

REGULAR MEETING
March 7, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chairman Michael A. Tabolt.

Roll Call: All Legislators were present.

Chairman Tabolt offered the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

There were 14 persons present.

Chairman Tabolt declared the February 7 and February 17, 2017 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.

Lawrence Dolhof, Chairman
Bryan Moser
Craig Brennan

Dated: March 7, 2017

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

Chairman Tabolt opened the public hearing for comments on Local Law Introductory No. 1-2017 "Establishing Residency Requirements for Assistant County Attorney for Lewis County".

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Lowville Free Library President Patricia Burke distinguished the one-time special funding request was for chrome books that are portable and would be available to all patrons from youths to seniors. The County appropriation to the North Country Library System is allocated to libraries to support technology upgrades, associated training and hard drives.

Lowville Library Board member Mary Hunyadi expounded by reporting the libraries share their inventories, adding that she has never had to wait for more than three days for delivery of any book from the eleven libraries in the County. The schools have issued chrome books to students, so the compatible devices at libraries are available to students.

Ms. Hunyadi reiterated the County's allocation to the North Country Library System finances libraries' monthly technology expenses. Six of the eleven libraries are installing fiber optics to enhance bandwidth.

Ms. Hunyadi reported the Lowville Free Library is financially supported by County taxpayers, the Lowville school district, Village of Lowville and the Towns of Lowville and Watson. Those monies are augmented by the library board's sponsored fund raisers, which garnered \$22,000.00 in 2016. Seventy percent (70%) of their annual budget is allocated for salaries, which they proudly maintain at levels above the minimum wage. The library remains challenged to cover their operating expenses by the end of the year.

Legislator Brennan thanked each of the ladies for their informative update.

Mr. Dan Myers of Double Play Community Center reported that 45% of their programs are for wellness and nutrition programs. He introduced a Martinsburg resident Luann Rhone who gave a testimonial on her personal experiences. She arrived in Lewis County in 1994 a very active and athletic individual. Subsequently diagnosed with diabetes, she was prescribed insulin and other medications. She was personally impacted by the loss of two siblings who died at a young age. Having a desire to better herself, she availed the Double Play gym faithfully six days a week and advantaged their programs, which have helped her immensely.

Ms. Rhone cited the many local parents who are losing their children, imploring that kids need a place to go, adding that Double Play Sports provides that safe place.

Mr. Myers stated the not-for-profit 501c-3 agency has partnered with the Villages of Lyons Falls and Port Leyden to create satellite programs for which the Center has donated equipment to remove the travel impediment for potential members.

He invited a Legislator be assigned to attend their advisory board meetings to be informed on how monies are expended. "It is difficult to manage a not-for-profit agency", said Mr. Myers. Their goal is to fill a void and provide options for a better way of life.

Legislator Dolhof referenced the existing drug epidemic, offering support to Double Play for reaching out to encourage participation in their programs, especially youth. Mr. Myers reported the forged partnerships with Mountain View Prevention Services, Community Services and the school districts to collaborate prevention alternatives to drugs.

Legislator Hathway inquired if the one-time funding allocation would result in a budget deficiency for the Center next year? Mr. Myers responded that the County allocation would allow them to generate another \$20,000 to augment their future resources.

Legislator Kulzer asked if an annual County allocation would be beneficial. Mr. Myers stated that each of their ten Board members meet the challenge to contribute \$2,000 annually to support their programs with a goal to tackle obesity and prevent negative results from rampant drug use.

Legislator King spoke favorably of the good services provided by the Center and, particularly the southern part of the County, while submitting that the respective Towns and Villages should commit budget allocations for the services in their communities. Mr. Myers said he would attend those municipal board meetings to explain the programs and services

offered and request their support. He has already met with the Town of Greig Board, which totally finances the summer recreation program at the South Lewis Central School.

In response to Legislator Brennan, Mr. Myers stated their programs are not duplicative; they provide certified trainers at the fitness center which is open 24/7; and also employ persons who teach guitar lessons and other arts. The Center works hard to keep their membership affordable and has a current membership of 750. They employ four full-time and 15 part-time persons.

