

**MINUTES
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 7, 2007 4:30 P.M.
COURTHOUSE CONFERENCE ROOM**

Approved 12/14/07

Present: G. Stevenson, Chair; P. Mackesey; D. Kiefer
Excused: M. Sigler, M. Hattery
Staff: K. Fuller, Deputy Clerk of the Legislature; D. Squires, Finance Director; M. Lynch, Public Information Officer
Guest: J. Dennis, Legislator

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m.

Resolutions

It was MOVED by Ms. Mackesey, seconded by Ms. Kiefer, to approve and submit the following resolution to the full Legislature for approval.

A voice vote on the resolution resulted as follows: Ayes – 3, Noes – 0, Excused – 2 (Hattery, Sigler). RESOLUTION CARRIED.

RESOLUTION NO. - SCHEDULING A SPECIAL ELECTION IN DISTRICT NO. 3 (CITY OF ITHACA)

WHEREAS, Legislator Richard S. Booth has resigned from the Tompkins County Legislature effective at noon on November 7, 2007, and

WHEREAS, pursuant to County Charter Article 2, Section 2.04, when a vacancy occurs on the Tompkins County Legislature it shall be filled at a special election if the vacancy occurs on or after September 20 of the calendar year, and

WHEREAS, the special election must be held as soon as practicable and be held not later than 75 days from the date of such vacancy, and

WHEREAS, the term of office for this vacancy shall be for the remainder of the unexpired term (December 31, 2009), now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Government Operations Committee, That a special election be held on December 18, 2007, in District No. 3 (City of Ithaca) to fill the unexpired term of Legislator Booth,

RESOLVED, further, That the Board of Elections be directed to prepare the ballots, voting machines, and other matters so that such election may be properly held and conducted as provided in Election Law.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

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Ms. Kiefer provided members of the Committee with the following revised resolution, noting the language was a result of conversations with Chair Joseph with regard to her desire to include renewable resources within the bid. Ms. Mackesey questioned how a bid could be decided based upon the inclusion of renewable resources; Ms. Kiefer felt customers could be provided information on the separate bids and make a choice. At this time there was no one present from Municipal Electric and Gas Alliance (MEGA) to respond to the proposed amendments to the resolution. Ms. Mackesey said she feels she could support the amendments provided it can proceed in this manner.

It was MOVED by Ms. Mackesey, seconded by Ms. Kiefer, to approve and submit the following resolution to the full Legislature for approval. Mr. Stevenson said the amendments appear to address the issues previously discussed by Mr. Wood, County Attorney, and Ms. Kiefer's desire for inclusion of this type of language. Mr. Stevenson said in the event Mr. Wood provides input that would indicate the resolution amendments are not desirable he will not support it on the floor of the Legislature.

A voice vote on the resolution resulted as follows: Ayes – 3, Noes – 0, Excused – 2 (Hattery, Sigler). RESOLUTION CARRIED.

RESOLUTION NO. – AUTHORIZING MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC AND GAS ALLIANCE (MEGA) TO BID FOR GAS AND ELECTRICITY ON BEHALF OF THE COUNTY AND AUTHORIZING THE INCLUSION OF ALL POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS AND DISTRICTS WITHIN THE STATE TO PARTICIPATE

WHEREAS, the County previously authorized Municipal Electric and Gas Alliance (“MEGA”) to bid for both gas and electric power on its behalf and the bids resulted in contracts, and

WHEREAS, the contracts will soon terminate and it is time to re-bid, and

WHEREAS, Section 408-a of the County Law authorizes the County to include in any purchase contract awarded to the lowest responsible bidder, authorization permitting all political subdivisions and districts in the State to participate, and

WHEREAS, the County desires the continued participation of other political subdivisions and districts in the contracts, and

WHEREAS, rules regarding the terms by which other political subdivisions and districts participate have been established and will be reflected in contracts with the lowest responsible bidders, and

WHEREAS, the County has recognized the importance of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and responding proactively to global warming, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Government Operations Committee, That MEGA is hereby authorized to release bids for gas and electric power on behalf of Tompkins County,

RESOLVED, further, that the bid specifications shall provide for two responses for electric power: one based solely on lowest responsible bidder and one also based on maximum generation from renewable sources,

RESOLVED, further, That all political subdivisions and districts within the State are authorized to participate in the contracts awarded as a result of the bids.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

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Finance Director – Request for Opinion

Mr. Squires reported that as a result of Mr. Booth's date of resignation there is the option of determining how to pro-rate his payroll. He asked the Committee if they would like the pro-rata to be determined by the exact date or to pay Mr. Booth for the month due to the manner Legislator payroll is set. Following discussion the Committee stated that although all members felt that Mr. Booth's dedication deserves the entire months pay, the pro rata should be done in the same manner as any other employee, for the actual time worked.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Karen Fuller, Deputy Clerk of the Legislature