

**REGULAR MEETING**  
**February 6, 2018**

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chairman Lawrence Dolhof.

Roll Call: All Legislators were present, except Legislators Burns and Moser whom had been excused. There is a vacancy for Legislative District No. 9

Chairman Dolhof offered the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

There were 12 persons present.

Chairman Dolhof declared the January 2, 2018 meeting minutes were approved.

**REPORT OF THE RULES AND LEGISLATION COMMITTEE:**

The Rules and Legislation Committee had met and recommended to waive the rules to allow action on late resolutions.

Signed by: Ronald Burns, Chairman  
Jerry King  
Randall LaChausse

Dated: February 6, 2018

Legislator LaChausse made a motion to waive the rules, seconded by Legislator King and carried.

**PRESENTATION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND NOTICES:**

Resolutions were acknowledged from the Niagara County Legislature calling upon the Governor to delay the NY Safe Act's pistol recertification deadline; and from the Greene County Legislature urging to classify emergency medical services as essential services for the purpose of applying for and receiving State Aid.

**REPORTS OF COUNTY OFFICERS AND DEPARTMENTS:**

Director of Fire and Emergency Services Robert MacKenzie, III had informed appointment of his deputy fire coordinators for 2018: Richard Ross, Gary Ashline, Robert Bellinger, Joseph Shue, Richard Defone and Ron Gingerich; as well as EMS deputy coordinators Mark Tuttle, Steve Monnat and David Kuhl.

Legislators received copies of the Treasurer's January report, the 1/25/18 Highway and Solid Waste Audit Reports; minutes of the 12/14/17 Planning Board and 1/17/18 Youth Bureau Advisory Board meetings.

Sealer of Weights and Measures James Richmire submitted the December and January monthly reports that have been placed on file.

Legislators received copies of the 2017 annual reports from the following Department Heads: Building Codes, Community Services, County Clerk, County Sealer, Economic Development, Elections, Fire & Emergency Management, Highway, Information Technology, Junkyard, Office for the Aging, Planning, Probation, Real Property Tax, Recreation, Forestry & Parks, Sheriff, Social Services, Solid Waste, Treasurer, Veterans, Workers Compensation and Youth Bureau.

#### REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

Legislator John Lehman, Social Services, Office For the Aging and Youth Bureau Committee Chairman, reported an introductory presentation from Mountain View Prevention Services Executive Director Korin Scheible and reported receipt of a \$125,000 grant award.

Legislator Lehman had met Lewis County Youth Bureau members at their recent meeting and was pleased with the mix of students representing their respective school districts. The Bureau is currently accepting applications for youth related programs and he was pleased with the students' direct involvement in the application review and award process.

Legislator Lehman reported the HEAP season will end on 2/9/18, but there may be an emergency extension due to the particularly cold weather. Also, no waivers will be granted for able bodied persons without children for receipt of SNAP benefits.

Legislator Randall LaChausse, Taxation/Information Technology Committee Chairman, reported that Mohawk Networks has secured leases with 20 landowners for new tower locations for broadband expansion. They also have contracts with American Tower for commercial leased space on several local towers that will enhance expansion to locations with little or no existing coverage.

Mailers will inform residents that broadband is available in the Harrisville area since installation and testing of the new tower antenna has been completed.

Legislator LaChausse reported that residents are receiving their STAR exemption relief checks, except those in the Beaver River Central School District who are not eligible because the district exceeded the State imposed 2% Tax Cap.

As a member of the Recreation, Forestry and Parks Committee, Legislator LaChausse made a motion to authorize Jackie Mahoney to travel to Springfield, MA for a trade show from February 16 – 19, 2018 to promote Lewis County, seconded by Legislator King and carried.

Legislator LaChausse made a motion to authorize Jackie Mahoney to hire temporary seasonal trail workers (1) crew leader and (3) crew workers, effective 3/1/18 or thereafter as she determines appropriate, seconded by Legislator Kulzer and carried.

As a member of the Public Health Committee, Legislator Richard Chartrand reported that Director Penny Ingham and Supervising Public Health Nurse Ashley Waite presented the 5-year Strategic Plan to the Board earlier today. A proposed resolution to adopt the plan will be considered later tonight.

Legislator Chartrand made a motion to authorize Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator to travel to Atlanta, GA from April 16 – 20, 2018 for a Public Health Preparedness Summit named “Roadmap to Ready Mentorship/Training Program” designed for new coordinators. The entire cost of the summit will be covered under the Public Health Emergency Preparedness grant funding and has been approved by the NYSDOH as part of the County work plan. The motion was seconded by Legislator Lehman and carried.

Legislator Jerry King, Ways and Means/Buildings and Grounds Committee Chairman, reported new flooring and minor renovations at the public safety building. He anticipates receipt of the comprehensive space study from Bernier & Carr Architects within the next month.

