

Legislative Committee

April 2, 2025

Attendees

Committee: Allen Hinkley, Lisa Driscoll, Eric Wilson, Timothy Kelso, Tina Molé

Staff: Maria Kelso, Judith Garrison, Joe Ermeti, Penny Bishop

Mr. Hinkley called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. Upon a motion by Mrs. Driscoll, seconded by Mr. Kelso, the draft minutes of the March 5 committee meeting were unanimously approved.

Board of Elections Commissioner Judith Garrison submitted a travel and training authorization request for the NYS Election Commissioners Association summer conference in Lake Placid, August 23-29. She would be the only one to attend the summer conference this year. A travel and training authorization request was presented for the County Attorney's Office for the New York Public Welfare Association's Summer Conference in Saratoga in July. A travel and training authorization request was presented for the County Clerk's Office for the Spring Conference May 18.

Board of Elections Commissioner Maria Kelso reported they are collecting petitions through Thursday. They ordered new ePoll pads which needed to be ordered by March 31 so as not to lose grant funding for the equipment. They are still ordering supplies that will be paid from the Center for Tech and Civic Life Foundation grant which saves them from using funds from the County budget. In reply to Mrs. Driscoll, Ms. Garrison stated a list of all the candidates running for offices will be posted on their webpage. Ms. Kelso clarified that the initial posting will include political party candidates and independents will be posted when those petitions are received later on. In answer to Ms. Driscoll, Ms. Garrison and Ms. Kelso said the candidate list would be posted by the end of next week. Ms. Garrison confirmed that April 15 is the first day petitions from Independents can be turned in.

Clerk of the Board Penny Bishop reported that arrangements have been made for the Emergency Services Department to provide communication radios to deputy Medical Examiners. Some of the deputy Medical Examiners have requested radios because cell service is not available in some areas of the County. In answer to Mrs. Driscoll, Mrs. Bishop said DES would provide five radios. Mr. Hinkley stated these radios would operate on the County's communication system. Mrs. Driscoll made a motion to approve the radios for the Medical Examiner's Office. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kelso and unanimously carried.

Public Defender Joe Ermeti reported work is still very busy and things are going well with good moral in the office. They are expanding their office and getting additional workspace from the Office for the Aging. The construction has been going on for a few months. When the construction is completed, they will need another desk, chair and file cabinets. He noted, however, that there is nothing in their budget for buying furniture. They've been looking online for inexpensive office furniture and will be asking maintenance if there is any surplus furniture available. Mrs. Bishop said in the past they kept a binder of surplus equipment for the maintenance department. She would check with Mr. Montgomery to see if the binder is current. Mr. Kelso spoke about the Reuse Center in Oneonta which may be an option. Mr. Wilson stated that the NYS OGS website may also have office furniture available. Mr. Ermeti said he would know as soon as the construction is completed how much additional space they would have to work with.

Upon a motion by Mrs. Driscoll, seconded by Mr. Wilson and unanimously carried, the Committee entered into executive session to discuss matters regarding a particular employee.

Committee reconvened in regular session.

Mrs. Driscoll made a motion to approve a fill vacancy authorization request as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved.

Upon a motion, the meeting adjourned at 11:29 a.m.