

MINUTES

Approved July 10

GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE AND WORKFORCE RELATIONS COMMITTEE

JUNE 12, 2009 3:30 P.M. COURTHOUSE CONFERENCE ROOM

Present: N. Shinagawa, Chair; D. Kiefer, Vice Chair; J. Dennis; M. Hattery, and L. McBean-Clairborne
Staff: K. Fuller, Deputy Clerk of the Legislature; J. Leccese, Planning Department; E. Marx, Planning and Public Works Commissioner; G. Potter, Director of Information Technology Services, Paula Younger, Administration, D. Squires, Finance Director
Legislators: M. Robertson, C. Chock
Guest: Nancy Schuler, City of Ithaca Councilwoman; S. Locey, D. Sanders, Locey and Cahill

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:32 p.m.

Changes to Agenda

Mr. Shinagawa, Chair, informed the Committee he would be excusing himself at 4:45 p.m. in order to make a flight.

Additions to the Agenda

It was MOVED by Mrs. McBean-Clairborne, seconded by Ms. Kiefer, and unanimously adopted by voice vote, to add the following resolutions to the agenda:

- Authorization to Execute Quitclaim Deeds – Sale of Foreclosure Properties at Public
- Auction Authorization to Execute Quitclaim Deed – Properties Redeemed Before County Auction

It was MOVED by Ms. Kiefer, seconded by Mrs. McBean-Clairborne, to add the resolution entitled Supporting the New York State Fair Pay Act of 2007 (Assembly Bill No. A3911; Senate Bill No. S955. A voice vote on the motion resulted as follows: Ayes – 3; Noes – 2 (Legislators Hattery and Shinagawa). MOTION TO ADD APPROVED. Mr. Shinagawa stated his opposition was due to the short period of time to review the material.

Deletions from the Agenda

The Chair gave permission for the following items to be removed from the agenda:

- Planning Department – Stream Buffer Easement on Coddington Road (Town of Caroline)
- Planning Department – Agricultural Conservation Easement on Newfield Foreclosure Property (Tax Parcel 24.-01-03.2)
- [Later in the meeting the item under Planning Department entitled – Purchase of Fall Creek Road parcel by the Nature Conservancy was deleted]

Report from the Committee Chair

Mr. Shinagawa reported he received correspondence from Kirby Edmonds, TFC Associates, regarding a meeting Mr. Edmonds had with the Ad Hoc Committee to discuss diversity and inclusion as institutions; Mr. Edmonds would like to meet with the Ad Hoc Committee and the Government Performance and Workforce Relations Committee to discuss how respected institutions [the County] is approaching diversity and inclusion. Mr. Shinagawa suggested the Ad Hoc Committee attend a

Workforce Diversity and Inclusion Committee (WDIC) meeting; Mrs. McBean-Clairborne stated Mr. Edmonds had attended a recent WDIC meeting.

Ms. Younger said she thought the Ad Hoc Committee was interested in operation-wide versus just the WDIC Committee. Mrs. McBean-Clairborne said the work of WDIC is with regard to the entire operation; she would like to hear more about the suggestion. Mr. Dennis said the WDIC Committee was designated by the Legislature to deal with diversity and inclusion and believes they are the appropriate Committee to approach. Mr. Shinagawa stated he agrees, particularly when the Government Performance and Workforce Relations Committee receives reports directly from WDIC. Consensus was to request the WDIC support staff contact Mr. Edmonds indicating the Committee agreed any discussion should be with the WDIC Committee.

Report from the County Administrator

Mr. Mareane provided members with the monthly indicator report. He spoke of the Committee goals, noting the development of the indicator report to provide understanding of the County environment has been completed. The report noted the following items:

- Department of Social Services Temporary Assistance cases showed a six percent increase from February to March. Compared to last year there is a nine percent increase overall. Safety Net, for which the County pays fifty percent of the cost, has increased nine percent from last year, and food stamps having increased eighteen percent.
- Interest rates on deposits continue to be low. Mr. Squires had said the May update indicates the interest rate is less than one percent.
- Fuel costs are presently going up; since last month the cost for regular gas is up nine percent, with diesel fuel costs increasing as well; although fuel is less expensive than last year, every month the cost is increasing.
- Unemployment rates are at 9.4 percent nationally; April unemployment for Tompkins County was 4.9 percent.
- CPI is down by 7/10th of a percent from a year ago.
- Overtime levels are down 28 percent from last year.
- Sales tax revenue is down ten percent from a year ago; sales tax revenue for the year is anticipated to be approximately \$1.5 million short.
- Airline enplanements are way up; May's data indicated the enplanements are much higher than previous months.

