

Legislative Committee

November 1, 2023

11:10 a.m.

Attendees

Committee: Allen Hinkley, Art Merrill, Lisa Driscoll, Patti Valente, Tina Molé

Absent: Mark Tuthill

Staff: Deb Goodrich, Maria Kelso, Judith Garrison, Joe Ermeti, Shawn Smith, Amy Merklen,
Penny Bishop

Mr. Hinkley called the meeting to order at 11:10 a.m. Upon a motion by Mrs. Valente and seconded by Mrs. Driscoll, the draft minutes of the September 13 committee meetings were approved.

County Clerk Debra Goodrich distributed her monthly report which indicates that revenues were down compared to the same period as last year. In reply to Mr. Hinkley on the status of the Margaretville DMV office, she reported that the office is open. They have a new employee who will start work on November 13 in the Margaretville office.

Ms. Kelso reported their office has been very busy with early voting. She indicated they submitted a postage grant to the state for \$18,159 and will also submit a tier grant application for \$48,350 to help them purchase new voting machines in 2024. Mr. Merrill acknowledged that the Finance Committee cut funding to purchase the new machines from the 2024 Budget and will revisit the purchase at the time such grants are approved. Regarding Ms. Kelso's question about the new salary worksheets from Personnel, Mrs. Bishop indicated that changes were made to the cost of health insurance which dropped from the estimated rate of 12% to the negotiated rate of 8.5%. Ms. Garrison said early voting has been going very well and will end on November 5. Responding to Ms. Molé, Ms. Kelso said some town clerks are present during elections to receive the results but also election workers or even candidates could be present to receive the results.

Mr. Ermeti reported that he lost an attorney to Otsego County and that attorney's work is being split four ways in the Public Defender's Office to cover the caseload. He will be seeking approval to hire a new attorney in order to fill the vacancy as soon as possible.

District Attorney Shawn Smith announced that former Judge Richard Northrup was hired to work part time in the DA's Office. Mr. Smith noted that the attorney who was working part time had resigned.

Ms. Merklin reported the County Attorney's office is still down two attorneys, so they are quite busy.

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

Committee reconvened in regular session.

Upon a motion, the meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon.