

Government Operations Committee
 Regular Meeting Minutes – Approved 4-5-17
 Wednesday, March 1, 2017 3:30 PM
 Legislature Chambers

Attendance

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Daniel Klein	Chair	Present	
Carol Chock	Vice Chair	Present	
Dooley Kiefer	Member	Present	
Rich John	Member	Late	3:38 PM
Will Burbank	Member	Present	
Catherine Covert	Clerk of the Legislature	Present	
Jay Franklin	Director of Assessment	Present	
Joe Mareane	County Administrator	Present	
Sarah Cantatore	Compliance Officer	Present	
Rick Snyder	Finance Director	Present	
Loren Cottrell	Deputy Director of ITS	Present	
Greg Potter	Director of ITS	Present	
Scott Doyle	Planner, Tompkins County Planning Department	Present	
Maureen Reynolds	County Clerk	Present	
Marcia Lynch	Public Info. Officer, County Administration	Present	
Ed Marx	Planning Commissioner	Present	
Paula Younger	Deputy County Administrator	Present	
Martha Robertson	Legislator	Present	

Call to Order

Mr. Klein, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:33 p.m.

Changes to Agenda

The Committee agreed to add to the agenda the resolution entitled Authorization to Accept a Grant from the New York State Department of State Municipal Restructuring Fund to Undertake a Shared-Services Fast Track Project - County Clerk.

Comments from the Public

There was no member of the public who wished to speak.

Minutes Approval

February 1, 2017

Ms. Kiefer requested that a discussion of the policy on minutes be held at a future meeting.

RESULT:	ACCEPTED [3 TO 1]
MOVER:	Will Burbank, Member
SECONDER:	Carol Chock, Vice Chair
AYES:	Klein, Chock, Burbank
NAYS:	Kiefer
ABSENT:	John

County Clerk

Resolution No. - Authorization to Accept a Grant from the New York State Department of State Municipal Restructuring Fund to Undertake a Shared-Services Fast-Track Project - County Clerk (ID #6887)

Mr. John arrived at this time.

RESULT:	RECOMMENDED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Will Burbank, Member
SECONDER:	Carol Chock, Vice Chair
AYES:	Klein, Chock, Kiefer, John, Burbank

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Clerk submitted a Project Charter to New York State to apply for grant funding through the New York State Department of State Municipal Restructuring Fund to undertake a Shared-Services Fast-Track Project, and

WHEREAS, the County Clerk's Office has been notified of an initial grant award in the amount of \$30,512 with a maximum award of \$603,039, and

WHEREAS, this Municipal Restructuring Fund Shared-Services Grant represents a project for the Tompkins County Clerk's Office to partner with two towns in Cortland County (Harford and Virgil) and Cortland County to expand their use of the Tompkins County Electronic Document Management System (Laserfiche), and

WHEREAS, funds within this grant will be for additional Laserfiche software licensing to accommodate the additional users, the scanning of Cortland County, Town of Harford, and Town of Virgil records, (using Challenge Industries as the vendor), the upgrade and expansion of the County's data storage capacity, redundancy, disaster recovery, and a direct point-to-point dark-fiber connection between the Tompkins County and Cortland County data centers, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Government Operations Committee, That the County Administrator or his designee be and hereby is authorized to execute all contracts related to this award,

RESOLVED, further, that the Director of Finance be and hereby is authorized and directed to make the following budget adjustment for 2017:

BUDGET ADJUSTMENT

APPROPRIATION:	A1410.54442	Professional Services	\$309,500
	A1410.52230	Computer Software	\$108,516
	A1410.52206	Computer Equipment	\$175,523
	A1410.51000202	Deputy County Clerk	\$ 9,500
REVENUE:	A1410.43089	Other State Aid	\$603,039

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

* * * * *

Planning and Sustainability Department

Proposed Foreclosure Parcel Sales (ID #6883)

Mr. Doyle requested direction on two parcels withheld from previous auctions and said he would like to offer to sell them to the interested municipalities (Ulysses and Freeville). The memorandum distributed to the Committee provides summary details of the parcels and Mr. Doyle said these are the only two parcels currently the County has that have been removed from auctions. The two parcels are 1284 Taughannock Boulevard (2012 auction) in the Town of Ulysses, tax parcel no. 27.-4-6 and Brooklyn Road (2016 auction) in the Village of Freeville, tax parcel no. 1.-2-1.2. Both municipalities are interested in purchasing these parcels with the deed restrictions being recommended.

Ms. Thomas said that until the State can take over ownership of the parcel, the Town of Ulysses would like to purchase it. There have been taxes paid on that portion and she understands they will have to pay back some of that in an arrangement that won't jeopardize the Town's budget. The parcel is in a unique designated area and the Town would like to keep the land preserved. It is important that it is in a conservation zone that offers protection. It is also is a scenic route as well. She said the Town is very interested in moving forward.