Mr. Mareane will continue to send reports. *Ms. Kiefer requested the actual CPI be included on the report.*

Mr. Mareane reported a working group, headed by Aurora Valenti, is working on ideas regarding Employee Recognition. There has been a lot of idea exchange within departments for County-wide recognition that would not create competition but recognize extraordinary performance. This topic will be discussed at next month's Department Head meeting.

The Civil Service reform work is continuing, with Cornell Institute for Public Affairs this fall as a class project to look at ways to reform the Civil Service system.

Ms. Younger has brought a number of policies forward for review and it is anticipated there will be between 3 to 5 revised policies for review next month.

The performance measures goal is high on his agenda, however, due to the immediate need for budget planning has been delayed due to the additional time required. The summer intern is working with Administration to develop models.

Next week interviews will take place for the one-time funded Program Analyst. Twenty-two applications were received for the position, some with extraordinary credentials.

It was requested that the Indicator Dashboard be amended to have the columns read left to right in terms of past month to current.

Ms. Kiefer inquired about the status of revised administrative policies. She was informed the smoking policy, the sale of county publications, and the drug-free workplace policy have been sent to department heads for review. Another policy being worked on is regarding working outside of normally scheduled working hours.

Mr. Hattery asked if there have been any complaints regarding the level of biodiesel fuel purchases. Mr. Mareane said he has not received any. Mr. Hattery requested to speak at another time with Mr. Mareane regarding this issue.

Report from the County Attorney

There was no report from the County Attorney.

Rollover Request

It was MOVED by Mr. Hattery, seconded by Mrs. McBean-Clairborne, to approve \$1,900 during 2009 to purchase a computer and software. Ms. Kiefer inquired if there was a replacement schedule within the department and asked for specific information regarding the present computer. It was unknown at this time. Mr. Potter indicated there is a replacement schedule in most departments; the County Attorney uses Macintosh computers. A voice vote on the motion resulted as follows: Ayes – 5; Noes – 0. ROLLOVER APPROVED.

Report from the Finance Director

Mr. Squires, Finance Director, reported the foreclosure auction was successful. Out of the original fourteen properties, only four properties were sold for \$65,000 gross, with an anticipated profit of approximately \$12,000. Mr. Squires compared it to Sullivan County who had 250 properties and \$1.8 million dollar gross. There were sixty-five people in attendance, with thirty-five of them being registered bidders. He noted that as a result of some individuals buying the properties back for monies owed a resolution regarding quit claim deeds was added to the agenda as well as the one transferring ownership on those purchased in auction.

Mr. Squires reported on a legal issue resulting from the 2008 auction sale of a foreclosed property located on Pleasant Grove Road. He said the court just affirmed the transaction was a valid transaction; the owners had claimed they were unaware of the foreclosure, however, they were aware as the owners were in bankruptcy and the County was in communication with the bankruptcy court asking them to remove the property so that it could be sold. The judge was not sympathetic to the argument to start the process over and confirmed the sale to the owners.

With regard to items on the agenda relating to placing easements on properties, Mr. Squires explained had the properties been auctioned the property would have been conveyed with the specific easements; since they were bought back by the owners the property would be conveyed without the easements.

Rollover Request

The Committee reviewed the rollover request and did not act upon it.

RESOLUTION NO. – AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE QUITCLAIM DEEDS – SALE OF FORECLOSURE PROPERTIES AT PUBLIC AUCTION

It was MOVED Mr. Dennis, seconded by Ms. Kiefer, and unanimously adopted by voice vote, to recommend adoption of the following resolution to the full Legislature. RESOLUTION ADOPTED.

WHEREAS, by tax foreclosure proceedings, the County acquired four parcels in the County, and WHEREAS, said properties were sold, contingent upon Legislature approval, at public auction on June 9, 2009, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Government Performance and Workforce Relations Committee, That upon payment in full of the bid price, plus current taxes and filing fees, that the County Administrator be and hereby is authorized to execute quitclaim deeds for all parcels sold at the public auction.