Legislator Brennan concurred with Legislator King that the municipalities should be requested for budget allocations. Legislator King invoked, "If the Towns and Villages do not commit appropriations, the program is unsustainable".

In response to Legislator Moser, Mr. Myers responded the programs offered in the southern part of the County are offered free of charge. They coordinate after school programs with the South Lewis School, and will reach out to discern assistance through the public transportation system.

Legislator Kulzer opined it would be more beneficial to the Center to earmark an annual County allocation. Mr. Myers responded that if the \$40,000 allocation is approved, there would be no further request on behalf of the Center for five years. He would be reaching out to the Town and Village Boards for respective appropriations.

Chairman Tabolt feels the amount is too much, instead suggesting \$10,000 this year, with subsequent annual funding requests. He supports a Legislator appointment to attend the Double Play advisory board meetings for direct knowledge and oversight of how the monies are expended.

Legislator Brennan exclaimed the County has the funds available now, citing unknown future financial status. Although the Board may not make financial commitments for future Boards, Legislator King purported there are ways to earmark funds.

Mr. Myers was thanked for his time and explanation to the Board of the programs and services offered by the Double Play Community Center.

It being 5:35 p.m. Chairman Tabolt closed the public hearing.

PRESENTATION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND NOTICES:

Mary Pelletier-Hunyadi submitted the Lowville Free Library's 2016 annual report to the Community.

A letter was received from the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation informing the First Lewis County Clerk's Office located in Martinsburg would be considered for historical designation by the State Board at its 3/23/2017 meeting.

Town of Diana Historical Museum President Delores Young had forwarded a letter of thanks to the Board for the \$1,000 County appropriation that will assist with their website and many other planned projects to enhance their visibility to North Country communities.

The Board acknowledged receipt of resolutions adopted by the Orleans, Tioga and Tompkins County Legislatures to oppose a repeal of the Affordable Care Act without an acceptable commensurate healthcare alternative; to support partial repeal of the New York secure ammunition and firearms enforcement (SAFE) Act of 2013 for areas outside of New York City; urging NYS to fund Probation Departments and other impacted County Departments and agencies the full costs associated with Raising the Age of Criminal Responsibility to 18 years of age; to support increasing the share of revenue Counties retain for providing DMV services; urging Governor Cuomo and the State Legislature to plan for next generation 9-1-1 in NYS and create a NYS 9-1-1 Department that supports County public safety answering points and enhances local emergency dispatch services; and also to more equitably and efficiently impose the 9-1-1 surcharge on all wireless communication devices and use the revenue to finance life saving County 9-1-1 services.

REPORTS OF COUNTY OFFICERS AND DEPARTMENTS:

Legislators have received copies of the County Treasurer's February report; the 2/16/17 and 2/27/17 Highway and Solid Waste Audit reports; the minutes of the 2/14/17 Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Directors and 2/15/17 Youth Bureau Advisory Board meetings; and the 2016 Annual Reports for the Social Services Department and the Lewis County Self-Insurance Plan.

County Treasurer Patricia O'Brien and Real Property Tax Director Candy Akin submitted approved applications for corrected 2016 tax rolls for Ryan N. & Stacy L. Battles, Rosanne A. & David A. Butts, Timothy W. Dailey, Bonnie R. Easton, James M. Marshall, Sr., Jonathan Maselli, Sidney and Beth Nafziger, Riverside Cemetery, Katherine M. Robbins, Brittany E. Spowell-Beck, Christopher Wilder and Caroline A. Yauger, all for respective amounts below \$2,500.00 pursuant to the Board's authorization by Resolution 527-2016.

Director of Weights and Measures James A. Richmire had submitted the February monthly report to be placed on file with the Clerk of the Board.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

Legislator Philip Hathway, Taxation/Elections/Information Technology Committee Chairman, reported the Board would initiate the State legislation process to extend the additional one-percent sales tax.

