

REGULAR MEETING
April 3, 2018

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

Roll Call: All Legislators were present.

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

There were 22 persons present.

Chairman Dolhof declared the March 6, 2018 meeting minutes were approved by general consent.

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: April 3, 2018

Legislator Moser made a motion to waive the rules, seconded by Legislator Moroughan, and carried.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

A proclamation was read and presented to Mr. Gerald Snyder to commend his 50 years of service as a Copenhagen Volunteer Firefighter, particularly considering our dependence upon our volunteers as first responders in any and every sort of emergency situation. Mr. Snyder was rightfully recognized for his selfless dedication and commitment to protect the community-at-large for over half a century.

Chairman Dolhof presented a proclamation declaring April as Fair Housing Month to Lance Evans, Executive Officer of the Jefferson-Lewis Board of Realtors. This is the 50th anniversary of the passage of the Fair Housing Act, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, to enunciate fair housing without regard to race, color, religion, sex, familial status, handicap and national origin. Special events are planned to commemorate these rights.

Adam Matteson and Keith Zehr were presented a commending proclamation for sponsoring a snow tubing and pizza party at the Maple Ridge Center for foster parents and foster children in February 2018.

Hospital CEO Gerald Cayer introduced new orthopedic surgeon Steven Kaplan, M.D. who explained the advantages of direct anterior approach hip replacement, a new procedure that he has performed on over 200 patients. He has been practicing for 35 years in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and over the past 15 years the traditional hip joint surgery has been modified. The procedure enables a smaller incision access through the front side without muscle division. Patients have a shorter hospital stay, less physical therapy requirements and greater overall satisfaction. Dr. Kaplan submits that surgical revenue should quickly offset the required equipment expenditure. Mr. Cayer added that the equipment would be paid over five years.

PRESENTATION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND NOTICES:

Gary L. Turck has submitted a letter of resignation from the Lewis County General Hospital Board of Managers effective June 30, 2018.

Town of Diana Historical Museum President Delores Young composed a letter of appreciation to the Board for the County appropriation that will help extend programming to their community.

The NYS Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation office has informed that the Talcottville Cemetery has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

NYSDEC Regional Director Robert Stegemann and NYS Adirondack Park Agency Executive Director Terry Martino each acknowledged receipt of the Board's opposing resolution to proposed legislation that would change taxation of State Forest Preserve lands from being locally assessed to a PILOT system administered and controlled by the State of NY. The Chenango County Legislature had also forwarded an opposing resolution to the Governor and State representatives.

We acknowledge receipt of resolutions from the Cattaraugus and Chenango County Legislatures opposing the Governor's proposal to amend the Forest Exemption Law by adding a new 480-B section that would severely lower qualifications for an approved forest stand that could potentially dramatically reduce the taxable value of local taxing jurisdictions.

Also received were resolutions from the Cattaraugus County Legislature supporting the Seneca Nation of Indians' efforts to stop dumping wastewater from fracking into the Allegheny River; the Tioga County Legislature urging the Governor to fully fund all expenses for State-imposed early voting dates of operation; the Chenango County Legislature calling for the State to schedule any primary on the same date as a Federal primary to reduce local associated expense, and for State funding for Alcoholism and Substance Abuse treatment for those incarcerated in County jails; and the Seneca County Legislature opposing proposed construction of the State's largest garbage incinerator squarely between Seneca and Cayuga Lakes, submitting the Seneca Meadows Landfill already accepts a disproportionate share of garbage from around the State and that this initiative would be contrary to the State's aggressive renewable energy goals.

REPORTS OF COUNTY OFFICERS AND DEPARTMENTS:

The Ethics Board reports they have reviewed and approved all disclosure statements; and have chosen Thomas Beyer as their Chairman.

Legislators have received copies of the Treasurer's March report and 1st quarterly Bed Tax Report, the 3/23/18 Highway and Solid Waste Audit Reports; minutes of the 2/13/18 Community Services Board and 3/21/18 Youth Bureau Advisory Board meetings.

