

Government Operations Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes – Approved 9-6-17
Wednesday, August 2, 2017 3:30 PM
Legislature Chambers

Attendance

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Daniel Klein	Chair	Present
Carol Chock	Vice Chair	Present
Dooley Kiefer	Member	Present
Rich John	Member	Present
Will Burbank	Member	Present
Catherine Covert	Clerk of the Legislature	Present
Joe Mareane	County Administrator	Present
Paula Younger	Deputy County Administrator	Present
Ed Marx	Planning and Sustainability Commissioner	Present
Megan McDonald	Senior Planner	Present
Katie Borgella	Deputy Planning & Sustainability Commissioner	Present
Maureen Reynolds	County Clerk	Present
Alana Congdon	Deputy County Clerk	Present
Jonathan Wood	Tompkins County Attorney	Present
Anna Kelles	Legislator	Present

Guests: Deborah Dawson and Ronny Hardaway, Village of Lansing residents; Paul Rossi, Board of Realtors; Media

Call to Order

Mr. Klein, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:36 p.m.

Changes to Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda.

Comments from the Public

Deborah Dawson, Village of Lansing, spoke about the blue sign-in forms used for Privilege of the Floor at Legislature meetings and commented that they do not have any legal standing. She hopes the Legislature will consider how to make people feel comfortable without compromising getting the necessary information from the forms and said she submitted a proposal for consideration she believes addresses that and will allow people to speak without giving their full name.

Minutes Approval

July 5, 2017

RESULT:	ACCEPTED [4 TO 1]
MOVER:	Will Burbank, Member
SECONDER:	Daniel Klein, Chair
AYES:	Klein, Chock, John, Burbank
NAYS:	Kiefer

Legislature

Privilege of the Floor - Sign-in Form (ID #7142)

Mr. Klein reminded Committee members of the information that has been distributed related to this topic including the City’s rules for speaking and public speaking policies from several surrounding counties. He received the following two proposals for changing the sign-in form:

1. Add under the signature line:
“If you do not feel comfortable with your name being announced in public please write a four digit number that includes your birth month followed by birth day. For example, April 11 would be 0411. This number will be used to identify you for your turn to speak.”
2. Leave the statement of the rules of decorum as it stands. Then:

First Name: _____ Last Name (optional): _____
Do you live or work in Tompkins County? Yes ___ No ___
Are you speaking for yourself? Yes ___ No: ___
If you are not speaking for yourself, for whom are you speaking? _____

NOTE: BY SUBMITTING THIS CARD, YOU ARE AGREEING TO ABIDE BY THE RULES OF DECORUM OF THE TOMPKINS COUNTY LEGISLATURE, AS STATED ABOVE.

It was MOVED by Ms. Chock to amend the form to delete Rules 2-6, move the bold language at the bottom of the form to be Rule #2, and to add Ms. Kelles suggestion to include “moniker” under the signature line. MOTION FAILED DUE TO LACK OF A SECOND.

Mr. John said it is important to have rules in place; it allows the Chair of a meeting to take any necessary action to preserve order. He said one of his concerns is to protect non-elected County employees to avoid damaging and untrue statements being made.

Discussion followed and Mr. John MOVED, seconded by Mr. Burbank, to amend the form as follows:

First Name (please print): _____ Last Name (optional): _____
Municipality of Residence (optional): _____

It was MOVED by Ms. Chock to amend the motion and add County of Residence without it being optional. MOTION FAILED DUE TO LACK OF A SECOND.

Discussion followed concerning whether this Committee would approve any changes to the form

or if a recommendation would be made to the Legislature for approval. With the exception of Ms. Chock, the Committee agreed the Legislature should approve any changes to the form.

A voice vote on Mr. John's amendment as follows: Ayes - 4, Noes - 1 (Burbank).
AMENDMENT CARRIED.

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County Clerk

Resolution No. - Authorization to Accept a Grant from the New York State Archives - County Clerk (ID #7157)

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

WHEREAS, the County Clerk's Office has been notified of a shared-services grant award from the State Archives in the amount of \$36,873, and

WHEREAS, this State Archives shared-services grant represents a project for the Tompkins County Clerk's Office to partner with the City of Ithaca and all of the towns and villages located in Tompkins County (Village of Cayuga Heights, Village and Town of Groton, Village and Town Lansing, Village and Town Dryden, Village of Freeville, Village of Trumansburg, Town of Ulysses, Town of Caroline, Town of Danby, Town of Newfield, Town of Ithaca, Town of Enfield, and City of Ithaca) and their use of the Countywide Electronic Document Management System (Laserfiche), and

WHEREAS, funds within this grant will be for additional Laserfiche software licensing to accommodate the additional users, and the scanning of city, town, and village large-format maps, (using Challenge Industries as the vendor), now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Government Operations Committee, That the County Administrator or his designee 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 adjustments:

<u>BUDGET ADJUSTMENT</u>			
APPROPRIATION:	A1410.54442	Professional Services	\$14,998
APPROPRIATION:	A1410.52230	Software	\$21,875
REVENUE:	A1410.43089	Other State Aid	\$36,873

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

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Planning and Sustainability Department

Meeting with Indian Creek Neighborhood Association Regarding Options for Harris B. Dates Drive (Biggs) Property (ID #7182)

Mr. Marx said the property has been listed for sale for a period of time and came off the market two months ago. He met with the County Administrator to discuss other options rather than relisting it. To address the concerns raised by the neighbors including too much development, increase in traffic, and the natural value of the property, etc., a meeting was arranged and the members of the Indian Creek Neighborhood Association were invited to discuss the following options: a smaller footprint of a multi-family dwelling, a solar project, and moving development rights from County property to the adjoining landowner's property that would allow more units to be built on the land that is open fields. These options were reviewed with the Town of Ithaca prior to this meeting and they believe any of the options would be workable. The neighbors present at the meeting did not believe any of the developments on the site were desirable. There was some acceptance for the idea of doing an off-site development that would allow more development than what the current zoning requirements allow. This action would be subject to transferring development rights from the County property to the adjoining neighbors.