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RESOLUTION NO. - AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE QUITCLAIM DEED – PROPERTIES REDEEMED BEFORE COUNTY AUCTION

It was MOVED by Ms. Kiefer, seconded by Mr. Dennis, and unanimously adopted by voice vote, to recommend adoption of the following resolution to the full Legislature. RESOLUTION ADOPTED.

WHEREAS, Tompkins County works with property owners to allow them to redeem their homes prior to auction, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Government Performance and Workforce Relations Committee, That the County Administrator is authorized to execute a Quitclaim Deed conveying property acquired by the County through 2009 tax foreclosures, back to the previous owners upon payment of all back taxes, penalties, interest, and fees as follows:

Town of Caroline	25-1-8.2	Beverley E. Barnes
City of Ithaca	63-10-1	Michael A. St. Denis
Village of Dryden	16-2-4.2	Empress Development Corporation
Town of Dryden	42-1-39.4	David T. Williams
Town of Dryden	31-1-16.23	Richard R. and Sandy Lundy
Town of Newfield	24-1-3.2	Mazourek Farms, Inc
Town of Newfield	16-1-18	Beatrice Bald

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Administrative Policies

In response to Ms. Kiefer’s question regarding review of administrative manual policies pertaining to the Finance Department, Mr. Squires noted they are on his desk and he has begun to conceptualize them; he anticipates they would not be completed this month but should be in the near future.

Staffing Levels

Ms. Kiefer inquired what was being considered to deal with the understaffing situation within the Purchasing Division. Mr. Squires said it would be challenging to balance the budget and need for 2010, but there may be a way to assist in covering the Purchasing Division depending upon obtaining external resources.

Personnel

Mr. Shinagawa noted the workforce utilization report was provided for their review.

Report from the Pubic Information Officer

Ms. Lynch reported the Public Information Advisory Board would meet on Thursday, June 18th and will be discussing outreach with regard to the budget, including possible alternatives such as electronic means.

Report from the Workforce Diversity and Inclusion Committee

Mrs. McBean-Clairborne reported on receiving and discussing the summary of the Cultural Competency Training completed to date by TFC Associates. As the Committee continues to work on possible Civil Service Reform, Don Kelly the Deputy Director of CSEA responsible for contract administration, would be in attendance at the next meeting to discuss barriers to civil service reform. Also, Personnel is working on a survey relating to the Cultural Competency training to ask questions of what is needed following the training to be able to utilize what they have learned.

Board of Elections

Update on Voting Machines

Ms. Cree said the State Board of Elections has received a court order again and are moving forward. Although the State is not in compliance, and the vendor is not yet ready, the County Board of Elections (BOE) offered to undertake a pilot in the City. Presently, the vendors have the machines to update the firmware and will return them at the end of July. The machines for the pilot will have scanners on each, and no levers. Staff will require training prior to training more than four-hundred workers who work at the polling locations. These locations were reduced from 74 to 19 to enable training to be manageable. Ms. Cree said the decision not to purchase election information software was beneficial; the vendor does not have the time to train individuals, therefore it requires the purchase of the ballot-marking programming in addition to the software (\$100,000 additional cost to do so).

Ms. Cree said implementation of the new machines will be a burden on Information Technology due to the State requirements of maintaining separate locations for their information. Mr. Potter said it is a large issue with information technology directors due to the requirements, many of which the directors do not agree with regarding placement of equipment. Some counties have put the equipment in their primary server room despite the requirement it not be located there. There are a number of reasons to keep it in the same area due to a variety of things such as the HVAC and others. The rationale to postpone is to the County's advantage at this time. When it is time to implement the system Information Technology would be assisting with the process. Ms. Cree noted next year would be the full roll-out year.

Technician Update

Ms. Cree reported the half-time technicians used this year worked very well. She reported that everything the State had indicated funding would be available for has not occurred as the State is too late to obtain reimbursement. Work continues to move forward regarding polling locations and conversations have taken place with individuals outside the State to understand the process necessary to move forward. She noted that each time there is a use or occurrence with the new equipment there are 108 steps required to be back into certification mode. She said any Legislator interested in what is occurring has been shown the diagrams of what the polling locations would look like. Ms. Cree anticipates a heavy workload in August and September to train everyone.