Legislator King reported receipt of the executed contract for the interoperability channels and the work will begin in the spring. Also, E.F. Johnson consultants will investigate recently reported paging issues.

Legislator Gregory Kulzer, Courts and Law Enforcement/Fire & Emergency Management Director/Building Codes Committee Chairman, reported that Director Robert MacKenzie is instructing 12 new firefighter students in basic exterior firefighting to be followed up with interior firefighting instruction. Also, the State Hazmat Grant is estimated at the 2017 level of \$28,000.

Legislator Kulzer listed the several proposed resolutions as requested by Sheriff Carpinelli and recommended by the Committee. Sgt. Croneiser is charged to assign all parks and recreational patrols. Two deputies will attend each of the snowmobile training sessions taught free of charge by NYSDEC, and all deputies will be trained. The School Resource Officer will be assigned for patrols during times when school is not in session.

Legislator King referred to the improved patrols and thanked the Sheriff and Undersheriff for all their efforts.

Legislator Chartrand, Hospital Committee Chairman, announced the January employee-of-the-month as registered nurse Tina Gigliotti having a positive attitude and willingness to help everyone. She is appreciated by her patients and co-workers and deserves this recognition.

Legislator Richard Chartrand reported a December gain of \$1,268,520, with a year-to-date surplus of \$4,465,767. Net-patient care revenue reached an all-time high of approximately \$60 million, being \$1.4 million above projections. Operating revenue of \$76.4 million exceeded projections by about four million dollars. Total expenses of \$72.1 million were below the budgeted level by \$450,000. There were a record number of services provided in 2017. The downward trend for number of in-patient services was offset by increased out-patient services and additional specialized options. Acute, observation and nursing admissions, as well as

emergency room visits each represent decreased numbers. The skilled nursing facility occupancy is at 95%. Total clinic and out-patient visits were increased, as well as Certified Home Health Aide (CHHA), Hospice and Adult Home Care visits.

Legislator Chartrand announced and encouraged attendance at the informational meeting to be held on February 7<sup>th</sup> at the Ridgeview Inn to explain the grant project initiative to house a new health and wellness center, modernize the ambulatory surgery center, revitalize the intensive care unit and East wing, and relocate the Adult Day Health Care Center. Hospital CEO Gerald Cayer stated intent to apply for a \$16 million State Health Transformation Grant to substantially finance the \$22 million transformation project to meet health care needs into the future.

On behalf of the Community Services Department and the Community Services Board, Legislator Chartrand read a certificate of appreciation for Legislator Andrea Moroughan citing her passion and efforts over the past years to help those with mental health, substance abuse and developmental disabilities. They especially thanked her for appearances at the various sponsored events. Chairman Dolhof then presented her with the plaque.

Legislator Andrea Moroughan, Transportation/Solid Waste Committee Chair, made a motion to avail the option to extend the Highway Department bids for Bituminous oil and paver placed surface treatment through 12/31/18; for all roadway markings to Seneca Pavement Markings through 3/31/2019; and to various vendors for bulk oil through 12/31/2018, in accordance with the 2017 tabulated list of bids on file with the Clerk of the Board. The motion was seconded by Legislator King and carried.

Legislator Moroughan recognized all Highway personnel for their good work especially during the recent flooding. Bids for sand, gravel and concrete will be opened on 2/13. Bids will be advertised for renovation of the Jerden Falls Road and Blue Street bridges. The intersection of the Hodge and Number Four Road will be converted to a stop intersection from the current yield. Superintendent David Becker is developing the summer work schedule.

Legislator Moroughan reported the Development Authority's (DANC) request to remove mattresses and box springs from the waste stream. DANC will contract with a vendor to place a recycling box at the Lowville Transfer Station to deposit the items. The charge to Lewis County residents will remain at \$7.75/item, with DANC assuming the balance of the \$14/item recycling cost.

The Committee recommends increasing 20" and 21" bulk tire fees to cover Solid Waste Department cost.

Legislator Moroughan had accompanied other County officials to tour the Oneida/Herkimer Recycling and Waste Facility to view their no-sort recycling operations.

In response to Legislator Lehman, Mr. Becker awaits the County overall strategic facilities plan before deciding how to proceed with the cold storage building rafter repairs, and could not confirm the last date the building was inspected.

Mr. Becker also reported fueling system dispensing upgrades will cost \$4,250, while assuring the upgrade equipment could be utilized regardless of location.

Legislator Kulzer posed the possibility of using the TOPS' newly installed gas pumps at the local plaza. Mr. Becker reported they had increased their gas tank size to accommodate the annual aggregate volume usage of 275,000 gallons by all users. However, he is concerned whether the big trucks will be able to safely maneuver through the pumps as they are currently designed. County Manager Ryan Piche reported that Sliders' in Watson has installed new tanks and may be an alternate option for County trucks.

