

Legislative Committee

March 6, 2023

Attendees

Committee: Allen Hinkley, Art Merrill, Mark Tuthill, Lisa Driscoll, Tina Molé

Staff: Haley Gransbury, Maria Kelso, Judith Garrison, Amy Merklen, Penny Bishop

Absent: Dennis Valente, Joe Ermeti, Shawn Smith

Welcome Lisa Driscoll and introductions were made around the room. Ms. Molé gave an update on Dennis Valente. She shared that Dennis will not run for reelection although his wife Patty is running for Supervisor. Mr. Valente will continue to serve on various committees namely the IDA, Tourism Advisory Board, and Opioid Committee.

Mrs. Gransbury reported revenue is down in the County Clerk's office noting it is not the time to buy with the high interest rates. She noted that the number of passport applications has increased and recommended anyone wishing to apply for a passport or renewal, not to wait, as fees will be increasing and applications are taking a long time to process. She explained that the new passports have an embedded chip. She stated the deadline for enhanced driver's license has been extended to 2025.

Mrs. Kelso reported on the challenges they are having in Fleischmanns over a voting incident that took place there and that matter is ongoing. She indicated the software and hardware used at BOE is expiring. They will set up a capital account for \$633,000 and they are currently receiving quotes and demos for replacements. Mr. Hinkley noted the current technology would be obsolete in 11 months. Ms. Molé indicated that equipment presently being used will get them through the 2023 elections. Mrs. Kelso remarked she has been using USL to help Christine with vouchers. She reported on the BOE state conference in January where they were made aware of 19 new election laws.

Mrs. Garrison stated they have moved into 97 Main Street and they like their new space. They would like to hold an open house and invite all of the Supervisors.

Mrs. Merklen reported they have hired the Benjamin Center from New Paltz to calculate new weighted votes based on 2020 Census data. She indicated the County Attorney's Office is still down two attorneys. They have been revamping DPW contracts and reviewing DPW bids. She and her staff are very busy writing appeals.

Upon a motion by Mr. Merrill and seconded by Mrs. Driscoll, the Committee entered into an executive session to discuss litigation and personnel matters.

Committee reconvened in regular session.

On a motion by Mr. Tuthill seconded by Mr. Merrill, the Committee approved an increase in the monthly retainer for Dr. Ucci, County Medical Examiner. Dr. Ucci currently receives a retainer of \$450 per month and is approved for \$500 per month effective March 1, 2023.

Mrs. Driscoll asked if 2020 Census data is available. Mrs. Merklen will distribute that data.

Committee agreed to reschedule the April meeting to Monday, April 3 at 2:00.

Meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.