Use of Lever Machines

Ms. Kiefer said there is a movement among approximately twenty counties to request the State be allowed to use lever machines; she asked what Ms. Cree's suggestion might be regarding this matter. Ms. Cree said she doesn't mind either way (support the movement or not support it), but noted there is \$1 million of equipment. Ms. Cree said at this time parts are not available for lever machines. The technicians repaired the machines as much as possible and they were given to school districts, however, the machines broke after a short period.

Rollover

Mr. Shinagawa explained the request is in the amount of \$10,000 for a security system to protect the integrity of the voting machines and \$4,185 for a Hewlett Packard Laser Jet 9595DN.

It was MOVED by Mrs. McBean-Clairborne, seconded by Mr. Dennis, to approve rollover funding for the Board of Elections. Mr. Dennis noted the County Administrator did not recommend using \$10,000 of rollover funding for security system installation for new voting equipment. He recalled that when renting the building for storing the equipment security was to be installed. Ms. Cree said originally the security system was to be paid from the Facilities Division budget, however, due to a lack of funds Ms. Cree offered to cover the expense using funds saved from the delay in utilizing the new equipment.

Ms. Cree said this is a swipe-card security system to allow access to only individuals authorized as well as recording who enters and exits the building. The machines have very small flash cards that have the potential to be tampered with. Ms. Robertson inquired whether the \$36,124 rollover was part of HAVA funds. It was explained this is funding set aside for the full rollout of equipment; there is a possibility of being reimbursed for the \$10,000 used for the security system. Ms. Robertson urged that the security system be funded.

Ms. Chock agreed the security system should be funded. She asked if it is possible to keep the system flash card separately under lock and key. Ms. Cree explained they are kept out of the machines during storage. During the election mode the card is in the machine, with many individuals touching the machine during the three-hour preparation period prior to being sent to the polling location.

Mr. Hattery asked if a security system is required. Ms. Cree said she did not find a mandate regarding a security system. Mr. Hattery asked if there was a reason other than attempting to secure as much rollover funds as possible for the 2010 budget to not recommend the security system be funded. Mr. Mareane said his recommendation was mostly based on retaining rollover funding. He said this is a good example of what may occur with rollover funding.

Mr. Hattery MOVED that the Board of Elections request to use certified rollover funds in the amount of \$14,185, for a security system to be installed to secure voting machines, and for the purchase of a Hewlett Packard LaserJet 9050 DN. It was found to be a friendly amendment.

A voice vote on the motion to approve the Board of Election Rollover Request in the amount of \$14,185 resulted as follows: Ayes – 5; Noes – 0. ROLLOVER APPROVED.

Planning Department

The item regarding the purchase of Fall Creek Road parcel by The Nature Conservancy was removed from the agenda. It was noted this was property withheld from foreclosure and was a swamp area next to The Nature Conservancy land. Mr. Squires said he believes a buyer for the property was found, but does not believe there would be much compensation from the sale.

Mr. Hattery requested that actions such as this be subject to the same process regarding easements and that the municipality where property is located be informed and pass a resolution or motion in favor of the County's action.

Assessment

RESOLUTION NO. – PROPOSAL FOR PROPERTY TAX CHANGE

It was MOVED by Mrs. McBean-Clairborne, seconded by Ms. Kiefer, to recommend adoption of the following resolution to the full Legislature.

Ms. Coggin, Director of Assessment, spoke of the written information provided to the Committee. She noted that while Ms. Schuler had the best of intentions, it is not within the local authority to allow an exemption on ordinary maintenance. She noted several exemptions are available, such as the historic exemption, and the 421f exemption for renovations. She said the County did not adopt the 421f exemption, however, the city did do so in 2003, and the first such application for exemption occurred in 2007. Ms. Coggin stated she has reviewed all information and regulations and cannot find anything that would allow the local government to exempt properties for the portion of the value for ordinary repair, maintenance, cleanup, etc.

In response to Ms. Kiefer's questions it was noted the 421f exemption has only four applications on file; it allows for up to \$80,000 value over an eight-year period for renovations to the property. If in fact assessment is based on the outside appearance, then it is not an incentive to maintain properties.

Ms. Schuler said she is in attendance at this meeting as a resident of the County. She spoke of how there is a feeling in the public that if a home is properly maintained and taken care of it would cause the assessed value to increase; therefore, property owners do not see any incentive to care for the exterior of their homes, and neighborhoods can begin to look run down.