Sealer of Weights and Measures James Richmire has submitted the March monthly report to be placed on file.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

Legislator John Lehman, Social Services/Office For the Aging/Youth Bureau Committee Chairman, reported the Youth Bureau had awarded the Village of Lowville Youth Aid Officer \$4,600, County Juvenile Aid Officer \$3,000, Double Play Community Center \$1,400, and Mountain View Prevention Services \$5,000 for youth programs.

Legislator Lehman had accompanied a volunteer with delivery of meals-on-wheels to seniors in the Harrisville area. He was overwhelmed with the sincere kindness and compassionate manner to those served. While delivering food, volunteers are watchful for other opportunities to assist. That particular day, the volunteer remained with a person who had fallen at home until assured they were alright to stay alone.

Legislator Lehman made a motion to authorize Commissioner of Social Services Jennifer Jones to refill a permanent full-time Community Services Worker, due to a resignation. The motion was seconded by Legislator Chartrand and carried.

Legislator Lehman made a motion to authorize the Commissioner to refill a permanent full-time Caseworker, due to a resignation, effective April 6, 2018. The motion was seconded by Legislator King and carried.

Legislator Lehman commended the Board for hiring Office for Aging Director Kelly Hecker, terming her an excellent choice.

Legislator Randall LaChausse, Information Technology Committee Chairman, reported broadband expansion progress projecting that several tower sites would be fully functioning by June. American Tower has hired Aerosmith, who are specialists assisting with the SEQRA process for over 60 new towers.

Legislator LaChausse made a motion to authorize Real Property Tax Director Candy Akin to refill a Senior Keyboard Specialist position, due to a resignation, effective immediately, seconded by Legislator Lehman and carried.

Legislator Jerry King, Ways and Means/Buildings and Grounds Committee Chairman, made a motion to authorize County Clerk Linda Hoskins to refill a Senior Keyboard Specialist

effective April 13, 2018, due to current employee transfer. The motion was seconded by Legislator Burns and carried.

Legislator King informed the Interoperability radio channels project has entered the design phase and should be completed by August.

Legislator Thomas Osborne, Public Health/Community Services Committee Chairman, reported the Northern Regional Center for Independent Living has contracted with Cortel Improvement to assist with formulating their strategic plan.

Legislator Osborne reported the Community Services Board sub-committees are working with community members to review the existing and compose the 2019 strategic plan by the June 1st deadline. They are assisting the Planning Department to update the County's transportation plan; and are working with the Priorities Council, agencies and Fort Drum Regional Health Planning Organization with recruitment, retention and education workforce issues. Efforts continue to increase resident's understanding and knowledge about opioid abuse, substance abuse and awareness of local resources.

Legislator Osborne reported 466 lab confirmed cases of influenza as of 3/21. The numbers continue to decline, but remain 42% above this time last year. According to State reporting, Lewis County was ranked 17th statewide for current health outcomes. The statistics of driver alcohol-related deaths and suicide rates are high, but would be substantially affected if there were only 1 or 2 less incidents for either category.

An Emergency Preparedness drill is scheduled for 4/26/18 at L.A.C.S. with a goal to demonstrate the ability of Public Health staff and volunteers to vaccinate large numbers of people in a short time.

Legislator Osborne informed the NYS Department of Health recently notified that Federal monies in the amount of \$5,213.00 would be passed on to Lewis County to offset 2012-2013 Early Intervention program payments.

Legislator Osborne made a motion to authorize Anna Platz to travel to Santa Fe, New Mexico to attend the National Coalition Academy Training from April 29-May 5, 2018. She is Public Health's representative on the Coalition and will assist the department with other coalitions and partnerships. All related travel expenses will be financed by Mountain View Prevention Services' Drug Free Communities' grant. The motion was seconded by Legislator King and carried.