Real Property Tax Director Candy Akin had apprised the committee on the issue of relieving water/sewer charges. The committee will consider the County financial impact if the proposed State legislation to allow partial payment of real property taxes is adopted, and recommend whether the County should opt out.

The State is imposing changes to the STAR credits to require annual income verification that negatively impacts on senior citizens, especially those who do not file income tax returns. The State has not given any verification parameters for acceptable income documentation.

Legislator Hathway reported continuation of 9-1-1 addressing updates, and encouraged residents to prominently post their numbers to enhance emergency service response.

He also reported that Adam Zehr has interviewed candidates and will be hiring a replacement for an impending retiree. County job openings are posted to the website and also on Linking Lewis County website, which has substantially increased applications. The new County website design will be illustrated to the committee soon.

Legislator Hathway relayed that Mr. Zehr has contacted Development Authority Executive Director James Wright to facilitate a fiber optic connection to the JCC Education Extension Center.

Legislator Hathway cited the grant award to North Country Broadband to expand wireless internet services to enhance residential services and augment economic development. He thanked the Legislative Committee for pursuing the grant, as well as Liz Swearingin and Mr. Zehr for their efforts. Mr. Zehr reported the pilot program conducted from the Stowe Street tower proved the fiber-to-wireless methodology was successful. The Lewis County demographic is in line with the State's priority to focus on the most rural areas. Mohawk Networks will utilize towers throughout the County to provide cost effective internet options to those without or having sub-standard service.

Legislator Roscoe Fawcett, Jr., Social Services/Office For Aging/Youth Committee Chairman, made a motion to authorize DSS Commissioner Jennifer Jones to re-fill one full-time Caseworker position effective immediately, due to a resignation. The motion was seconded by Legislator Moroughan and carried.

Legislator Fawcett made a motion to authorize DSS Commissioner Jennifer Jones to re-fill one full-time Social Services Program Examiner position effective immediately. The motion was seconded by Legislator Hathway and carried.

Legislator Fawcett reported the MVP Health plan is available as a Medicaid managed care plan. Representatives from MVP, United Healthcare, Fidelis Care and Maximus will be at DSS every week to assist with enrollment through NYS Health. Anyone interested may visit the office or call 315-376-5400.

Legislator Fawcett urged approval of his sponsored resolution in support of the "Step Up for Seniors" initiative urging restoration of critical State funding to NYS Office for the Aging. He reported that 108 seniors enjoyed the La La Land movie at the Town Hall Theater. Upcoming events include a traditional St. Patrick's Day meal at all congregate sites on 3/16/17; Several County and municipal officials have been invited to assist with home delivered meals during "Mayors For Meals" on 3/20/17; Living Healthy in Lewis County sessions are scheduled for six Wednesdays from 5/10 – 6/14/17 at Valley View Courts.

The Youth Bureau received six applications for prevention of juvenile delinquency and youth development programs. The \$13,000 was awarded to the Village of Lowville, Mountain View Prevention Services, Copenhagen Central School, and the Beaver River Central School. Legislator Fawcett also reported the Youth Bureau will accept applications until 4/7/17 for a \$5,000 allocation to support youth programs.

Legislator Bryan Moser, County Officers/Junkyards/Veterans' Services/ Human Resources Committee Chairman, made a motion to authorize extending the employment of the Temporary Deputy Clerk of the Board through March 24, 2017. The motion was seconded by Legislator Brennan and carried.

Legislator Moser reported Ward Dailey is responding to a couple of Junkyard Law violations in Croghan, and the Junkyard Law changes have proven helpful to adjudicate violations and complaints.

Legislator Moser commended the performance of newly appointed Human Resources Director Christopher Boulio.

Legislator Jerry King, Courts and Law Enforcement/Fire & Emergency Management Director/Building Codes Committee Chairman, made a motion to authorize Sheriff Carpinelli to refill one full-time Correction Officer and one part-time Correction Officer effective immediately, due to promotions. The motion was seconded by Legislator Chartrand and carried.