Ms. Coggin indicated the assessment is evaluated according to the character of the home; if it were well kept it would be assessed higher. She stated that it is important to remember assessment is only the market value of the home, not the tax paid.

Mr. Hattery appreciated the effort made but would not support the resolution; he believes there are too many exemptions.

Ms. Chock spoke of jurisdiction and the need for public education. Ms. Kiefer cited a part from the Assessors Manual and noted that exterior appearance is not required as a consideration, so she believes the Assessor has discretion in this manner, it is not a question of exemption.

A voice vote on the resolution resulted as follows: Ayes – 1 (Legislator Kiefer); Noes – 4. RESOLUTION FAILED.

WHEREAS, people report they are reluctant to spruce up the exterior of their home because they fear their property taxes will go up, and

WHEREAS, neglecting regular maintenance results in the deterioration of the appearance of their property and of the neighborhood, and

WHEREAS, if maintenance was rewarded rather than penalized more people would be likely to maintain the positive exterior appearance of their property,

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Government Performance and Workforce Relations Committee, That maintaining and improving the physical appearance of a house such as painting and planting, without making structural changes, shall not be a basis for increasing assessment for tax purposes.

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County Clerk

It was MOVED by Mrs. McBean-Clairborne, seconded by Mr. Dennis, to recommend approval of the County Clerk Rollover Request as presented by the Department in the amount of \$202,748 for 2009, and \$50,000 for use in 2010.

Ms. Reynolds, Deputy Clerk, reviewed the request and said the Archives grant completion runs over a split year and is requested to complete the State fiscal year associated with it. The laserfiche software upgrades would be used in association with records management; it is the goal to have a countywide digital records center and not require a building for this purpose. They have the hardware, software, and personnel in place and would like to begin the project. The e-mailing archiving software is an area the State Archives offices have been interested in having the County pursue. Mr. Potter, Director of Information Technology Services, said archiving is a critical IT project for many organizations and has been discussed previously. He said the ability to retrieve e-mail if requested for legal discovery or by a Freedom of Information Request (FOIL) is extremely complicated and cumbersome to do at the present time, with no guarantee the e-mail could be retrieved. He strongly expressed his concern for the potential legal implications in the future. Mr. Potter said organizations are recognizing the need for storage systems that make the requests available and believes the County should also move in this direction. If the rollover request for the e-mail archiving system is not approved through the rollover process it would come forward as an over-target request in his 2010 budget.

Mrs. McBean-Clairborne clarified that she had moved the Departmental Request, not the County Administrator's. Mr. Dennis stated that throughout the process he is assuming the Committee is approving the Departmental request, unless they specifically amend it.

Ms. Reynolds spoke of how the County had been planning to have a new building for records storage and has requested it be removed from the capital program, creating a \$2.5 million savings, as well as the heating and maintenance costs.

Ms. Kiefer asked for more detail regarding the County Clerk's request to remove the records storage building from the capital budget. Ms. Reynolds said following a call from Administration and a discussion with Ms. Valenti, it was requested construction of a records storage area not be moved forward and that a digital storage be developed. Ms. Kiefer said the purpose of the building was not just records storage and asked if it was only that particular space that was being removed. Ms. Reynolds was not clear on that aspect.

Mr. Mareane said all the County Clerk requests are great projects, however it is important to look at the issue in the context of other priorities as well. The difficulty of meeting the fiscal target is better known every day and he encourages the Legislature to be as stringent as possible to be able to consider this request along with others in November.

It was MOVED by Mr. Shinagawa, seconded by Mr. Hattery, to recommend the County Administrator's recommendation, the Archives Grant Completion and Laserfiche Software upgrades in the amount of \$75,233 for use in 2009, and return of the balance to the General Fund for use in the 2010 budget, be approved by the Legislature.

Ms. Kiefer asked if the scanning of permanent records utilizing Challenge Industries as the vendor would complete that project. Ms. Reynolds said it would complete that portion of the project. Ms. Kiefer indicated her desire to add the \$74,012 for scanning of records by Challenge Industries be added; Mr. Shinagawa did not consider it to be friendly. Mrs. McBean-Clairborne asked for clarification regarding the scanning portion; Ms. Reynolds said the \$74,012 would complete the majority of this project and seek a grant for any additional funding required. Mr. Hattery asked what projects are in process. Ms. Reynolds said the archives grant completion and laserfiche software upgrades are in process and could lose grant funds if not complete. Mr. Hattery said he is in favor of the more limited spending at this time with the understanding of looking at the request in the context of other priorities, and will support the amendment.