At this time, Mr. Marx displayed maps of the property being discussed and highlighted the area of properties of the adjoining neighbors to which development rights would be transferred. This would allow for an approximate 50-unit neighborhood on an 11-acre site. It would be proposed as single-family senior-living ownership housing with home-owners association fees to provide on-site amenities. This proposal would require finding a developer who would be interested in purchasing all of the property, request the Town of Ithaca to transfer the development rights, and pledge to retain a conservation easement on the County's parcel.

The question for the Committee is whether to pursue this option for a period of time, put it back on the market, or pursue other alternatives.

It was the consensus of the Committee to support the option for the off-site development as outlined above and to explore any interest from developers in pursuing this proposal.

Mr. Klein asked the record be clarified; he said last evening a member of the public suggested this property had been purchased by the hospital, it had been Biggs A but is now in someone else's hands. Mr. Marx stated this parcel is the remainder from the entire parcel the County owned. The County has transferred three other parcels: Biggs A to the hospital, Biggs B more recently, and a single structure house to a third party. This parcel is the undeveloped 25.6-acre that remains and has never left the County's possession.

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County Attorney

Resolution No. - Appropriation from Contingent Fund - Terminal Pay - County Attorney's Office (ID #7185)

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

WHEREAS, a staff member of the County Attorney’s Office has retired as of May 31, 2017, and

WHEREAS, the Fiscal Policy of Tompkins County allows for terminal-pay reimbursement to the Department from the Contingent Fund, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Government Operations and the Budget, Capital and Personnel Committees, That the Director of Finance be and hereby is authorized and directed to make the following budget adjustment for 2017:

FROM: A1990.54400	Contingent Fund	\$30,843.18
TO: A1420.51000312	Paralegal to County Attorney	\$30,843.18

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

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Administration

Resolution No. - Endorsing the Shared Services Plan Presented by the County Administrator and Recommending its Adoption by the Tompkins County Shared Services Panel (ID #7187)

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

WHEREAS, as a part of the 2017-2018 New York State Budget, the “Countywide Shared Services Property Tax Savings Law” was enacted that required counties to form a Shared Services Panel (“Panel”) comprised of the mayors and supervisors of municipalities within the County, charged with developing and adopting a Shared Services Plan (“Plan”) by September 15, 2017, and

WHEREAS, by Resolution 2017-77, this Legislature designated the County Administrator as the County’s Chief Executive Officer as defined in the Shared Services Law and authorized him to form a Shared Services Panel and serve as its Chair, and

WHEREAS, the Panel met five times, conducted two public hearings, and has presented its recommendations to the Legislature in a Report dated July 19, 2017, and

WHEREAS, the Shared Services proposed in the Panel’s Report include:

- The creation of a Tompkins County Council of Governments Training Academy, coordinated by TC3.biz, to serve as a vehicle to provide affordable, high-quality training to all local governments in the County;
- The creation of a Service Modernization Plan by the County Clerk intended to enable all local governments in the County to automate a number of routine paper-intensive tasks currently done by hand;
- The creation and management of a Purchasing Pool to facilitate the lowest-cost acquisition of contemporary financial software by all interested local governments within the County;
- The acquisition and operation of a Countywide Mass Notification System, funded and managed by the County and available to all local governments within the County;
- The creation and management of a Purchasing Pool to facilitate the conversion of municipal streetlights to high-efficiency environmentally friendly LED fixtures; and
- The expansion of the Greater Tompkins County Municipal Health Insurance Consortium to include two additional members and sustain substantial recurring savings to all of its members; and

WHEREAS, the Panel’s report also anticipates the Panel undertaking additional exploration of several other potential shared service initiatives that may result in future savings, and

WHEREAS, this Legislature has reviewed the Panel’s Report and supports its findings, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Government Operations Committee, That this Legislature endorses the Shared Services Plan of July 19, 2017 submitted by the Shared Services Panel, and recommends formal adoption of the Plan by the Shared Services Panel on or before the September 15th deadline established by New York State.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

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Appointments

Advisory Board Appointment (ID #7184)

Public Information Advisory Board

Patricia Poist - At-large representative; term expires December 31, 2018

Library Board of Trustees

Nina Scholtz - At-large representative; term expires December 31, 2019

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

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Next Meeting

Mr. Klein announced the following topics will be on the next Committee’s agenda:

Minutes
Government Operations Committee
Wednesday, August 2, 2017

- Sign-in form (suggestions should be submitted in writing)
- Credit Card process - Finance Director
- MEGA update

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:31 p.m.