Legislator King said he would expound on his sponsored resolutions when presented.

Legislator Lawrence Dolhof, Economic Development/Recreation, Forestry and Parks Committee Chairman, made a motion to authorize Planning Director Frank Pace to refill the Planner position effective March 8, 2017, due to a resignation. The motion was seconded by Legislator King and carried.

Legislator Dolhof informed the IDA offices were being renovated to expand their space; and the Board of Directors had approved a \$12,800 Small Business loan. The Fort Drum Garrison Command will be the guest speaker at the business leaders' breakfast at the Lowville Elks Club on 4/12/17.

Legislator Dolhof relayed that during recent years many constituents have expressed a perception for the lack of law enforcement for recreation programs, which has been the topic of many discussions and proposed solutions. Last fall the Board authorized hiring a school resource officer and 3 or 4 additional deputies to expand recreation patrols throughout the week on all trails, instead of just trail heads. Recently, the Sheriff advised that expanded patrols are no longer possible. He was directed to layoff the temporary part-time officers from 4/15 – 5/15/17 pursuant to civil service regulations. Seasonal personnel must be removed from the payroll for a 30-day period before being reassigned. Legislator Dolhof requests clarification on the civil service rule, so there is no lapse in patrols when the ATV Trail System opens on 4/1/17.

The Sheriff was invited to outline his vision for recreation patrols. Sheriff Michael Carpinelli said he has attempted to explain the issue for the past 5 years. He assured there would be adequate patrols for the SNIRT Run. Part-time deputies are inadequate for recreation patrols, he said, because the officers have other full-time jobs and may not opt for the additional work, asserting that many do not want to work over-time.

Sheriff Carpinelli reported that upon successful completion of deputy sheriff academy training, the five candidates will be ready for patrol in June or July. There is nothing he can do about the civil service rules that require temporary officers to be off from 4/15 – 5/15/17.

In response to Chairman Tabolt, the Sheriff responded he requires deputy patrols to prevent liability issues.

Legislator Hathway reminded that a few years ago the Board approved twice the allocation requested. Subsequently, the Sheriff was authorized to hire from outside the County, neither of which has resolved the issues. Sheriff Carpinelli submits that six full-time deputies could provide adequate coverage. The officers would be dedicated to recreation patrols, he said, but “People must take responsibility for their actions”. He does what he can with available resources.

In response to Legislator Hathway, the Sheriff said that Lake Bonaparte and Brantingham Lake would each receive like coverage in accordance with available resources.

Sheriff Carpinelli responded to Legislator Hathway’s affirmation “The County does not have \$400,000 for six additional deputies”, stating he would accept any additional help and do the best he could.

Legislator Dolhof recognized that road patrols are a non-mandated service, inquiring whether the new deputies could be assigned to recreation patrol upon their training completion. The Sheriff deferred further comment or recommendation until receipt of the consultant’s report following their recent independent study of the Sheriff and jail operations.

As a member of the Courts and Law Enforcement and the Ways and Means Committee, Legislator Chartrand took exception to only now learning of the patrol shortage, asking the Sheriff to present his staffing proposal to the Committee for their consideration and recommendation.

Legislator Brennan opines the primary problem is the lack of coordination between the several agencies that patrol the trails, relaying a personal encounter with County deputies, Environmental Conservation officers, Forest Rangers and Park Police while traveling a short distance from his camp in Barnes Corners. He urged the Sheriff to meet with the other agencies to coordinate varied times and area patrols. Sheriff Carpinelli confirmed coordinating with the other agencies, clarifying that assignments are at the discretion of their command. He cited Barnes Corners and Tabolt’s Corners as problem areas where more patrols are purposely assigned.

The problem, exclaimed Sheriff Carpinelli, is lack of manpower, again, reserving further comment until the study results are released.

Legislator Dolhof asked the Sheriff whether a past practice of partnering deputies with private citizens would be feasible. Sheriff Carpinelli was amendable, recognizing they would provide a presence, but without weapons, arresting powers or authority to write tickets. However, he cited additional cost to purchase law enforcement ATV's. He asserted, there was no lesser cost option.