A voice vote on the motion to amend resulted as follows: Ayes – 4; Noes – 1 (Legislator Kiefer).
AMENDMENT APPROVED.

A voice vote on the rollover request in the amount of \$75,233 and return the balance to the General Fund resulted as follows: Ayes – 4; Noes – 1 (Legislator Kiefer). ROLLOVER APPROVED.

Information Technology Services

RESOLUTION NO. - AWARD OF CONTRACT – TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES

Mr. Potter provided members with a revised resolution containing the up-to-date information on the responses from vendors. He spoke of the need to take action as the contracts are due to expire shortly. Ms. Kiefer inquired whether a map showing connectivity was available; Mr. Potter does not have a map at this time and anticipates changes would be made during the contract amendments.

It was MOVED by Mr. Dennis, seconded by Mr. Hattery, to recommend adoption of the following resolution to the full Legislature.

Mr. Shinagawa requested to be excused at this time (4:45 p.m.). He expressed his support for the resolutions regarding the SMSI Health Insurance and the naming of State Route 38 and would support naming it a Veterans' Memorial Highway, deleting the Vietnam designation, but would not be against it if it is not possible. With regard to the Fair Pay resolution he supports it, but would rather delay action to be able to review the bill.

Ms. Kiefer took over as Chair.

Mr. Hattery inquired what the changes in services were as well as associated costs. Mr. Potter said it is a bundled agreement with Finger Lakes Technology Group. He called attention to the worksheet provided and noted there are two levels of discount to choose from: one would provide a ten percent discount (excluding telephone per minute usage fees) if the County purchases voice and data services, and the other is a twelve percent discount (excluding telephone per minute usage fees) if the County purchases the entire package. He also noted the manner of connection, off the company fiber network, would then bring in fiber optics rather than copper lines from Verizon, which would be beneficial and are a requirement from the State to transmit information directly to them. Finger Lakes Technology Group would provide fiber optic to most of the buildings named within the RFP, with the Bostwick Road and Solid Waste buildings still under review to determine cost benefit. He said ultimately, the \$74,000 we would pay versus the \$68,000 present cost is beneficial due to the fiber optics at every location and providing improved service. Mr. Potter said there are still discussions to be held regarding the charge-out to departments for the services, and noted the Solid Waste Division, as an enterprise, would be responsible to cover the additional costs should they decide to use the service. Additionally, when the Health Department moves to Brown Road there will be questions of cost-sharing and State reimbursement.

It was noted that Finger Lakes Technology Group, Inc., presently contracts with the County for fiber-optic connection between Annex C and the Human Services Building. Mr. Potter explained that although Clarity Connect was low-bidder for internet services, the technology offered by Finger Lakes Technology (ten megabytes of bandwidth combined with the fiber connection installation at Brown Road and Emergency Response, compared to the five megabytes offered by Clarity Connect) made their package the better choice. Ms. Kiefer noted Clarity Connect has been a very good provider and it is a local firm; she would like to see a split award. Mr. Potter is looking into having dual internet service providers for redundancy in some areas and could use Clarity Connect at an additional cost of \$667 per month.

Mr. Potter said the local and long distance calls would be additional fees, charged to the departments and the recommendation is supported by Administration.

Mr. Potter noted the amount on the original resolution (\$75,000) does not include the optional sites such as Center Ithaca and Human Rights. To include the optional sites in the Finger Lakes

Technology Group contract, an additional \$15,000 would be required. It was recommended by Mr. Dennis to increase the contract amount to \$90,000, which was found to be friendly.

A voice vote on the resolution resulted as follows: Ayes – 3; Noes – 1 (Legislator Kiefer); Excused – 1 (Legislator Shinagawa). RESOLUTION ADOPTED.