#### SPECIAL REPORT:

Chairman Dolhof reported attending the local "Dairy Day" event sponsored by Cornell Cooperative Extension. Matt Draper of Clarkson University gave an informative presentation about marketing and branding of agricultural products. Executive Director Michele Ledoux relayed appreciation for the Chairman's attendance to support and recognize for the plight of dairy farmers. There was also a focus presentation on budgeting.

Ms. Ledoux informed of upcoming seminars for those interested in small scale value-added dairy or meat production or equine operations.. A lecture and hands-on greenhouse seminar is planned in March for growing vegetables to sell and how to become involved with the food hub.

Chairman Dolhof reported receipt of several resumes by the Lewis County Republican Committee from candidates interested to fill the vacant District No. 9 Legislator position, due to the untimely death of Legislator Roscoe Fawcett, Jr. Candidates will be interviewed during the week of February 19<sup>th</sup> and a recommendation will be put forth to the Board of Legislators for appointment on 3/6/18.

#### COUNTY MANAGER REPORT:

Ryan Piche reported attending the NYSAC seminar along with Legislator King, participating in informative workshops on Crisis Communication, and Dealing with the Media.

He commended County Clerk/Records Storage Coordinator Linda Hoskins and Department Heads for purging boxes of files to make available space at the records storage building.

Mr. Piche reported ongoing meetings with Hospital administration and union representatives for health insurance program alternatives and will explain details later in the meeting.

The Village of Turin will host a 6:00 p.m. meeting on 2/20/18 at the Turin Library where County officials will present their economic development vision and the importance of outdoor recreation and its impact in Lewis County.

Department Head meetings are held the day after monthly Legislator board meetings to enhance communication and discussion on mutual policies or concerns.

The annual Legislator snowmobile ride sponsored by the Lewis County Area Snowmobile Association will be held on 2/15/18 in Brantingham.

Mr. Piche distributed a draft agenda for the 2/8 initial meeting, along with a preliminary budget and rough floor plan for the JCC Educational Center project. Appropriate persons will be assigned to spearhead the various aspects. A 10-person advisory committee is being developed, to include a Legislator. The preliminary annual estimate for the building lease agreement is \$225,000. However, the distinct terms and figures will be negotiated and will require Board approval. The 22,000 sq. ft. floor plan depicts desired space by each JCC, BOCES and Cooperative Extension officials, but will be determined through architectural plans.

Citing his experience, Legislator Lehman recommends hiring an independent Clerk of the Works, asserting it as customary for a project of this magnitude. He will provide a reference name to the Clerk of the Board.

#### COUNTY TREASURER REPORT:

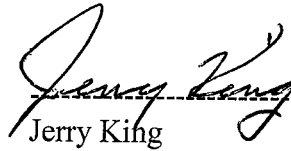
Treasurer Patricia O'Brien recited the balances of the Special Legislative Contingency Fund - \$99,905.00; Contingency Fund-\$400,000.00; Capital Data Processing Fund- \$116,553.87 and Capital Equipment Fund - \$400,039.05, of which \$7,37.85 is the Highway portion. She also reported 2017 sales tax revenues of \$10,682,103.15; and the current Hospital debt of \$1.1 million. The balance of the Internal Service Fund is \$1,997,342.87.

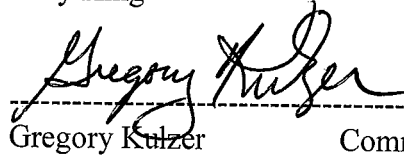
#### REPORT OF THE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE:

**REPORT OF  
WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE  
ON THE EXAMINATION OF CLAIMS**

To: The Honorable County Legislators

The Ways and Means Committee reports that they have examined the claims presented for payment in the total amount of \$ 1,726,161.10 and recommend that they be audited and allowed for the amounts claimed.

  
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Jerry King Chair

  
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Gregory Kulzer Committee

  
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Richard Chartrand Committee

Dated: February 6, 2018

Approved on motion by Legislator Moroughan, seconded by  
Legislator Kulzer, and carried.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Legislator Chartrand made a motion to enter executive session at 6:13 p.m. to discuss union contract and labor negotiations and potential litigation, seconded by Legislator LaChausse and carried. The session commenced at 6:22 p.m. following a short recess. Human Resources Director Chris Boulio, Planning Director Frank Pace and Real Property Tax Director Candy Akin attended the session. Hospital CEO Gerald Cayer joined the session from 6:40 p.m. to 7:11 p.m. Ms. Akin left the session at 6:40 p.m., and Mr. Pace left at 7:43 p.m.

At 7:50 p.m. Legislator Chartrand made a motion to re-enter the regular meeting, seconded by Legislator King and carried.

There being no other business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned on motion by Legislator Chartrand seconded by Legislator Kulzer and carried.