Legislator Moser relayed knowing that enforcement was largely provided by deputies sitting in patrol vehicles at trail heads. The recreation vehicle operators contact each other to report where the patrols are sited, who then take alternate routes to avoid those areas. He supports Legislator Dolhof's suggestion, believing that law enforcement presence on the trails would incite slower traffic. He cited civil service regulations that prohibit the ability to assign correction officers for patrols. "Full-time officers are needed", stated Legislator Moser, while recognizing the funding issue. Sheriff Carpinelli reiterated the challenge of finding part-time officers, because full-time officers don't want to work the overtime.

Sheriff Carpinelli affirmed his efforts throughout the last five years and would continue to work with the Committee to identify a solution to make the trails safer.

In response to Legislator Chartrand, the Sheriff stated he could provide patrols from 4/15-5/15/17 by utilizing deputy overtime. The Sheriff agreed to propose his plan to the Recreation, Forestry & Parks Committee later this month.

Legislator Craig Brennan, Ways and Means/Buildings and Grounds Committee Chairman, made a motion to authorize Buildings Supervisor Frank Archer to refill one full-time Custodial Worker effective immediately, due to a retirement. The motion was seconded by Legislator Kulzer. Legislator Moser relayed that in addition to the County website, job openings are also posted on Linking Lewis County's website and facebook, which resulted in a substantial increase of applications for the recently advertised custodial position. Legislator Chartrand distinguished that civil service tested positions must be filled from the list of certified applicants, unlike the non-tested custodial position. The motion was then carried.

Legislator Brennan reported the roof over the DMV handicapped entrance has been completed. The Committee authorized Frank Archer to install an alarm at the Court House front entrance that would be activated during work hours from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to avert unauthorized employee use. He will also install an additional security camera outside the DSS building to cover a blind spot as recommended by security personnel.

He reported the County Clerk has permission to fill a full-time motor vehicle examiner, pursuant to civil service procedures. Planning Director Frank Pace gave updates on the JCC Education Extension Center; and expects a revised solar project construction schedule from the consultants.

Legislator Brennan reported the committee recommendation for additional one-time allocations of \$40,000 to Double Play Community Center, \$18,500 to the North Country Library System, \$1,500 to the Lowville Free Library and \$3,000 to the Youth Bureau.

Legislator Brennan reported Ms. Swearingin had explained Governor Cuomo's proposal for Counties to put forth local referendums outlining plans to expand shared services and consolidate local governments. She said plan development would require substantial time and the Governor's proposal does not include enforcement rules or impose negative impact for not presenting a referendum. The committee recommends deferral until more details are known.

In conclusion, Legislator Brennan relayed Treasurer Patricia O'Brien's report of a \$11,384,179 fund balance if all the aforementioned allocations were approved, being above the recommended average of \$11,000,000.

Legislator Gregory Kulzer, Transportation/Solid Waste Committee Chairman, made a motion to award the bid to Tracey Westernstar for the purchase of a 2018 Tandem Dump Truck in the amount of \$123,500.00. The summary of all bids received is on file with the Clerk of the Board. He reported that the lowest bid did not meet the specifications. The motion was seconded by Legislator Brennan and carried.

Legislator Kulzer made a motion to award bids for sand, gravel, crushed stone and concrete based on project location 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 4/1/2017 to 3/31/2018. The motion was seconded by Legislator King and carried.

Legislator Kulzer made a motion to award the low bid for crushing of stone to RMS Gravel in the amount of \$4.35 per cubic yard for the period 4/1/2017 to 3/31/2018. The motion was seconded by Legislator Brennan. In response to Legislator Moser, Legislator Kulzer did not know the reason the bids were not advertised for a per ton bid, while stating that all bidders received the same specifications and the three bidders submitted per cubic yard bids. The motion was then unanimously carried.

Legislator Kulzer reported the uniform bids had been opened on 3/2/17, but had not yet been analyzed for a recommended award.