Legislator Gregory Kulzer, Courts and Law Enforcement/Fire & Emergency Management Director/Building Codes Committee Chairman, stated that Sr. Code Enforcement Officer Ward Dailey reported the State's residential and commercial codes are more efficient for better windows and insulation than the International codes. The State last adopted new codes in 2015 and are currently due for the 3-year review.

Discussion continues among all stakeholders about policies and costs for “Raise the Age” regulations effective 10/1/18 that will prohibit 16 year olds from being processed or housed at the jail.

Legislator Kulzer reported that Sheriff Carpinelli is researching the feasibility of utilizing a company for single tray packaged meals for inmates that would require a special microwave.

Legislator Kulzer stated that Undersheriff McIntosh has revamped the entire Parks and Recreation patrols. For the 2016-2017 snowmobile season two deputies were assigned on Saturdays and Sundays and averaged 200 patrol miles, compared to the 2017-2018 season during which three deputies were assigned Thursday through Sunday for around-the-clock patrols and averaged 1,200 patrol miles per snowmobile.

Legislator Kulzer reported that during the past three years the Sheriff’s Department has been loaned a new snowmobile from Smith Marina in Old Forge at no charge. At the company’s request, the Committee recommends the County purchase the machine at a discounted price at the end of this season to enable the loaner program to continue.

Legislator Kulzer made a motion to designate temporary Sr. Probation Officer Sarah Bush as permanent, effective April 4, 2018, seconded by Legislator King and carried.

Legislator Kulzer made a motion to authorize Sheriff Carpinelli to refill a full-time Cook Manager at the Jail, due to an impending April retirement, seconded by Legislator Moser and carried.

Legislator Kulzer made a motion to authorize Sheriff Carpinelli to refill a part-time Deputy Sheriff, due to a promotion, seconded by Legislator Lehman and carried.

Legislator Kulzer made a motion to authorize Sheriff Carpinelli to purchase two (2) UTV’s from Gamble Distributors, Inc. in the amount of \$14,931.00 each, and a trailer from Northland Trailers, LLC in the amount of \$7,900.00, as the low quotes. The motion was seconded by Legislator Moser and carried.

Legislator Chartrand, Hospital Committee Chairman, announced and congratulated February employee-of-the-month, certified nursing assistant Yazmin Rice.

He announced the annual Hospital Auxiliary geranium sale will be held on 5/12 and 5/22/18.

Legislator Chartrand reports a February gain of \$14,560 equating a year-to-date surplus of \$15,351. The year-to-date observation visits are an all time high of 41% above budget. The 18 surgeries equal projections, however, ambulatory surgeries are below budget by 10. Total emergency room visits were 53 above budget, while admissions were nine above projections. There were 44 persons treated and released at the emergency room, being 3 percent above budget.

Legislator Chartrand explained the proposed resolution to create a senior custodial worker and abolish two other positions was a result of reorganization in a couple departments.

Hospital union negotiations are ongoing. The County is offering a new health savings account option with the high deductible plan that will assist with out-of-pocket health expenses. Similar health insurance plan options are standard throughout the industry.

Legislator Chartrand cited the resignation of Gary Turck from the Board of Managers was due to several major changes with his private business that will prevent him from fulfilling this commitment. Legislator Chartrand directs that an advertisement be published to recruit interested persons to fill the upcoming vacancy for the term due to expire 12/31/2020.

In conclusion, he informed that March 30, 2018 was National Doctor's Day, encouraging everyone to relay appreciation to their physician.

Legislator Andrea Moroughan, Transportation/Solid Waste Committee Chair, reported meeting with Development Authority of the North Country (DANC) representatives, after which the committee withdrew the initiative to impose a fee for recyclables. Other alternatives are being explored.

Legislator Moroughan reported the Highway's pole barn roof repairs have been completed; and that IT Director Adam Zehr is assisting to repair the transfer radios for the fuel system. Also, stone is being hauled to some culvert pipe job sites scheduled for this summer, which will free up trucks for other jobs.