WHEREAS, existing Tompkins County telecommunication contracts which define the terms for Internet access, telephone voice line access, local and long distance per minute usage rates, and data circuits for County facility Wide Area Network connectivity are scheduled to expire on July 31, 2009 (Clarity Connect), and August 16, 2009 (Paetec), and

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Information Technology Services Department has distributed a Request for Proposals in accordance with established Tompkins County and New York State purchasing procedures, and

WHEREAS, three (3) proposals were received, reviewed, and evaluated by the Information Technology Services Department based on criteria documented in Section 3 of the Request for Proposals, Telecommunications Services Project, dated May 29, 2009, and

WHEREAS, the Information Technology Services Department recommended that various levels of telecommunications services be awarded to Finger Lakes Technology Group, Inc., now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Government Performance and Workforce Relations Committee, That the County Administrator, or his designee, be authorized to execute a contract for the services with Finger Lakes Technology Group, Inc., of Victor, New York, for an annual amount not to exceed \$90,000 for Internet access, telephone voice line access, Wide Area Network data connectivity for County facilities; and additional costs necessary for the monthly payment of per minute usage rates for local and long distance telephone service,

RESOLVED, further, That the County Administrator, or his designee, is hereby authorized to execute future change orders totaling up to ten percent (10%) of the contract amounts during the terms of the agreement,

RESOLVED, further, That the Information Technology Services Department be authorized to implement services defined by the terms of these contracts on behalf of the County,

RESOLVED, further, That the Information Technology Services Department be authorized to distribute the costs directly associated with services provided by this contract based on established practices, or those determined by the County Administrator, to County Departments with funds being available within the annual departmental operational budgets.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

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Project Updates:

ITS/Communications Policy

Mr. Potter reported as soon as time allowed he would be continuing work on the policy, looking at the same process as described last year. He noted that during the process there would be many conversations regarding the importance of an efficient e-mail archiving system.

Human Resources/Payroll

Mr. Potter reported the project is on track, with the request for proposals having been returned and reviewed. He will be interviewing four firms this week and the balance on Wednesday of next week. He noted this is a great opportunity to upgrade the systems and hopes to have a recommendation for the Committee next month. In response to Mr. Dennis, it was noted the capital budget has \$600,000 included for this project. He cannot share cost details due to the ongoing negotiations other than all came in under budget.

Rollover

It was MOVED by Mr. Dennis, seconded by Mr. Hattery, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to approve the request to use certified rollover funds in the amount of \$5,267, for the purchase of a new router to support connectivity for the Sheriff's Office, Airport Terminal, Crash Fire and

Rescue, and Department of Emergency Response locations on network reconfigurations resulting from the 55 Brown Road Project.

Administration

RESOLUTION NO. – AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE GREATER TOMPKINS COUNTY HEALTH CARE CONSORTIUM FOR NEW YORK STATE SHARED MUNICIPAL SERVICES PROGRAM

Mr. Marene spoke of the work Mr. Locey has done regarding this project, noting he has attended many meetings with staff, Tompkins County Council of Governments, municipalities, union leadership, and others. Mr. Locey said all information needed to bring the project to the point of implementation has taken place and that when undertaken, the consortium would provide financial benefits due to purchasing power. At this time it requires the Legislature to consider the resolution to opt into the Health Care Consortium in order to keep on schedule for a January 1, 2010, implementation date.

Mr. Locey said the financial impact to the County would be a six percent increase from the 2009 to 2010 budget, the savings would be the difference between what it would have been versus the six percent increase. Over the next five to ten years, when pooling resources with other municipalities and doing things more efficiently greater savings would be seen. He reported the proposals from the third-party administrators have just been received and the rates for the service is much lower than anticipated, forty to fifty percent lower than what is being paid at the present time. The Committee was told the passage of the resolution to enter into an agreement would begin the process of the creation of the consortium, followed by the approval of the New York State Insurance Department who would issue a Certificate of Authority. He noted the health care consortium benefits would not alter the medical plans the employees and retirees presently have.

It was MOVED by Mrs. McBean-Clairborne, seconded by Mr. Hattery, to recommend adoption of the following resolution to the full Legislature. It was clarified that the budgeted amount for administration was \$1.2 million, however, the proposals for third-party administration came in at approximately \$800,000, providing there are 2,000 contracts in the program.

Ms. Robertson expressed the need to meet with the labor unions associated with Dryden. Mr. Dennis spoke of having attended meetings in the Towns of Enfield and Ulysses, and the Village of Trumansburg and encouraged their participation in the consortium. He has had discussions with some union members but feels not all parties are online with the consortium and have questions regarding their benefit. Mr. Dennis stated that if there is a better way to communicate what the consortium would mean it should be done.