Legislator Kulzer stated that the Highway Department would be leasing three pick-up trucks through the Enterprise Fleet Management program; and that Deputy Highway Superintendent Warren Shaw would begin work on 3/20/17 to replace retiring Stanley Samsa.

Legislator Kulzer sponsored a resolution to raise the fees for bulk tires to offset respective disposal costs. The Development Authority of the North Country will sponsor an open house on 4/13/17 at the transfer station to showcase the no-sort recycling operations. Director Pete Wood is evaluating Jefferson County haulers' posed request to transport their solid waste and recyclables to our site.

Legislator Brennan commended Mr. Wood for the complimentary news media report by the Development Authority for promoting efficient solid waste and recycling operations.

Legislator Richard Chartrand, Hospital Committee Chairman, reported the germ killing ultraviolet machine "Hector the Disinfecter" is the only one in the North Country region and augments ongoing normal personnel cleaning. There was a January gain of \$19,000 vs. a \$37,000 budget loss; 103 acute admissions and a below budget nursing home occupancy that has since improved. The 66.2 days cash on hand represents substantial improvement.

Legislator Chartrand relayed Board President Michael Young's concern for the nursing home occupancy rate. The Hospital administrative team has been directed to develop a plan for timely admissions that does not focus solely on financial disparities. He explained if an admission is accepted before Medicaid approval and the patient is not subsequently approved for Medicaid and the patient has no resources, the patient becomes a financial burden to the facility. The Board of Managers wants to accept patients who are relatively certain to be Medicaid eligible, thereby assuming some risk, while providing timely patient services. In response to Legislator King, Commissioner Jennifer Jones stated the chronic care approval process could take several months, dependent upon whether property transfers, trusts and/or multiple resources must be reviewed and verified. The determination period has been significantly reduced during the last year, as well as monies owed to the facility being reduced from \$650,000 to the current \$30,000.

Legislator Andrea Moroughan, Public Health/Community Services Committee Chair, pointed out that she was wearing blue to recognize "March as colorectal cancer month". She had participated in an event at the hospital where informational pamphlets were distributed.

The Board of Health report attributes the last quarter spike in disease investigations to drought and well water-related issues. A cost analysis will be conducted for Tuberculosis (TB) services due to the rise in antibiotic resistant TB.

Legislator Moroughan reported the number of children in Pre-school programs being lower than the previous two years, but several late referrals are being evaluated. The current dental provider in Rome has informed his intent to retire, but he will fulfill orthodontic services to all children currently enrolled.

Public Health officials will conduct an office-based drill targeting the hearing impaired and persons with mental illness. They received funds through chronic disease diabetes programs, as well as \$17,000 through the DSRIP program; and were recognized with a CDC Gold Star award for meeting their goals for the Diabetes Prevention Program.

Legislator Moroughan reports the community continues to rally together to fight the drug abuse problems. Fire and Emergency Services Director Robert MacKenzie will explain how to identify drug paraphernalia at a public forum on 3/9/17. Mountain View Prevention Services (MVPS) will sponsor NARCAN training on 3/13/17 presented by an ACR Health representative at the Port Leyden Firehall.

Anyone interested in helping with the anti-drug effort or seeking updated information is directed to the Lewis County Drug Addiction "It's Real and It's Local" facebook page. Legislator Moroughan thanked Nick Altmire for this initiative. NRCIL has been fielding calls through a recovery one line number 315-755-8408 that connects individuals to a peer in recovery who offers support. Credo and MVPS has coordinated the development of a recovery support group that meets every Wednesday from noon to 1:00 p.m. at MVPS.

The Youth Empowerment and Health Community Coalition will meet monthly on the third Thursday and welcomes everyone interested to learn what volunteers are doing for drug prevention and awareness.

Legislator Moroughan reported the Suicide Prevention Coalition's "Cup of Joe" campaign worked with five participating Lewis County restaurants offering patrons a cup of coffee for completing a survey. The gathered information will guide the efforts of the coalition.

