder: That's o.k. with me, I was just wondering. I had quite a full page of emails on my computer. I didn't know if I missed one or not. That brings us to "other".

Other

Chairman Scudder: I have no “other”. Christine looks like she doesn’t have any “other”. Does anybody have any other “other”?

Legislator Vanstrom: Move to adjourn.

Legislator Davis: Second.

Unanimously Carried (5:31 p.m.)

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