Legislator Moroughan made a motion to authorize Highway Superintendent David Becker to fill ten (10) Full-time temporary seasonal workers in either Grade 4 or Grade 15, pursuant to Civil Service rules and regulations, effective immediately. The motion was seconded by Legislator Moser and carried.

Legislator Moroughan made a motion to award bids for sand, gravel, crushed stone and concrete based on project location; and for crushing stone to Lyndaker Excavation for amount of \$4.19 per cubic yard, in accordance with the tabulation of all bids prepared by the Highway Superintendent and placed on file with the Clerk of the Board, for the period 4/1/2018 to 3/31/2019. The motion was seconded by Legislator Chartrand and carried.

Legislator Moroughan made a motion to award the bid in the amount of \$99,900.00 to Waldroff Equipment, Inc. to purchase a new Tractor with Mid-Mount Mower/Sweeper, seconded by Legislator Moser. In response to Legislator Kulzer, David Becker stated the expense was budgeted and each of the two sweeping crews will now have a sweeper. The motion then carried.

Legislator Moroughan made a motion to award bids for hot asphalt to Barrett Paving, Hanson and Paverite based on project location; and to Gorman for paver-placed surface treatment in accordance with the tabulation of all bids prepared by the Highway Superintendent and placed on file with the Clerk of the Board, for the period 4/1/2018 to 3/31/2019. The motion was seconded by Legislator Lehman and carried.

COUNTY MANAGER REPORT:

Ryan Piche stated proposed resolutions represent the culmination of collaborative recommendations by management, union representatives and health insurance consultants for new voluntary health plan options. He asserted the County's respective share has and will continue to equate a large portion of the aggregate budget increase.

The solar project is currently producing electricity, he said, but grid connectivity depends upon finalizing contractual terms with Greenskies, which will be discussed later today. A ribbon-cutting ceremony will be scheduled.

Mr. Piche reported that NYSAC had successfully lobbied on behalf of counties for additional State Budget funding for highways and bridges; and, the Governor's proposal to change assessment of State lands from local assessing to PILOT's was removed from the State Budget process. However, there were no considerations for inclusion of on-line sales tax collection as advocated by NYSAC.

Mr. Piche cited the brief mission and vision discussion at the beginning of Hospital Board of Manager meetings, suggesting this Board consider a similar process. He is developing a survey that will be generated among Legislators to define their primary goals and key initiatives.

He announced the Chamber of Commerce 4/19/18 Spring Fling event sponsored by North Country Broadband/Mohawk Networks at the Ridgeview Inn. That same evening JCC President Dr. Ty Stone will be at Jebb's Restaurant for an open forum with alumni and other residents interested in JCC's mission for Lewis County.

Legislator Moser inquired about proposed ATV related bills before the State Legislature. Mr. Piche was tracking three relative bills, none of which were adopted. All policy proposals appear to have been removed from the budget process and may be considered separately from the adopted State spending bills.

COUNTY TREASURER REPORT:

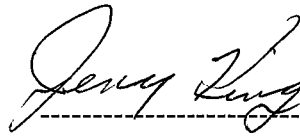
Treasurer Patricia O'Brien recited the balances of the Special Legislative Contingency Fund - \$99,381.46; Contingency Fund-\$395,941.03; Capital Data Processing Fund- \$98,326.11 and Capital Equipment Fund - \$527,083.61, of which \$207,379.85 is the Highway portion. She also reported first quarter sales tax revenue of \$1,130,505.46; and the current Hospital debt of \$900,000. The balance of the Internal Service Fund is \$2,367,642.72.