SPECIAL REPORT:

Chairman Tabolt announced the County would be hosting the 3/23/17 Inter-County Legislative Committee of the Adirondacks with a tour of Otis Technology and meeting and lunch at the River Valley Inn restaurant.

NYS Agriculture & Markets Commissioner Richard Ball will attend the 3/25/17 maple tree tapping ceremony at the Yancey Sugar Bush in Croghan.

Legislator Tabolt cited the importance to attend the renewable energy lobby day on 4/27/17 in Albany, not only for the County wind projects, but on behalf of the loggers who had relayed their concerns for the future of the ReEnergy plant in Lyonsdale.

COUNTY MANAGER REPORT:

Liz Swearingin expects receipt of the Bonadio Group report for their staffing study of the Sheriff's Department.

Community Services Board member Scott Mathys had recently informed of 17 homeless elementary aged children due to drug-related deaths.

Ms. Swearingin quoted commending sentiments from NYS Ag & Markets officials relative to Lewis County's 8-year Ag Review report terming it "One of the best County reports we have received in years". She thanked Frank Pace, Sue Kulzer and Rachel Gardner for their extraordinary performance throughout the lengthy process.

Ms. Swearingin reported meeting at regular intervals with CSEA representatives, Hospital leadership, Patty O'Brien and Chris Boulio with Gilroy, Kiernan & Gilroy (GKG) consultants to discuss healthcare. GKG will provide educational meetings for all employees starting 4/6/17 to explain healthcare in America and comparative healthcare in Lewis County.

They will explain how healthcare works, who is paying for it and pose recommendations to consider for plan changes.

She reported the data bases have been built for the Tyler payroll system for anticipated implementation by June 30, 2017. Discussions and training continue for the time entry process.

Referencing Ms. Swearingin's previous comment, Legislator Chartrand didn't want the public perception there were 17 homeless children not being cared for. Director of Community Services Patricia Fralick and DSS Commissioner Jennifer Jones each affirmed the children are residing with other family members or with foster parents and have access to available services.

COUNTY TREASURER REPORT:

Treasurer Patricia O'Brien recited the balances of the Special Legislative Contingency Fund - \$395,000.00; Contingency Fund-\$455,423.00; Capital Data Processing Fund-\$126,266.50 and Capital Equipment Fund - \$358,865.95, of which \$239,362.59 is the Highway portion. She also reported 2016 sales tax revenues of \$11,404,999.55; and the current Hospital debt is \$2.2 million.

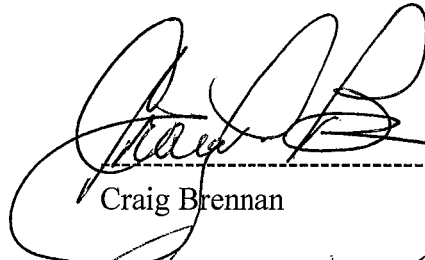
The balance of the Internal Service Fund as of 12/31/2016 is \$1,071,092.42.

REPORT OF THE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE:

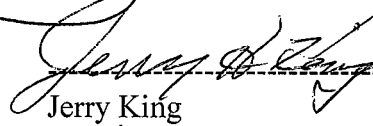
**REPORT OF
WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE
ON THE EXAMINATION OF CLAIMS**

To: The Honorable County Legislators

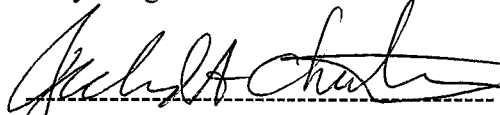
The Ways and Means Committee reports that they have examined the claims presented for payment in the total amount of \$ 811,483.91 and recommend that they be audited and allowed for the amounts claimed.



Craig Brennan Chair



Jerry King Committee



Richard Chartrand Committee

Dated: March 7, 2017

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

OTHER BUSINESS:

The Clerk of the Board read the proclamation whereby the Chairman had declared April as "Fair Housing Month".

There being no other business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m. on motion by Legislator Brennan, seconded by Legislator Moser and carried.