Ms. Chock said she supports this action and understands the County cannot continue to hold on to the property. Mr. Marx said the State parks did not agree with the title on the parcel and there is no guarantee when the State would consider purchasing it. He said it is not recommended the County own small parcels to have to monitor. Ms. Chock reiterated her support and said she would also agree to half the cost of taxes owed and to waive the fees.

Mr. John spoke of his visits on the Black Diamond Trail and said he supports the County's trail programs and hopes it continues to grow. He also spoke in support of this proposal.

Ms. Kiefer said she supports both recommendations; however, she does not support Ms. Chock's proposal to reduce the amount. She asked Ms. Thomas how much time the Town would like to pay back what is owed. Ms. Thomas said as much time as possible would be helpful and commented that \$9,000 is lot to the Town. A ten-year period would be acceptable.

Mr. Klein reminded the Committee that these actions will be coming back to the Committee.

Mr. Burbank supports having the Town of Ulysses work on something that is easier on the Town to pay back what is owed as it will be a great asset for the public. Ms. Thomas believes the Town Board would be honoring the County's designation of unique natural areas and the land would continue to be protected.

Mr. Klein agrees these actions are a benefit for the whole County and supports what is outlined as

presented to Committee.

* * * * *

Assessment

2017 AEM Program (ID #6835)

Mr. John reiterated his comment about the inability to share information between the Assessment Department and the County Clerk's office due to new technology. Mr. Franklin said with the loss of integration of certain real property information needed it now takes additional staff time to do the researches and input the sales. Mr. Potter explained how that functionality was lost and said if requested it can be looked into. Mr. John asked that further discussion be held with appropriate staff to review options for a solution.

* * * * *

RPTL 485-g Infrastructure Exemption - Discussion (ID #6863)

Mr. Franklin said he raised this issue last March and noted that the Village of Dryden is the only municipality that has adopted it; however, as the Department was unaware of the Village's action, this exemption has not yet been administered by the Department. He explained the exemption and said it allows for three-year abatement in assessment when a developer goes in and puts in the infrastructure of roads, sewer, electricity, etc. This exemption if adopted would provide a three-year abatement in increased assessment for that developer and after the lot is sold that exemption is removed the property would go to full value.

Ms. Chock believes this exemption makes sense, but would like to know how this fits with other exemptions.

Mr. John asked if the staff of the Planning and Sustainability Department has had an opportunity to weigh in on this exemption. Mr. Franklin said he has not had a discussion with the Planning Department staff.

Mr. Burbank agrees Mr. Marx of the Planning and Sustainability Department should weigh in on this too.

Mr. Klein summarized the Committee's discussion to have the Planning and Sustainability Department look at this including the concern with sprawl.

* * * * *

Resolution No. - Appointment to Temporary Hearing Panels - Assessment (ID #6820)

RESULT:	RECOMMENDED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Rich John, Member
SECONDER:	Dooley Kiefer, Member
AYES:	Klein, Chock, Kiefer, John, Burbank

WHEREAS, the Department of Assessment and the Tompkins County Legislature both agree that the fairest and most equitable way to value property for assessment purposes is on an annual basis at full

market value, and

WHEREAS, Real Property Tax Law 523-a permits the Tompkins County Legislature to appoint up to six Temporary Board of Assessment Review members to serve on Administrative Review Panels, and

WHEREAS, Real Property Tax Law 523-a permits the compensation of Temporary Board of Assessment Review Members, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Government Operations Committee, That six Temporary Board of Assessment Review Members, namely Linda Santos, Robert Walpole, Josh Lower, Michael Cannon, Judy Malys, and James Lane, be appointed to serve on Administrative Review Panels,

RESOLVED, further, That Temporary Board of Assessment Review members be compensated at a maximum annual compensation of \$250.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

* * * * *

Other Business

Ms. Chock said she would like to discuss at a future meeting an overview of what tools are available for potential exemptions that would help promote energy efficiency, solar, wind, geothermal, etc., both at the County and State levels.

Mr. Franklin said he would put together some information for the Committee.

Information Technology Services

Tompkins County Public WiFi Access (ID #6885)

No consensus was reached and no change is being recommended at this time. The Committee will continue discussion on this topic.

* * * * *

Finance Department

Discussion about credit card acceptance by the County

Mr. Snyder said a formal report is being prepared and his staff is leaning towards the current vendor.

Ms. Chock asked about the ability of a bank making payments by an electronic check to an entity. Mr. Snyder said he would have to look into that question.

Mr. Klein reminded the Committee that Mr. Snyder was only looking into payments by credit card at this time.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.