REPORT OF THE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE:

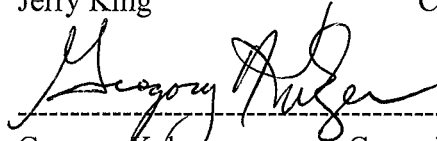
**REPORT OF
WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE
ON THE EXAMINATION OF CLAIMS**

To: The Honorable County Legislators

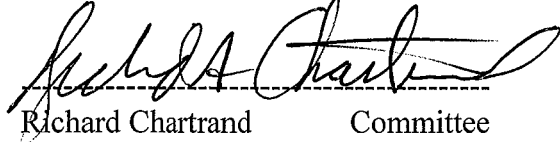
The Ways and Means Committee reports that they have examined the claims presented for payment in the total amount of \$ 1,530,348.72 and recommend that they be audited and allowed for the amounts claimed.



Jerry King Chair



Gregory Kulzer Committee



Richard Chartrand Committee

Dated: April 3, 2018

Approved on motion by Legislator Moser , seconded by
Legislator Chartrand , and carried.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Legislator Lehman took exception to the State imposed minimum wage that will replace tips for servers, while purporting to increase their earnings. Some constituents and business owners continue to express strong opposition, claiming adverse effect on both employees and employers. Referencing a resolution sponsored by then Board Chairman Michael Tabolt in 2015, Legislator Lehman would like to memorialize the opposing message to the Governor and State representatives. He relayed a specific example of two local waitresses who had earned \$100 each in tips during one shift, whose earnings would be greatly diminished if replaced by a \$3.00 per hour wage increase, while compounding employer expenses.

Mr. Piche had the Board's 2015 resolution distributed to Legislators, suggesting it could be forwarded to State representatives to renew and record the Board's ongoing opposition. Legislator Lehman made a motion to forward the resolution to the Governor and State representatives, seconded by Legislator Moser and carried.

The Clerk of the Board read a proclamation declaring April as "Donate Life Month" encouraging residents to enroll in the NYS Donate Life Registry to give the gift of life as an organ and tissue donor. Enrollment can be done when applying for, or renewing, a driver's license, non-driver's identification card or voter registration forms.

The Chairman had also proclaimed April as "Child Abuse Prevention Month" calling upon the entire citizenry to participate in efforts to support families and strengthen preventive child abuse measures.

Legislator Moser made a motion at 6:26 p.m. to enter executive session to discuss the credibility of certain corporations leading to the retention of one; for union negotiations update; terms of a vendor contract; wind PILOT negotiations and a potential land acquisition. The motion was seconded by Legislator Kulzer and carried. The session began at 6:34 after a short recess. Human Resource Director Christopher Boulio, Economic Development/IDA Director Eric Virkler, Timothy Petersen, Brittany Berrus and Planning Director Frank Pace attended the session.

At 8:09 p.m. Legislator Moser made a motion to re-enter the regular meeting, seconded by Legislator Kulzer and carried.

Legislator Kulzer made a motion to authorize the County Attorney to negotiate the final terms of the power purchase agreement with Greenskies and authorize the Chairman, or Vice-Chairman, to execute same upon the approval of the County Attorney, seconded by Legislator Moser and carried.

Atty. Joan McNichol reported that the Ways and Means Committee had considered the seven proposals received for architecture and design of a 22,000 sq. ft. building for the JCC Education Extension Center. The lowest bidder was disqualified as non-responsive to the request.

Legislator King made a motion to award the bid to C & S Company in the amount of \$299,500.00 for architecture and design of a 22,000 sq. ft. building for the JCC Education Extension Center, seconded by Legislator Kulzer. Although their proposal was not the lowest bid, their phased approach and payment option were deemed favorable. Legislators also recognized that \$90,000 was earmarked for administration oversight throughout the construction phase. Ryan Piche affirmed that he and other professional County personnel would diligently oversee the project. The motion was unanimously carried.

Although not opposed to awarding the contract to C & S Company, Legislator Lehman requested research on the advantages and a price quote for a "Clerk of the Works" for the project. Several other Legislators acquiesced and County Manager Ryan Piche was directed to research for a "Clerk of the Works" and report his findings.

There being no other business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned on motion by Legislator Moser at 8:15 p.m., seconded by Legislator LaChausse and carried.