Mr. Hattery spoke of free access to and exit from the consortium and does not have a problem with those not signing at this time. It was noted that there is a need for 2,000 contracts; the county has 1,300 and the City would be 650. With both of these contracts and the Town of Ithaca who voted to join we would have the required number of contracts. Ms. Robertson spoke of the price, it was noted by Mr. Locey the City and County would drive the overall budget for the consortium, he does not believe there would be significant changes in rates as a result of other municipalities participating.

A voice vote on the resolution resulted as follows: Ayes – 4; Noes – 0; Excused – 1 (Legislator Shinagawa). RESOLUTION ADOPTED.

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Council of Governments (TCCOG) is comprised of all the municipalities in Tompkins County, and

WHEREAS, Tompkins County is a member of the Tompkins County Council of Governments (TCCOG), and

WHEREAS, health care costs for Tompkins County and other local governments have been increasing each year at rates much higher than inflation, which can be addressed by pooling our buying power,

WHEREAS, in 2007, the County, on behalf of TCCOG, accepted an incentive grant award under the New York State Shared Municipal Services Program to assist the municipalities in Tompkins County to create a local municipal health care consortium, and

WHEREAS, the Health Care Consortium is developing health benefits coverage for all participating municipalities with the intent of providing a net savings to the taxpayers of Tompkins County, a goal the Tompkins County Legislature supports, and

WHEREAS, TCCOG encourages the signature of an inter-municipal agreement by TCCOG members, and

WHEREAS, the information as well as the opportunity for clarification was presented to the Government Performance and Workforce Relations Committee on February 13, 2009, and the Tompkins County Legislature on May 5, 2009, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Government Performance and Workforce Relations Committee, That by the Tompkins County Legislature, the Chief Elected Official is hereby authorized to execute an inter-municipal agreement effective January 1, 2010, with the Greater Tompkins County Health Care Consortium for the New York State Shared Municipal Services Program.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

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Rollover

The Committee was provided with the County Administration Request to use Rollover Funds form; no action was required.

Legislature

RESOLUTION NO. - REQUESTING THE NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE TO DESIGNATE STATE ROUTE 38 AS THE NEW YORK STATE VIETNAM VETERANS' MEMORIAL HIGHWAY

It was MOVED by Mr. Dennis, seconded by Mr. Hattery, to recommend adoption of the following resolution to the full Legislature. Ms. Kiefer expressed Mr. Shinagawa's desire to have the route named "Veterans' Memorial Highway", but there is already one in existence. She moved to remove the WHEREAS paragraph referencing a Congressional Medal of Honor recipient, as his name is not associated directly with the County; this was agreed to as friendly.

A voice vote on the resolution resulted as follows: Ayes – 3; Noes – 1 (Legislator McBean-Clairborne); Excused – 1 (Legislator Shinagawa). RESOLUTION ADOPTED.

WHEREAS, over eight million men and women bravely served our country during the Vietnam War era, over 400,000 of these coming from New York State, and

WHEREAS, New York State Route 38 bisects the state, beginning in Sterling, New York, running through the Northeastern portion of Tompkins County, South to the Village of Owego, New York, and

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Government Performance and Workforce Relations Committee, That the Tompkins County Legislature hereby requests the State of New York designate State Route 38 as the New York State Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Highway,

RESOLVED, further, That certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the New York State Association of Counties, Governor David Paterson, Senators James L. Seward, Michael Nozzolio, George Winner and Assemblywoman Barbara Lifton.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

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State Pension Reform

The Committee received information regarding the Governor's proposed State Pension Reform.

Request to Use Rollover Funds

The Committee received information on the Legislature rollover fund request; no action was required.

Discussion of Meeting Schedule

Ms. Kiefer said she recalled the meeting time was to be 3:00 p.m. rather than 3:30 p.m.; Mrs. McBean-Clairborne noted the meeting time was amended by the Chair after the previous Committee meeting. The Committee, by consensus, decided to postpone discussion until the July meeting, which would be held at 3:30 p.m.

Approval of Minutes of May 8 and 19, 2009

It was MOVED by Mr. Hattery, seconded by Mr. Dennis, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to approve the minutes of May 8 and 19, 2009. MINUTES APPROVED.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.